



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Mobile Field Force Guide



The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office supports and defends the Constitutional rights and other legal protections that allow everyone to peacefully assemble and exercise their freedom of speech. However, these fundamental freedoms do not extend to acts of violence, destruction of property or any other criminal activity. When the actions of an individual or a group transgress into criminality, the Sheriff's Office will take appropriate action to protect human life and safeguard public and private property.



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Introduction

As a law enforcement agency, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office carefully balances the Constitutional rights and other legal protections of individuals and groups, with the simultaneous responsibility to protect lives and property of the entire community. When establishing this guide, we recognize that all persons have the right to assemble, demonstrate, protest, rally, or perform other activities protected by the United States and California constitutions, as well as other local, state and federal laws. We further recognize that we are responsible for protecting the lives and property of **all** people.

Any public assembly or gathering, whether for lawful or unlawful purposes, within the County of Santa Barbara may require the response of our agency to keep the peace, protect constitutional rights of involved persons, deter criminality and to stop unlawful actions that endanger the lives and/ or property of our community members. The response can range from observation to engaging in various crowd management strategies, depending on crowd dynamics.

Not all crowd situations involve unlawful activity. Our responsibility is to objectively and accurately discern if and when a gathering has transgressed from being a legal exercise of Constitutional rights, into a criminal act that unlawfully abridges the rights of others. We, as law enforcement, should seek to facilitate and support lawful expression of Constitutional rights, while identifying, isolating and addressing unlawful activity. Once an assembly crosses over into unlawfulness, it may necessitate the deployment of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Mobile Field Force. The following guide details the policies and procedures of this specialized team within our organization.



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Terms and Definitions

Civil Disobedience - An unlawful event involving a planned or spontaneous demonstration by a group of people.

Civil Unrest/Disturbance - Significant disruption of the public order arising from mass acts of civil disobedience and unlawful activity.

Crowd - A number of persons gathered together.

Crowd Control - Law enforcement response to a pre-planned or spontaneous event, activity, or occurrence that has become unlawful or violent and may require arrests and/or the dispersal of the crowd.

Crowd Dynamics - Factors which influence crowd behavior.

Crowd Intervention - Law enforcement response to a pre-planned or spontaneous event, activity, or occurrence to deal with isolated unlawful activity or an impact to public safety while allowing the event/activity/occurrence to continue.

Crowd Management - Encompasses law enforcement management, intervention, and control strategies when responding to all forms of public assemblies and gatherings. Also refers specifically to strategies and tactics employed before, during, and after a gathering for the purpose of maintaining the event's lawful activities.

Dispersal – to disperse an unlawfully assembled crowd and take appropriate law enforcement action against law violators



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Initial Responder Actions

Supervisor-

- Respond to the scene and take command
- Make assessment as to whether the activities are lawful and whether or not immediate protective actions are necessary to safeguard lives and property.
 - Assemble teams quickly
 - Make proper notifications to chain of command
- Utilize MFF Tactical Objectives (below) and contain the problem
- If possible under the circumstances, "address" the problem and resolve the incident. If not, request MFF
- Control and protect high priority targets - intersections, gun shops, liquor stores, government buildings, shopping centers, etc.



Tactical Objectives

Containment – to confine the disorder to the smallest possible area

Isolation – to prevent growth of the disorder by cordoning off the area and denying access to those individuals who are not involved

Dispersal – to disperse an unlawfully assembled crowd and take appropriate law enforcement action against law violators`



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1st AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

BILL OF RIGHTS

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCEMENT (Pursuant to SBSO Policy 465.6)

I am (your name and rank), of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office. I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly and in the name of the People of the State of California I command all those assembled at (give specific location) to immediately disperse. You may move to (give suitable location for crowd destination). If you do not do so, you will be arrested. If you refuse to move, chemical agents and other weapons will be used. (Provide the chemical agent/projectile warning only if their use is anticipated.)

Soy (su nombre y rango), de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Santa Bárbara. Por la presente declaro que se trata de una asamblea ilegal y en nombre del Pueblo del Estado de California ordeno a todos los reunidos (dar una ubicación específica) que se dispersen inmediatamente. Usted puede moverse a (dar la ubicación adecuada para el destino de la multitud). Si no lo hace, será arrestado. Si se niega a moverse, se utilizarán agentes químicos y otras armas. (Proporcione el agente químico/advertencia de proyectil sólo si se prevé su uso.)

If appropriate, announce at least twice and give the crowd an opportunity to leave and provide an avenue of escape. Station a deputy on the far side of the crowd who will testify later that the order to disperse was audible. (We must video or audio record the announcements).



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Mobile Field Force Concept & Definition

For planned events, Mobile Field Force personnel may be staged offsite to prevent any unintentional tension amongst demonstrators. If conditions change and civil unrest occurs, MFF personnel can be redirected from the staging location to the unrest. The mere presence of sheriff's deputies at the scene of civil unrest will not always prevent an unruly crowd from committing further acts of criminal activity. However, the appearance of an organized, trained and highly disciplined contingent of deputies will often cause a disorderly group to abandon their criminal activities. Experience, including our own, indicates that whenever an event has the potential for significant unlawful civil unrest and associated criminal violations, law enforcement agencies should respond with a highly mobile rapid deployment force capable of fulfilling a variety of missions, including life and property protection, crowd control, strategic arrests and prisoner management. A focused and directed approach contributes to resolving the problem in the most expedient manner possible.

According to the Cal OES Law Enforcement Guide to Emergency Operations (Red Book), some of the recommended responsibilities and uses for a Mobile Field Force is as follows:

- Provide mobile patrols within an assigned area of responsibility
- Provide traffic control posts
- Provide roadblocks under civil disturbance conditions
- Provide security for critical facilities
- Provide squad sized crowd control elements with the ability to deploy specialized tools and tactics, while maintaining security of its own vehicles
- Civil disturbance control
- Limited first-aid capability
- If implemented, address criminal activity and make appropriate arrests



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The Sheriff's Mobile Field Force (MFF) concept has therefore been developed to provide an effective method to assemble and deploy a squad or platoon-sized, tactical force from within our own agency personnel. On a planned incident, the MFF can respond from its staging area to become a force designed to support the Incident Commander. The MFF is meant to provide the Incident Commander with a trained and properly equipped force that is staffed to perform:

- Crowd management
- Crowd intervention
- Crowd control

The MFF may also be summoned and deployed on foot in order to disperse or control a crowd that is involved in criminal activity. Simple line formations will be utilized for easy control and to minimize training time. All formations are based on the versatility of the squad. All of the movement tactics and arrest/rescue formations are detailed within this guide. MFF team leaders are cautioned, however, that crowd movement must provide avenues of departure for the dispersing crowd.

Additionally, it is essential that security for the team is always maintained. Security can be accomplished by use of flanking maneuvers, use of specialized tools and tactics, canine deputies, or aerial observation. When available, buildings, fences, and other obstructions may be utilized to increase team security and as force multipliers.



