

fcpd sop  
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**TITLE:** Civil Disturbance Unit

**SOP NUMBER:** 13-051

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 04-01-13

**REPLACES/RESCINDS:**

## I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department to protect the rights of citizens to peaceably assemble and lawfully express their views. It is the responsibility of the Police Department to preserve the peace and to protect life and property.

The Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) provides the Fairfax County Police Department with the capability to appropriately respond to large public gatherings, demonstrations, disturbances, or other public safety incidents. Through the measured use of these highly trained and specially equipped officers, the Department can more effectively accomplish its mission and goals.

## II. DEFINITIONS

Alert: A state of heightened readiness. On-duty CDU personnel shall carry all issued equipment. An alert may be for on-duty personnel only, or for all CDU personnel.

Callout: A mobilization of CDU personnel.

Cold Callout: A mobilization of CDU personnel for an incident in which there was no prior intelligence or notice. The duty officer will contact the CDU operational commander or designee to explain the circumstances and discuss the need for a cold callout. The need for an on-duty callout or off-duty callout will be at the discretion of the duty officer and CDU operational commander or designee based on the circumstances and assets available.

On-Duty Callout: A mobilization of on-duty CDU personnel who have been put on alert. The duty officer will contact the CDU operational commander or designee to explain the circumstances and discuss the need for a mobilization of on-duty CDU personnel who have been put on alert.



CDU Commander: The staff officer in command of CDU on the scene of an incident or event.

CDU Administrative Commander: The staff officer responsible for overall command of the unit. Coordinates operations and training, oversees the budget, and may act as incident commander on large deployments.

CDU Operational Commander: The staff officer responsible for the overall assignment and deployment of the unit.



Grenadier: CDU officer trained in the use of specialized chemical, OC, less lethal, and other munitions.

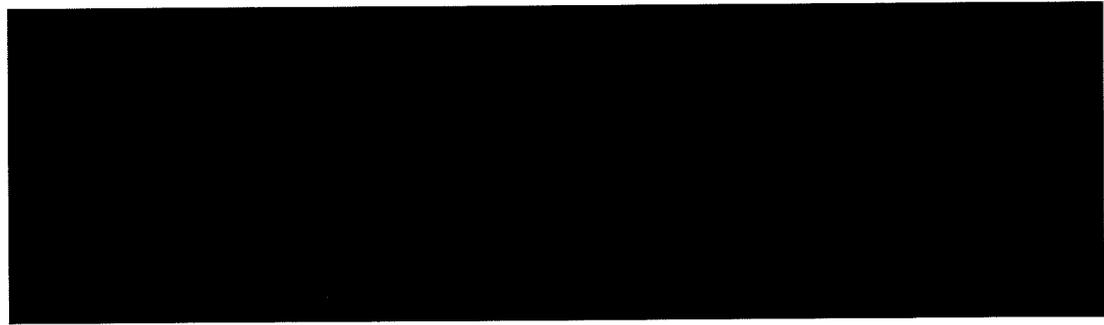
Mobile Tactical Platoon: A full CDU platoon in vehicles.

Platoon: Three to four CDU squads (usually three, with one reserve squad) and a command element. It is commanded by a staff officer.



Pre-planned deployment: An incident or event known in advance, which allows the CDU deployment to be incorporated into the response.

Skirmisher: CDU officer that does not have a specialized assignment (e.g., grenadier, long rifle, etc.).



Squad Line: A formation used for numerous squad level tactical deployments.

### III. ORGANIZATION

- A. CDU is a non-standing unit of the Patrol Bureau.
- B. The administrative commander of CDU will be a staff officer designated by the Chief of Police.
- C. The operational commander of CDU will be a staff officer designated by the CDU administrative commander.
- D. Staff officers will assist the operational commander with the command and control of CDU. Staff officers will also be designated for the operations, administration, training, and equipment functions of the unit.
- E. The unit will contain *operational squads*, each with a designated squad supervisor. Each squad will consist of assistant squad leaders and CDU officers.
- F. The unit will have a training squad, with a designated lead training supervisor.
- G. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office will be used for mass arrest and transportation functions, if available.

