



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Response Team 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 or outside the County of Santa Barbara, may require our response 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 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 a gathering has transgressed from 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 becomes unlawful, it may necessitate the deployment of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Response Team (SRT). 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. An unlawful event can be a clear and present danger of a riot, public disorder, interference with traffic, a declared unlawful assembly, or another immediate threat to public safety.

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. Determine if immediate protective actions are necessary to safeguard lives and property.
- Assemble teams quickly.
- Make proper notifications to chain of command.
- Utilize SRT Tactical Objectives (below) and contain the problem.
- If possible, address the problem and resolve the incident. If additional resources are needed, request SRT.
- Control and protect high priority targets - intersections, gun shops, liquor stores, government buildings, shopping centers, etc.
- Maintain law enforcement presence if necessary.
- Present a disciplined force until SRT arrives.



Tactical Objectives

Containment – Confine the disorder to the smallest possible area.

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

Dispersal – 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.) You have ____ minutes to comply.

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.) Tienes ____ minutos para cumplir.

If appropriate, announce at least twice and give the crowd a reasonable 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). Shutting down a protest should be law enforcement's last resort.



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Sheriff's Response Team Concept & Definition

For planned events, Sheriff's Response Team personnel may be staged offsite to prevent any unintentional tension amongst demonstrators. If conditions change and civil unrest occurs, SRT 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 Sheriff's Response Team are:

- 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.

The Sheriff's Response Team (SRT) concept has 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, SRT can respond from its staging area to become a force designed to support the Incident Commander. SRT is intended to provide the Incident Commander with a trained and properly equipped force that is staffed to perform:



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- Crowd management.
- Crowd intervention.
- Crowd control.

SRT may also be summoned and deployed on foot to disperse or manage 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 movement tactics and arrest/rescue formations are detailed within this guide. SRT team leaders are reminded that crowd movement must include avenues of departure for the dispersing crowd.

It is essential that security for the team is always maintained. Security can be accomplished by the use of flanking maneuvers, 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.

Organization of the Sheriff's Response Team

The basic tactical element within the Sheriff's Response Team 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 Sheriff's Response Team (SRT) lieutenant deployed as the platoon commander. Squad leaders are responsible for assisting the SRT 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 movements.

Each squad will include deputies with less lethal tools. Less lethal deputies shall be trained (AB 48 compliant) and qualified in the use of all deployable less lethal tools. No unauthorized person may be designated as a less lethal deputy. The SRT lieutenant will assign these positions to be deployed at his/her discretion. They will deliver chemical agents at the direction of the SRT lieutenant. Less Lethal deputies will also deliver impact rounds at individuals identified by the



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squad leader. Use of chemical agents and less lethal kinetic energy munitions is governed by Sheriff's policy sections 300, 308, and AB 48. If feasible, these deputies should remain available to the SRT lieutenant or squad leader for direction.

When feasible, several deputies or support personnel within SRT will be equipped with recording devices, such as body worn cameras. Photographs and video recording, when appropriate, can serve many purposes:

- Support of criminal prosecutions by documenting criminal acts.
- Assistance in evaluating department performance.
- Recording the use of dispersal orders.
- Facilitating a response to allegations of improper law enforcement conduct.
- Use as training material.

When required, a videographer will be assigned to each squad. Videographer assignment will be the responsibility of the SRT lieutenant or squad leader.

Planned Events

For planned events, comprehensive, incident-specific operational plans should be developed. The Incident Command System (ICS) should be considered for such events. 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 with documented sources. 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.

Collected data must be processed into intelligence which is used for threat analysis. Threat analysis begins with a broad examination of all information bearing on the security of a community. It focuses on potential threats, likely targets, and vulnerabilities. Intelligence will form the basis for operational plans which should be created pursuant to SBSO Policy 465.5.2. Operational plans can be completed by or with the assistance of the Sheriff's Special Investigations Bureau.



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Information Needed 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 groups can carry out.
- Sources, types, and locations of weapons, equipment, and supplies available to the group.
- Attitude of general populace toward groups causing civil disturbances, local law enforcement, and federal intervention.
- Presence of threats to utilities that serve the public.
- Types of communication and control methods used by participants/organizers.

Unplanned Events

Per SBSO Policy 465.4, 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.



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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.