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Organization of the Mobile Field Force

The basic tactical element within the Sheriff's Mobile Field Force is the **squad**. A squad will normally consist of two Sheriff's Sergeants (squad leader and assistant squad leader) and sixteen sheriff's deputies. The squad leader is responsible for the direction and discipline of the squad. If two or more squads are formed to work as a single unit it can be referred to as a **platoon**. Each platoon shall have at least one Mobile Field Force (MFF) Lieutenant deployed as the platoon commander. Squad leaders are responsible for assisting the MFF Lieutenant in controlling the formations of the platoon. Squad leaders will also identify linebackers and an Apex for their individual squads. Linebackers are deputies deployed immediately behind the skirmish lines, controlling the integrity of the lines. Apex deputies will be the starting point for most all movements.

Each squad will have less lethal deputies identified and assigned. Less lethal deputies shall be trained and qualified in the use of all weapons systems they are likely to use. No unauthorized person may be designated as a less lethal deputy. The MFF Lieutenant will assign these positions and they will be deployed at his/her discretion. They will deliver chemical agents at the direction of the MFF Lieutenant. Less Lethal deputies will also deliver impact rounds at individuals identified by the Squad Leader. In the case of both chemical agents and less lethal munitions, their use is still governed by Sheriff's



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policy sections 300 and 308. If feasible, these deputies should not serve on the front line and remain available to the MFF Lieutenant or Squad Leader for direction.

Several deputies or support personnel within the MFF will be trained in the use of and equipped with a video camera(s). Photographs and video recording, when appropriate, can serve a number of purposes, including support of criminal prosecutions by documenting criminal acts; assistance in evaluating department performance; serving as training material; recording the use of dispersal orders; and facilitating a response to allegations of improper law enforcement conduct. When required, a videographer will be assigned to each squad. Videographer assignment will be the responsibility of the MFF Lieutenant or Squad Leader.



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Planned Events

For planned events, comprehensive, incident-specific operational plans should be developed. The Incident Command System (ICS) should be considered for such events. In order to properly assess the potential impact of a public assembly or demonstration on public safety and order, relevant information should be collected and vetted. Information should be obtained in a transparent manner, and the sources documented. Information will be obtained in a lawful manner and will not be based solely on the purpose or content of the assembly or demonstration, or the race, ethnicity, national origin or religion of the participants. This may include identifying and meeting with protest organizers prior to the scheduled event.

To be useful, this collected data must be processed into "intelligence." Obtaining and developing intelligence in a timely manner is a top priority in order to use the information to assess the threat. Threat analysis begins with a broad examination of all information bearing on the security of a community. It focuses on potential threats. It identifies likely targets and vulnerabilities. Once completed, it enables a leader to assess the threat of a civil disturbance to a mission or a community. It forms the basis for operational plans which should be created pursuant to SBSO Policy 465.5.2. This can be completed by or with the assistance of the Sheriff's Special Investigations Bureau.

Information needs for planning Civil Disturbance Operations

- Goals of the groups that are likely to cause or are causing civil disturbance.
- Times and locations of disturbances.
- Causes of disturbances.
- Identity of persons, groups, or organizations that have distinctly threatened to cause or are causing disturbances.
- Estimated number of people who will attend or are involved in the disturbance.
- Likely places where crowds could assemble.
- Presence and location of leaders and individuals who have threatened to cause a civil disturbance.
- Group structure and types of activities group can carry out.
- Sources, types, and locations of arms, equipment, and supplies available to the group.
- Attitude of general populace toward groups causing civil disturbances, toward civil law enforcement authorities, and toward federal intervention.
- Presence of threats to utilities that serve the public.
- Types of communications and control methods used by participants.



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Unplanned Events

As stated in SBSO Policy 465.4 and within this guide, the initial response to an unplanned or spontaneous public gathering is crucial for mission success. The first responding Sheriff's Deputy and Sergeant (or their designee) should assess conditions including:

- Location
- Number of participants
- Apparent purpose of the event
- Leadership (whether it is apparent and/or whether it is effective)
- Any initial indicators of unlawful or disruptive activity
- Indicators that lawful use of public facilities, streets or walkways will be impacted
- Ability and/or need to continue monitoring the incident

Initial assessment information should be promptly communicated to Sheriff's Dispatch, and the assignment of a supervisor should be requested. Additional resources should be requested as appropriate. The responding supervisor shall assume command of the incident until command is expressly assumed by another, and the assumption of command is communicated to the involved members.

Media - California Penal Code Section 409.5(d) allows media access to scenes of disaster, riot, or civil disturbance, but not to crime scenes. However, this statement does not imply that the news media can interfere with incident operations. Refer to SBSO Policy 465.9 for further guidance.

