

GENERAL ORDER
FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



SUBJECT: HOSTAGE / BARRICADED PERSON	NUMBER: 520.3
CANCELS ORDER DATED: N/A	DATE: July 1, 2015

I. PURPOSE

This general order is issued to establish guidelines for response and procedures to resolve situations involving a hostage and/or a barricaded person.

II. POLICY

Unless immediate action is necessary to protect life, it is the policy of this Department to utilize the resources of the Special Operations Division (SOD) when confronted with hostage or barricaded person situations. The resources that typically respond to these events include: Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Technical Response Unit (TRU), Fairfax County Mental Health, tactical analyst, safety officer, tactical medic, tactical K9, and motor units from the Traffic Division.

Thus, when immediate action to protect life is not necessary, the role of the patrol officer will generally be restricted to that of containment. The safety of hostages, innocent bystanders, and police officers is of paramount concern.

III. DEFINITIONS

Legal Authority: Statute or code section under which the suspect/subject may legally be detained by law enforcement.

Barricaded Person: A person who uses any shelter, conveyance, structure, building, open field, or other location as a barrier against law enforcement, and refuses to exit and submit to lawful authority.

Hostage: A person or persons held against their consent, typically as security for the fulfillment of conditions or demands.

Priority of Life: Officers should prioritize their actions based on the priority of life in this order:

1. Hostages
2. Innocent By-standers
3. Police/First Responders
4. Suspects/Subjects

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IV. PROCEDURE

Procedures and responsibilities for the response of patrol officers, supervisors, duty officers, commanders and the approval process to request specialized resources are delineated in SOP 13-048.

Upon recognizing the need for specialized resources callout approval is sought through the chain of command and authorized by the Operations Support Bureau Commander or designee.

Officers at the scene should review the following points:

1. Legal authority
2. Danger posed to the community
3. Scene perimeter and safety of officers
4. Need for specialized resources

In the event of a single person barricade, and based on the priority of life, entry into the shelter, conveyance, structure, building, open field, or other location should be avoided. The person should be given commands to exit and brought toward officers who remain behind cover.

Negotiations and/or attempts to communicate with the person should continue while specialized assets are responding in a continued effort to resolve the situation. The goal is to contain and stabilize the situation until it can be safely resolved. Any negotiations initiated should be from appropriate cover and concealment consistent with protecting the priority of life in the order defined on page one.

V. SUPERVISORY AND COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

First line supervisors shall respond to all hostage / barricaded person events and announce command of the scene until relieved by higher authority. The Staff Duty Officer and/or Station Commander shall respond to the scene and assist with incident command in accordance with SOP 13-048.

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VI. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCE

<u>VLEPSC</u>	<u>CALEA</u>
OPR 05.01	1.3.9
OPR 06.01	33.6.2
OPR 06.02	41.3.6
	46.1.2
	46.1.4
	46.2.2
	46.2.3
	46.2.4
	73.2.4
	81.2.5

This general order becomes effective July 1, 2015, and rescinds all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subject.

ISSUED BY:

Chief of Police

APPROVED BY:

County Executive