



Effective Date:
XX XX 19

Index Number: III-P.04
Alpha Index: High Risk Incidents
Barricaded Subject Incidents
Critical Incidents

Evaluation Coordinator: Training Division
Automatic Revision Cycle: 3 Years

“Department Training Bulletins shall be used to advise members of current police techniques and procedures and shall constitute official policy.”

ARMORED VEHICLES

Overview

An armored vehicle is a protective piece of specialized civilian law enforcement equipment that significantly increases the options available to de-escalate and safely resolve critical incidents. The capabilities of an armored vehicle greatly exceed those of a patrol vehicle and proper deployment of armored vehicles increases the safety of the public, law enforcement officers, and other first responders. Armored vehicles provide improved cover for officers, are stocked with tools that might be needed during a critical incident, and increase the options for a safe resolution.

Deployment of an armored vehicle might result in the safe apprehension of a subject in a timely manner. The Department recognizes that certain armored vehicles might appear intimidating to the public and therefore restricts deployment of armored vehicles to those situations where the benefits of deployment outweigh the potential concerns of the community.

Deployment of Armored Vehicles

A commander may authorize the deployment of an armored vehicle for incidents that involve actual, threatened, or suspected violence related to loss of life or serious bodily injury where the armored vehicle’s specific capabilities could help bring the incident to a safe resolution. Commanders authorizing deployment of an armored vehicle for these incidents shall notify their chain of command of the deployment as specified in the “After Action” section as soon as is practical after the incident has been resolved.

Armored vehicles may also be deployed for special events at the Oakland Coliseum/Arena and other locations where there is an increased risk to public safety from such things as terrorism or mass casualty events, or where the vehicle is part of a specific response plan. Commanders shall consider whether armored vehicles should be positioned in or out of the public’s view while taking into consideration whether their visible presence will deter acts of violence or increase hostility towards law enforcement. All deployments of armored vehicles to pre-planned events must be authorized by a command officer at the rank of Captain or above.

Use of an armored vehicle for training purposes is not considered a deployment.

Operation of Armored Vehicles

Armored vehicles shall only be operated by officers¹ certified by the Tactical Operations Team commander. This includes, but is not limited to, all members of the Entry Team and Sniper Team elements. It also includes all Patrol Rifle Officers (PRO’s).

¹ “Officers” includes all sworn members of all ranks and is used for brevity.



Officers may stage an armored vehicle near a scene prior to a commander's authorization to deploy the armored vehicle but shall not deploy it to the scene without authorization except under exigent circumstances (e.g. active shooter or mass casualty incidents).

Use of Video Recording Devices with Armored Vehicles

Officers operating an armored vehicle shall utilize any video recording devices assigned to that vehicle² in accordance with Departmental policy for the use of portable digital recording devices (e.g. Departmental General Order I-15.1). This means that absent exigent circumstance (e.g. active shooter) the recording devices shall be attached to the armored vehicle and activated prior to initiating the circumstances enumerated in policy (e.g. detentions and arrests, serving a search or arrest warrant). Additionally, recording devices shall not be deactivated until allowed per policy.

Once an armored vehicle is deployed to the scene, the on-scene supervisor of the officers utilizing the armored vehicle (e.g. Team Leader of the Designated Arrest Team) shall ensure the cameras are positioned towards the subject or the location of interest when it is feasible to do so safely.

The officer operating the armored vehicle is responsible for ensuring video recording devices are deployed with the armored vehicle and activated appropriately, recordings are uploaded to the appropriate system, and video recording devices are returned to their charging stations. These duties may be assigned to other personnel by the incident commander as necessary.

Use of Armored Vehicles During Critical Incidents

Every critical incident is different, and the use of the armored vehicle will necessarily vary depending on the circumstances at hand. However, all uses of the armored vehicle should be consistent with Department training and procedures for resolving critical incidents, to include:

- Maintaining adequate cover. The armored vehicle's capabilities greatly exceed those of any patrol vehicles, and should be maximized.
- Restricting subject movement. The armored vehicle may give an advantage over conventional patrol vehicles for such maneuvers as blocking in another vehicle.
- Allowing for peaceful negotiations. Armored vehicles may allow officers to get into position to safely negotiate while still maintaining cover.
- Maintaining a position of advantage. The armored vehicle must be placed in such a way as to maximize the position of advantage for officers, to allow all reasonable means for resolving the incident peacefully.
- Protecting Life. Armored vehicles may be able to operate in situations (e.g. active shooter) where personnel driving conventional vehicles would be at risk.

After Action

A commander who authorizes the deployment of an armored vehicle shall email notification to all OPD commanders (e.g. DL – OPD Command). The email shall include a brief synopsis of the incident along with at least the following details:

- Date, time, and location
- Report and incident numbers

² This includes the portable video recording devices assigned each of the Department's armored vehicles, but might include additional devices purchased for armored vehicles in the future.



- Incident commander and tactical commander (if applicable)
- Scene supervisor(s)
- Which armored vehicle(s) were used
- Justification for deployment of the armored vehicle(s)
- Other specialized resources used (e.g. helicopter, canine)
- Presence or absence of media
- Whether there were injuries, uses of force, complaints, and/or property damage

The commander of the Special Operations Section shall maintain a record of the deployments and ensure information about the deployments is include in the division's Annual Management Report.