

# WEST PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## IV-19 TERRORISM / WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RESPONSE

**EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2005**

CALEA Standards: 46.1.5

CFA Standards: 21.05

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**I. POLICY:** The West Palm Beach Police Department will respond to all terrorist incidents, bomb threats, or actual explosives occurring within the City. This policy establishes guidelines for the response to terrorist threats, suspected hazardous devices or weapons of mass destruction.

### **II. DEFINITIONS:**

A. Hazardous Device - A device which contains or is suspected to contain any of the following: a substance, improvised or commercially manufactured, that has the potential to explode or when ignited can cause extreme heat or fire and poses a threat to public safety. This includes any weapons of mass destruction.

B. Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) - Any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, military ordnance, or weapons containing or designed to release disease organisms, chemical, or explosives.

C. BNICE - Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical, or Explosives and the threats posed to first responders.

D. Terrorist Incident - A violent act or an act dangerous to human life in violation of Florida State Statutes meant to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives. Terrorist incidents will include the verbal or written communication (bomb threat) indicating the use of a hazardous device against persons or property.

E. Bomb Technician - A member of the Police Department Bomb Squad who has successfully graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigations Hazardous Devices Course and maintains certification from the same.

F. Render Safe Procedure - That action performed by the Bomb Technician to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with a hazardous device.

G. Bomb Transport Vehicle - A vehicle specially designed to transport explosive materials. The Bomb Transport Vehicle is equipped with emergency warning lights, warning signs, and a container designed to vent gas and fragmentation upward in the event of an explosion during transport.

H. Escort Vehicles - Vehicles which are required to escort the Bomb Transport Vehicle in which a bomb or suspected explosive device/ordnance has been placed. The lead and rear vehicle will each be equipped with warning lights, sirens and a public address system.

I. Unified Command - Unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility to an incident to establish a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.

J. SWAT Liaison Officer (SLO)- A Certified Bomb Technician with additional training and certified in the construction, placement and initiation of an explosive breaching charge.

K. Explosive breach: A proven technique which employs explosive materials as a cutting tool creating an opening through a wall, door or barrier to allow quick uninterrupted access into a stronghold or fortified position allowing safe access for members of the SWAT Team.

L. Explosive breaching device: Explosive materials created to achieve an explosive breach.

### **III. BOMB SQUAD FUNCTION:**

A. The administration, supervision, and control of the Bomb Squad is the responsibility of the Bomb Squad Commander or Chief of Police designee. An officer of the rank of Lieutenant or higher will be designated as the Bomb Squad Commander.

B. The Bomb Squad Commander or designee will be advised of any incident involving terrorist threats. The Bomb Squad Commander will evaluate threats with extenuating circumstances and determine the appropriate level of response.

C. The Bomb Squad will respond to all calls where a suspected hazardous device has been located.

- 1. Bomb Squad personnel will determine how to render safe any hazardous device.

D. The Bomb Squad will provide Bomb Technicians to SWAT operations for entry diversions, searches for explosives and booby traps. These officers will be designated as the SWAT Liaison Officer (SLO).

- 1. The SLO will be selected from the Bomb Squad and will serve at the discretion of both the SWAT and Bomb Squad commanders.

- 2. The SLO will maintain current certification through the Hazardous Device School with additional training in the area of explosive breaching.

- a. Breaching certification will be provided from a training institution that is acceptable to both the SWAT and Bomb Squad commanders.

- 3. The SLO will train a minimum of two times per year with the SWAT Team in breaching techniques.

- a. Training will be conducted to allow Bomb Squad officers, to refine existing techniques, as well as testing new techniques and materials.

- b. A minimum of two Bomb Squad technicians will be present during all training, one of whom will serve as the safety officer.

- 4. The SLO will maintain a data log book and complete a post-breach report when explosive breaching devices are used in training or during a SWAT mission.

E. Bomb Technicians will be provided to dignitary protection details.

**IV. PROCEDURE:**

A. Terrorist Threat:

**SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

B. Dispatch Operations will notify the following immediately after receiving the threat:

**SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

C. Procedure for Unit(s) Dispatched:

**SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

**V. CONSIDERATIONS:**

A. An explosive breach will not be employed when:

**SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

**VI. RECORDS:**

A. Following an incident in which the Bomb Squad is utilized, the Commander/Bomb Technician at the scene will prepare and submit a detailed report to the Patrol Division Commander via the Bomb Squad Commander, which may include:

1. A diagram of the incident scene,
2. Copies of written logs relating to the incident, and/or
3. Any suggestions for correction of operational errors or procedural deficiencies.

**VII. REFERENCE:**

- F.S.S. 791.01 Definition of Fireworks.
- SOP # IV-17 Dignitary Protection.
- SOP # IV-25 SWAT Team Function.
- Department of Defense 766 (407-853-9951)
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Job Aid
- Weapon of mass Destruction Threat and Incident Response Card (FBI)
- Explosive hazard and evacuation distance tables (ATF)
- Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Federal Explosives Law and Regulations; ATF P 5400.7 (09/00)

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**Delsa R. Bush, Chief of Police**

Original issue: 05/05/89  
Revised: 01/01/2005  
I.D. # 1491

History: SOP # changed to IV-19 on 01/01/2005  
Old SOP #: 21.05, 6.620.033  
Revision Dates: 09/15/98, 12/15/98, 11/27/2001, 01/01/2005

Job Title Task Files: Patron Sergeant, Dispatch Operations, Crime Scene investigator

Appendix A

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**SECTION DELETED AS IT SHOWS DEPLOYMENT**

- Individuals potentially exposed to a hazardous material should be evacuated and isolated from others. Limit access to the hazardous crime scene area to only those responsible for the rescue of victims or the analysis of unknown materials or devices.
- Telephonic or written threats with no apparent package, device or unknown material which can be found, should be assessed using the following factors: Signs of tampering with ventilation systems, containers which do not belong in an area, foreign materials which have been dispersed, abnormal physical reactions of people in the area and corroborating law enforcement intelligence information are all factors which can be checked to help determine if an evacuation is needed.
- Unknown material/device identification and 24 hour conference calls with WMD field experts should be coordinated through the FBI.

**FOR THREATS OR INCIDENTS INVOLVING WMD MATERIALS OR DEVICES CALL: FBI MIAMI (305) 944-9101 (24 hr)**

**BIOLOGICAL**      **RADIOACTIVE**      **FBI**  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**CHEMICAL**      **BOMB / EXPLOSIVE**

(Appendix B)

**Post Breacher's Report**

SHOT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CHARGE TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

DID CHARGE FUNCTION AS DESIGNED: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST OF ALL EXPLOSIVES USED IN CHARGE:

| <u>Type</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Net Explosive Weight</u> |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|             |               |                             |
|             |               |                             |
|             |               |                             |
|             |               |                             |
|             |               |                             |
|             |               |                             |
|             |               |                             |

Net Explosive Weight Total:

Priming System Utilized:

Material Construction:

Method of Attachment:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Target Description:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Breach Result

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recommendations:

SKETCHES OF TARGET OR CHARGE IS ATTACHED: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

| SLO | ID# | SIGNATURE | DATE |
|-----|-----|-----------|------|
|     |     |           |      |