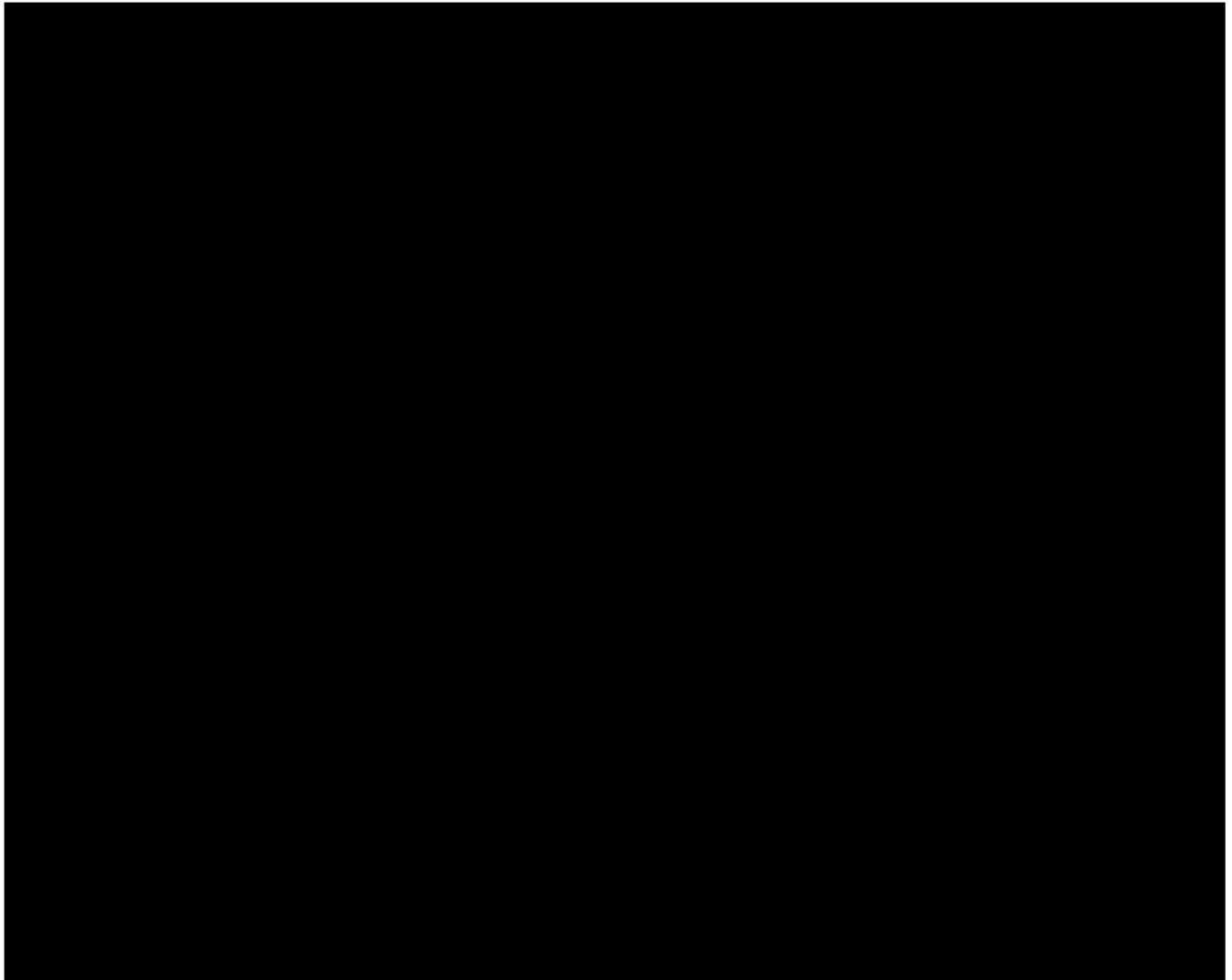


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Special Enforcement Team Contingent



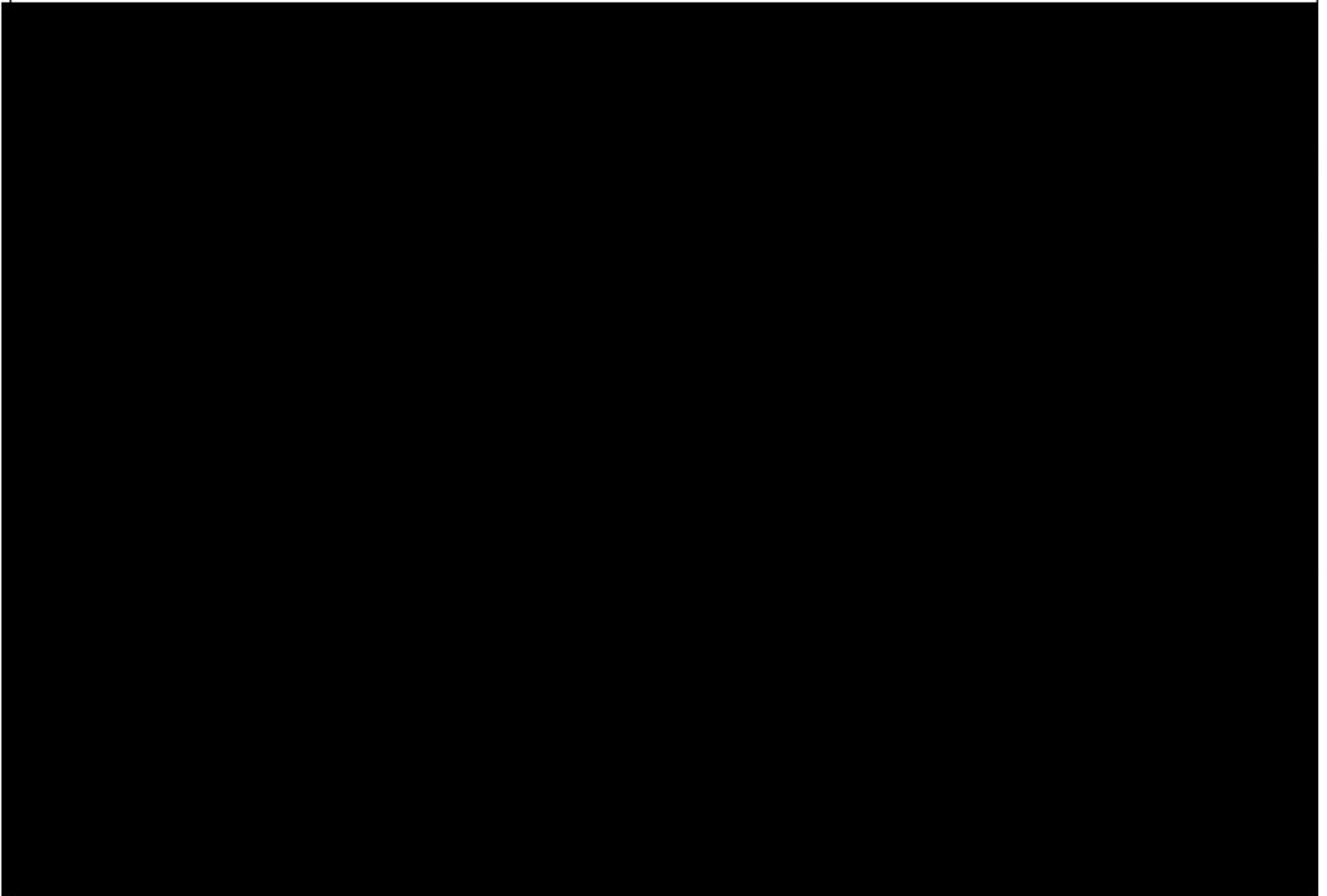


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MFF Basic Squad Organization/Movements

