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| Policy #**SWAT with Team** | Related Policies: |
| *This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third-party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis for internal discipline and/or criminal charges.* |
| Applicable State Statutes: |
| KACP Accreditation Standard: 19.6  |
| Date Implemented: | Revision Date: May 1, 2025  |

1. **Purpose:** Law enforcement experience has demonstrated that there are police service demands that require specialized units equipped and trained to handle these demands successfully. SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Team) and similar units such as ERT (Emergency Response Teams) and SRT (Specialized Response Teams) are such units. The mission of these highly trained and specially equipped units is to bring under control police incidents involving highly volatile situations, including persons with weapons, barricaded and/or hostage incidents, suicidal calls, and high-risk warrant service operations. Police agencies are not required to have such units. Agencies that choose to develop and deploy such units must accept the responsibilities and demands required.
2. **Policy:** It is the policy of this department that the demands of this community warrant the development and deployment of a specialized tactical unit (SWAT). The mission of this unit is to provide the agency with increased police capability to control and resolve highly volatile incidents. The specialized equipment and training of these units provide for greater safety of the subjects being confronted, police employees directly involved, and the community. The police agency will use these specialized units only in situations warranting the need for specialized equipment and training.
3. **Procedure:** The following should be implemented for the assignment to and use of the specialized tactical team:
	1. **Selection process**: Personnel selected to become members of the unit shall successfully complete a physical agility course. The agency will consider the candidates’ performance evaluations and complaint history during this selection process.
	2. **Fitness:** All members of swat teams must pass a physical agility course based on operational fitness requirements. Members shall be required to pass this course at their initial selection and on a yearly basis. Any member unable to pass the agility test will be placed on inactive status until they can pass the course or leave the team.
	3. **Negotiators:** SWAT teams shall have trained hostage negotiators available for tactical situations requiring negotiations such as barricaded subjects and hostage situations. Teams should have their own departmental negotiators or written policies on which negotiators will be used, such as FBI, Kentucky State Police, or other police/sheriff’s department/office negotiators in their area.
	4. **Training requirement:**
		1. **Hourly Training Requirements**
			1. Initial Certification - Final appointment to a SWAT team requires successful completion of an 80-hour basic SWAT course that includes firearms, exterior, and interior training.
			2. Monthly Team Training- All SWAT teams must train 16 hours per month or 192 hours a year. The training must be regular, recurring, and based on critical skills training specific to the SWAT mission capability defined by the agency (to include firearms and tactics). The department will maintain a yearly schedule and the training will be documented and maintained in the agency’s training files.
			3. Sniper Training- All snipers are required to successfully complete 80 hours of certified sniper training before deploying as a sniper. Snipers are at a minimum required to qualify quarterly, separate from the mandated team training schedule.
		2. **Firearms Training Requirements**
			1. All SWAT team members must qualify before they are considered operational with their weapons. Qualifications and familiarization with weapons will be conducted during the initial 80-hour swat course for primary and secondary weapons.
			2. All SWAT team members must qualify at a minimum quarterly.
			3. All SWAT firearm courses must be completed with a minimum passing score of 80%.
			4. Any team member who fails to complete any quarterly or biannual qualification may not deploy during SWAT activations.
			5. SWAT weapons training is divided into two approaches - skill courses and combat/tactical courses. Skill courses provide each officer/deputy the opportunity to practice skills and show proficiency by numerical score.  Combat courses allow for practicing tactics and skills.
			6. All qualifications shall be conducted in full tactical callout gear.
			7. SWAT qualification courses should be specific to each weapons system utilized by each team and follow nationally accepted standards.
		3. **Specialty Munitions Training Requirements**

SWAT members shall not deploy any special munitions, including diversionary devices, less lethal and chemical munitions, without receiving proper instruction and certification on those munitions. Qualified training shall be conducted biannually on any specialized munitions.

