JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	10-12 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Hostage/Barricaded Persons	REVIEW DATE: Annually - October
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 2008	ACTION DATE:
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I. POLICY

Hostage and barricade situations present extreme danger to officers and citizens. Each hostage/barricade situation is different, but a basic plan may provide officers with guidelines to help defuse the situation safely. Whatever happens, the department expects its officers to react logically and sensibly. Above all, officers shall not fuel a hostage taker's stress but shall strive to contain or limit the situation. The paramount objective in a hostage incident is its peaceful resolution and the safe release of hostages. (Refer to SOG 10-06 Unusual Occurrences and the City of Joplin Local Emergency Operations Plan, if applicable 46.1.2).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to establish general guidelines applicable to a hostage/barricade incident.

III. PROCEDURE (46.1.2)

A. General

The first 10-20 minutes of a hostage/barricade situation are the most emotionally charged and present the greatest danger. Stress is high both among the officers and citizens involved. Normally, there is no need to rush to a solution: time may reduce stress and allow communication to begin. Additionally, time is needed to assess the situation and to secure the surrounding area. The patrol officers who confront hostage incidents shall not undertake any tactics other than what is immediately necessary to protect lives. A hostage situation is designated as an Operation 100 (see SOG 10-07).

B. Dispatcher responsibilities

Since dispatchers may be the first to receive information concerning a hostage/barricade situation, they should gather as much information as possible and transmit it to officers in the field clearly and quickly so that upon arrival at the scene the officers are aware of the dangers.

1. Information gathered by dispatchers should include answers to the following questions. They should try to keep the caller on the telephone until police arrive.

   a. Where is the event taking place?

   b. Where is the complainant calling from (number and location)?

   c. What are the complainant's name and telephone number?

   d. Can the complainant see the scene?

e. Are the suspects armed? With what?

f. How many suspects are there?

g. What do the suspects look like?

h. Are there any other persons involved? If so, how many?

i. Is the officer already there or approaching the scene?

2. At the request of the on-scene supervisor/commander dispatch shall notify the following:

a. Bureau Commanders and the Chief of Police;

b. Page out the S.W.A.T. Team;

c. Call back additional officers and canine;

d. Dispatch fire and ambulance personnel to the scene;

e. Outside agency personnel and/or equipment

C. Responsibilities of first officer and supervisor on scene

The duties and responsibilities of the first officer on the scene include the following:

1. Assess whether a hostage/barricade situation exists. If so, notify that an operation 100 is in effect (see SOG 10-07 Operation 100).

2. Inform dispatch and request the supervisor's presence and additional back-up.

3. Attempt to contain the situation at its present location.

4. Safely remove all innocent persons from the danger area. Those persons who cannot be removed immediately shall be instructed to seek protection where they are if gunfire is taking place. Briefly detain any witnesses to obtain information about the incident.

5. Inform the on-duty supervisor of all pertinent facts upon his or her arrival.

6. Assist the on-duty supervisor in gathering as much information as possible about the situation, including the following:

a. Suspects

i. Location: floor, room, roof, basement?

ii. What types of weapons do they possess (handguns, rifles, hand grenades, dynamite, etc.)?

iii. Is the suspect a criminal (burglar, rapist), mentally ill, militant?

iv. Complete physical description? Mental and physical condition?

v. What is the suspect's purpose?

vi. What crime has the suspect committed?

b. Hostage: physical description (age, height, weight, sex, hair, etc.)? Physical and mental condition?

c. Location of the incident

i. Obtain interior and exterior descriptions.

ii. Identify all possible escape routes.

iii. Determine locations of service (water and electricity) connections.

iv. Determine in which rooms telephones are located.

v. Determine if a police scanner is in the building.