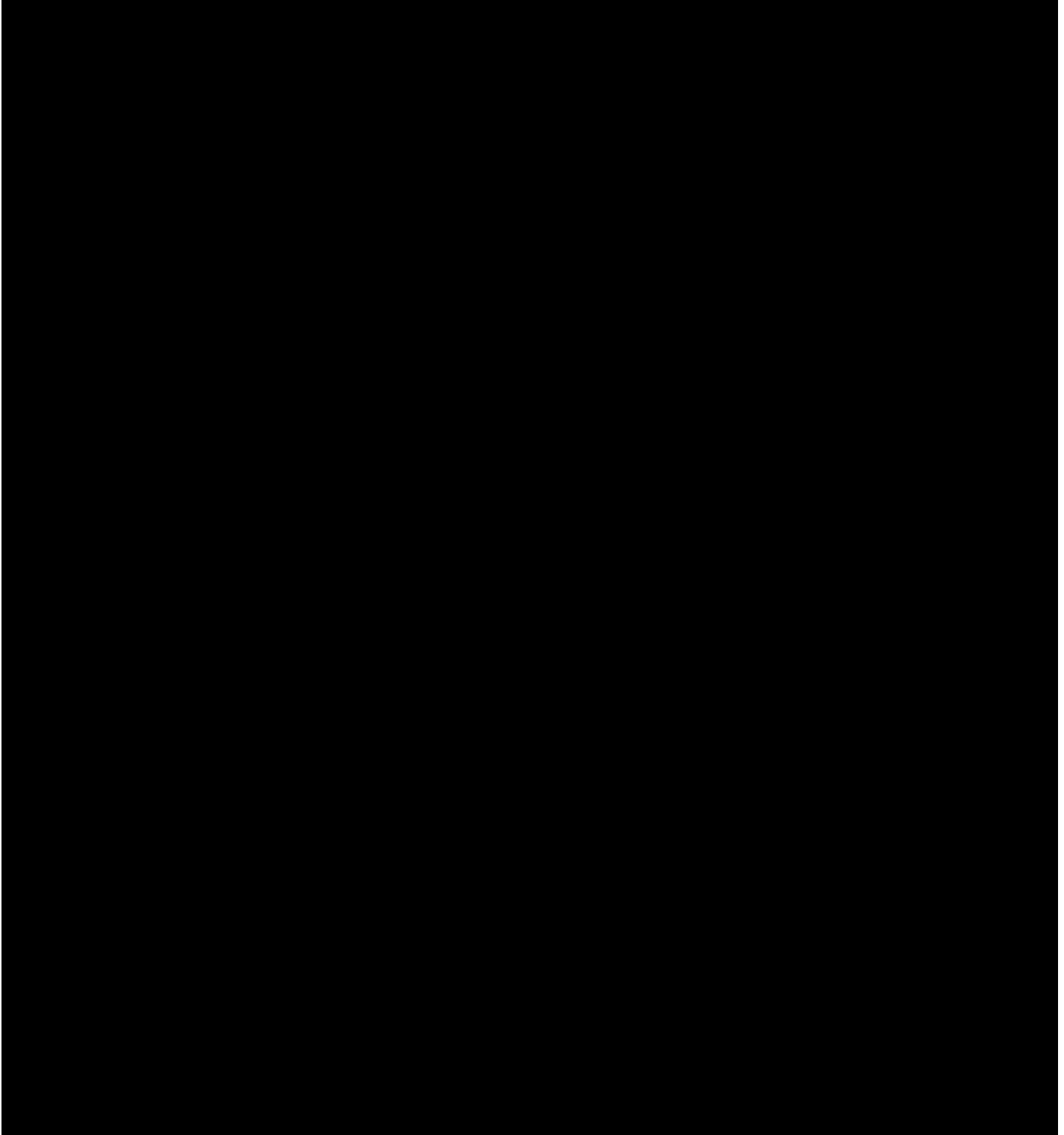
Anytime the Mobile Field Force is deployed and in formation; the squads will remain at "Port-Arms" or "On-Guard" positions while in formations. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Mobile Field Force team will utilize the following formations:





