

## Hostages and Barricaded Suspects

### 414.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Hostage situations and barricaded suspects present unique problems for agencies. The protection of the public and law enforcement personnel is of the utmost importance. Proper planning and training will tend to reduce the risks involved with these incidents.

#### 414.1.1 DEFINITIONS

**Hostage** - A person held by one party in a conflict as security so that specified terms will be met by the opposing party.

**Barricaded Suspect** - A person who takes a position of cover or concealment or maintains a position in a structure and who resists capture by law enforcement personnel. A barricaded suspect may be armed or suspected of being armed.

### 414.2 HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS

Promises of immunity or leniency and payment of ransom demands are rarely effective and will generally not be offered to barricaded suspects. Trained hostage negotiators, however, will be permitted to exercise flexibility in each situation based upon the circumstances presented and consistent with their training.

Personnel involved in barricaded/hostage situations are urged to exercise patience and extreme caution. The use of deadly force against any armed suspect will be governed by Policy Manual § 300, with particular regard directed toward the safety of hostages.

### 414.3 FIRST RESPONDER RESPONSIBILITY

Until the Incident Commander has been designated, the first officer on the scene of an actual or potential hostage/barricade situation shall consider the following:

- (a) Attempt to avoid confrontation in favor of controlling and containing the situation until the arrival of trained personnel and/or trained hostage negotiation personnel
- (b) Notification of tactical and hostage negotiation personnel
- (c) Notification of appropriate persons within and outside the agency, such as command officers, dog handlers, or helicopter pilots
- (d) Establishment of inner and outer perimeters
- (e) Evacuation of bystanders and injured persons
- (f) Establishment of central command post and appropriate chain of command
- (g) Request for ambulance, rescue, fire and surveillance equipment
- (h) Authorization for news media access and news media policy
- (i) Pursuit/surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes

# CSU Police Department, San Luis Obispo

CSUPD-SLO POLICY Manual

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### **414.4 REPORTING**

Unless otherwise relieved by a supervisor, the initial officer at the scene is responsible for completion of reports or coordination of reports for the hostage/barricade incident.