

WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
SUBJECT: Hostage/Barricade Situations		CHAPTER/SECTION NO.: 33.15, 33.16, 33.17	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/7/03		REVIEW DATE:	
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES:		APPROVED: <u>** See Master File</u> Sheriff	
STANDARD NUMBER: 46.1.4			

### 33.15 Definition

- 33.15.1 The Sheriff's Office will define a barricade situation as an incident where an individual(s) is believed to be armed and is committing or has committed some criminal act and/or is holding a hostage(s) and/or it is apparent the individual(s) intends to unlawfully defend a fixed position against police entry.
- 33.15.2 The inner perimeter is defined as the area where deputies and/or civilians are vulnerable to direct fire or other harm from an assailant and/or police countermeasures.
- 33.15.3 The outer perimeter is defined as the area where deputies and/or civilians are not vulnerable to direct fire or other harm from the assailant(s).

### 33.16 Policy

- 33.16.1 The Section Commander, Chief Deputy and/or the Sheriff will be notified, as soon as feasible, through WACDC, by the on-duty Shift Supervisor.

### 33.17 Procedures

- 33.17.1 Responsibilities of First-arriving Deputy(s)
  - A. Set up incident command.
  - B. Evaluate the situation to determine the need

for activation of S.W.A.T. and Hostage Negotiators,

- C. Request the on-duty Shift Supervisor to respond, unless he/she is already en route,
- D. Take immediate steps, prior to the supervisor's arrival, to ensure the protection of innocent persons in the immediate area, which may include, and may not be limited to:
  - 1. Diverting vehicular and pedestrian traffic away from the area,
  - 2. Evacuating those persons in imminent danger,
  - 3. Maintaining firearms discipline,
  - 4. Making every reasonable effort to contain the situation and prevent escape routes,
  - 5. Refraining from engaging in fire fights, except to defend the deputies or other persons in danger, or to provide cover for personnel engaged in evacuating wounded persons,
  - 6. Isolate all witnesses and evacuated persons at a centralized location until interviewers can arrive, for identification and debriefing,
  - 7. Summoning Fire/Rescue, and
  - 8. Brief the first-arriving supervisor or Deputy of higher rank and assist him/her as needed.
- E. In case of unavoidable verbal contact with suspect/s, first responders should:
  - 1. Be aware the initial phase of most incidents is the most volatile but situational stress should decrease with time.

2. Remain in a protected or safe position.
3. Utilize all means to defuse the situation.
4. Expect the subject to want to verbally vent his/her frustration, anger, or concerns. **DO NOT** let the subject provoke you into a verbal argument.
5. When appropriate engage the suspect in non-threatening conversation, and encourage him/her to tell you what the "problem" is.
6. Gather as much intelligence i.e. weapons, physical condition of subject and/or hostages, source of subjects problems, other persons involved etc., and brief other deputies/supervisors and SWAT/negotiators when they arrive.

33.17.2 Shift Supervisor/O.I.C. responsibilities:

- A. Assume command of the scene until relieved by a Deputy of higher rank or pursuant to the terms of Interlocal Agreements that may apply i.e. Ogden Metro S.W.A.T. protocols.
- B. Establish an outer perimeter and assigning deputies to secure it,
- C. Establish an incident command post in a safe location near the scene,
- D. Summon Fire/Rescue, if not already on the scene or en route,
- E. If necessary, arrange for Situation Maps to be brought to the incident command post,
- F. Situation maps may consist of a three-ring binder with maps, maps mounted on poster board, and/or a large map of the entire County with or without plastic overlays and markers.
- G. Designate a staging area, and assigning a

Deputy, as appropriate, to coordinate it so that other personnel providing support or assistance can stage and be briefed upon their arrival,

- H. Arrange for the acquisition of a floor plan of the building/facility involved,
- I. Determine the location(s) of family members or other persons with whom the barricaded person/hostage-taker has a rapport,
- J. Brief command deputies and/or S.W.A.T. Team members/Hostage Negotiators, upon their arrival,
- K. Provide assistance as requested by the Hostage Negotiation Team Leader, and
- L. Ensure that no Sheriff's Office personnel become involved in any negotiations with the barricaded person/hostage-taker once Hostage Negotiators have started to negotiate (unless requested to do so by the Hostage Negotiation Team Leader).

