

Procedural Directive

California State University
Northridge
University Police Department



To: All Command Staff and Designated Marksman Team Personnel
From: Anne P. Glavin, Chief of Police
Subject: Designated Marksman Team Protocols
Directive Number: 2016-02
Date: May 18, 2016
Amends/Supersedes: N/A

Objective: To establish procedures in the deployment and use of a long rifle team during those operations as designated by the Chief of Police. The team, which will be referred to as the Designated Marksman Team, should deploy as soon as possible upon arriving to their assignment. The deployment of the Designated Marksman Team will be to primarily perform the duties of observation and gathering of intelligence. The team may also provide the capability of precision rifle fire in a circumstance in which use of force is critical and necessary to save lives, and is in accordance with the Department's Use of Force Policy ((08-L.E.-011) and Deployment, Use, and Storage of Deadly Force and Non-Deadly Intermediate Force Weapons Policy (08-L.E.-012).

Procedures:

- The Designated Marksman Team consists of Department members appointed by the Chief of Police and whom are specially trained in marksmanship, field movement and observation techniques. The primary weapons of the team are a .308 caliber bolt action scoped rifle and a .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle. Each member of the team will be equipped with both weapons. This combination provides the capability of long-range precision accuracy and sustained long-range fire if necessary.
- This team will normally deploy in pairs. The pair consists of two (2) designated marksmen, who are equally qualified and share the duties of marksman and observer to help reduce fatigue on long operations.
- The Designated Marksman Team will find a position that offers a good observation point, is within the effective range of their weapons, provides cover and concealment, offers a stable shooting position, and provides an appropriate field of

fire. Such position must be approved by the Captain of Patrol Operations and the Chief of Police. The team will maintain their position unless ordered to move by the Incident Commander or ranking officer in charge of the operation.

- The duties of the primary marksman include but are not limited to:
 - Provide observation and intelligence.
 - Cover the assigned area to monitor activity.
 - If a suspect is identified, provide suspect description and location. Provide updated intelligence on the suspect's actions and movements as it occurs. Do not anticipate or assume actions based on prior intelligence.
 - Provide cover for officers (e.g. rapid response teams) responding to active shooter occurrences or other critical incidents.
 - Neutralize a dangerous suspect **if** so ordered by the Chief of Police or designee if he/she presents a threat of death or great bodily injury.
- The duties of the primary observer include:
 - Assist marksman with equipment.
 - Handle radio communications.
 - Provide security for the primary marksman.
 - Keep notes of the suspect's description and actions.
 - Relieve the primary marksman to reduce fatigue.
 - Provide diversionary fire if needed.
 - Assist primary marksman with target identification and range determination.
 - Call any shot made by the primary marksman.

Tactical Considerations:

- As determined by the Chief of Police, in most circumstances, the determination for the Designated Marksman Team to use deadly force will be at the judgment of the incident commander or, if unavailable, the ranking officer in charge of the operation.

- If the order is given to neutralize a suspect, the marksman must determine if he/she can safely make the shot using their training, experience and department policy as their primary guide. Considerations to shoot include but are not limited to:
 - Background (Will the shot cause danger to innocent bystanders?);
 - Imperilment to the general public by the suspect;
 - Consequences of shooting vs not shooting.

Equipment:

In addition to the weapons mentioned earlier, there are other items that the long rifle team should have available to help perform their duties. These include, but are not limited to:

- Weapons drag bag
- Binoculars/Range Finder
- Small flashlight
- Shooting supports
- Pen and notebook
- Water and appropriate food items for sustained extended missions (if applicable).