



HOSTAGE/BARRICADED SUBJECT INCIDENTS

I. Purpose

A. This policy will:

1. Provide general considerations and guidelines for situations involving hostage/barricaded persons.
2. Explain the definition of both barricaded suspect and hostage.
3. Describe the actions of responding patrol officers when confronting hostage/barricaded situations.
4. Further explain the responsibilities of the incident commander and staging manager as they arrive at the scene.
5. Describe the actions to be taken by the SRT commander, the crisis negotiation team and the psychological services available as a resource to the negotiation team.

II. General Considerations & Guidelines

In hostage/barricaded subject situations it will be the policy of the Cambridge Police Department to consider the lives of the hostages, civilians and officers involved to be of the utmost importance; whenever possible, to enhance the prospects of peacefully resolving the incident through communication with the suspect; whenever possible, to develop and maintain the ability to use alternative approaches to resolve the incident should communications fail; and in hostage situations, to make every reasonable effort to effect the safe release of the hostages.

III. Definitions

- A. Barricaded Suspect:** Any person who has the demonstrated capability and/or the stated intention to cause death or great bodily harm to himself (threatened suicide) and/or another person, has taken a hostage, and has achieved tactical superiority by the use of physical obstruction (including but not limited to buildings, open fields, vehicles, any other natural or man-made barrier). All barricaded suspects will be considered armed and dangerous until proven otherwise.

- B. Hostage:** Any person held by another against his will by force or threat of force, expressed or implied.

IV. Procedures

A. Patrol Officers

Patrol officers confronting hostage/barricaded subject incidents will not initiate tactical actions other than those necessary to protect the lives and safety of themselves or others consistent with this department's use of force policy. Officers will then:

1. Notify Emergency Communications Center
2. E. C. C. will notify a supervisory officer.
3. Contain and isolate the incident scene, establishing an inner containment perimeter to provide a reasonable degree of safety while maintaining contact with the incident scene and – as time and resources permit – establish an outer containment perimeter to control pedestrian and vehicular traffic into the area; and
4. Whenever possible, evacuate occupants of affected residences and businesses to a point beyond the perimeter.

B. Incident Commander

The ranking officer at the scene will be in command until specifically relieved by a superior. The Incident Commander will:

1. Evaluate the situation and gather intelligence from officers at the scene and other reliable sources.
2. Inform the shift commander about the nature and circumstances surrounding the incident. This information should include:
 - a. Location of hostage incident
 - b. Injuries/deaths
 - c. Weapons of suspect(s) (if known)
 - d. Number of hostages
 - e. Description of perimeter
 - f. Request that the Shift Commander activate the Special Response Team (S.R.T.), including the crisis negotiators.
3. The Incident Commander will request a clear channel. The Dispatcher will assign a channel for the incident and inform the Incident Commander. Officers should deactivate radios from the scan mode.
4. Establish an inner perimeter staffed only by authorized uniformed personnel excepting negotiators, and where necessary, deploy or re-deploy personnel based on the degree of danger to officers, bystanders and hostages (if any).

5. Ensure injured and bystanders are evacuated, where appropriate.
6. Establish an outer and traffic perimeter and deploy perimeter-control personnel.
7. Establish a Command Post.
8. Establish a Staging area on or beyond the outer perimeter and ensure that all responding officers report to that location. Assign an officer to act as staging area manager.
9. Request standby ambulance and fire apparatus at the assembly point, if necessary.
10. Ensure continued containment and isolation of area.
11. The incident commander will, after consultation with tactical and negotiation unit supervisors, make final tactical decisions. These decisions will include (a) the use of deadly force (snipers) and (b) tactical entries. Specific tactical decisions such as use of particular weapons, diversion devices, less than lethal instruments, and a manner of entry or strategy, shall be made by the tactical unit supervising officer.
12. If deemed appropriate, the incident commander may request tactical support from other police agencies. Resources such as K-9 officers and air wing services (helicopter) may be requested through the MSP Troop H Headquarter Duty Officer 24 hours a day.
13. If appropriate, the incident commander will establish contact with surrounding police jurisdictions via the Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network. (BAPERN).
14. The incident commander of the hostage/barricade incident will be responsible for coordinating the release of information to the news media in conjunction with the CPD public information officer. The incident commander will be guided by CPD procedure 2000-4, Section III which outlines CPD policy/procedures for dissemination of information.

C. Staging Manager

Responsibilities of the Staging Manager include:

1. Security for staging area
2. Maintain log of personnel as they arrive and depart and the assignment of each person.
3. Maintain log of status of resources (personnel and equipment).

D. The Special Response Team Commander

The commander of the S.R.T. will:

1. Assist the Incident Commander in assessing the situation and formulate and provide the Incident Commander with recommended tactical alternatives should communications with the subject fail to resolve the incident;

1. Determine equipment needs and assign personnel to control and contain the inner perimeter;
2. Designate marksmen and entry teams as necessary;
3. Ensure that personnel manning the inner perimeter maintain firearms discipline and are provided with periodic relief by appropriate tactical response team members;
4. Prepare appropriate logistical plans to include diagrams of the location in question;
5. Ensure the establishment of a tactical operations center if necessary; and
6. Maintain contact with and keep the Incident Commander and the Command post informed of all developments and operations.

E. Crisis Negotiation Team

The Crisis Negotiation Unit Supervisor will:

1. Provide any requested assistance to the Incident Commander
2. Provide trained primary, secondary, operations and liaison negotiators as available and necessary;
3. Designate a location to interview witnesses released hostages and others; and
4. Debrief hostages to obtain available situational intelligence information.
5. Share and coordinate information with the Incident Commander and SRT.
6. Coordinate and share information with Cambridge Police Department Investigation Section personnel.

F. Psychological Services

Psychological services may serve as a resource to the Crisis Negotiation Team and may:

1. Monitor communications between the negotiators and subjects and provide negotiators with assessment of effectiveness, recommended strategies and other relevant information;
2. Assist in interviewing witnesses and debriefing hostages; and
3. Provide professional assistance to hostages, witnesses and others as may be necessary.

G. Debriefing

1. Once a Hostage/Barricaded Subject Incident is concluded, and at the direction of the Superintendent of Operations, a debriefing meeting will be conducted. This meeting will be held within seven days of the incident. A report will be prepared by the Incident Commander concerning the incident. All key personnel involved in the incident will be required to attend. The purpose of this

meeting is to review departmental procedures, to identify errors or weaknesses, and to make recommendations for necessary improvements.

Police Commissioner