33.17.3 Notification of S.W.A.T. and Hostage Negotiators

- A. In situations involving an armed or violent barricaded person(s) or any hostage situation, deputies at the scene will notify the on-duty supervisor. The on-duty supervisor will contact the S.W.A.T. commander or appointed designee via WACDC and advise him/her of the type of call. After the on-duty supervisor has assessed the situation, he/she will contact both the on-call commander and re-contact the S.W.A.T. commander.
- B. If it is deemed necessary for S.W.A.T. to deploy, the S.W.A.T. commander will contact the Sheriff for deployment approval if necessary. The S.W.A.T. commander will communicate deployment approval to the on-call commander and will notify the hostage negotiation team for deployment.

33.17.4 Negotiator Responsibilities and Coordination with S.W.A.T. Commander

- A. Debrief the patrol deputies who were initially on the scene in order to learn as much as possible about the situation,
- B. Obtain background information concerning the barricaded person/hostage-taker, including, but not limited to:
  - 1. Location of family members,
  - 2. Medical history (psychotic, drug user, etc.),
  - 3. Location of medical personnel caring for the barricaded person/hostage-taker,
  - 4. If the barricaded person/hostage-taker has a phone and what the phone number is, and
  - 5. If the barricaded person/hostage-taker has made any demands and the nature of them.
- C. Obtain information about any hostages, such as:
  - 1. The number of hostages being held,
  - 2. If any are injured and the nature of their injuries, and
  - 3. The hostages' identities.
- D. Attempt to contact the barricaded person/hostage-taker by telephone, and pursuant to State Law,
  - 1. If the individual has no phone, negotiators can provide a "drop phone."
- E. If telephone contact cannot be established, negotiators may attempt communications through the use of a bullhorn, face-to-face contact, or by passing notes.
- F. Negotiators will work closely with the incident commander, who provides liaison between them and the S.W.A.T. Team.
- G. If negotiators can establish communications

and negotiations with the barricaded person/hostage-taker, the negotiators will begin a dialogue with the individual to attempt to resolve the situation.

- H. Negotiators, generally, should not negotiate for weapons, drugs, alcohol, or vehicles or agree to trade hostages.
- I. Negotiators will provide periodic situation reports to the incident/tactical commander regarding suspect, hostage and negotiation status.
- J. The incident commander will be responsible for all decisions regarding the outcome of the negotiation process.
- K. The incident commander will have total command of all resources during the course of the negotiation process.
- L. When the negotiation process has successfully terminated with the release of the hostage(s), surrender of the barricaded person/hostage-taker, and securing of the scene, the incident commander will relinquish the follow-up investigation to the Sheriff's Office Investigators or other agency investigators as appropriate.

#### 33.17.5 Responsibilities of S.W.A.T.

- A. The S.W.A.T. Team will:
  - 1. Relieve patrol deputies and maintain the inner perimeter during the negotiation process,
  - 2. Develop and implement tactical plans,
  - 3. Evacuate civilians as necessary,
  - 4. Communicate with Negotiators through the incident commander,
  - 5. Assume command of the situation when negotiations are terminated and conduct

tactical operations to resolve the situation, and

6. At the conclusion of the situation, relinquish control of the inner perimeter and location of occurrence to Sheriff's Office investigative personnel or other agency personnel as appropriate.

