



# SYKESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Barricaded Subjects

General Order 6-25

Effective: 08/24/17

Authorized by: *Michael A. Spaulding* Chief of Police

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### I. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance and direction for those who must respond to and resolve situations involving barricaded suspects or subjects.

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Barricaded Suspect:** A criminal suspect who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, that does not allow immediate police access—whether fortified or not—and who is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded suspect may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.
- B. **Barricaded Subject:** A person who is not suspected of committing a crime but is the focus of a legitimate police intervention effort—most often involving threats of suicide or mental illness—who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, that does not allow immediate police access—whether fortified or not—and who is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded subject may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.
- C. **Resolution Techniques:** Primary police action geared toward resolving a barricaded suspect or subject situation and involving the use of minimally intrusive techniques such as negotiations, time, electronic surveillance (where legally applicable), and high-energy illumination.
- D. **Resolution Tactics:** Secondary police action geared toward resolving a barricaded suspect or subject situation and involving the use of intrusive tactics such as window clearing, mechanized ram, chemical agents and related munitions, breach and hold, robot entry and search, off-leash K-9 search, and long-leash K-9 or entry team search.
- E. **Safety Priorities:** The basis for the agency's operational and tactical decisions and comprising the following:
- Hostages
  - Innocent involved civilians
  - Police officers
  - Suspects and subjects
- F. **Triggering Point:** Specific predetermined circumstances that will justify the initiation of direct action to prevent or terminate a particular course of suspect or subject behavior.

- G. Inner Perimeter: A close proximity boundary maintained initially by first responding officers, later transferred to the special weapons and tactics team and designed to contain the situation to the smallest possible area and prevent access to the target location by persons from the outside.
- H. Outer Perimeter: A boundary outside the inner perimeter maintained by patrol officers and designed to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the area of the critical incident.
- I. Chemical Munitions: A term used to describe a class of munitions used in barricade situations to compel the involved suspect or subject to exit the target location and most commonly consisting of CS (orthochlorobenzalmalononitrile) and OC (oleoresin capsicum).

### **III. POLICY**

The Sykesville Police Department shall use properly trained, equipped, and supervised field officers to respond and contain a potential barricaded suspect or subject incident.

Should the situation involve overtly dangerous or assaultive behavior directed toward officers or involved citizens, or should it involve suspects wanted on serious felony crimes, the tactical element shall immediately respond and address the problem through primary and secondary resolution options.

In all other cases, after the situation has stabilized, this agency shall closely examine the situation and weigh the benefits of forcing the suspect or subject from the location against the potential costs. This agency shall give special consideration to such things as the commitment of agency personnel and resources and the impact this might have on response capability to other critical incidents in the community, the impact on the community surrounding the police operation, the severity of the crime or situation involved, and the agency safety priorities and the recognition of the risks involved when tactics are used to resolve a barricade.

If a decision is made to continue with the resolution effort, minimally intrusive techniques shall be employed until the suspect or subject exits, the agency decides to discontinue the effort and leave the scene, or the agency decides that the minimally intrusive resolution techniques have failed and the need to take the suspect or subject into custody justifies the transition to tactics.

The Sykesville Police Department shall generally not use tactics to resolve a barricade situation unless it has lawful justification to arrest the suspect or subject or take him or her into physical custody.

Positive progress in a barricade resolution effort shall be defined as developments that increase the probability that the suspect or subject will be safely taken into custody, as opposed to the mere passage of time.

## IV. PROCEDURES

### A. Initial Response

1. Upon receipt and evaluation of the initial call, dispatch shall send patrol officers and, if appropriate, notify the tactical and negotiations teams.
2. The first responding officer shall assume the role of incident commander (IC) and be responsible for:
  - a. conducting an initial situation and response analysis,
  - b. determining what resources will likely be required based on the available information,
  - c. providing this information to communications,
  - d. and notifying the on-duty supervisor and requesting that he/she respond to the scene.
3. The officer shall also be aware that police presence can be a catalyst for suspect or subject response and that he or she must be prepared to take appropriate action should the situation demand it, regardless of the status of additional personnel responding.
4. The officer shall direct arriving resources to specific positions or the staging area that he or she designates.
5. The officer shall continue functioning as the IC until relieved by a superior officer or an officer with specialized training or expertise in fulfilling this role.
6. Communications shall be continuously updated on officer positions and status and informed if the incident command responsibilities are transferred to another officer.
7. The IC shall confirm that the staging area maximizes the safety of the responding units and ensure that one officer is assigned at all times to brief arriving personnel.
8. The IC shall consider the previously listed safety priorities and establish an inner perimeter to contain the problem. During this process, all non-police personnel shall be taken from the inner perimeter to an appropriate location for intelligence debriefing.

9. The IC shall assess the suspect's or subject's options and related triggering points and set a contingency plan in motion to counter such options, based on the totality of the circumstances presented.