### IV. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- A. The CDU operational commander or designee is responsible for the overall deployment of the unit.
- B. On a scene, the incident commander will remain in command of the overall incident or event; however the CDU commander shall exercise sole tactical command of the unit. In the absence of a CDU staff officer, the senior CDU first line supervisor shall have sole control over the tactical deployment of the unit.
- C. All CDU officers shall wear body armor when deployed.

#### D. Pre-Planned Deployments

1. Station/division commanders who determine that CDU officers may be needed for an event or incident shall contact the CDU operational commander or designee.
2. If the use of CDU is approved, the operational commander will notify:
  - a. The CDU administrative officer, who will arrange for CDU personnel.
  - b. The CDU equipment officer, who will arrange for the CDU vehicles, trailer, and/or specialized equipment.
  - c. The Intelligence unit at the RIC, which will gather any information available that may be of use prior to or during the deployment.
  - d. The safety officer, who will ensure all safety issues pertinent to deployment are addressed.
3. A CDU commander or supervisor shall be designated, who shall retain tactical control of the unit during the deployment.
4. Officers shall wear the issued CDU uniforms on pre-planned deployments, including the issued black BDU pants and leather gear with all mandatory accessories. Officers shall have all issued CDU equipment available at all times.

#### E. CDU Alerts

1. Any station/division commander may request that CDU be placed on alert. The affected station/division commander will contact the CDU operational commander or designee to explain the circumstances and discuss the need for a CDU alert or other available options. The need for a CDU alert will be at the discretion of the CDU operational commander, or his designee, based on the circumstances and the assets available.
2. The CDU operational commander will determine whether the alert should be for on-duty personnel only or for all CDU personnel. The commander will advise the PLC of the alert and will designate a CDU staff officer or supervisor to complete a CDU on-duty alert roster.
3. The PLC shall be responsible for disseminating the alert information via

the CAD system to all MDT's and station terminals if requested. The CAD message should contain the minimal following information:

- a. Date/times the alert is in effect.
  - b. Location of the event/incident.
  - c. Whether the alert is for on-duty personnel only or for all CDU personnel.
4. The CDU administrative officer will notify the administrative commander and all CDU staff officers of the alert by e-mail.
  5. The CDU equipment officer will ensure that CDU equipment and munitions are available and, if necessary, pre-positioned.
  6. The assigned intelligence officer will assist with gathering intelligence or further information, if requested.
  7. The safety officer will ensure all safety issues pertinent to deployment are addressed.
  8. When on alert, all on-duty CDU personnel shall carry their issued CDU equipment and shall be familiar with the location of the designated staging area.
  9. Officers deployed from an alert status may wear any authorized uniform that they may be wearing at that time.

#### F. On-Duty Callouts

1. CDU may be called out for specific incidents, regardless of whether or not the unit is on alert. The affected station/division commander or duty officer will contact the CDU operational commander or designee to explain the circumstances and discuss the need for a CDU response. The need for a CDU response will be at the discretion of the CDU operational commander or designee, based on the circumstances and assets available.
2. The operational commander will designate CDU staff officers to respond as the CDU commander and assistant commander for the incident.

3. The CDU commander for the incident will advise the PLC of any special equipment/vehicle needs (CDU vehicles, trailer, etc.). The PLC shall arrange for the CDU equipment officer(s) to ensure that the vehicles/equipment gets to the staging area.
4. The PLC shall be responsible for notifying on-duty CDU personnel to respond. This will be accomplished via the CAD system and radio. A CAD message shall be sent to all MDT's and station terminals and the callout shall be announced by voice radio transmission on all channels.

The voice announcement shall only say: "Attention all CDU units, respond to [staging area]. Use Channel [ \_\_ ] for response." The announcement shall be repeated several times.

