
Military Equipment

707.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition, and reporting requirements of military equipment (Government Code § 7070; Government Code § 7071; Government Code § 7072).

707.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Government Code § 7070):

Governing body – The elected or appointed body that oversees the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office.

Military equipment – Includes but is not limited to the following:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers.
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached.
- Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants.
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. This does not include a handheld, one-person ram.
- Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, excluding standard-issue shotguns and standard-issue shotgun ammunition.
- Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including firearms and accessories identified as assault weapons in Penal Code § 30510 and Penal Code § 30515, with the exception of standard-issue firearms.
- Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.
- Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools.
- Munitions containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.
- TASER® Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and long-range acoustic devices (LRADs).
- Kinetic energy weapons and munitions.
- Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

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707.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office that members of this Office comply with the provisions of Government Code § 7071 with respect to military equipment.

707.3 MILITARY EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR

The Sheriff should designate a member of this Office to act as the military equipment coordinator. The responsibilities of the military equipment coordinator include but are not limited to:

- (a) Acting as liaison to the governing body for matters related to the requirements of this policy.
- (b) Identifying Sheriff's Office equipment that qualifies as military equipment in the current possession of the Sheriff's Office, or the equipment the Sheriff's Office intends to acquire that requires approval by the governing body.
- (c) Conducting an inventory of all military equipment at least annually.
- (d) Collaborating with any allied agency that may use military equipment within the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (Government Code § 7071).
- (e) Preparing for, scheduling, and coordinating the annual community engagement meeting to include:
 1. Publicizing the details of the meeting.
 2. Preparing for public questions regarding the Office's funding, acquisition, and use of equipment.
- (f) Preparing the annual military equipment report for submission to the Sheriff and ensuring that the report is made available on the agency website (Government Code § 7072).
- (g) Establishing the procedure for a person to register a complaint or concern, or how that person may submit a question about the use of a type of military equipment, and how the Sheriff's Office will respond in a timely manner.

707.4 MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

The following constitutes a list of qualifying equipment for the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office:

[See attachment: Inventory Attachment.pdf](#)

707.5 APPROVAL

The Sheriff or the authorized designee shall obtain approval from the governing body by way of an ordinance adopting the military equipment policy. As part of the approval process, the Sheriff or the authorized designee shall ensure the proposed military equipment policy is submitted to the governing body and is available on the Sheriff's Office website at least 30 days prior to any public hearing concerning the military equipment at issue (Government Code § 7071). The military equipment policy must be approved by the governing body prior to engaging in any of the following (Government Code § 7071):

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- (a) Requesting military equipment made available pursuant to 10 USC § 2576a.
- (b) Seeking funds for military equipment, including but not limited to applying for a grant, soliciting or accepting private, local, state, or federal funds, in-kind donations, or other donations or transfers.
- (c) Acquiring military equipment either permanently or temporarily, including by borrowing or leasing.
- (d) Collaborating with another law enforcement agency in the deployment or other use of military equipment within the jurisdiction of this agency.
- (e) Using any new or existing military equipment for a purpose, in a manner, or by a person not previously approved by the governing body.
- (f) Soliciting or responding to a proposal for, or entering into an agreement with, any other person or entity to seek funds for, apply to receive, acquire, use, or collaborate in the use of military equipment.
- (g) Acquiring military equipment through any means not provided above.

707.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Military equipment used by any member of this agency shall be approved for use and in accordance with this policy. Military equipment used by other agencies that are providing mutual aid to this agency shall comply with their respective military equipment use policies in rendering mutual aid..

707.7 ANNUAL REPORT

Upon approval of a military equipment policy, the Sheriff or the authorized designee should submit a military equipment report to the governing body for each type of military equipment approved within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use (Government Code § 7072).

The Sheriff or the authorized designee should also make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the agency website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include all information required by Government Code § 7072 for the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment in the inventory.

707.8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing the annual report, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the agency should discuss the report and respond to public questions regarding the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

707.9 COMPLIANCE

The Sheriff's Office Training Bureau will ensure that all members of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office are trained on this policy. All members shall comply with this policy. The Training Bureau

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will conduct an annual audit. The Sheriff or designee will be notified of any policy violations and, if needed, the violation(s) will be referred to the Professional Standards Unit. All instances of non-compliance will be reported to the Board of Supervisors via the annual military equipment report.

Any member of the public can register a question or concern regarding the military equipment use by contacting the Sheriff's Office at (805)681-4100 or sheriff@sbsheriff.org. A response to the question or concern shall be completed by the Sheriff's Office in a timely manner.

A member of the public can submit a complaint to the Sheriff's Office in any form (i.e. in-person, mail, online). Complaint forms can be delivered to the following address in person or by mail:

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Attn: Office of Professional Standards

4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

A complaint form can also be submitted online: www.sbsheriff.org/citizen-complaint-form.

A hardcopy of the complaint form can be obtained from Sheriff's Headquarters (4434 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110), by calling (805) 681-4100, or by visiting any Sheriff's substation.

707.10 MAINTENANCE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLY LEVELS

The Sheriff's Office maintains sufficient stock of certain military equipment to maintain training standards and operational readiness. The agency will routinely order replacement stock to maintain the levels of equipment enumerated in the attached Military Equipment Inventory.