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**HOSTAGE AND BARRICADED SUSPECT INCIDENTS**

This order specifies procedures for handling hostage and barricaded suspect incidents, establishes negotiation policies, and outlines the duties of responding officers.

**I. DEFINITIONS**

- A. **HOSTAGE INCIDENT.** A hostage incident is a situation where a suspect holds another person against his/her will and where the suspect generally would be in violation of 236 P.C. (False Imprisonment).
- B. **BARRICADED SUSPECT INCIDENT.** A barricaded suspect incident is a situation where a criminal, intent upon evading arrest, takes up a defensive position armed with a gun, explosive, or a weapon capable of harming others and presents a deadly hazard to arresting officers.

**II. POLICY**

- A. **HOSTAGE INCIDENTS.** In the event that a person is being held hostage and normal police procedures fail to bring about his/her release, it is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to use hostage negotiators to attempt a negotiated release of the hostage and the surrender of the suspect.
- B. **BARRICADED SUSPECT INCIDENTS.** In the event that a suspect resists arrest by barricading himself, and normal police procedures fail to bring about his arrest, it is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to use hostage negotiators to attempt a negotiated surrender.

**C. NEGOTIATIONS POLICY**

- 1. **EVALUATION.** The Hostage Negotiation Team will evaluate all available information about the suspect and the situation, and will advise the Operational Commander of the potential for successful negotiation.

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2. **METHODS OF NEGOTIATIONS.** Negotiations will be conducted by telephone, field phone or by voice with negotiators in a secure position. Face-to-face negotiations shall be used only as a last resort and must be authorized by the Operational Commander with the concurrence of the Deputy Chief of Field Operations.
3. **DEMANDS.** The suspect's demands will be evaluated by the Hostage Negotiation Team and relayed to the Operational Commander. Hostage negotiators will not independently make any concessions; any decisions concerning concessions will be made by the Operational Commander.
4. **CESSATION OF NEGOTIATIONS.** If a hostage is seriously injured or killed, all negotiations for concessions will cease; however, the Hostage Negotiation Team may continue contact with the suspect in order to gain tactical advantage.
5. **NECESSARY FORCE.** Nothing in this order shall preclude officers from using necessary force to protect themselves and others from death or serious injury (see DGO 5.01, Use of Force and DGO 5.02, Use of Firearms).

### III. PROCEDURES

- A. **OFFICER'S DUTIES.** When confronted with a hostage or barricaded suspect incident, follow these procedures:
  1. **NOTIFICATION.** Notify Communications Division of the situation.
  2. **EVALUATION.** Request that your field supervisor and the District Captain respond immediately to the scene. If the District Captain is not available, request that the lieutenant respond.
  3. **PERIMETER.** Establish a perimeter around the location.
  4. **COMMAND POST.** Establish a Command Post and notify Communications Division of its location and safe avenues of approach.

**B. DISTRICT CAPTAIN OR LIEUTENANT DUTIES**

1. **EVALUATE.** After arriving at the scene, evaluate the situation, confirm that a hostage or barricaded suspect situation exists, and make the proper notifications (see DGO 8.01, Critical Incident Notification).
2. **COMMAND.** Assume command of the Field Command Post and the responsibility as the Operational Commander.
3. **SPECIALIZED UNITS.** Contact the Communications Division and request:
  - a. Tactical Specialist Team
  - b. Hostage Negotiation Team
  - c. Special Operations Group SWAT Team
4. **NOTIFICATION.** Personally contact the Deputy Chief of the Field Operations Bureau and the Commander or, if applicable, the Night Captain. Use a cellular phone if available.
5. **PERIMETER.** Establish an outer perimeter

**C. COMMAND POSTS.** As the situation develops and various specialized units arrive at the scene, three separate command posts must be established. The locations of these command posts will be determined by the Operational Commander. Whether these three command posts are located together or at separate locations, a system of instantaneous and constant communication between all three must be developed.

1. **OPERATIONAL COMMAND POST/FIELD COMMAND POST.** The Operational Command Post will be the source of all command authority, decisions and media information. It is also responsible for establishing and maintaining an outer perimeter.
2. **HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION COMMAND POST.** The Hostage Negotiation Command Post reports directly to the Operational Commander and maintains constant contact with the Tactical Command Post. It is responsible for establishing contact with the suspect and will be the exclusive source of all negotiation with the suspect.

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3. **TACTICAL COMMAND POST.** The Tactical Command Post reports directly to the Operational Commander and maintains constant contact with the Hostage Negotiation Command Post. It is responsible for developing tactical plans that will gain advantage over the suspect and executing those plans with the approval of the Operational Commander.

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### **References**

*Event Management Manual, SFPD*  
DGO 8.01, Critical Incident Evaluation and Notification  
DGO 8.09, Media Relations