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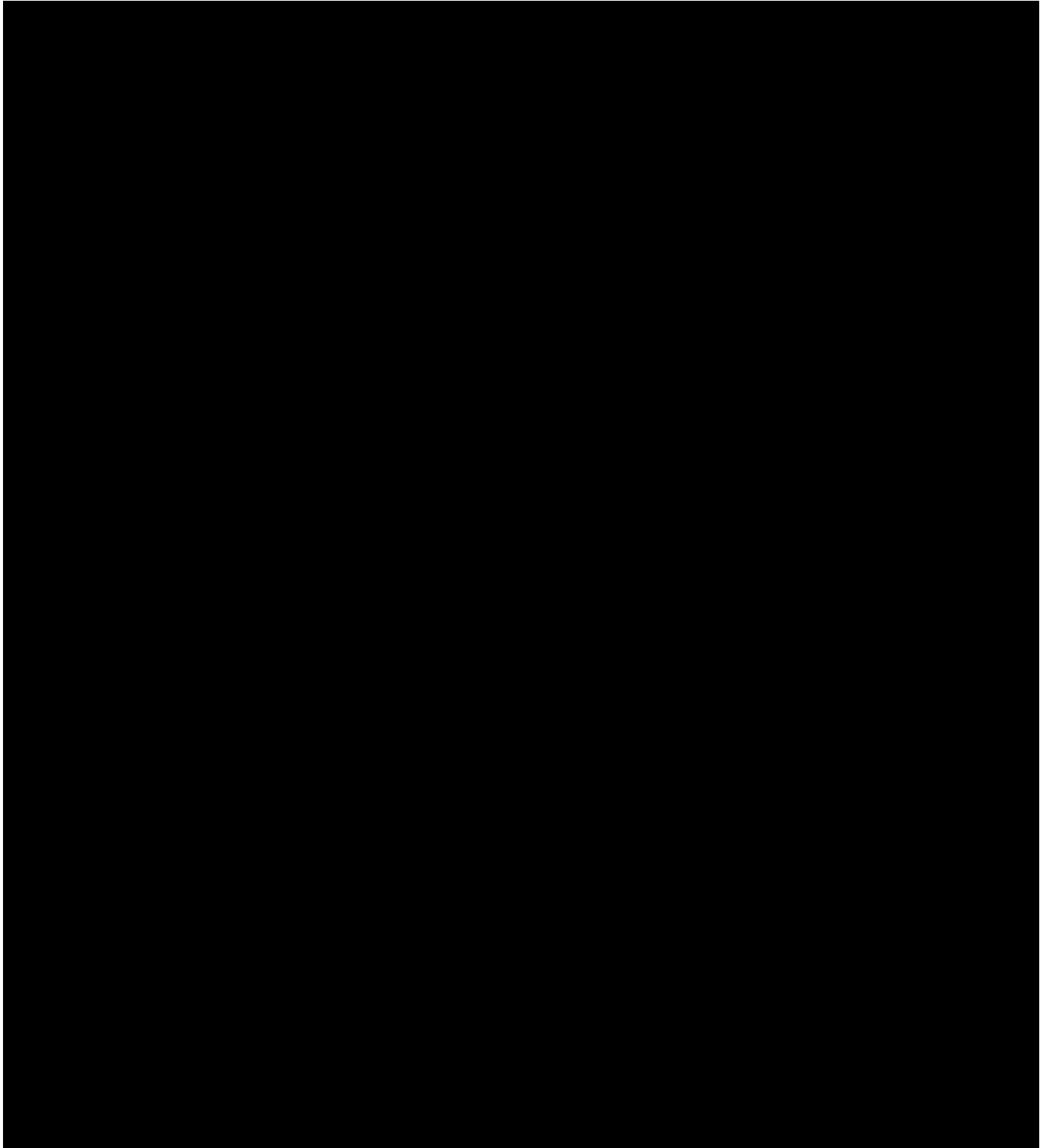
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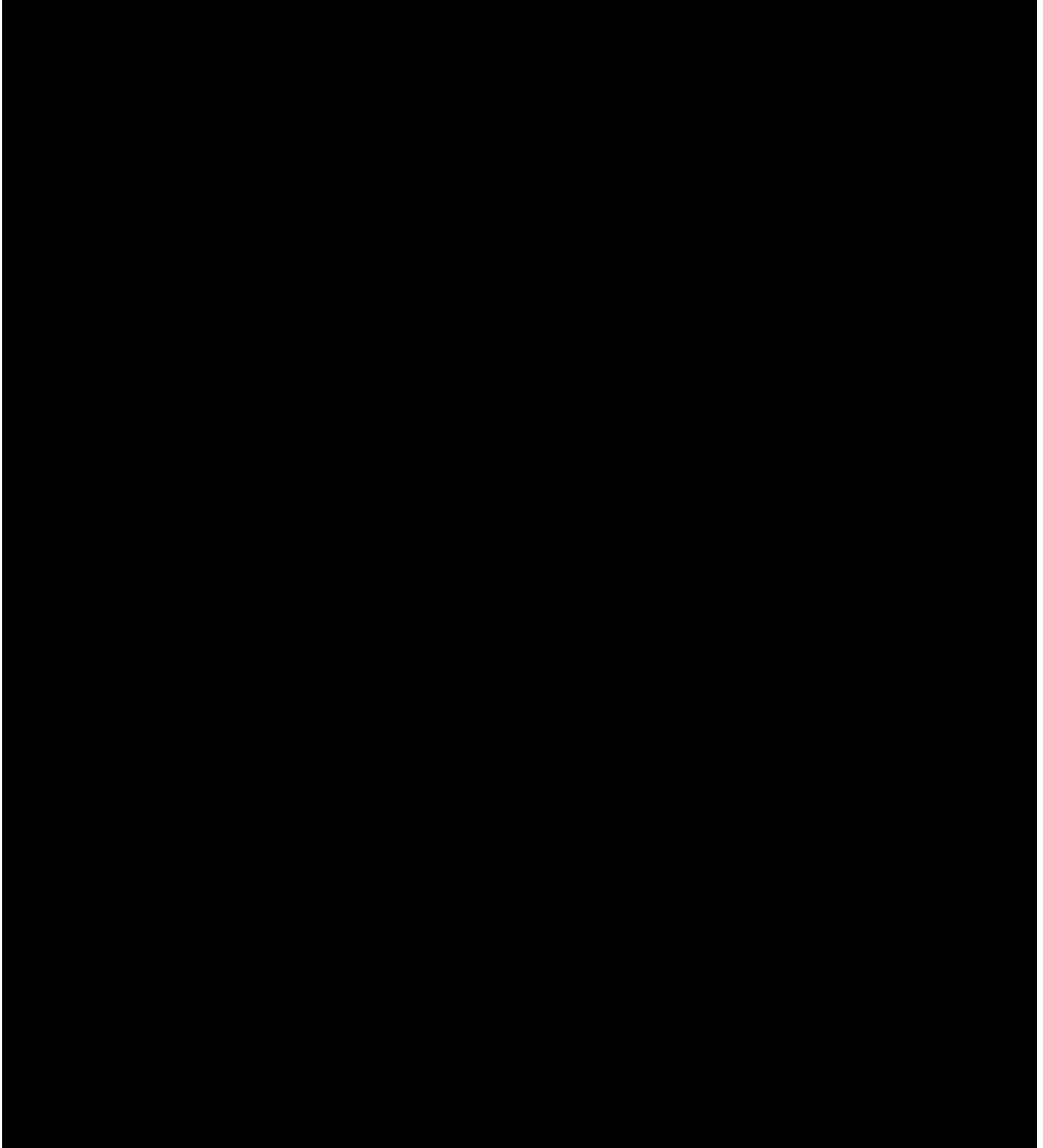
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