Cut Team

Personnel assigned to the SRT Cut Team should complete training through the Department of Homeland Security (Field Force Extractions – FFE) in techniques and safety practices to successfully remove arrestees utilizing an obstacle or device that hinders law enforcement's ability to remove them.

If the cut team is utilized to remove a subject or subjects from a device, they must be advised, prior to removal, that they are under arrest. If during that removal process the subject releases themselves from that device, they are still considered an arrestee and may only be released through the arrest and booking process.

All techniques to remove an arrestee from a device should utilize safety precautions for the arrestee and the personnel working to remove them. Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety glasses, hearing protection, fire retardant blankets, and gloves should be considered while utilizing cut tools that cause sparks, debris, high sound levels, and heat.

SRT personnel not assigned to the Cut Team should provide force protection to personnel removing the arrestees. The Cut Team's focus will be on the arrestee and the safety of all personnel attempting to remove them – not on the crowd.

Cut Team personnel should train annually on successfully defeating devices and maintaining proficiency in their abilities to safely remove arrestees. Personnel utilizing grinders, cut wheels, or any type of rotating/high-speed power tool should demonstrate their proficiency during training.



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Special Enforcement Team Contingent

A Special Enforcement Team (SET) Rescue Team should be considered for any activation of the Sheriff's Response Team (SRT). The SET contingent should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the mission. The role of SET would be to provide enhanced rescue capabilities, advanced lifesaving skills (ALS), and chemical agent and less lethal support to members of SRT. SET assets should include specialized equipment and at least 6 personnel in the following configuration:

- One (1) Bearcat to serve as an armored rescue vehicle (ARV).
- Chemical agent and less lethal tools.
- One (1) Team Leader.
- One (1) Bearcat driver, preferably a scout.
- One (1) overwatch operator.
- Two (2) chemical agent/less lethal operators.
- One (1) SET paramedic with advanced lifesaving skills (ALS).

In situations where SRT is requested for mutual aid, the SET Rescue Team should be factored into the deployment criteria, even if the requesting agency does not specifically request SET assets. The primary mission of the SET Rescue Team is to provide a rescue vehicle and ALS to a member of SRT should he/she suffer a major injury. Local EMS personnel are often depleted during civil unrest. This can result in life-threatening delays if one of our personnel is seriously injured. The SET contingent would ensure immediate medical treatment of our personnel, allied agencies, and members of the public, resulting in a highly capable, self-contained unit. They may also be redirected to additional missions at the direction of the Incident Commander.



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SRT Basic Squad Organization/Movements

When the Sheriff's Response Team is deployed and in formation, the squads will remain at "Port-Arms" or "On-Guard" positions. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Response Team will utilize the following formations:

BATON

"PORT – ARMS"



"PORT – ARMS"

PURPOSE: A "READY" position for deputies on a Skirmish line in either a static position or forward movement.

- "Port-Arms Push" - Using the middle portion of the baton, position it on the protester's upper body at 45 degree angle, "Push" protester backward by extending your arms and driving with legs.
- "Port-Arms Strike" – A quick and powerful extension forward with both hands causing the middle portion of the baton into the upper body of the protester thus "Striking" the protester moving them backwards.

"ON-GUARD"

PURPOSE: Create distance between the deputy and the protester / keep protester at arm or baton distance away. Most common when in static a Skirmish line formation.

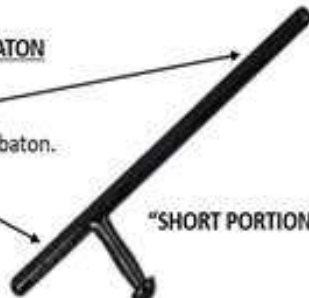
- Support foot forward, support hand / long end of baton towards protester... strong hand / grip end of baton at strong side hip.
- Maintain long end pointed at protesters chest.



"ON – GUARD"

PORT-ARMS WITH A SIDE HANDLE BATON

- Support hand at Long End.
- Strong hand grips Short Portion of baton.
- Side handle pointed in direction of protester



"SHORT PORTION GRIP":





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COLUMN OF 2'S

PURPOSE: To move a squad in an orderly Fashion from one place to another.

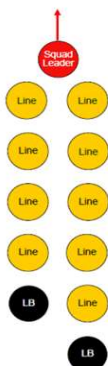
"Squad 1, COLUMN OF TWO'S...
...on me...MOVE!"

"ATTENTION!.....Forward....MARCH!"
Upon arrival...."SQUAD HALT!"

