


<b>PBP FORM 290</b>  <b>PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE</b> <i>"...honor, integrity, courage, respect, and compassion."</i>		<b>SUBJECT:</b> "SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)"		<b>ORDER NUMBER:</b> 42-13
		<b>PLEAC STANDARD:</b> NONE		<b>PAGE 1 OF 5</b>
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> 2/14/2019	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> 2/14/2019	<b>ANNUAL REVIEW DATE:</b> FEBRUARY	<b>RESCINDS:</b> NONE	<b>AMENDS:</b> NONE

### **1.0 POLICY OR PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to set forth the goals, structure, and function of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Special Response Team (SRT), as well as to establish standards regarding the selection, training, equipment, and deployment of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police SRT Team.

### **2.0 PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT) MISSION STATEMENT**

- 2.1 The mission of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Special Response Team (SRT) is to ensure that the safety and civil liberties of both participants and non-participants of any rally, protest, or event are not compromised. SRT works to minimize disruptions to the general public, while protecting both people and property from injury. SRT accomplishes this goal while allowing participants to exercise their Constitutional right of free speech, no matter the content or message. SRT Officers are specially trained in both crowd control and civil rights protections and will monitor events from the outset, ensuring a proper response if any event should turn to a civil disturbance or civil disorder. The SRT team will provide the City of Pittsburgh with an appropriately trained, equipped, and organized Mobile Field Force (MFF). Members of SRT are also trained to respond to hazardous materials events and other Homeland Security functions. The SRT team, through coordination with the City of Pittsburgh Administration, will endeavor to provide new and evolving capabilities based on identified needs and requirements.

### **3.0 DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 Mobile Field Force ("MFF") - A structured team of law enforcement officers providing a rapid, organized, and disciplined response to crowd management, civil disorder, crowd control, and/or other situations as needed. The tactics used are based on small squad tactics developed by the Office of Domestic Preparedness.
- 3.2 Mass Gathering Security/Homeland Security Events - Proactive security measures for addressing large events and mass gatherings as it relates to Homeland Security Operations and Directives or operations in support of any government entity that requests assistance, as approved by the Chief of Police.
- 3.3 Protest - Organized, public demonstration of disapproval about the current social, legal or political status quo.
- 3.4 Civil Disorder - Public disturbance by numerous people who commit violent acts that cause immediate danger or injury to people or property.
- 3.5 Civil Disturbance - Group acts of violence and disorder prejudicial to public law and order.
- 3.6 Civil Disobedience - Refusal to obey laws in an effort to change government policy or legislation; characterized by using passive resistance or other non-violent means.
- 3.7 Unlawful Assembly - A meeting of a number of people as described by state law who intend either to commit a violent crime or to carry out an unlawful act that will constitute a breach of the peace.
- 3.8 Riot - Unlawful disturbance of peace by assembly of people acting with a common purpose in a violent or tumultuous manner that threatens to terrorize the public.
- 3.9 Crowd monitoring and security - The lowest level of law enforcement response to all forms of public assemblies, including strategies and tactics employed before during and after a gathering to maintain the event's lawful activities and security of attendees.

- 3.10 Crowd Intervention - Mid-level law enforcement response to pre-planned or spontaneous activities to isolate unlawful behavior that impacts public safety while allowing the event, activity or occurrence to continue.
- 3.11 Crowd Control - Heightened level of law enforcement response to pre-planned or spontaneous activities that eminently threaten to or have become unlawful or violent and may require dispersal of a crowd or arrests.

#### **4.0 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

- 4.1 In the event of civil disturbance, civil disorder, riotous behavior, or violent protests, all law enforcement entities will operate under a unified command system as set forth by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and outlined in the Incident Command System (ICS) at the direction of the Incident Commander.
- 4.2 Members of SRT operate under the premise that they are the guardians of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, members of SRT will not publicly express their personal views regarding any politically charged narrative. It will be the policy of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police SRT to maintain an apolitical or non-political stance and all members of SRT shall endeavor to remain impartial and unbiased to all messages and content of any person, rally, protest, or gathering while working in an official capacity.

4.2.1

[REDACTED]

4.2.2

[REDACTED]

- 4.3 SRT shall use as its operational basis, the nationally recognized, accepted, and federally vetted training offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness.