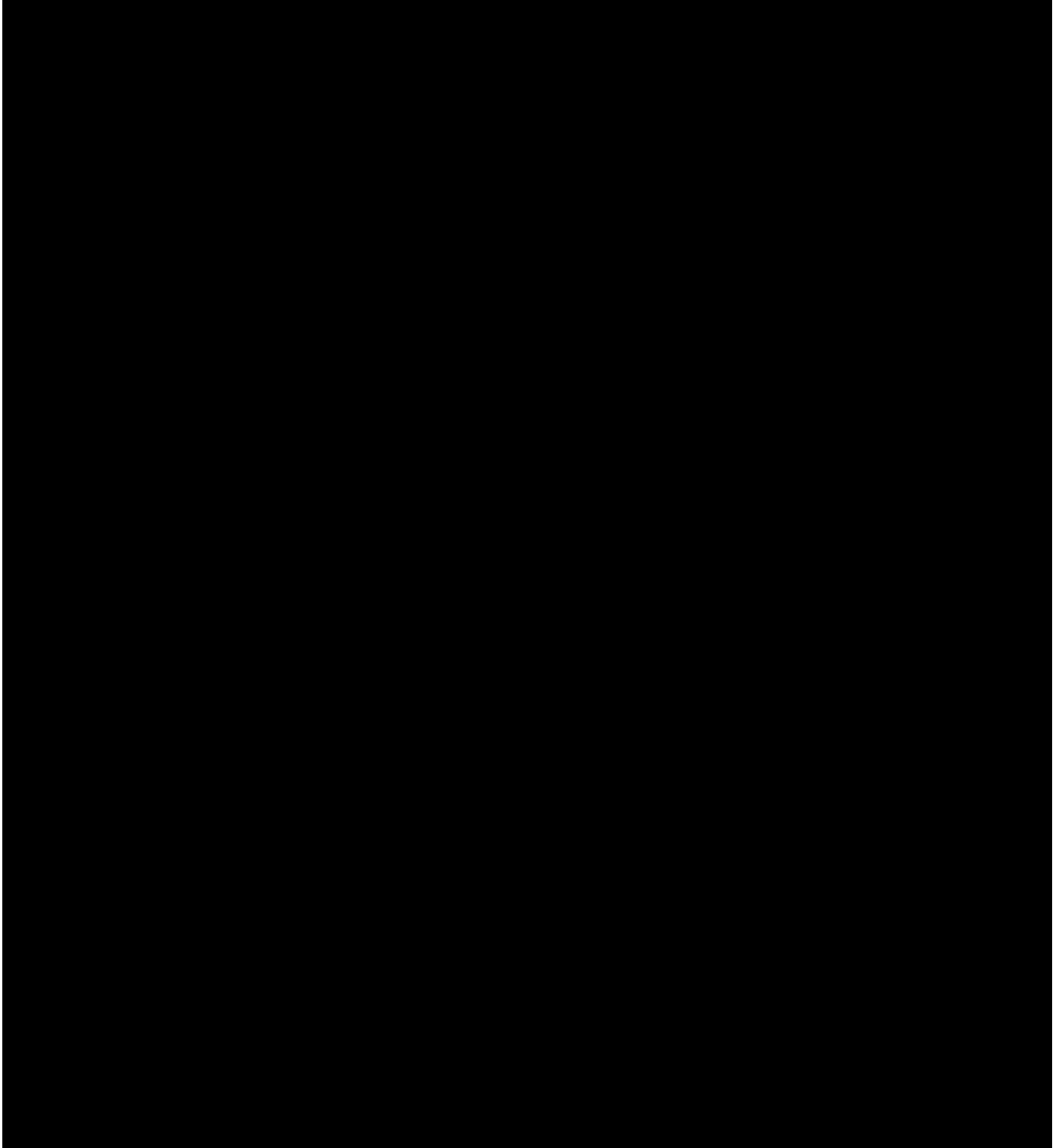
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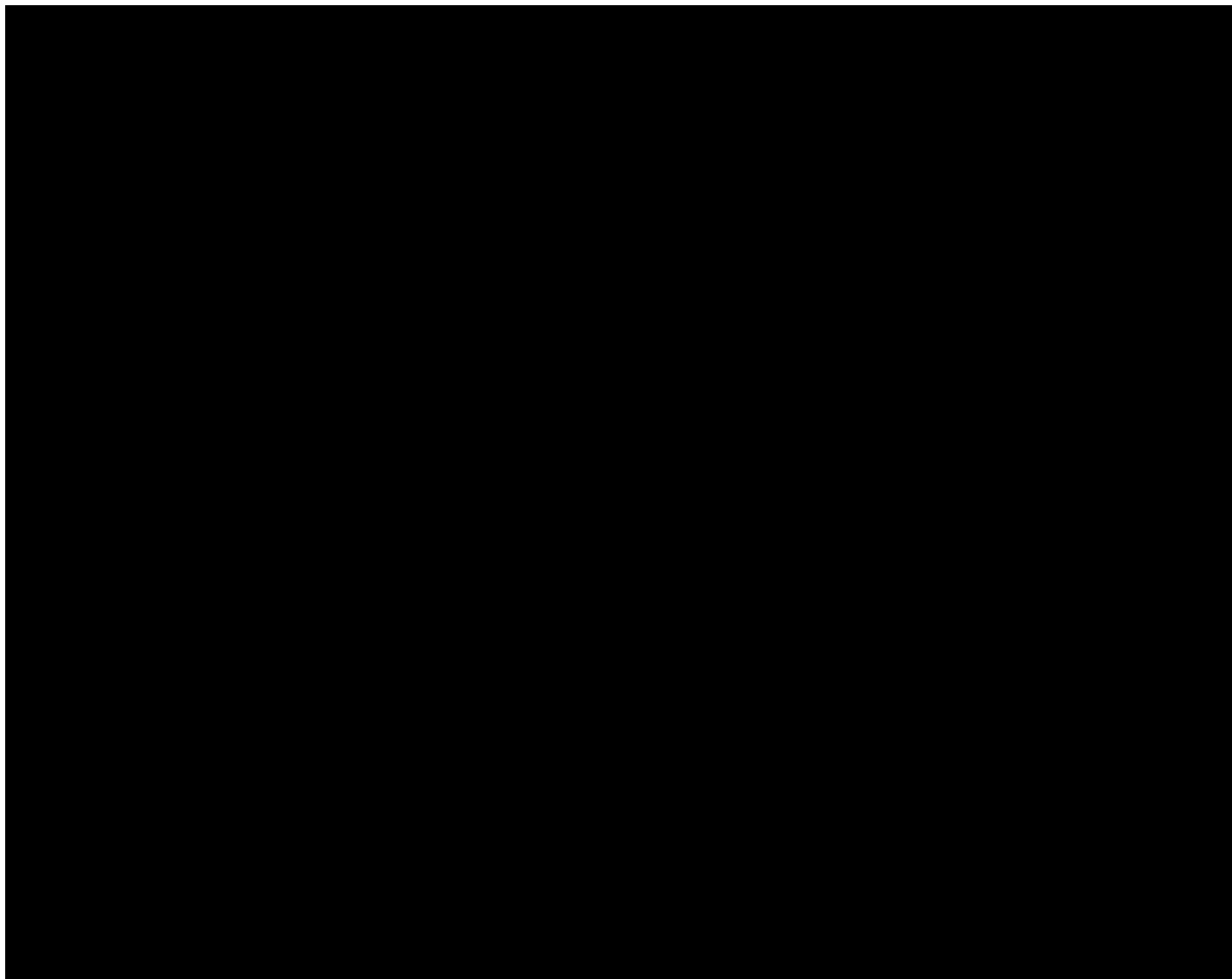
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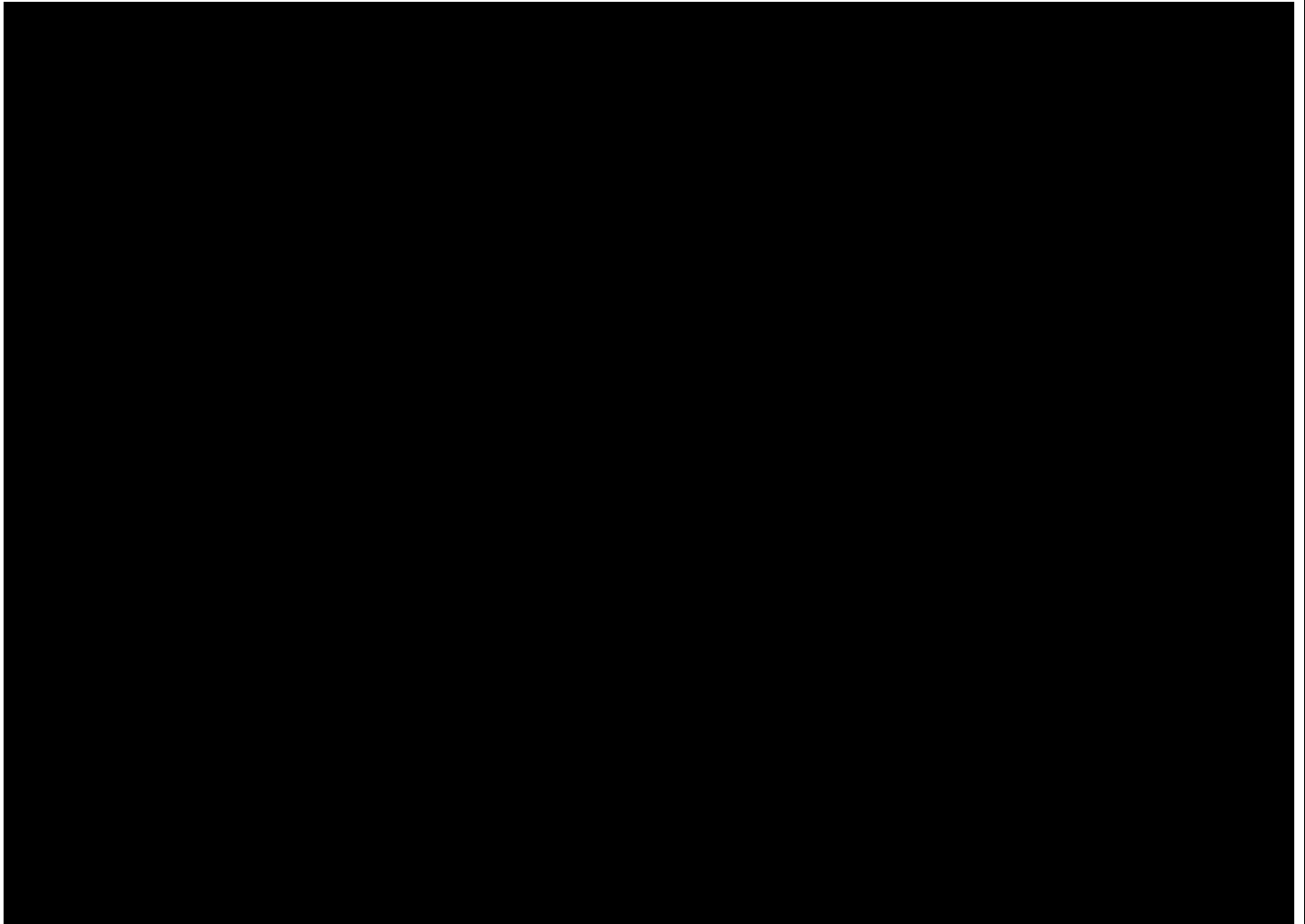