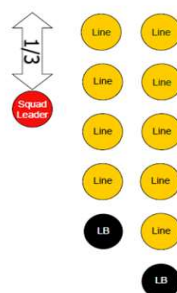
"SQUAD....COUNTER
COLUMN...MOVE!"

SQUAD LEADER repositions parallel to
front of columns to give direction
(Commands) to squad members.

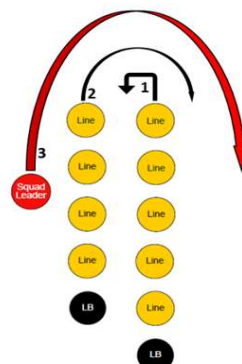
SQUAD ASSEMBLY



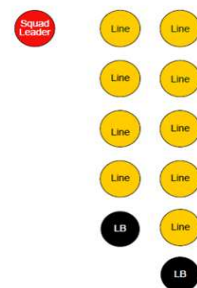
IN MOVEMENT



COUNTER COLUMN



COMMAND POSITION

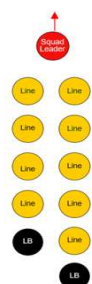


THE BASIC 4 FORMATIONS

HAND SIGNALS



COLUMN OF 2'S



SKIRMISH LINE

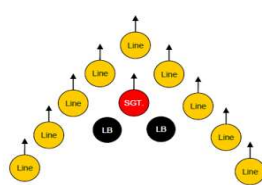
"REGULAR" SPACING:
• One Pace or 30 inches approx.



