

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 13-1
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SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)

PURPOSE: To establish Department guidelines for activation, structure, and basic operating procedures for the Jacksonville Police Department's Special Response Team (SRT).

POLICY: The Jacksonville Police Department does not employ a dedicated SWAT team. Instead, the policy of the Jacksonville Police Department shall be to utilize a specialized unit consisting of specially selected officers who are trained, equipped, and deployed in high risk law enforcement situations. The members of the Special Response Team (SRT) are assigned other full-time duties and serve on the SRT as needed.

PROCEDURES:

I. STRUCTURE AND COMMAND OF THE SRT

- A. The SRT will be made up of thirteen (13) members who will include one (1) Tactical Team Commander (TTC), one (1) Tactical Team Leader (TTL), one (1) Assistant Team Leader (ATL), and Ten (10) team members.
- B. The SRT is commanded by the TTC. When activated for an operation, the TTL will assume responsibility for the inner perimeter of the incident. The TTL's responsibility for the SRT will include the deployment of the team, tactical decision making and tactical resolutions of the incident. The TTL will decide when and if the tactical option will be initiated and how it will be performed.

II. CALL OUT OF THE SRT

- A. The Shift Supervisor has the authority to immediately request the activation of the SRT for any critical incident within jurisdictional boundaries. The Shift Supervisor will contact the TTC or the TTL, if the TTC is unavailable, and brief him on the incident. The TTC or TTL will then take responsibility for activation of the team.
- B. The SRT is available, with the approval of the Jacksonville Police Department's Chief of Police, or his designee, to any requesting law enforcement agency.
- C. The Chief of Police will be notified by the Captain, or his designee, as soon as possible on all SRT call outs.
- D. In the event of deployment of the SRT, officers will secure the area and establish a Command Post in a secure area to provide for the coordination and control of the situation.
- E. The SRT may be notified in all situations involving the following to supplement other department components: (8.04)
 1. Barricaded subjects;
 2. Hostage situations;
 3. Riots, demonstrations, or civil disorders;
 4. High risk apprehensions involving dangerous suspects, or those that are known to be armed;
 5. High risk/unknown risk narcotics search/arrest warrants where:
 - a. Suspects are known to be dangerous;
 - b. Violence is likely to be encountered;
 - c. It is believed that weapons are being carried by suspect(s); or

- d. By the nature of the totality of the information available, it is believed that the risk is such that it exceeds what can be handled by a normal narcotics, patrol, or Criminal Investigation Division (CID) response.
- 6. Suicidal subjects/Emotionally disturbed persons who are armed and/or threatening others, including police, who may try to intervene;
- 7. Natural disasters (tornado, flood, earthquake);or
- 8. Manmade disasters (terrorism, chemical spill)
- F. All operational components will coordinate and cooperate with other operational components during deployment of the SRT Team.
- G. SRT will use a risk assessment matrix and have preapproved operation plans. (8.04)

III. SRT MEMBERSHIP (8.04)

- A. Selection process: If a position becomes available, the TTC will post a notice of the opening, which will be open to all sworn officers of this Department, who have successfully been here at least two (2) years. Officers who wish to apply will write a letter of intent to the TTC. Prospective members must pass the following SRT requirements:
 - 1. Consistently shoot at least ninety (90%) percent in firearms qualifications.
 - 2. Pass an approved physical fitness test for SRT members. (See Appendix C)
 - 3. A vote by current team members after a formal team interview will be strongly considered by the team leaders in determining appointment to the team. Past training and experience will be considered during the process.
- B. Personal standards: Once accepted and assigned to the SRT, all operational team members, regardless of rank or position, must maintain acceptable standards of performance. All team members must meet the following minimum requirements:
 - 1. Pass the SRT physical fitness test twice a year. The completion of the course with a satisfactory time will exclude the member from Policy 8-5: Essential Functions and Physical Fitness. (See Appendix C)
 - 2. Consistently shoot at least ninety (90%) percent in all firearms that they utilize.
 - 3. Certify annually on individual skills.
 - a. Failure to meet the minimum acceptable standards may result in the team member being placed in a temporary, non-deployable status, for a period of thirty (30) days and/or completion to the standard. Failure to meet the minimum acceptable standard within the thirty (30) days will result in the immediate removal from the team.
 - b. Being placed in a temporary, non-deployable status twice within two (2) years may result in immediate removal from the team.
- C. Removal from SRT membership: It is the goal of the SRT to have members who are highly professional, disciplined, and dedicated. A member may be removed for any of the following:
 - 1. Written request of removal by the team member;
 - 2. Chronic problems with tardiness to training or call outs;
 - 3. Chronic problems with absences from training or call outs; must attend seventy-five (75%) percent of training per year; absence from training may be approved prior to the day of training. Team members **cannot** miss more than four (4) days of unexcused training.
 - 4. Failure to adhere to the chain of command of the team;
 - 5. Displaying an attitude that is not conducive to proper team functions;
 - 6. A disregard for the policies, rules, regulations, and lawful directives of the team;
 - 7. Without cause, when deemed necessary for the good of the team by a consensus of the leadership elements of the team; and
 - 8. A team member may be removed by the Chief of Police for unsatisfactory performance in his regular duties.