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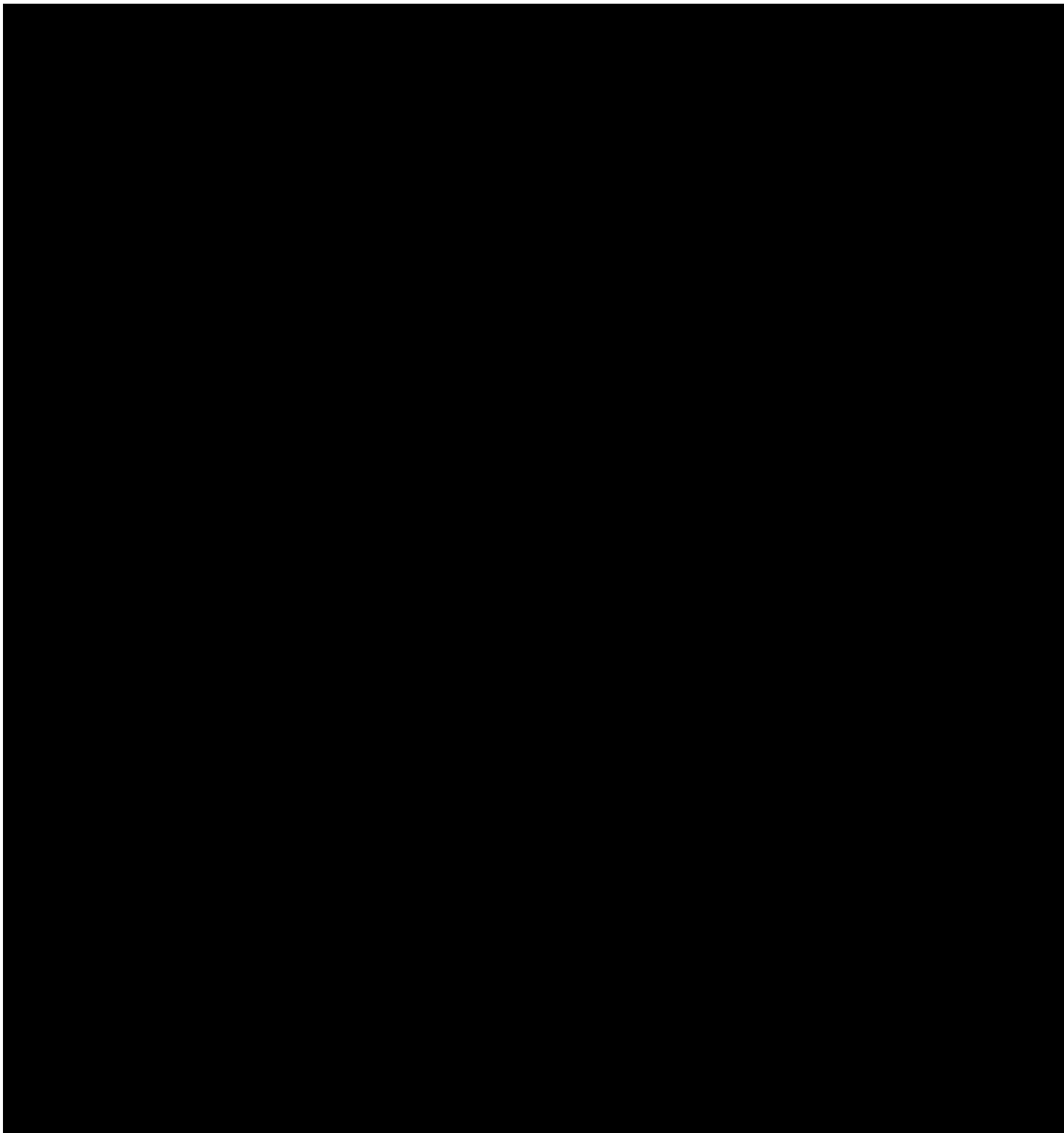
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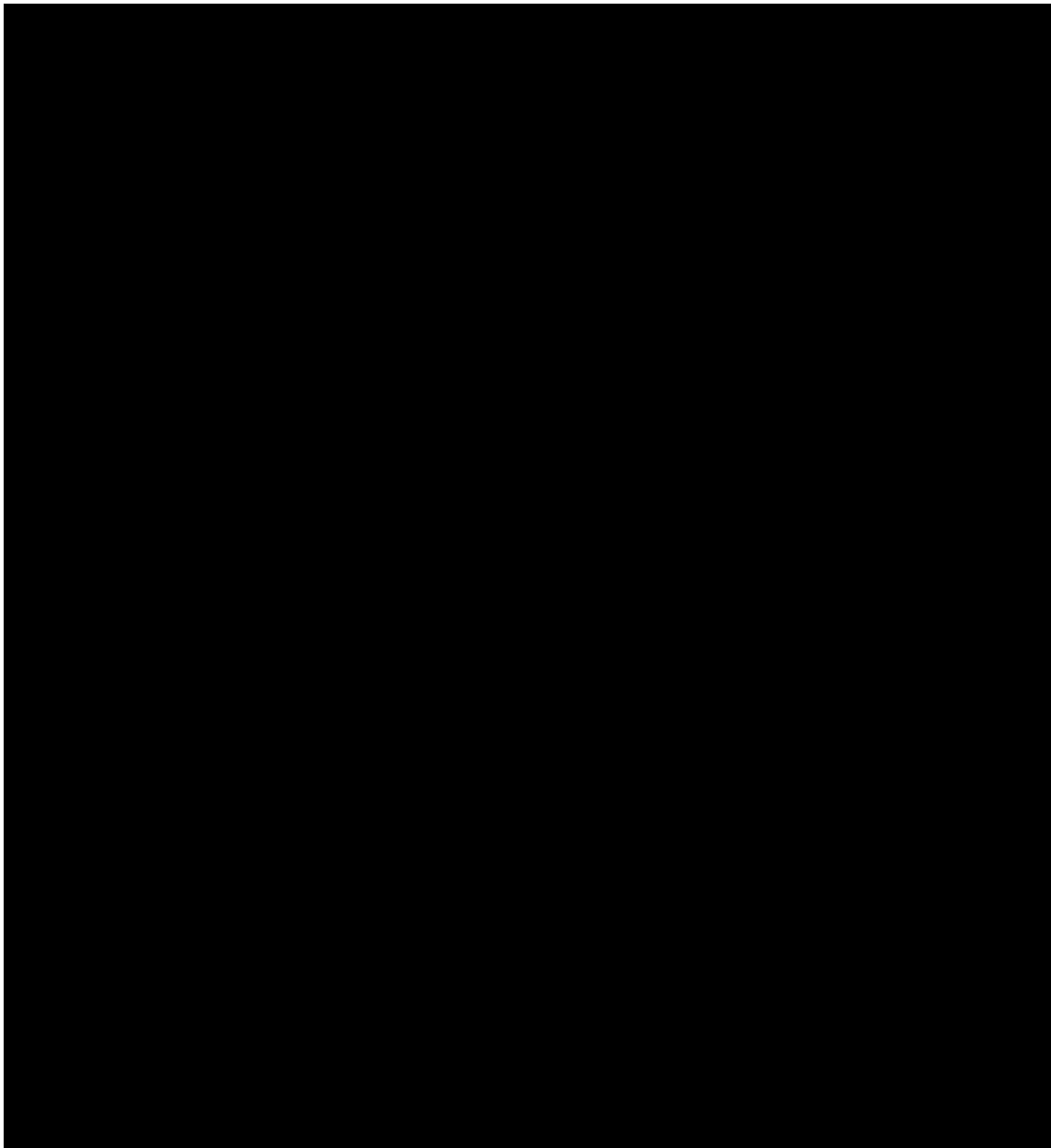
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Use of Force/Arrests