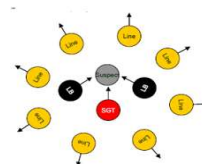
"TIGHT" SPACING:
• Shoulder to shoulder



WEDGE



ARREST / RESCUE CIRCLE

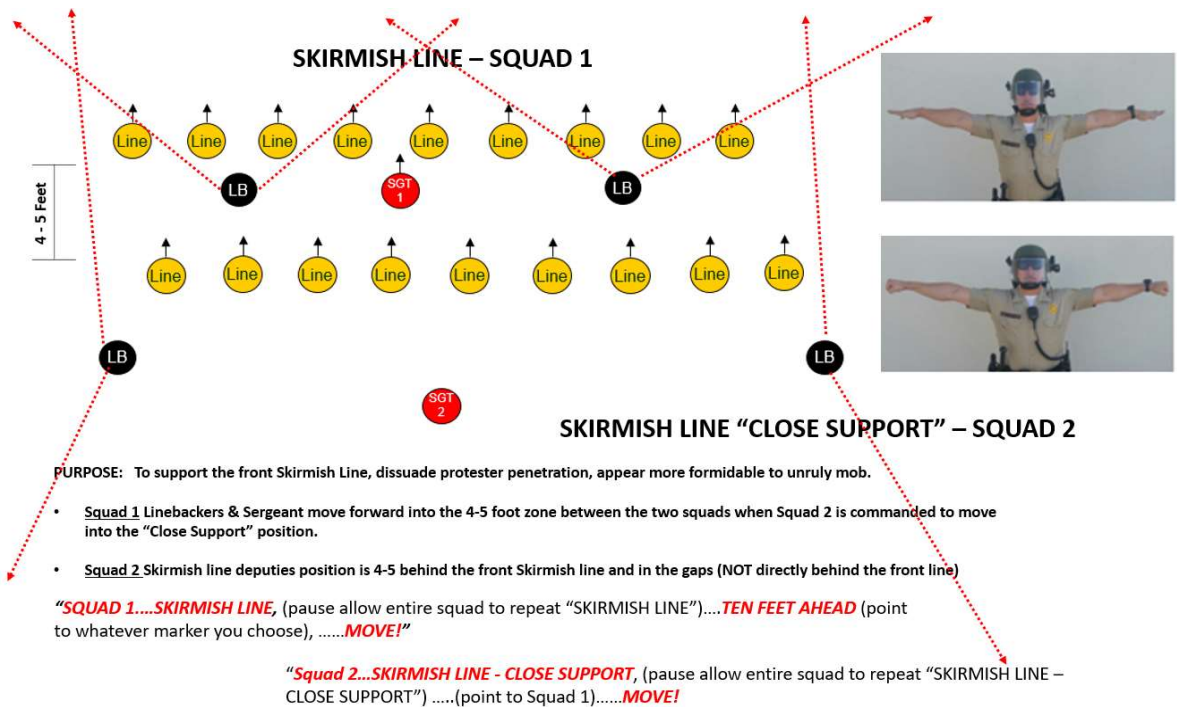




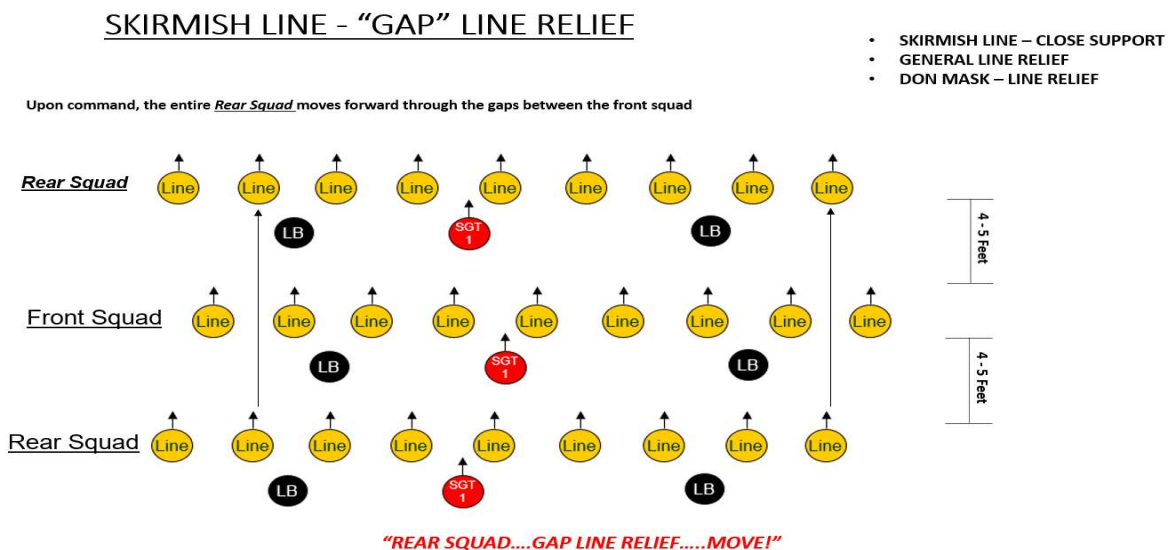
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TWO SQUAD FORMATIONS