#### G. Cold Callouts

1. The affected station/division commander or duty officer will contact the CDU operational commander or designee to explain the circumstances and discuss the need for a cold callout CDU response. The need for a CDU response will be at the discretion of the CDU operational commander or designee, based on the circumstances and assets available.
2. The operational commander will determine the number of CDU officers to deploy. The commander will also designate CDU staff officers to respond as the CDU commander and assistant commander for the incident.
3. The CDU commander for the incident will advise the PLC of any special equipment/vehicle needs (CDU vehicles, trailer, etc.). The PLC shall arrange for equipment officer(s) to ensure that the vehicles/equipment gets to the staging area.
4. The PLC shall be responsible for notifying on-duty CDU personnel to respond. This will be accomplished via the CAD system and radio. A CAD message shall be sent to all MDT's and station terminals and the callout shall be announced by voice radio transmission on all channels.
  - a. The voice announcement shall only say: "Attention all CDU units, respond to [staging area]. Use Channel [ \_\_ ] for response." The announcement shall be repeated several times.

b. The CAD message should contain the following information:

- (1) Location of the event/incident.
  - (2) Location of the staging area.
  - (3) Radio channel for response.
  - (4) Special information, such as routes to avoid.
5. If needed, off-duty personnel will be paged by the PLC. CDU supervisors may be tasked with contacting off-duty CDU members by phone.
  6. Responding units shall report to a CDU supervisor in the staging area for specific assignments.
  7. Upon arrival, CDU supervisors shall form the officers into elements and squads.
  8. When sufficient staffing is available for deployment, the CDU commander or designee shall advise the incident commander. CDU tactics and deployment are at the sole discretion of the on-scene CDU commander.
  9. Other resources, such as K-9 (building search), helicopter (intelligence), and/or the tactical section will be requested by the incident commander as needed.

H. Specialized Crowd Control Equipment and Munitions

CDU staff officers and supervisors may authorize the use of all specialized crowd control equipment and munitions (OC, chemical, and less lethal munitions; smoke, etc.) authorized for CDU and for the Department.

I. Long-Rifle Capability

1. ~~The CDU Commander or designee may authorize the use of patrol rifle-equipped officers when the threat assessment indicates there is a possibility of armed protesters or an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.~~

2. This does not preclude any officer from use of force in accordance with General Order 540.1.

J. Use of K-9

1. The use of K-9 teams for crowd control shall only be authorized by the Chief of Police or designee.
2. K-9 may be utilized for perimeters and building searches, in accordance with their standard operating procedures.

- K. The deployment of the Hostage Rescue Vehicle (HRV), if needed, will be authorized by the Operations Support Bureau (OSB) commander. If authorized, the PLC will contact the on-call HRV operator.

## V. TRAINING

- A. The CDU lead training supervisor, assisted by the training squad, will be responsible for the development, coordination, and documentation of CDU training.
- B. Upon assignment to CDU, all personnel shall attend the next available CDU basic school.
- C. All personnel shall maintain proficiency by attending training.
  1. Squad supervisors shall be responsible for recording the attendance of the officers/supervisors assigned to their squads. This information will be forwarded to the CDU lead training supervisor.
  2. The CDU lead training supervisor shall record the attendance of the staff officers assigned to the unit.
- D. CDU grenadiers shall attend specialized training prior to being authorized to deploy specialized crowd control munitions.

## VI. EQUIPMENT

- A. The CDU equipment officer shall be responsible for the care, maintenance and inventory of all CDU equipment. Inspections shall be conducted in

accordance with General Order 320.1, Section V., E.

- B. All personnel assigned to the unit shall be issued a riot helmet and gas mask. Other specialized equipment may be issued when available (e.g., riot stick, shin guards, etc.). All personnel are responsible for the security of the equipment issued to them. Officers shall notify the squad supervisor of any equipment that is lost or stolen, or equipment in need of repair or replacement.
- C. Specialized equipment such as shields, munitions and crowd barriers will be stored as directed by the CDU equipment officer. This equipment will be taken to a staging area or pre-positioning point as directed by the CDU commander or designee.

## VII. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The CDU operational commander or designee is responsible for the overall tactical deployment of the Unit.
- B. The CDU administrative and operational commanders shall jointly determine the training, personnel, and budgetary requirements of CDU on an annual basis.
- C. CDU deployment reports, operations plans, equipment inventories, training programs, personnel rosters, and policy updates shall be documented in writing. Copies of all such records shall be forwarded to the CDU administrative commander for review and retention as deemed appropriate.
- D. Squad supervisors shall be responsible for the administration and control of their respective squads.

## VIII. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCE

### VLEPSC

ADM.  
19.03

OPR.  
05.01  
05.03

This SOP becomes effective April 1, 2013, and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. C. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

Chief of Police