

MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF FIELD SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

CHAPTER FIVE - ADMIN.
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DATE
10/14/99

HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION TEAM

POLICY

In every situation involving hostages, the safety of the hostage is of paramount concern. Every reasonable effort shall be made to affect the safe release of the hostage and to arrest the subject. The subject shall not be allowed to escape, with or without the hostage. We will not grant immunity in order to neutralize a hostage situation. The Marin County Sheriff's Office will not exchange additional citizens and/or officers for hostages, nor exchange, surrender or supply weapons to the suspect. At no time will alcohol or drugs be exchanged for hostages.

In situations involving a barricaded subject without hostages, the Marin County Sheriff's Office shall attempt all methods to affect his capture by the use of non-lethal means consistent with his offense.

The decision to suspend the negotiation process should be based on the actions of the suspect. If there is reasonable cause to believe the suspect is about to inflict death or great bodily injury on hostages, police personnel or other persons, appropriate offensive action should be taken.

Definitions:

Hostage: Any person seized or kidnapped by another, or whose life or safety is threatened by the perpetrator when the perpetrator's intent is to evade arrest, escape, obtain the release of prisoners or obtain monies or property.

Barricaded Subject: Any person, who by his own admission, or who is in fact armed with a weapon, explosive or any other destructive or dangerous device, who has restricted his own movements and/or fortifies a fixed location, and who violently or by threat of violence, resists apprehension efforts by the Marin County Sheriff's Office.

High Risk Search/Arrest Warrant: Any warrant that will be served on a person who has displayed a past history of violence with police or has threatened or implied he will not be taken into custody without resistance.

Negotiator: An individual who has communication skills and specialized training that can positively influence the outcome of a critical incident.

S.R.T.: The Marin County Sheriff's Office tactical Special Response Team.

Team Leader: Usually the Sergeant of the Negotiation Team, but can be a member of the team when designated by the Negotiation Commander. The Team Leader will assign team positions and establish a tactical liaison. He/she communicates all pertinent information regarding the negotiation process to the Negotiation Commander.

Negotiation Commander: The Lieutenant in charge of the Negotiation Team. He/she is the communication liaison between the Negotiation Team, Incident Commander and the Tactical Commander.

Incident Commander The Watch Commander for the shift. Works with the Negotiation Commander and the Tactical Commander to provide critical information to the Captain in charge of the incident.

PROCEDURE

The Negotiation Team should be called out by Q-Page whenever Marin County Sheriff's Office personnel are:

- * Serving high risk search/arrest warrants.
- * Have contact with a barricaded subject.
- * Have a hostage incident.
- * Responding to a despondent/suicidal subject.
- * Requested by another department and are approved by the Watch Commander to assist in one of the above scenarios.

If the on-scene supervisor feels negotiations will help the situation, he shall contact Communications Center who will initiate the I-Page. Negotiators will always be paged whenever there is an S.R.T. team call-out.

If there is a Negotiator on duty, he/she will be responsible for collecting all the equipment and bringing it to the incident scene. In a situation where there is no Negotiator on duty, the Team Leader or his/her designee will be responsible for the equipment. All available Negotiators will respond to the incident scene or the designated negotiation command post.

Upon arrival on the scene, the Negotiators will immediately report to the Incident Commander. They will obtain the details of the incident from the on-scene supervisor and begin gathering background and pertinent information regarding the incident. Once the Negotiators are ready to make initial contact, the Incident Commander will be notified and give approval for negotiations to begin.

The Primary Negotiator will have the authority and responsibility to use any available resource to successfully accomplish the negotiations. The primary goals of the Negotiator are to negotiate the release of the hostage(s) and the surrender of the subject(s). The Negotiator has no authority to make tactical decisions; therefore, the Team Leader will keep the Negotiation Commander fully informed of all negotiation progress.

The Negotiation Commander, Incident Commander and Tactical Commander will keep the Captain in charge of the incident informed of all critical information. If negotiations appear to be failing or there appears to be an escalated risk to the safety of the hostages, police personnel or other persons on scene, the negotiation process may be terminated and tactical procedures may be implemented. Once negotiations have been terminated, the Tactical Commander will take charge of the incident.

Within three days of the conclusion of any critical incident involving the Negotiators, the Negotiation Commander will arrange for a debriefing on the incident. All Negotiators involved in the operation will be required to attend the debriefing.

The Primary Negotiator will provide a written summary to the Team Leader within three days of the conclusion of the incident. The Negotiation Recorder will provide a written time/event report to the Primary Negotiator within 24 hours of the conclusion of the incident. The time/event report will be included in the Primary Negotiator's summary. All reports shall be delivered to the Investigations Division in a timely manner.

RELATED STANDARDS:

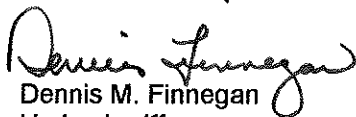
None

OTHER AFFECTED DIVISIONS:

Patrol
Communications
Custody
Investigations
Court Operations

DATE OF REVISIONS:

By Order Of


Dennis M. Finnegan
Undersheriff