



DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL ORDER

I-28: MOBILE COMMAND CENTERS

Effective Date: DD MMM YY

Coordinator: Special Operations Division

The Oakland Police Department maintains Mobile Command Centers¹ (MCC) for command, control, and communications at the scene of critical incidents, natural disasters, community events, and search operations. They are centrally located to make them available to respond to any crisis in the City of Oakland in a short period. The vehicles may be equipped with mobile radios on multiple bands, CAD (Computer aided Dispatch), Field Based Reporting (FBR), Monitors, White Boards, High intensity lighting, and a mast-mounted camera. They also have a conference area where briefings may be held. The MCC is a resource for any mission deemed necessary by the Chief of Police, or designee.

A. PURPOSE AND TRAINING

A - 1. Purpose

Mobile command centers (MCCs) are designed to allow for centralization of information or command at critical incidents, natural disasters, community events, community relations, and search operations.

A - 2. Training

Operators for MCCs with gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of over 26,000 lbs. shall attend specific commercial driver training and possess a Class B driver's license with Air Brake endorsement.

Operators for MCCs with GVWR under 26,000 lbs. shall possess a Class C driver's license.

B. AUTHORIZED AND PROHIBITED USES

B - 1. Authorized Uses

MCCs may be used for any event or detail where either:

1. The MCC will assist with centralization of information or command at a given event, or
2. The presence of the MCC will further the Department's crime strategy. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Public events above a certain attendance threshold;
 - b. In a particular neighborhood where a violent crime has recently occurred or may occur to assure community members of police attention and presence;
3. For natural disasters or citywide emergencies.

¹ Also referred to as Mobile Command Vehicles (MCV).

Any MCC uses shall be authorized by a commander at the rank of Lieutenant or above, or by a member acting in that rank.

Whenever the MCC is sent on assignment, the Commanding Officer of the Traffic Operations Section shall be notified as soon as practical. Commanders authorizing the deployment of the MCC shall complete a Military Equipment notification tracking form and submit it to the Military Equipment Coordinator.

B - 2. Prohibited Uses

MCCs shall not be used for routine patrol (e.g., responding to calls for service, making routine traffic stops), and shall not be used for vehicle pursuits.

MCC vehicles shall not be used for surreptitious surveillance.

Members shall not duplicate the keys of MCCs without permission nor keep personal sets of keys to the vehicle.

C. DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

C - 1. Storage Locations

Designated members of the Oakland Police Department shall pick up the vehicle at the designated housing location (Corp Yard).

Members using MCCs shall return the MCC to the designated storage location after use. Storage locations include the Eastmont Substation and the City Corp Yard.

C - 2. Vehicle Checkout

Before leaving for an assignment, the assigned crew must:

1. Check out keys from the Electronic Key Distribution and Tracking System. The Electronic Key Distribution boxes are mounted on the walls of both the PAB Transportation office and the Eastmont Substation Key Room;
2. Plan the route to the assignment, taking into consideration the dimensions and overhead clearance of the vehicle. The driver should always attempt to use established truck routes because these roads are designed to accommodate large vehicles; and
3. Check the fuel, engine oil, tire pressure, and the overall vehicle condition.

C - 3. Driving MCCs

All members driving MCCs must drive cautiously and avoid railroad overpasses, parkways, parking decks, and non-commercial routes, and must use special care when operating the MCC in rain, snow, or icy conditions.

C - 4. MCC Set Up and on-scene Procedures

At the scene, the MCC crew must:

1. Position the vehicle at a safe distance from an incident to provide maximum safety for person to enter and exit the vehicle. Depending on the type of incident and the terrain, this distance can extend to several thousand feet.
2. Ensure that the vehicle is positioned on a level concrete or paved surface for proper deployment of the leveling system (MCV).
3. Stabilize the vehicle by using the leveling system and/or wheel chocks (MCV).
4. Set up a safety zone around the vehicle using traffic cones and lighting.
5. Ensure that at least one member remains with the vehicle at all times.
6. Ensure that only those persons approved by the Incident Commander are allowed to enter the MCC at the scene of a critical incident or natural disaster.
7. During daylight hours, the CRV, when deployed for High Visibility Crime Deterrence in the community shall have an "Open Door Policy," one door should be open for providing public the ability to make contact with officers, to ask questions, make reports, and request resource guides.