33.17.6 Interaction of S.W.A.T. and Hostage Negotiators

- A. All contact between S.W.A.T. and other personnel will be coordinated through the incident commander. The Ogden Metro S.W.A.T. is a multi-agency unit comprised of tactical and negotiation teams who operate jointly under the direction of the S.W.A.T. commander. The S.W.A.T. commander, if not the incident commander, will coordinate S.W.A.T. operations with the incident commander.
- B. If at anytime during the negotiation process the incident commander finds it necessary to terminate negotiations either at his/her own discretion or upon recommendation of the negotiators, the incident commander will be responsible to direct the incident with a tactical response, if appropriate.
- C. After the incident's resolution, the incident commander will arrange for a critique of the incident and all Sheriff's Office personnel who were involved will participate, unless excused by the incident commander.

33.17.7 Notifications

- A. Prior to the arrival of the incident commander, all notifications of command deputies, dog-handlers, air support, or any other person will be coordinated through WACDC by the incident commander at the scene.
- B. Upon the arrival of the Incident Commander, he/she will coordinate the notifications of

the police psychologist if available and/or anyone else.

- C. Sheriff's Office members will assist the incident commander, as necessary, with notifications requiring face-to-face contact.

#### 33.17.8 Communications with Other Agencies

- A. Communications with other agencies will be coordinated through WACDC by the incident commander.
- B. All police agencies involved in a situation within Weber County should have access to the same radio frequencies.
- C. The Weber-Ogden Metro S.W.A.T. team will generally NOT deploy into another agency's jurisdiction unless requested by that agency. Should it become necessary for the S.W.A.T. team to be deployed within the boundaries of another agency's jurisdiction, notification to that jurisdiction will be made in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the operation.
  - 1. The Deputy making contact with the outside agency will document the name of the person(s) he/she contacted about the operation.

#### 33.17.9 Establishment of Inner and Outer Perimeters

- A. The first Deputy on the scene shall assess the situation to determine whether a barricade situation exists and if it is determined that one does exist, the primary Deputy shall determine the limits for an inner and an outer perimeter.
- B. Additionally, the initial responding Deputy should direct responding units into the scene in a manner to avoid placing those units in jeopardy.
- C. Upon notification by the incident commander, S.W.A.T. members should immediately respond

to the scene to obtain intelligence and assist with setting/securing the perimeters prior to the arrival of the central S.W.A.T. Team.

33.17.10 Evacuation of Bystanders

- A. Bystanders/Spectators shall be removed from both the inner and outer perimeters.
- B. If necessary, the occupants of buildings either adjacent to, or in line of sight of, the barricade building will be evacuated.
- C. If this evacuation becomes necessary it will be supervised and carried-out in a manner to ensure the safety of both the evacuees and the deputies carrying it out.
- D. Bystanders will not be relocated to the incident command post, unless they have pertinent information concerning the barricaded person/hostage-taker, the hostage(s), or other intelligence information.
- E. The incident command post will be informed of the locations from which persons have been evacuated in order to ensure that potential lines-of-fire pose no threat to persons.

33.17.11 Evacuation of Injured Persons

- A. Sheriff's Office personnel are duty-bound to evacuate seriously injured persons when necessary, taking every reasonable precaution to prevent threats to their safety.
- B. If a Deputy believes that an evacuation of an injured person is unduly hazardous, the Deputy will communicate this to the incident command post so that responding S.W.A.T. members can plan for the evacuation of this individual upon their arrival.
- C. Injured persons that have been evacuated will be immediately taken to a safe location (i.e., staging area) where they can be

treated by medical personnel and transported to a hospital, if necessary.

33.17.12 Requesting Fire/rescue, or Surveillance Equipment

- A. Once WACDC has been notified that a barricade/hostage situation exists, they will notify Weber County Fire/Rescue upon the incident commander's request.
- B. Prior to arrival of Fire/Rescue apparatus, deputies will direct, and if necessary, escort said apparatus to the staging area, unless otherwise directed by a Deputy of higher rank or the incident commander.
- C. If a call for service erupts into a barricade/hostage situation, deputies will:
  - 1. Assume a position of safety,
  - 2. Immediately advise WACDC,
  - 3. Notify the on-duty shift supervisor,
  - 4. Request further assistance,
  - 5. Establish an incident command, and
  - 6. Direct additional responding units to the scene, taking into consideration fields-of-fire and potential hazards generated by the barricaded person/hostage-taker,
  - 7. Request, if necessary, Fire/Rescue apparatus and indicate what type of apparatus is needed (ladder truck, ambulance, etc.),
  - 8. Fire/Rescue personnel will be directed to a safe position in the outer perimeter until a command post can be established,
  - 9. The Fire/Rescue apparatus will be directed to a position outside the outer perimeter until a staging area can be

established.