A) Use of force -

When deployed in a civil unrest situation, reasonable force may become necessary to accomplish arrests of those involved in criminal activity. Deputies are permitted to use this force to protect others or themselves from bodily harm and/or effect an arrest pursuant to and within the confines of Penal Code Section 835a and SBSO Policy §300 and 308. These include:

- The deputy strikes or attempts to strike a person with their body or an impact weapon, or utilizes other striking techniques against the body of the person.
- The deputy discharges particular weapons such as chemical agents, foam batons, Pepperball, TASER, or other munitions as specified elsewhere within Sheriff's policy.

Documentation - The deputy utilizing this force shall document it via the submission of a Sheriff's report within the Sheriff's Automated Report System. The content of the report must comprehensively document the actual force used and the legal justification for having used the force (i.e. criminal activity). Documentation shall be completed regardless if a subject was struck by the particular weapons utilized or not.

B) Arrest Teams - When arrests are anticipated or required during civil unrest, the MFF Lieutenant will have the squad leader(s) identify arrest teams. Arrest teams are deployed in conjunction with the platoon and are generally aligned behind the formation lines and reserved for arrest and rescue functions. At the discretion of the MFF Lieutenant or squad leader, arrest squads may also be deployed to serve as a source of relief personnel to those on the skirmish lines.



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- C) In-County Arrests** – During a team deployment for civil unrest within the County of Santa Barbara, deputies will utilize standard arrest/transportation to the Main Jail or Northern Branch Jail unless a special event field booking area / process is established.
- D) Out of County Arrests** – During an out of county mutual aid deployment, deputies may be tasked with making arrests in conjunction with or without the host agency. When this occurs, deputies may follow any process identified by the host agency prior to or during the deployment period. However, deputies should complete the following prior to transferring custody of the prisoner(s) to the host agency on a Field Interview (FI)/Santa Barbara County Jail Booking & Property Record/Festival Booking Form:
- Suspect identifying information and arresting deputy
 - Identify and describe if any force used, injuries and medical treatment sought
 - Identify probable cause and charges
 - Photographs with department phone





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Team Leader's Activation Checklist

1. Upon a MFF activation, respond to the staging location (unless otherwise directed).
2. Confirm with Sheriff's Dispatch and/or communicate with your team on who is available to respond and deploy.
3. Select who will be your apex deputy & 2 linebackers. If a second sergeant is also available, assign him/her as the Assistant Team Leader.
4. When all your squad has arrived, put them in a single rank (standing side-by-side) to conduct an inspection to ensure that each deputy, and yourself, has an earpiece (if available), baton, helmet and gas mask with carrier. Have the deputies don the masks, clear and seal them to ensure that they are working properly.
5. The entire squad should have their gas masks strapped to them and their helmets on their heads prior to deploying on line.
6. Complete the roster on the reverse side of this checklist and advise you are en-route and give an ETA to the staging location.
7. Do not respond Code 3 unless specifically directed to do so by the MFF Lt. or Incident Commander.
9. Assign your assistant team leader or linebackers to stay with your squad and locate the MFF Lt. If they have not yet arrived, see the Incident Commander for mission assignment and further direction.
10. If you are deployed as a squad, use the column of two's, or single column formation to go from point to point.
11. If you have any questions, or are unclear about your mission, ASK!
12. Use a loud, clear voice to issue commands and provide direction.



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SQUAD DEPLOYMENT ROSTER		
SQUAD #	DATE:	TIME:
SGT(S):		ID#
1/DEP		ID#
2/DEP		ID#
3/DEP		ID#
4/DEP		ID#
5/DEP		ID#
6/DEP		ID#
7/DEP		ID#
8/DEP		ID#
9/DEP		ID#
10/DEP		ID#
11/DEP		ID#
12/DEP		ID#
13/DEP		ID#
14/DEP		ID#
15/DEP		ID#
16/DEP		ID#



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SERGEANT'S ACTIVATION CHECKLIST Continued

Reminders:

Account for **all** personnel and equipment at check-in and check-out.

Use field guide book if necessary and maintain squad integrity.

Retain any notes and secure video for the After-Action Report (AAR).

Briefing Notes: _____



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FIELD COMMANDER MFF ACTIVATION CHECKLIST

Confirm MFF Squads are en-route via Sheriff's Dispatch

If possible, identify a radio deputy/ scribe

Make contact with protest leader(s), if possible

Establish a Command Post location

Utilize the ICS system as necessary

Mobilize sufficient personnel

Establish a perimeter

Identify your mission

Brief personnel on expectations and keep them updated

Consider avenues of escape and wind direction prior to MFF or SET deploying chemical agents

Obtain Food/Water for personnel and account for a rest period and/or relief of personnel on line

Plan for shift change; hold over personnel if necessary

Designate a second in command

Briefing Notes: _____



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Points to Remember

Philosophies of Mobile Field Force Tactics

- Allows for fast action to quickly quell an unorganized crowd involved in criminal activity before it can get organized.
- Used to manage crowds with dynamic deployment
 - (A) Moving vehicles
 - (B) Sirens and emergency lights
 - (C) Quick response from vehicles to foot
 - (D) Show of force with large numbers of properly equipped deputies (a pronounced law enforcement presence)
- May remain mobile to address needs that arise during the incident.
 - (A) Uses a minimum number of vehicles
 - (B) Special equipment, munitions, and support remain with Mobile Field Force (MFF)
- Makes the best use of available resources
- Ability to respond to unlawful civil unrest and criminal activity
 - (A) Using dynamic tactics
 - (B) With minimal exposure
 - (C) With specialized munitions
- Enter with a simple and comprehensive plan
 - (A) Within training parameters
 - (B) Group acts as a single unit or identified elements
 - (C) Focus on opposing force as a whole, not as individuals
 - (1) Identify individuals to be arrested as conditions allow
 - (2) Include arrest teams as a part of the plan
 - (D) Meet plan objectives quickly to minimize
 - (E) Remain flexible; react quickly
- Remember - It's quicker and easier to downsize personnel than to upscale personnel.



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