When the vehicle is no longer needed, the using Division/Section will ensure the vehicle is delivered to the housing station by trained Police personnel (Corp Yard).

C - 5. Damage to MCC

Damage to the Mobile Command Vehicle will be handled in compliance with Department Policy DGO [N-05](#) *Lost, Stolen, or Damaged City Property*, and [J-02](#) *Traffic Collision Scene Management, Investigation, and Reporting*, a crime report or other applicable documentation. Repairs of such damage must be coordinated through the Traffic Operations Section/Corp Yard.

C - 6. Maintenance and Inspection

The Traffic Operations Section Commander will be responsible for routine maintenance, supplies and vehicle inspections of all the Mobile Command Vehicles.

D. Inquiry and Complaint Process

(Government Code 7070 d (7)) For a law enforcement agency, the procedures by which members of the public may register complaints or concerns or submit questions about the use of each specific type of military equipment, and how the law enforcement agency will ensure that each complaint, concern, or question receives a response in a timely manner.

The Oakland Police Department DGO M-3: **Complaints Against Departmental Personnel or Procedures** will inform all employees and the public of procedures for

accepting, processing, and investigating complaints concerning allegations of member employee misconduct.²

By order of

LeRonne L. Armstrong
Chief of Police

Date Signed: _____

² Refer to DGO K-7 for additional information.

Impact Report
Mobile Command Center

(1) Description:

A. Background

The Oakland Police Department owns 1 Mobile Command Vehicles (MCV). Our MCV was built in conjunction with the Oakland Fire and Oakland Police Department as unified command vehicle but can also alternate between fire specific and police specific missions. The vehicle was custom built by Lynch Diversified Vehicles (Freightliner MT-55, 30,000-lb GVWR) with rear air ride suspension and air brake. Our MCV was converted into a MCC by adding desktop workstations, police radios and emergency lighting. The MCV is 30" long. [The MCV has been used in conjunction with the Oakland Fire Department during past Oakland Raider Football Games, Golden State Warrior Basketball Games, Oakland A's Baseball Games, GSW Parades, most notably. The MCV was also deployed during the aftermath of the Ghost Ship \(2016\) Fire to support Fire and Police operations.](#)

The Oakland Police Department owns 3 Community Resource Vehicle (CRV), was purchased to be used in the community to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The vehicle will also serve as a community resource center during critical incidents, distribute sanitation supplies, public engagement, and dissemination of emergency health supplies in a disaster. The vehicle was custom built by Lynch Diversified Vehicles (LDV Model #30MCC-34769-20), [2022 Freightliner MT-55 forward control chassis. 26,000-lb. GVWR with air ride rear suspension and hydraulic brakes.](#)

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B. Quantity:

The Oakland Police Department owns 1 MCV and 3 CRV.

C. Capability:

The MCV and CRV can serve as mobile offices that supply shelter and may be used as a mobile command and communication center.

D. Lifespan:

The MCV MT-55 is 13yrs old and is at the tail end of its serviceable lifespan. All emergency vehicles need to be completely dependable, and vehicles of this age start to lose dependability as old parts start to fail without warning. The communications equipment has a service life cycle of only 7-10 years. This is because technology evolves very rapidly. The modern versions of this type of vehicle are typically converted motorhomes.

The CRV is a brand-new vehicle, recently added to the fleet, and many years of service ahead.

