
ARMORED VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT FOR PATROL

4041.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide technical and procedural information regarding the deployment of the Santa Ana PD Light Armored Rescue Vehicle by Patrol personnel. The information contained within this procedure is relevant to the use of any armored rescue vehicle deployed by the Santa Ana Police Department without a special licensing requirement (ie. Class B License). This procedure will address general information regarding the intent of this program, logistical information of the vehicle, the approval process, deployment techniques, and capabilities and limitations of the armored rescue vehicle.

4041.2 INTRODUCTION

The Light Armored Rescue Vehicle is a four-wheeled, lightly armored vehicle. The Light Armored Rescue Vehicle is designed primarily for the use of law enforcement agencies in urban environments, where a threat of contacting resistance from armed suspects exists. Historically, the Department has utilized the Light Armored Rescue Vehicle for SWAT related events, in which SWAT personnel were present to operate and safely deploy the vehicle. This procedure will provide officers with a reference point to effectively and appropriately deploy the Light Armored Rescue Vehicle and/or other armored vehicles in situations requiring immediate action

4041.3 TACTICAL DEPLOYMENT

An armored rescue vehicle can significantly decrease the threat to officers when deployed appropriately in situations such as:

1. Active Shooters
2. Officer/Citizen down rescues
3. Armed barricaded suspects
4. Major incidents where an act of violence or threat of violence is imminent

Armored rescue vehicles can also be used to increase safety to officers and the community in other situations, including but not limited to:

1. Evacuation Efforts
2. Clearing vehicles during high-risk traffic stops involving possibly armed suspects
3. Creating breach points
4. Re-supplying officers in high-risk locations
5. As a distraction
6. As a blocking element
7. To pin a suspect in a vehicle or structure to restrict or eliminate mobility

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4041.3.1 FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. Officers should determine if the incident is exigent in nature and requires an immediate response, or if the situation meets the criteria for a SWAT call-out. For further refer to the Special Weapons and Tactics Policy.
2. Whether or not the environment is conducive to the movement of an armored vehicle (i.e., narrow streets, parked vehicles, hard-scape or structures restricting movement.)
3. Whether the officers at the scene possess the necessary capabilities; considering their experience, applicable training and physical ability to effectively deploy from and with the armored vehicle.

4041.4 CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE LIGHT ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE

1. The Light Armored Rescue Vehicle has a top speed of approximately 70 mph.
2. It can accommodate up to eight officers with gear inside the vehicle. Four additional officers can be transported on the rear step for short distances within the city; however, this method should not be employed when a threat of gun fire exists and officers shall wear helmets while the vehicle is in transport.
3. The Light Armored Rescue Vehicle provides ballistic protection above and beyond a standard patrol car with more interior space for conducting evacuations/rescues.
4. Five direct view vision blocks and two large ballistic windshields offer good visibility while providing greater ballistic protection.
5. Seven ports are co-located near the available vision blocks and can be opened and closed from the interior of the vehicle.
6. Rotating turret on the roof of the vehicle allows one officer to hold an elevated position with 360 degree movement and rotating cover.
7. Equipped with emergency lights and siren.

4041.5 DEPLOYMENT APPROVAL AND LOGISTICS

Use of a Light Armored Rescue Vehicle shall be limited to police personnel trained in the deployment and operation of the armored vehicle. Its deployment shall be approved by the scene supervisor and authorized by the on duty Watch Commander. A spare key to the Light Armored Rescue Vehicle will be stored in the Watch Commander's office and can only be issued by the Watch Commander or his/her designee.

The Light Armored Rescue Vehicle is parked in the north/west corner of the secured parking structure on the ground level, facing west. The vehicle runs on unleaded fuel and should be filled after each deployment, prior to storage. All equipment in the vehicle shall be secured within and the key returned to the Watch Commander's office immediately after use. The Light Armored Rescue Vehicle's deployment shall be documented in a supervisor's log and forwarded to the SWAT Commander for review.

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4041.6 SUMMARY

The availability and deployment of the Light Armored Rescue Vehicle within Field Operations provides officers with an additional safety resource, affording them and the community greater protection in handling critical situations. The decision and manner in which to deploy this asset will be based on the tactical concerns the incident commander may face when addressing high-risk incidents or threats to the community.