B. Stabilization

1. Upon stabilization, the IC shall conduct a secondary assessment and consider what has occurred and the legal standing of the agency to intercede. It is especially important to determine
  - a. whether a crime has been committed,
  - b. whether the person inside is a suspect in the crime,
  - c. whether there is probable cause for his arrest, and
  - d. whether the need to apprehend the suspect at that moment outweighs the challenges associated with compelling the suspect or subject to submit to police authority.
2. In the absence of a crime or under circumstances where the IC cannot articulate the legitimate risk of death or serious injury, the agency's best course of action may be to stand down.

C. Resolving the Situation

1. Upon determining that the agency shall attempt to resolve the barricade situation, the IC shall ensure that the appropriate specialized resources have been requested (MSP S.T.A.T.E, Carroll County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team, MSP Hostage Response Team, Fire/EMS, etc.) and ask that communications keep him or her apprised of the specialized unit response status.
2. The IC shall ensure that a variety of tasks are addressed while awaiting the arrival of SWAT and negotiations, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Establish an outer perimeter and initiate the evacuation and handling process for those inside. Special consideration must be given to the handling of those who refuse to be evacuated.
  - b. Establish a command post location outside the suspect's potential line of fire and sight, and ensure that responding officers are directed to this location for assignment before they move to the staging area.

- c. Initiate an investigation to determine exactly what has occurred and locate, isolate, and debrief any witnesses. This should include obtaining information about the suspect where relevant and available, including the following:
  - (1) Name
  - (2) Physical description
  - (3) Clothing description
  - (4) Military background
  - (5) Criminal history
  - (6) Weapons
  - (7) Mental state and condition, and names of treating clinicians
  - (8) Circumstances leading up to the immediate problem
3. Obtain the telephone number and physical location of the telephone (if hardwire) in the barricade structure. Consider whether it is logical, necessary, and appropriate based on the facts presented to use the telephone in advance of SWAT and negotiations to establish communications and attempt to convince the suspect or subject to surrender.
4. Select a location for media response and designate a person to interact with them prior to the arrival of the agency public information officer.
5. Select a location for those responding on behalf of the barricaded suspect or subject and designate an officer to interact with them. Make outer-perimeter personnel aware of the presence of those responders and consider that they may attempt to enter the barricade location.
6. Make contact with the person most knowledgeable concerning the floor plan of the barricade location, including specifics related to keys, doors, locks, fortification, windows, alarms, weapons, and any other information that might help the resolution efforts.
7. Establish and maintain a log that documents the activities that have occurred and the location and identification of the assigned personnel.
8. Brief the SWAT and negotiations teams upon their arrival.

9. Assist the SWAT team as it relieves the officers responsible for inner perimeter containment personnel.
10. Ensure that all officers relieved report to the command post for reassignment.

D. Negotiations and Tactical Response

Upon release of the scene to SWAT and negotiations, resolution efforts in most situations generally involve the following:

1. Reassess the suspect's or subject's potential options and related triggering points and ensure that the tactical element is fully informed and prepared to counter such options.
2. Deploy long rifle and observer teams to gather real time intelligence and offer a precise resolution option should one be reasonable and justified based on the circumstances.
3. Deploy covert sound-gathering equipment (where legally applicable) to obtain objective and accurate intelligence from inside the barricade location. This is critical, especially in cases such as "shot fired" suicide scenarios, where determining the condition and status of the suspect or subject drives the tactics used to resolve the problem.
4. Ensure that the inner perimeter emergency reaction and K-9 teams are properly deployed and equipped to address all likely contingencies.
5. Deploy electronic intervention and control equipment (where legally applicable) to take control of hardwire communications and disable cellular communications links from inside the target location.
6. Prepare the tactical resolution teams, which include doing such things as formulating a chemical munitions plan, rehearsing the entry element, and staging the robot and mechanized ram.
7. Prepare electronic communications equipment, such as the wireless loud hailer and covert audio-video throw telephone, to facilitate productive negotiations while gathering real-time intelligence from inside the barricade location.
8. Initiate the resolution techniques effort, which is focused on creating the environment for a successful negotiated resolution.
9. Continue the negotiations and related efforts as long they show positive progress.

10. Evaluate the situation and determine whether it is reasonable, logical, and appropriate to move to resolution tactics.
11. Ensure that appropriate judicial authority (a search warrant for the target location, an arrest warrant or commitment order for the subject known to be inside, and so on) has been issued before the agency uses tactics to enter. Entry based on exigency will be authorized only in cases involving immediate and imminent life-and-death circumstances, absent prior approval by the chief officer and agency legal counsel.
12. Use a combination of techniques and tactics, in a manner consistent with agency-approved training, until the situation is brought to a successful conclusion.

## **V. CANCELLATIONS**

This General Order cancels and replaces the following policies: General Order 46.1.5, entitled Hostage/Barricade Situations, dated December 21, 2001.