

I. **PURPOSE**

To establish a Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) as part of the duties of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) and to outline the procedures to be followed in the event a situation occurs in which the Fairfax County Police CDU Commander would need the assistance of the Sheriff's Office.

II. **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office to establish a Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) that provides assistance to the Fairfax County Police Department with the capability to appropriately respond with deputies trained in crowd control to large public assemblies, demonstrations, or other public safety incidents. Through the measured use of these highly trained and specially equipped deputies, the Sheriff's Office will assist the Police Department in protection of life and property in civil disorder incidents.



III. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. **Squad** consists of three elements (15 equipped Deputies). Each squad has a Squad Team Leader, Assistant Squad leader, Element Leader, Grenadier and Skirmishers.
- B. **Element** contains five fully equipped CDU personnel including one supervisor (Element Leader). An element is usually deployed in one CDU vehicle.
- C. **Cold Call-Out** is a total mobilization of CDU personnel for an incident for which there was no prior intelligence.
- D. **Alert Status** is when CDU personnel are placed on state of alert due to possible deployment to a specific incident.
- E. **Pre-Planned Deployment** CDU personnel are deployed at incidents that allow for specific pre-planning due to sufficient prior warning.

IV. ORGANIZATION

- A. The Operational Commander of the Civil Disturbance Unit will be the SERT Commander.
- B. The SERT/CDU will assist the Fairfax County Police. However, all SERT/CDU members will be held accountable to this agency's policies.
- C. The CDU will consist of all active SERT members.
- D. While serving as a CDU squad member, the unit will be deployed as follows:
 - 1. Each squad consisting of a supervisor and fourteen deputies. The squad will consist of three elements with five deputies and a cruiser assigned to each element.
 - 2. The squad assignments will be dictated by the tactical situation as determined by the SERT/CDU Commander.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. The SERT/CDU will assist the Fairfax County Police upon activation of the unit.
- B. The Police CDU Commander will notify the SERT/CDU Commander with information regarding the number of required CDU deputies needed to deploy as well as the date, time, and location of the staging area.
 - 1. Once information is obtained by the SERT/CDU Commander, the ADC-SDO and the Commander, Correctional Services Division will be notified of the request for assistance.
 - 2. CDU members will be placed on alert status due to possible deployment for a specific incident.
 - 3. CDU members on alert status will store their equipment in the SERT office for possible deployment. They will also be familiar with the designated staging area.
 - 4. CDU members will be contacted via telephone/pager to respond to the designated staging area.
 - 5. Upon arrival at the staging area, CDU members will report to their squad supervisors for specific assignments.
 - 6. In the event a pre-planned deployment has been issued, CDU members will be notified in advance of their assignments and of the location of the staging area.

VI. TRAINING

- A. CDU members will maintain proficiency with semi-annual training.
 - 1. Deputies who fail to satisfactorily complete the course of training may be removed from the SERT/CDU roster upon recommendation of the SERT/CDU Supervisor and with the concurrence of the SERT/CDU Commander.
 - 2. Only fully trained and qualified SERT/CDU personnel are authorized to utilize

specialized crowd control equipment (pepper fogger, Chemical and Ballistic Munitions, smoke grenades, gas mask, etc.)

VII. EQUIPMENT

- A. All SERT/CDU personnel will wear their class-A uniform shirt with black T-shirt, SERT web gear with all the mandatory accessories, and issued black BDU pants when deployed on CDU incidents.
- All personnel will wear soft body armor when deployed.
- B. All SERT/CDU members will be issued a riot helmet and gas mask, which will be stored in the SERT office or kept on their person.
- C. Shields, Chemical munitions and other stock of CDU equipment will be stored in the SERT office. This equipment will be brought to the staging area upon activation of the CDU as directed by the SERT/CDU Commander.
- D. The SERT/CDU Commander and SERT/CDU Supervisors are authorized to use the listed chemical crowd control munitions upon authorization by the Police CDU Commander as indicated:
1. Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray or Pepper Fogger)
 2. Smoke
 3. C.N. or C.S. Tear Gas
- E. The decision to use chemical munitions devices must be carefully evaluated. Use of such a device must be integrated into the overall operational plan. The goal of any deployment shall be based upon the intent to stop unlawful conduct and to reduce the likelihood of injury to both law enforcement and disorderly persons in a crowd situation by reducing direct contact.
- F. The type of device(level of force) must be selected upon several criteria, which shall include:
1. Use of minimum amount of force required accomplishing the operational plan.
 2. Determination of the violations of laws present.
 3. The assessment of the threat to public safety by the actions of the crowd.
- G. The following factors shall additionally be taken into consideration prior to deployment of a chemical munitions:
1. Device exposure/injury to bystanders, law enforcement and other officials.
 2. Limitations of use due to environment and/or site conditions (Such as prevailing wind, nearby housing units, schools or highways).
 3. The availability of decontamination equipment.
- H. The location of the disturbance and the deployment point of the device must allow for an escape route so the crowd can disburse safely.

VII. ADMINISTRATION

- A. A quarterly inventory of CDU equipment will be conducted by a SERT/CDU Supervisor designated by the SERT/CDU Commander.
- B. CDU deployment reports and operational 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 Commander, Correctional Services Division for review and retention as deemed appropriate.



**STACEY A. KINCAID
SHERIFF**

**01/01/00
DATE APPROVED**

**3/10/99
EFFECTIVE DATE**