



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL		
CHAPTER 233	SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS	
	Effective: 1/9/2025	Commissioner Approval: 
	Authorities:	
	Applicability: ALL DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES	
	Special Instructions: SEE OPM Chapters 102, 107, 232	

233.100 INTRODUCTION

This department establishes means by which it will respond to high risk or crisis situations and the protocol for deploying such an effort.

233.300 SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT) Board

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Board consists of the SWAT Statewide Coordinator (appointed by the AST Division Director), and the Commander from each team. The SWAT Board is responsible for reviewing SWAT organization, training, and activities, and selection of personnel.

233.310 SWAT UTILIZATION

A. *SWAT is available for use in high-risk situations.* SWAT is a resource to be used alone or in conjunction with other units as required to resolve high risk or crisis situations. SWAT may be utilized any time there is a need for a team effort and a higher-than-normal danger to officers or citizens exists. The increased level of danger may be as a result of criminal activity as in the case of a barricaded gunman or from rugged terrain as in a SAR. All Detachment Commanders and Deputy Commanders shall familiarize themselves with the capabilities of SWAT to insure effective use of the resource.

B. *Commanders determine need for SWAT response.* Detachment Commanders and Deputy Commanders are authorized by the Director's Office to make the determination that a SWAT response is needed to address an emergent incident occurring in their jurisdiction. A [risk assessment](#) will be utilized for the purpose of preplanned service of arrest warrants and is not intended for use during in-progress events such as a barricaded subject. The division director may require commanders, dependent on experience, to get approval from the director's office in advance of any SWAT responses. Commanders may also call upon the SWAT Commander or Statewide Coordinator to help determine if an incident rises to the level of a SWAT response.

C. *Notice to AST Director.* If time allows, the Detachment Commander or Deputy Commander will give notice to the AST Director prior to activating SWAT. In those instances

where prior notice is not given, the Director or designee shall be contacted as soon as is reasonably possible regarding any SWAT response.

D. Notice to Commissioner. The AST Director or designee will notify the Commissioner of all activations of SWAT as soon as possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

233.320 TEAM CALL OUT

A. Requests for SWAT response made through Detachment Command. All requests for SWAT response must be made to the SWAT Commander through the Detachment Commander or Deputy Commander who will review the facts to determine whether SWAT response is required. If the request is being made in an area that does not have a team, the request will go through the closest SWAT Commander (s). All requests will be sent up the chain of command to the appropriate commander. The Director's Office will be notified as soon as possible of the request for activation. If a disagreement occurs on whether SWAT should or should not be utilized, the Director's Office will serve as the final arbiter.

B. Utilization of on Duty SWAT Members. Detachment Commanders and Deputy Commanders may send SWAT trained members not in SWAT uniforms to a patrol call, and some SWAT equipment may be used by trained and authorized personnel on a patrol call, but the use of an Armored Vehicle or any members in SWAT uniforms for an incident will always be deemed a SWAT callout and will require notification of the SWAT Commander, appropriate Detachment Commander or Deputy Commander, and Director's Office.

- C. ***Approval of requests for SWAT response from outside agencies.*** On occasion, SWAT may be requested to respond to assist a Federal, State, or Municipal agency for an ongoing incident. Such requests must be approved by the AST Director's Office.
- D. ***Briefing SWAT Commander .*** AST Dispatch shall immediately attempt to contact the SWAT Commander by phone or other means, and brief him on the event to their fullest capability, or provide a phone number of the person who has that information.
- E. ***SWAT members to be notified.*** All members of SWAT assigned to the response area will be electronically notified per the SWAT SOP unless the Detachment Commander, Detachment Deputy Commander, or SWAT Commander instructs otherwise. The notification must include the location where the team will meet, whether a code response is required, the radio frequency being used for the event, and the uniform required.
- F. ***SWAT will acknowledge notification by radio.*** In order to minimize phone traffic to dispatch, responding SWAT members shall acknowledge the notification by radio unless another form of communication is necessary.
- G. ***SWAT members shall immediately respond.*** All SWAT members shall notify if they are able to immediately respond to either a pre-determined location or to the location provided in the notification.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

233.340 ACTIONS AFTER A SWAT INCIDENT

A. *All personnel to report for debriefing.* All personnel present at or involved in a SWAT incident must report to the Incident Commander or SWAT Commander for a tactical debriefing upon being relieved or dismissed. If an individual is dismissed from the incident they will be instructed regarding the requirement of completing a supplement report and reporting to the case officer in a timely manner.

B. *Group debriefing to be held.* At the conclusion of a SWAT incident, the Incident Commander or SWAT Commander shall conduct a tactical and or stress debriefing. All personnel involved in the incident will be required to attend. The case officer assigned to the incident will be notified of any debriefings and be present.

C. *Involved personnel to complete written reports.* All personnel involved in an incident will be required to complete a supplement report documenting their observations and any actions taken during the incident unless advised otherwise by the case officer assigned to the incident.

233.350 USE OF FORCE

Use of force during a SWAT response must be in compliance with DPS policy ([OPM Chapter 107](#)). SWAT members must qualify on the appropriate course of fire detailed in [OPM Chapter 232](#) with each weapon carried or used during operations.

233.360 INSIGNIA

A. *Establishment of SWAT insignia.* The SWAT Insignia shall be crossed rifles with the small AST badge centered at the junction of the rifles. In memory of Trooper Troy L. Duncan, killed by hostile fire during a SWAT mission, the SWAT insignia is known as "Duncan's Bones."

B. *SWAT members authorized to wear insignia.* Upon meeting the requirements described in the SWAT SOP, active team members will be permitted to wear the insignia as detailed in [OPM Chapter 102](#).