TWO SQUAD FORMATIONS



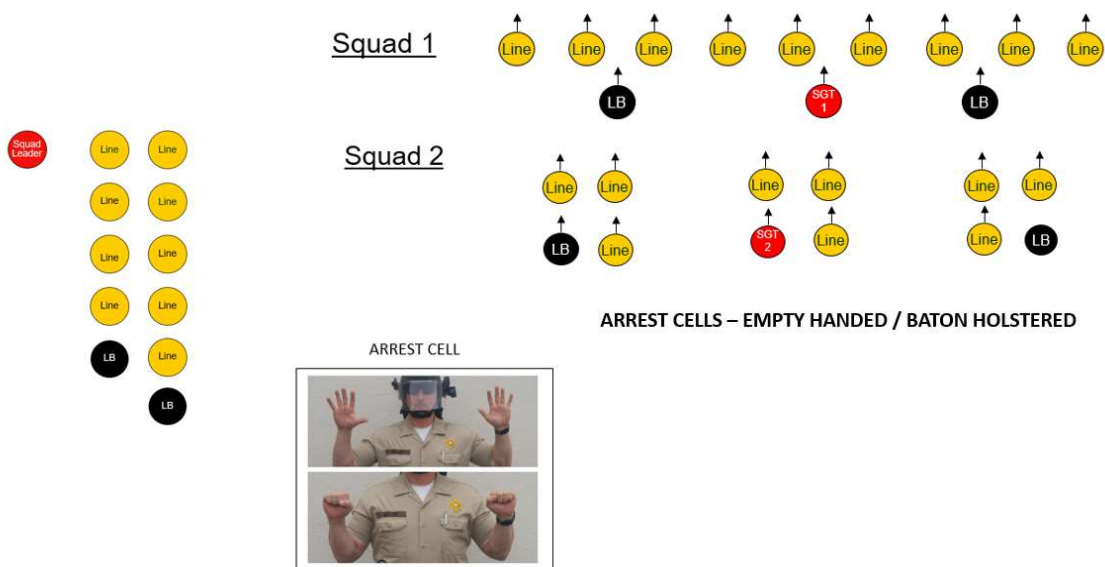


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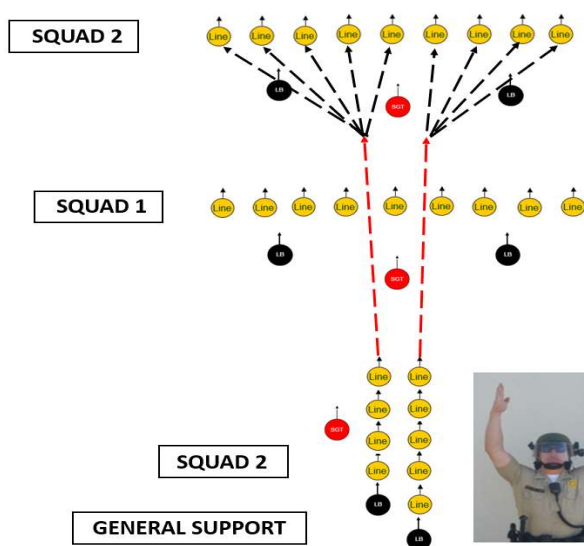
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TWO SQUAD FORMATIONS

ARREST CELLS FROM A COLUMN OF TWO'S



TWO SQUAD FORMATIONS



CROSS BOW TO SKIRMISH LINE



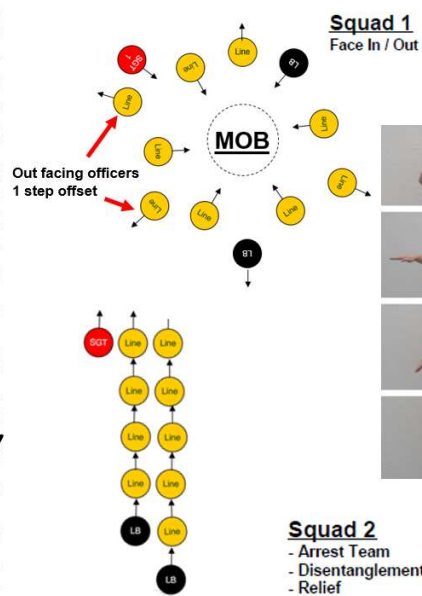


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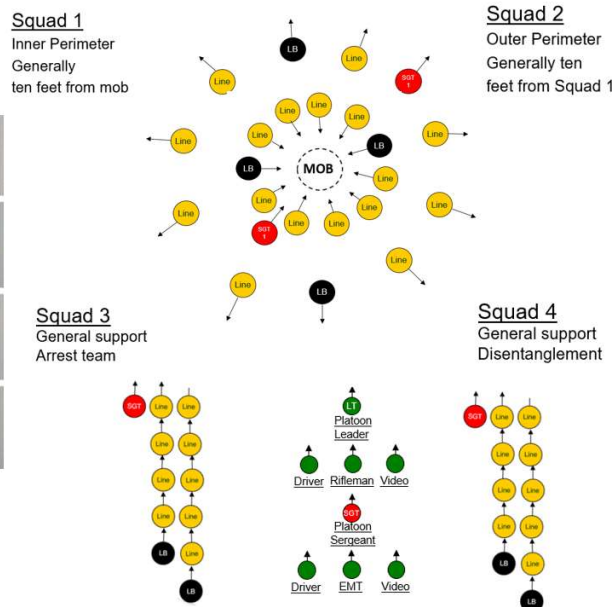
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TWO SQUAD FORMATIONS