#### **5.0 SELECTION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SRT MEMBERS**

- 5.1 In order to maintain sufficient numbers, vacancy announcements and tryouts for the Special Response Team may be advertised and scheduled several times a year as deemed necessary.
- 5.2 The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police SRT team is a voluntary unit and assignment to and participation with the SRT Team is done on a voluntary basis.
- 5.3 Individuals will be selected in the following manner when vacancies for SRT are announced by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
  - 5.3.1 Members must have completed their Probationary Period and be in good standing with the Bureau of Police.
  - 5.3.2 Members of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police that meet the minimum requirements for SRT shall complete a PBP Form #54.0, "Special Report", through the Chain of Command to the SRT Commander, and include written recommendations from their immediate supervisors.
  - 5.3.3 Sergeants will be considered for appointment. Sergeants selected for the team will be paid at their current rate, but may not always operate in a supervisory position. Sergeants' positions will be determined by the SRT Commander or his/her designee.
  - 5.3.4 Lieutenants and above will not be considered for SRT, and any member promoted to Lieutenant shall be required to resign from SRT.
- 5.4 Individuals must meet the minimum standard as determined by a one-day, pass or fail, pre-qualification assessment.

5.4.1 Prior to the pre-qualification assessment, all applicants shall complete the following FEMA online courses: AWR-160, IS-100.b, IS-700.a

5.4.2 The pre-qualification assessment includes, but is not limited to, physical exertion drills, mask confidence drills, and a firearms component. As operational requirements evolve, change, or expand, additional pre-qualification assessments may be required (ex: HAZMAT Tech, Extrication Team etc.)

5.5 Members who pass the pre-qualification assessment and complete the required online FEMA coursework may be selected for SRT assignment at the discretion of the Chief of Police or by his/her designee.

5.6 Individuals shall complete the pre-qualification assessment and qualifying Mobile Field Force training before they are assigned as "fully operational" SRT members.

**6.0 RETENTION AND STANDARDS FOR SRT MEMBERS**

6.1 Once assigned to SRT, all members, regardless of rank or position, must maintain the minimum established standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the review of an officer's status as a SRT team member by the SRT Commander or his/her designee.

6.2 SRT members are required to attend two-day quarterly training events and all "mandatory" training as designated by the SRT Commander.

6.3 Team members will be tasked to re-certify in numerous SRT responsibilities which include, but are not limited to, Mobile Field Force operations, First Amendment and Constitutional legal updates, firearms, and less lethal devices. Failure to maintain these qualifications will result in designation to inactive status until the requirements are fulfilled.

6.4 SRT members shall be required to respond to fifty percent (50%) of the "call outs" for which they are eligible and no less than six (6) of the eight (8) yearly "Full Team Deployment" scheduled events below:

- St. Patrick's Day Parade Day and Celebrations
- Pride Events
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Two (2) Summer Stadium Concerts
- Regatta
- Light Up Night
- First Night

6.5 Any team member may request to be placed on or removed from voluntary inactive status or to be permanently removed from the SRT Team for any reason by contacting the SRT Commander through official communications (PBP Form #54.0, "Special Report" and/or E-mail) with no negative repercussions to his/her personnel file.

6.6 Members transitioning from a voluntarily inactive status to an active status will be required complete any training that was missed during the time of their inactive status. The training will be completed at the discretion of the Mobile Field Force Commander.

**7.0 COMMAND AND STRUCTURE OF THE SRT TEAM**

7.1 [REDACTED]

7.2 [REDACTED]

7.2.1 [REDACTED]

7.2.2 [REDACTED]

7.2.3 [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**(FLOW CHART REDACTED)**

## **8.0 NOTIFICATION AND ACTIVATION OF THE SRT TEAM**

- 8.1 The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police SRT Team may be required to respond to multiple types of events that are generally categorized in the following manner: Emergency Call Out Events (no notice, immediate response required), Call Out Events (less than 48 hours prior notice), or Scheduled Events (preplanned and/or permitted events). The SRT Team will respond to these events with a tiered approach as follows: Crowd Monitoring and Security, Crowd Management, Crowd Intervention and Crowd Control, as appropriate and necessary, to be performed in accordance with the Center for Domestic Preparedness training and doctrine, federal and state laws, and local ordinances.

8.2 For pre-planned events, members of the SRT team will be alerted of the impending activation through the issuance of a "Warning Order." The "Warning Order" shall be sent via the designated alert system and/or email and shall be sent with as much lead time as possible.

8.2.1 The "Warning Order" shall be followed by an "Operations Order" detailing the scope, details and expectations of the mission. The Operations Order shall be sent via email at the SRT Commander's earliest convenience.

8.3 Call Outs for spontaneous events or emergencies shall be done via the designated alert system, at the discretion of the SRT Commander. Requests for call outs shall be initiated by Commander level or above.

8.4 [REDACTED]

8.4.1 [REDACTED]

8.4.2 [REDACTED]

8.5 [REDACTED]

**9.0 MUTUAL AID**

9.1 At the discretion of the Chief of Police or his/her designee, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Special Response Team will provide mutual aid to any agency that requests assistance.

9.2 Mutual aid is governed by The Police Officers Municipal Jurisdiction Act.

Approved By:



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Scott Schubert  
Chief of Police