
Crisis Response Unit

404.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Crisis Response Unit (CRU) is comprised of two specialized teams: the Crisis Incident Negotiation Team (CINT) and the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). The unit has been established to provide specialized support in handling critical field operations where intense negotiations and/or special tactical deployment methods beyond the capacity of field officers appear to be necessary.

404.1.1 OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

The Policy Manual sections pertaining to the Crisis Response Unit are divided into Administrative and Operational Policy and Procedures. Since situations that necessitate the need for such a police response vary greatly from incident to incident and such events often demand on-the-scene evaluation, the Operational Policy outlined in this manual section serves as a guideline to department personnel allowing for appropriate on scene decision making as required. The Administrative Procedures, however, are more restrictive and few exceptions should be taken.

404.1.2 SWAT TEAM DEFINED

SWAT team - A designated unit of law enforcement officers that is specifically trained and equipped to work as a coordinated team to resolve critical incidents that are so hazardous, complex or unusual that they may exceed the capabilities of first responders or investigative units including, but not limited to, hostage taking, barricaded suspects, snipers, terrorist acts and other high-risk incidents. As a matter of department policy, such a unit may also be used to serve high-risk warrants, both search and arrest, where public and officer safety issues warrant the use of such a unit.

404.2 POLICY

It shall be the policy of this department to maintain a SWAT team and to provide the equipment, manpower and training consistent with best practices and industry standards.

It is understood it is difficult to categorize specific capabilities for critical incidents. Training needs may vary based on the experience level of the team personnel, team administrators and potential incident commanders. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit individual teams from responding to a situation that exceeds their training levels due to the exigency of the circumstances. The preservation of innocent human life is paramount.

404.3 TRAINING

The CRU Commander shall ensure regular training and is conducted within team capabilities, best practices, and department policy.

404.4 MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISION OF CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT

The Captain of the CRU shall be selected by the Chief of Police or designee upon recommendation of staff.

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404.4.1 TEAM SUPERVISORS

CINT and SWAT will be supervised by a lieutenant.

The team supervisors shall be selected by the Chief of Police or designee upon specific recommendation by staff and the CRU Captain.

The following represent the supervisor responsibilities for the Crisis Response Unit.

- (a) The Negotiation Team supervisor's primary responsibility is to supervise the operations of the Negotiation Team which will include deployment, training, first line participation and other duties as directed by the CRU Captain or designee.
- (b) The Special Weapons and Tactics Team supervisor's primary responsibility is to supervise the operations of SWAT, which will include deployment, training, first line participation and other duties as directed by the CRU Captain or designee.

404.5 CRU RESPONSE DETERMINATION

The determination of whether a particular event will be handled by the Crisis Response Unit will be made by the on-scene supervisor. Upon final determination by the Watch Commander, he/she will notify the CRU Team(s) lieutenant(s).

404.5.1 OUTSIDE AGENCY REQUESTS

Requests by field personnel for assistance from outside agency crisis units must be approved by the Watch Commander. Deployment of the Reno Police Department Crisis Response Unit in response to requests by other agencies must be authorized by a Captain.

404.5.2 ON-SCENE COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival of the Crisis Response Unit at the scene, the Incident Supervisor shall brief the CRU team(s) lieutenant and team(s) supervisors about the situation. The Incident Commander and the CRU Commander, or his/her designee, shall maintain communications at all times.