ENCIRCLEMENT – TWO SQUADS



ENCIRCLEMENT – PLATOON



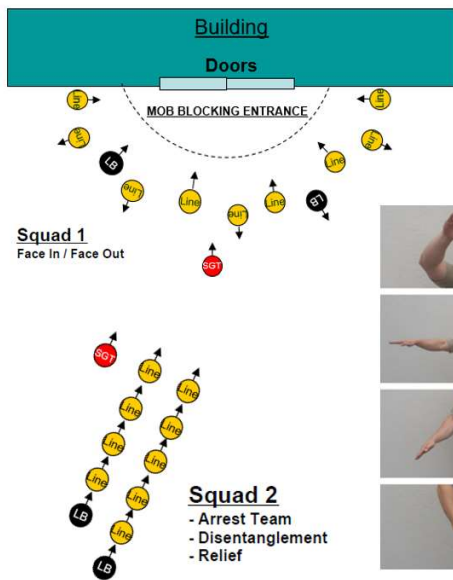


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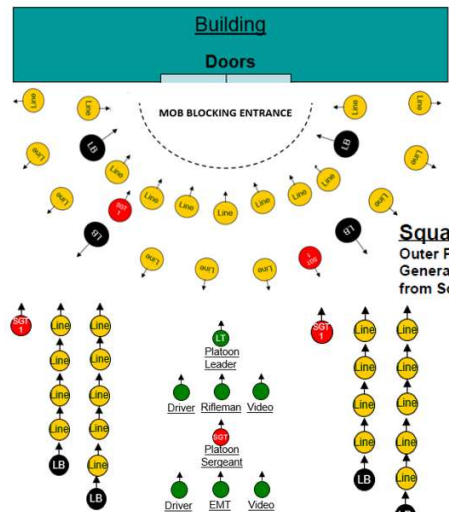
TWO SQUAD FORMATIONS

ENCIRCLEMENT – TWO SQUADS



ENCIRCLEMENT – BUILDING

ENCIRCLEMENT – PLATOON





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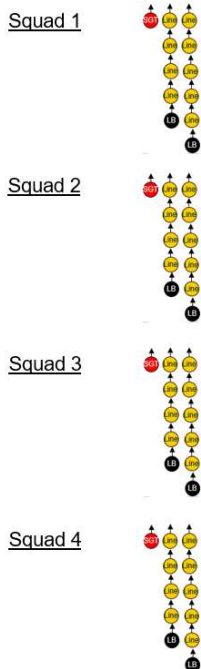
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PLATOON MOVEMENT

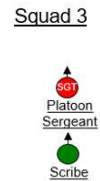
COLUMN OF 2's

COLUMN OF 2's – "DOUBLE STACK"

PLATOON FORMATIONS



Squad 2



Squad 4

(5 Yards between Squads)

"SQUADS 3 and 4.....DOUBLE STACK.....MOVE!"

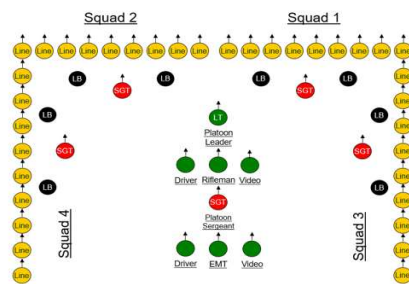


COLUMN OF 2'S

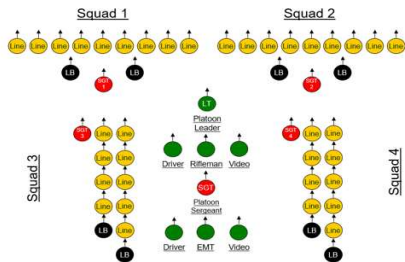


SKIRMISH LINE

Platoon Formation Skirmish Line with Right and Left Lateral Support



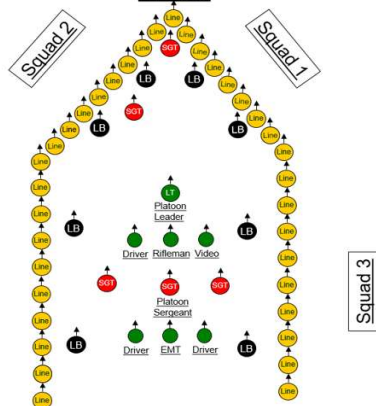
Platoon Formation Skirmish Line with Squads in General Support