D. Supervisor's responsibilities

Upon arrival at the scene, the supervisor shall assume command of all officers and shall make all appropriate decisions until he or she is relieved by higher authority. Duties and responsibilities of the supervisor include the following:

1. Notify appropriate personnel within the department and support agencies.

a. Notify the chief of police or his designee.

b. After determining the danger of the situation, make the appropriate notifications, which may include call-backs.

c. Calling-up of department personnel: see SOG 10-06, unusual occurrences.

d. Ask the hospital emergency room to maintain an alert to possible injuries.

e. Ask the fire department and EMS to stand by in the immediate area.

f. Request the news media to inform the public to stay out of area. See SOG 4-01, media relations.

2. Establish an inside and outside perimeter to ensure a safe area in which to operate. Assign officers to control the perimeter.

a. Ensure that personnel within the inner perimeter maintain firearms discipline and are relieved by members of a tactical team, if available.

b. Only officers who are guarding the hostage scene or participating in negotiations shall be permitted within the inner perimeter. Pedestrians and vehicles may be permitted within the outer perimeter as the on-scene supervisor determines.

3. Establish a command post in a safe area where persons who are to be involved in the negotiation process and tactical process may meet and confer with the on-scene commanding officer. Assign an officer or other person to record personnel assignments and to develop a chronological log of events at the command post. The logistics officer will keep the P.I.O. updated as to the incident's events.

4. Arrange for the evacuation of any injured persons still in the area.

5. Arrange for and supervise the evacuation of any bystander in the danger area. If bystanders cannot be evacuated, they shall be instructed to seek protection where they are.

6. The S.W.A.T. Operations Commander will ensure that communications are established with the suspect or suspects to determine their demands or intentions. Some guidelines to be followed in establishing communications include the following steps.

   a. Attempt to locate relatives, friends, or neighbors.

   b. If unable to contact the suspect telephonically, use the "throw phone" or the bullhorn.

   c. Make every effort to persuade the suspect to surrender voluntarily before using force.

E. Use of force/chemical agents

The S.W.A.T. Operations commander may authorize the use of force or chemical agents (see SOG 6-03, use of force).

F. Negotiating with barricaded persons/hostage taker

Negotiation involves establishing trust between the hostage taker, requiring "give and take" on both parts. Of primary importance in establishing a dialogue are the following points. Although circumstances may require the initial officer to begin communicating with the suspect, only trained negotiator(s) should communicate with the suspects once assigned.

1. In negotiating, practically all demands are negotiable except:

   a. Supplying the hostage with weapons or ammunition.

   b. Taking additional hostages or exchanging hostages.

G. Chase/surveillance vehicle/control of travel route

The S.W.A.T. Tactical Commander, or the on-scene supervisor in the absence of S.W.A.T., shall ensure that, should the hostage taker get a vehicle, all possible routes of travel are covered by units. Additionally, surveillance vehicles may be assigned to observe the activities of the hostage taker.

H. De-escalation

Once the hostage taker has been captured, the following actions shall be performed:

1. The suspect shall be removed from the scene immediately in a screened unit following an extensive search of his or her person incident to an arrest. The investigating officer shall take the suspect to a place of interrogation.

2. Hostages shall be removed immediately upon capture of the suspect.

   a. The on-scene supervisor shall alert all participants by radio that the hostages are exiting the scene.

   b. Medical treatment shall be provided, if needed.

   c. Find a quiet area so that hostages may be united with their families.

d. Each hostage shall be interviewed to obtain statements.

3. The crime scene shall be preserved until processed for evidence by officers assigned.

a. The area shall remain cordoned off until the investigative supervisor declares it open.

b. Officers who are no longer needed shall be cleared for normal assignments by the on-duty supervisor.

c. Investigations shall be made into any surrounding property damage, e.g., bullet holes in neighboring building or destroyed lawns and gardens. Investigations shall include pictures.

I. After action reports

A comprehensive report shall be submitted to the chief of police on all hostage/ barricade incidents. The report shall be initiated by the by the responding officer. All officers who took part in the incident shall type a supplement to the initial report detailing his or her role and actions.

IV. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies shall comply with this policy.

V. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form a basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.