E. Use:
Vehicles can serve as mobile command posts for small to large scaled events.

F. How it works:
This vehicle runs and drives like other vehicles.

(2) Purpose:

The larger MCV vehicle was purchased jointly for use by the Oakland Police Department and Oakland Fire Department, to be used as a mobile command post for any large, scaled events, where the Oakland Fire Department, City Leaders can work from one central location. The MCV can act as as a communications center in the event the communications center in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Building is inoperable, or there is a loss of power at the Communications Center (COMM) or power is loss in the City during a natural disaster such as an earthquake or large fire. Some other examples of large-scale events include protests, critical incidents, community events, and major sporting events to include parades.

The CRV was purchased to be used in the community to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The vehicle will also serve as a community resource center during critical incidents, distribute sanitation supplies, public engagement, and dissemination of emergency health supplies in a disaster. The CRV will be deployed to areas in the community to provide high visibility violence deterrence after significant violent activity, missing persons investigations, and homicide scenes where a chaplain has been called out, and Department of Violence Prevention staff are present to comfort families affected by the violence and to provide needed resource information.

(3) Fiscal Cost:

A. Initial Cost:

The initial cost of the MCV (2009 Freightliner MT55) was \$599,563.15. The initial cost of the CRV (LDV Model #30MCC-34769-20) was \$302,088.41

B. Cost of Use:

The cost of use is the cost of fuel from the City Corporation Yard.

C. Cost of Potential Adverse Effects:

Adverse effects of improper use of either the MCV or CRV are not calculable but is the same as improper use of any vehicles. The improper use could result in civil liabilities.

D. Annual and Ongoing Costs:

There is no annual or ongoing cost associated with this vehicle. Maintenance of the vehicle is conducted by the City's Corporation Yard.

E. Overtime Costs: Deployments of either MCC shall be tracked by I-Codes and reported on the "Military Equipment" notification tracking form.

F. Training Costs:

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Training is conducted in-house by Oakland Police personnel who are trained in the operation of the vehicle. The training cost is staff time.

G. Maintenance and Storage Costs:

There are no storage costs and maintenance would be conducted by the City Oakland Corporation Yard.

H. Upgrade Cost:

The MCV is 13 years old, and upgrades would involve replacing various parts of the vehicle. This work would be conducted by the City of Oakland's Corporation Yard.

The cost would be staff time plus the cost of any necessary parts.

(4) Impact:

The MCV and CRV can be used as a command post for any small to large, scaled events. Both vehicles can, work as a mobile central location where resources can stage and be deployed from. It provides the police department with on-site command, supplying a control and communications hub that is needed for large community events, or critical incidents such as natural disasters to support public safety.

Both the MCV and CRV can offer Victim Assistance at the scenes of Violent Crimes, Missing Persons, School Shootings and Homicide Scenes. Generally, both the MCV and CRV can offer a place for privacy for grieving families, where a Chaplain is present to comfort families. Victim Assistance Specialist could assist families with services needed for relocation, funeral and burial costs, and provide much needed information due to the loss of a loved one.

Lastly, the MCV and CRV, while being utilized in the community to act as deterrent with police presence, adapt an open door policy where citizens can make contact with uniformed police officers, to ask questions concerning how to stay safe, make crime reports, and provide resource information to citizens who normally would not have access to transportation, internet or phone capabilities.

The deployment or appearance of certain armored vehicles may escalate tension, provoke fear, prevent clear communication, or increase distrust.

(5) Mitigation:

The MCV and CRV shall only be used by trained personnel that have demonstrated ability in the operations of this vehicle per Oakland Police Department Policy.

(6) Alternatives:

There are no alternatives or asset available to accomplish the same goal as the MCV and CRV. Based on the size and complexity of a Mobile Command Center, the annual life-cycle cost is typically 10%-20% of the capital investment. Costs of new Mobile Command Centers similar to the MCV MT-55 have risen.

(7) Third Party Dependence:

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All maintenance is completed through the City of Oakland Corporation Yard so there is no dependence on a third party.