LATERAL SUPPORT RIGHT & LEFT



Platoon Formation Wedge

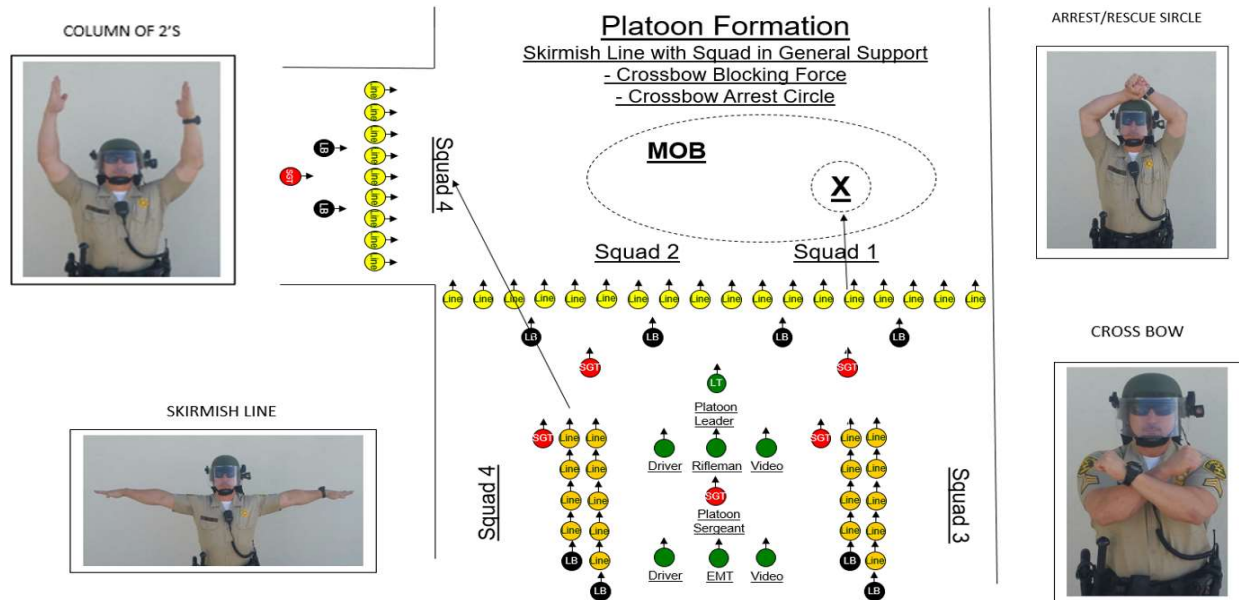
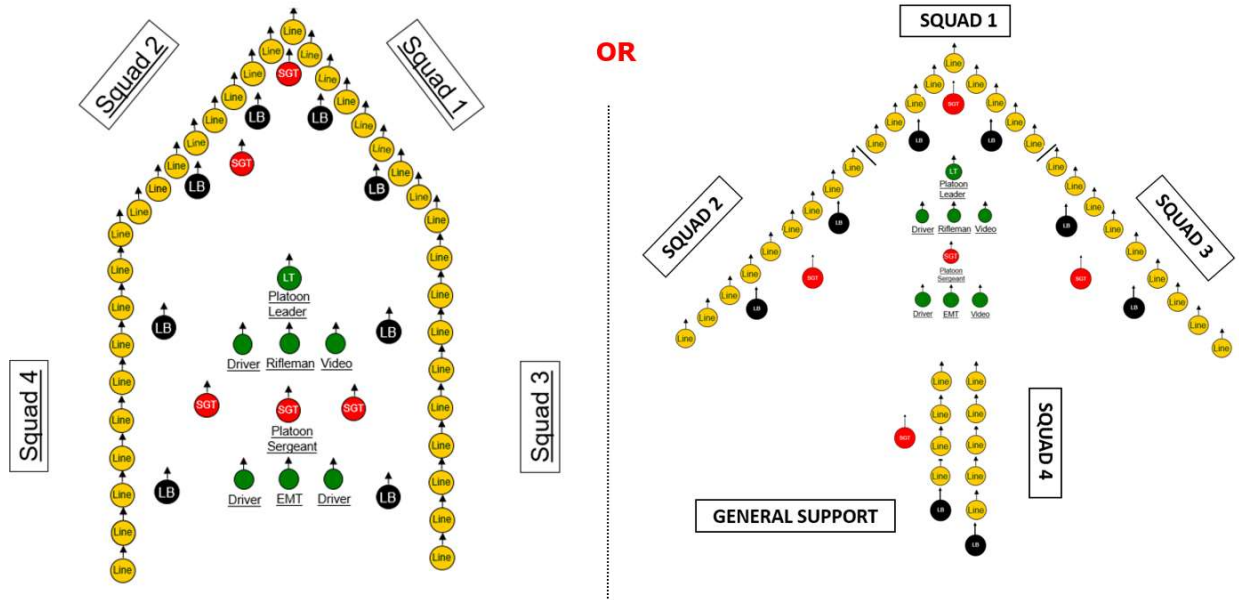




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PLATOON FORMATION - WEDGE





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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 to effect an arrest pursuant to Penal Code §835a and SBSO Policy §300 and §308. These include:

- The deputy strikes or attempts to strike a suspect with their body or an impact weapon or utilizes other striking techniques against the body of a suspect.
- The deputy discharges less lethal tools such as chemical agents, 40mm kinetic energy projectiles, Pepperball, TASER, or other munitions as specified in Sheriff's policy.