* 1. **Equipment**
		1. **Individual Minimum Equipment:** Each member of a SWAT team should be provided with the following minimum equipment:
			1. Ballistic helmet
			2. Safety glasses and goggles
			3. Hearing protection
			4. Threat level IIIA ballistic entry vest with two threat level III or IV inserts, and attachable modules, or load-bearing vest with attachable modules
			5. Nylon duty belt and accessories for tactical equipment
			6. Special weapons as authorized (Weapons should be equipped with lights and slings.)
			7. Duty ammunition
			8. Radio and tactical headset
			9. BDU uniforms
			10. Tactical boots
			11. Rain gear
			12. Cold weather gear
			13. Gas mask
			14. Gloves (protective)
		2. Specialized Team Equipment: Each SWAT team should have the following minimum equipment:
			1. Less lethal option(s)/ammunition
			2. Counter sniper rifles
			3. Flash/Noise diversionary devices
			4. Breaching tools/ammunition
			5. Ballistic shields
			6. Tactical mirrors
			7. Transportation vehicle
	2. **Deployment-Utilization of KSP-SRT/Tactical (Kentucky State Police Provision):** When officers are confronted with situations requiring the assistance of an SRT, they shall notify a commanding officer who shall, when possible, respond to the scene. When the commanding officer responds to the scene and determines the necessity of the use of a KSP’s SRT for a barricaded subject or other tactical situation, he shall notify the Kentucky State Police Post and request the assistance of the KSP SRT team. Commanding officers should gather all available information regarding the suspect and location to brief the KSP on arrival.
	3. **Deployment-Utilization of KSP for Warrant Service:** After completing a risk assessment form (required before all warrant service) and finding that the score requires the use of a KSP’s SRT, a commanding officer/deputy shall be advised. The commanding officer/deputy shall review the assessment and, upon satisfaction that a SRT team is necessary, shall notify the Kentucky State Police post commander for assistance and activation of the KSP’s SRT.
	4. **Control of Incident:** When the KSP arrive and take over the situation, all tactical and response decisions will become the responsibility of the KSP. The police department will assist the KSP with any needed/requested support.
	5. **Deployment limitations:** This type of specialized unit is designed to operate as a team. When deployed, the team should be at full complement. Individual members, however, may be used in other police field incidents to enhance the police operation by virtue of his/her specialized equipment. In any case, where the use of an individual member is considered, the SWAT commander shall be notified for assessment and approval.
	6. **Risk Assessment Matrix:** Before the actual deployment of the specialized tactical unit for a warrant at a location, the agency shall evaluate the necessity for this deployment by using a risk assessment tool. This tool is a guide to evaluate the need to deploy the tactical unit to ensure that it meets the risk potential of the incident.
	7. **High-Risk Warrants:** A risk assessment matrix shall be completed before determining that a “high risk” exists.
	8. **Operational planning:** Unless the exigency of the event dictates otherwise, an operational planning session shall be conducted before deployment of the specialized tactical unit and must include:
		1. A written operational plan identifying the mission given to the unit and the tasks assigned to each member.
		2. A reading of the warrant or description of the events leading to the decision to deploy the specialized unit.
		3. Acknowledgment that current surveillance of the targeted location has been done.
		4. Identification of the subjects believed to be present at the targeted location.
		5. A description of the violence potential and any weaponry that may be present.
		6. A schematic of the targeted location, if available, and any known tactical hazards.
		7. The stationing of medical support, when necessary.
	9. **Operational debriefing:** The unit shall conduct and prepare a written critique of each operational deployment.
	10. **Inter-jurisdictional support:**
		1. When the agency is requested to assist another jurisdiction by deploying the specialized tactical unit in a jurisdiction other than that policed by this agency, the operational aspects and decisions will be made by this agency’s unit commander in consultation with the on-duty supervisor. The manner of operational deployment will conform to this agency’s policy on using this specialized tactical unit.
		2. When this agency requires the assistance of another jurisdiction’s specialized tactical team for either assumption of the mission or deployment with this agency’s tactical team, this agency’s policy should be considered. This agency’s on-duty commander will decide to deploy any tactical unit within its jurisdiction.
		3. Requests for mutual aid will be governed by compliance with the Kentucky Mutual Aid requirements.