


PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

	SUBJECT:	POLICY NUMBER 216
	HOSTAGE/BARRICADED SUSPECT INCIDENTS	ISSUE DATE 02/19/2008
	CHAPTER: PATROL	EFFECTIVE DATE 02/19/2008
	ISSUED By: Chief of Police John E. Howell	TOTAL PAGES 3

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide general guidelines for handling hostage/barricaded subject situations.

II. POLICY

In hostage/barricaded subject situations it shall be the policy of this law enforcement agency to consider the lives of the hostages, civilians and officers involved to be of the utmost importance; whenever possible, to enhance the prospects of peacefully resolving the incident through communication with the suspect; whenever possible, to develop and maintain the ability to use alternative approaches to resolve the incident should communications fail; and in hostage situations, to make every reasonable effort to effect the safe release of the hostages.

III. DEFINITIONS

BARRICADED SUBJECT: Any individual who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily injury or death to hostages, officers or others in the community and who is in a stronghold position.

HOSTAGE: Any person held by another against his will by force or threat of force, expressed or implied.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT UNIT: The Crisis Management Unit is comprised of the SWAT Team and the Crisis Negotiations Team.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. PATROL OFFICERS

1. Patrol officers confronting hostage/barricaded subject incidents shall not initiate tactical actions other than those necessary to protect the lives and safety of themselves or others consistent with this department's use of force policy. Officers shall then:
 - a. Notify a supervisory officer of the incident and circumstances;
 - b. Contain and isolate the incident scene, establishing an inner containment perimeter to provide a reasonable degree of safety while maintaining contact with the incident scene and—as time and resources permit—establish an outer containment perimeter to control pedestrian and vehicular traffic into the area; and
 - c. Whenever possible, evacuate occupants of affected residences and businesses to a point beyond the perimeter.

B. OFFICER IN COMMAND (OIC)

1. The ranking officer at the scene shall be in command until specifically relieved by a superior. The OIC shall:
2. Inform the shift commander about the nature and circumstances surrounding the incident;
3. Delegate the tactical mission to the OIC of the tactical response team;
4. Ensure development of a communications/negotiations process and an emergency response team reaction;
5. Ensure establishment of an inner and outer perimeter, command post, tactical operations center, negotiations center and a staging area for officers and others arriving for assignment;
6. Assign a press center and an officer for press liaison;
7. Ensure that responsibility for traffic and crowd control is established, and that routes for emergency vehicles have been designated;
8. Make provisions for recording personnel assignments and developing a chronological record of events at the command center and tactical operations center;
9. Ensure that necessary equipment from the fire department is made available at the staging area together with any other units or equipment such as canine teams, aviation or marine units; and
10. Ensure that emergency medical services are available at the site.

C. TACTICAL RESPONSE TEAM COMMANDER

The commander of the tactical response team shall:

1. Assist the OIC in assessing the situation and formulate and provide the OIC with recommended tactical alternatives should communications with the subject fail to resolve the incident;
2. Determine equipment needs and assign personnel to control and contain the inner perimeter
3. Designate marksmen and entry teams as necessary;
4. Ensure that personnel manning the inner perimeter maintain firearms discipline and are provided with periodic relief by appropriate tactical response team members;
5. Prepare appropriate logistical plans to include diagrams of the location in question;
6. Ensure the establishment of a tactical operations center if necessary; and
7. Maintain contact with and keep the command post informed of all developments and operations.

D. HOSTAGE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The OIC of communicating with the subject shall:

1. Provide any requested assistance to the OIC;
2. Provide trained primary and secondary negotiators and, as available and necessary, a negotiations investigator
3. Obtain all pertinent information about the hostage taker, the hostages, hostage site and other barricaded subjects;
4. Designate a location to interview witnesses, released hostages and others; and
5. Debrief hostages following the incident.