Documentation

The deputy utilizing a use of force shall document it in the Sheriff's Automated Report System. The content of the report must detail the actual force used and the legal justification for using the force (i.e. criminal activity). Documentation shall be completed whether or not a suspect was struck by the tool(s) utilized.

B) Arrest Teams

When arrests are anticipated or required during civil unrest, the SRT lieutenant will direct the squad leader(s) to identify arrest teams. Arrest teams are deployed with the platoon and are generally aligned behind the formation lines and reserved for arrest and rescue functions. At the discretion of the SRT lieutenant or squad leader, arrest squads may also be deployed to serve as relief personnel to those on skirmish lines.

C) In-County Arrests – During a team deployment within Santa Barbara County, deputies will utilize standard arrest/transportation to the Southern Branch Jail or Northern Branch Jail, unless a special event field booking area 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



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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.

Team Leader's Activation Checklist

- Upon SRT activation, respond to the staging location (unless otherwise directed).
- Confirm with Sheriff's Dispatch and/or communicate with your team regarding who is available to respond and deploy.
- Identify your apex deputy & 2 linebackers. If a second sergeant is available, assign him/her as the Assistant Team Leader.
- Upon squad arrival, place them in a single rank (standing side-by-side) and conduct an inspection to ensure that each deputy has their required equipment (helmet with face shield, baton, gas mask). Direct all deputies to don their gas masks and check seal to ensure that they are working properly.
- All SRT members should have their gas masks strapped to their person and helmets on prior to deploying.
- Complete the roster (page 24) and advise you are enroute. Provide an ETA to the staging location.
- Do not respond Code 3 unless directed by the SRT lieutenant or Incident Commander.
- Assign your assistant team leader or linebackers to stay with your squad and locate the SRT lieutenant. If the SRT lieutenant is not available, contact the Incident Commander for mission assignment and further direction.



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- If deployed as a squad, use the column of twos or single column formation during movement.
- If you have any questions, or are unclear about your mission, ASK!
- Use a loud, clear voice to issue commands and provide direction.

Team Leader's Activation Checklist (continued)

- Account for **all** personnel and equipment at check-in and check-out.
- Use field guidebook if necessary and maintain squad integrity.
- Retain notes and secure video for the After-Action Report (AAR).

Briefing Notes: _____



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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#	



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Response Team Guide

FIELD COMMANDER SRT ACTIVATION CHECKLIST

- Confirm SRT squads are enroute via Sheriff's Dispatch.
- If possible, identify a radio deputy/scribe.
- Contact 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 provide updates.
- Consider avenues of escape and wind direction prior to SRT or SET deploying chemical agents.
- Obtain Food/Water for personnel and account for a rest period/relief of personnel on line.
- Plan for shift change; hold over personnel if necessary.
- Designate a second in command.

Briefing Notes: _____



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff's Response Team Guide

SUMMARY

Philosophies of Sheriff's Response Team Tactics

- Allows for fast action to quickly quell an unorganized crowd involved in criminal activity before it can become organized.
- Used to manage crowds with dynamic deployment.
 - Moving vehicles.
 - Sirens and emergency lights.
 - Quick response from vehicles to foot.
 - Show of force with large numbers of properly equipped deputies.
- Remain mobile to address needs that arise during the incident.
 - Uses a minimum number of vehicles.
 - Specialized equipment, munitions, and support remain with the Sheriff's Response Team (SRT).
- Ability to respond to unlawful civil unrest and criminal activity.
 - Using dynamic tactics.
 - Utilizing the minimal amount of specialized munitions, if required.
- Enter with a simple and comprehensive plan.
 - Within training parameters.
 - Group acts as a single unit or identified elements.
 - Focus on opposing force as a team, not as individuals.
 - Identify individuals to be arrested as conditions allow.
 - Include arrest teams as part of the plan.
- Meet plan objectives.
- Remain flexible; react quickly.