

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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### BOMB THREATS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

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**Purpose:** This directive establishes the basic operational policies for responding to bomb threats and explosive devices.

**Policy Statement:** It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to respond to bomb threats and explosive devices in such a manner as not to create panic or attract undue attention while insuring the safety of the citizens and members of the Department.

**Summary of Changes:** Removed all references to Technical Services Unit.

2.5.1- Changed the routing of bomb threat reports.

3.2- Changed the notification procedure.

3.4- Changed the guidelines for use of department K9 trained in explosive detection.

7- Changed the guidelines for handling of suspected explosive devices.

#### Procedures

##### 1 Responsibility

1.1 The members of the North Little Rock Police Department shall respond to bomb threats and actual devices to provide for the protection of citizens and members of the department first and property second.

1.1.1 A Supervisor shall be notified and respond in every instance in which officers are dispatched to a bomb threat or explosive device.

##### 2 Patrol Response [CALEA 46.2.1a]

2.1 Officers dispatched to bomb threat and explosive device calls shall respond in such a manner as not to create panic or attract undue attention.

2.2 Responding officers shall notify a supervisor if a suspected or actual device is located.

2.3 Communications personnel shall insure that a patrol supervisor is dispatched to all bomb threat and explosive device calls.

2.4 Officers shall be aware of the possibility of secondary devices that are intended to target responders and bystanders.

2.4.1 Upon arrival at a scene, officers shall not park in locations that endanger themselves or hinder the movement of other responders.

2.4.2 Officers shall avoid parking near dumpsters, garbage cans, mailboxes, etc. that have been used in past incidents to hide secondary explosive devices targeted at first responders.

2.5 A general report shall be written for all bomb threat and explosive device incidents.

2.5.1 Copies of the reports shall be forwarded to Patrol Division Commander and to Investigations.

##### 3 Supervisory Responsibilities [CALEA 46.1.3d]

3.1 If an actual or suspicious device is located, the ranking supervisor on the scene shall coordinate activity with the ranking North Little Rock Fire Department (NLRFD) supervisor and immediately contact:

3.1.1 The ATF's 24 hour Operations Center at 888-367-5762 and request EOD response or

3.1.2 if the situation is time critical, the Little Rock Fire Department (LRFD) bomb squad, or

3.1.3 if the device is unexploded military ordinance, contact the Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) 24 hour Command Post at 501-987-1900 and request their EOD team

3.2 The ranking supervisor on scene shall contact the Patrol Captain, or in his/her absence the on duty captain, or the scheduled Duty Captain after normal business hours for any of the following: [CALEA 46.2.1b]

3.3.1 Bomb threat calls when more evidence exists than just a phoned threat that a device is present;

3.3.2 A suspected or actual device is located;

3.3.3 A piece of mail or a package is suspected to contain explosives; or,

3.3.4 There is an accident involving any vehicle transporting explosives.

3.4 If there is reasonable cause to believe that an explosives device exists but has not been located, the ranking supervisor on scene may request the assistance of the department's K9 trained in explosives detection. If that K9 is not available, a request can be made for any available explosives detection canine from a surrounding law enforcement agency or the LRAFB.

#### 4 Communications

- 4.1 Upon entering the area of a reported bomb threat, officers will exercise caution when utilizing radios and mobile phones to prevent an accidental detonation. [CALEA 46.1.3g]
- 4.2 Upon arriving at the area of an explosive device or suspected device, officers shall not utilize car radios.
- 4.2.1 Portable radios and mobile phones shall not be used within 100 meters (330 feet) of electronic detonators or any suspected or actual device if the detonation method is unknown. (US DOT Emergency Response Guide (ERG))

#### 5 Evacuations and Perimeters [CALEA 46.1.4a, b]

- 5.1 Members shall not authorize or order evacuations, of a residence, a place of business, or a public facility in the event of a bomb threat.
  - 5.1.1 Owners, managers, or the person in immediate charge of the location shall be responsible for deciding to evacuate or close in the event of a bomb threat.
- 5.2 Supervisors may order an evacuation in the event a suspected or actual explosive device is located.
  - 5.2.1 Officers may order an evacuation prior to the arrival of a supervisor in the event an actual explosive device is found.
- 5.3 In the event an evacuation is ordered, the evacuation shall comply with accepted safe standoff distance standards.
  - 5.3.1 Minimum Evacuation distances:

| <u>Device Size</u> | <u>Indoors</u> | <u>Outdoors</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Pipe Bomb          | 33 yards       | 330 yards       |
| Briefcase          | 66 yards       | 660 yards       |
| Suitcase           | 66 yards       | 660 yards       |
| Sedan              | 165 yards      | 1170 yards      |
| Van/Small Truck    | 390 yards      | 1560 yards      |
| Large Truck        | 650 yards      | 2860 yards      |

- 5.3.2 US DOT ERG distance for initial evacuation for a large spill of an explosive compound is 1040 yards.
- 5.3.3 US DOT ERG distance for initial evacuation in the event of a fire in a building or vehicle containing explosive compounds is 2080 yards.
- 5.4 All persons evacuated shall be moved out of the line of sight of the scene and away from windows to areas that provide protection from blast effects and debris.
- 5.5 In the event an actual explosive device is located, an outer perimeter shall be established at a greater distance than the minimum evacuation distance.
  - 5.5.1 Sufficient officers shall be posted to direct and control the movement of all foot and vehicle traffic away from the area. [CALEA 46.1.4e]
  - 5.5.2 In no event shall the inner perimeter be closer than the minimum evacuation distance.
  - 5.5.3 No member may enter the inner perimeter in the event of a suspected or actual explosive device.

#### 6 Area Search

- 6.1 Upon request of the owner, manager, or person in charge of the location, officers shall make a cursory search of the location where the suspected device is supposedly located if the search can be conducted safely.
  - 6.1.1 Officers shall conduct searches in such a manner that does not increase the risk to their safety and/or the safety of others.

#### 7 Handling of Suspected Explosive Devices

- 7.1 Members shall not handle, touch or attempt to move a suspected or actual explosive device. [CALEA 46.2.1a]
- 7.2 Vehicles involved in accidents, on fire, or abandoned, and any type of abandoned or unexpected package, or box, displaying an orange placard or a numbered placard with the hazard classification number 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 or 1.6 shall be treated as an actual explosive device. (US DOT ERG, Page 16)

**8 Declaring an Area Safe**

8.1 Members shall not declare any residence, place of business, or public facility as safe to occupy.

8.2 The decision to declare an area safe shall be made by the owner, manager, person in charge of the location or ranking supervisor from the agency providing the bomb disposal team.



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Mike Davis  
Chief of Police