10. If the on-duty Shift Supervisor or the highest ranking Deputy on the scene determines the need for additional equipment (e.g. night vision goggles), he/she will arrange to have them transported to the command post.
11. The incident commander will make arrangements to have surveillance equipment deemed appropriate brought to the scene, either by requesting it through WACDC or by telephone from the incident command post.

33.17.13 Authorization for News Media Access and News Media Policy

- A. News media access to the scene shall be limited to areas where members of the news media will not be exposed to danger.
- B. Under no circumstances shall members of the news media be permitted within the inner perimeter.
- C. Upon notification, a PIO will respond to the command post, report to the incident commander, and will clear all press releases with the incident commander prior to release to the media.
- D. Under no circumstances shall any member of this Sheriff's Office release specific details of the situation or the police response to the media in order not to compromise the police response.
- E. If representatives from the news media arrive prior to the inner and outer perimeters being established, Sheriff's Office personnel will courteously direct said representatives to a safe location and inform them that a PIO is en route to coordinate the release of details and information.
- F. After the arrival of the incident commander,

he/she will designate areas to which the media may have access.

- G. Deputies (whether involved in the incident or not) will refer all media inquiries to the on-scene PIO.

33.17.14 Authorization for Use of Force and Chemical Agents

- A. In a controlled situation, the incident commander is the approving authority for the use of force and chemical agents, including deadly force. (Use of force and Deadly force is covered in chapter 1 of this manual.)

33.17.15 Use of Trained Negotiation and Support Staff

- A. The Sheriff's Office will recognize that wherever possible only trained negotiation and support staff from the WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE and Ogden Metro S.W.A.T. Hostage Negotiation Team will be utilized in any barricaded person/hostage situation.
- B. Sheriff's Office members will assist negotiators and support staff as necessary, and will generally not become involved in negotiations, unless directed by the Negotiation Team Leader.
  - 1. In some cases an initial responding deputy or dispatcher receiving a phone call may inadvertently become involved in a verbal contact with a barricaded subject or hostage taker. The deputy or dispatcher should listen and allow the subject to vent, limit comments to non-threatening responses to defuse the initial emotional situation, and gain as much information as possible.
  - 2. Once negotiators have arrived the deputy or dispatcher will brief the negotiators and may be required to continue negotiations under direction of the negotiation team.

- C. The use/deployment of trained negotiators and support staff by the Sheriff's Office will be under the command of the incident commander and governed by applicable policies.

33.17.16 Pursuit/surveillance Vehicles & Control of Travel Routes

- A. Should negotiations lead to a situation in which the barricaded person/hostage-taker is permitted to leave the area as determined by the incident commander, said incident commander will direct the positioning of pursuit and/or surveillance vehicles prior to the individual's departure.
- B. Sheriff's Office personnel that become involved in a pursuit situation are not relieved from their obligation to drive with due care and will adhere to all elements of the Sheriff's Office Pursuit Policy.
- C. Sheriff's Office personnel will not become involved in or establish a roadblock if the pursued vehicle contains a hostage(s).

33.17.17 Annual Review of Plan

- A. The Sheriff's Office hostage negotiation/barricaded person plan will be reviewed at least annually by the bureau commanders, the Chief Deputy and the Sheriff.

33.17.18 After Action Report

- A. The S.W.A.T. supervisor will prepare an after action report regarding any hostage/barricade situations that occur. Refer to the Ogden-Metro S.W.A.T. procedure manual.