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# Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV) –MedEvac

## 707.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose and scope of this policy is to set guidelines for the proper use, training, care and storage of the Milpitas Police Department's armored rescue vehicle. In this policy, this vehicle will be referred to as Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV).

The ARV is an asset that was acquired by the Milpitas Police Department. The purpose and intent of the acquisition and deployment of this vehicle is to enhance and sustain local and regional preparedness for first responders in major urban areas by allowing for delivery of emergency medical services into on-going hazardous situations. This will allow law enforcement, fire service staff, and medical personnel the ability to safely enter unsecured and unstable areas (warm or hot zone). This vehicle will assist with providing immediate medical assistance, enhancing the ability of first responders to rescue persons in need and help protect first responders at the scene of an emergency situation. The vehicle is also designed to meet tactical needs of law enforcement agencies tasked with responding to acts of violence and/ or terrorism. The purpose is to enhance law enforcement's ability to serve and protect the community.

## 707.2 USE OF THE LENCO MEDEVAC

The use of an Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV) is generally to preserve life and enhance the safety of citizens and officers. The ARV should be deployed in situations where its use would enhance the tactical advantage of officers, aid in the rescue of injured persons, protect life and property, or improve the likelihood that an incident would be resolved without the use of deadly force or other force options.

The ARV is primarily used for Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) incidents, safe transport of SWAT personnel to and from critical incidents, high risk warrant service operations, dangerous high risk tactical operations, high risk rescue operations, training, providing emergency medical staff and/or Tactical Emergency Medicine (TEMS) personnel, delivering equipment, and other rescue capabilities. It may also be used for community engagement efforts and other applications deemed appropriate and approved by the SWAT Lieutenant, Division Captain or Chief of Police.

## 707.3 DEPLOYMENT

An ARV will only be deployed in a manner consistent with the guidelines in this policy. Approval to deploy an ARV will be the responsibility of the Field Services Division Captain or his/her designee. A Watch Commander may authorize the deployment of an ARV if there is an immediate need to prevent loss of life or great bodily injury. Upon deployment, the Watch Commander shall notify the SWAT Lieutenant as soon as practical. In most cases where the Watch Commander authorized the deployment of an ARV, the SWAT Lieutenant will call-out two (2) SWAT Officers to relieve the patrol officers in charge of the ARV at the scene of an ARV deployment.

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Nothing in this policy is meant to preclude the immediate deployment of the ARV to perform an officer or citizen rescue, to save lives that are in immediate danger of great bodily injury or death or to deliver the ARV to the scene of a callout.

The Division Captain should be notified of all deployments of the ARV as soon as possible after a deployment.

#### **707.3.1 TACTICAL OPERATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND ENFORCEMENT**

Deployment of an ARV should be considered in the following circumstances;

- During incidents involving violent felonies;
- Responding to persons with a history of extreme violence involving firearms, explosives or other dangerous weapons;
- When information is present that the suspect has used, intends to use or is likely to use extreme violence against citizens or law enforcement personnel; and
- At a scene of an incident where a suspected or actual explosive device is located.

With full consideration for the safety of the occupants, an ARV may be used to breach a structure with the vehicle's ram attachment. Using an ARV for this purpose is appropriate only after a clear articulated need exist and only when; (1) a search warrant is obtained and the issuing judge authorized the use of the ARV to breach a structure; and (2) when the ram was utilized, officers reasonably believed that evidence inside the premises was presently being destroyed, or (3) there was an immediate threat of resistance from the occupants which posed a serious danger to officers or citizens. Nothing in this section is intended to prevent the use of an ARV to conduct rescue operations to prevent loss of life of great bodily injury.

An ARV will not be deployed at incidents that do not involve actual, threatened or suspected violence or investigations of misdemeanor crimes, unless the crime involves a firearm. In the absence of actual, threatened or suspected violence, an ARV may be deployed during natural disasters, rescue/emergency operations that necessitate the deployment of the ARV's equipment and capabilities. Examples include but are not limited to the following;

- Use of onboard chemical agent detection equipment to assist first responders.
- Use of night vision equipment to locate missing and/or at risk persons.
- Use of onboard SCBA air system during an operation.

Generally, an ARV will not be utilized in crowd control situations or during times of civil unrest, protest or demonstrations unless clear articulable facts dictate the need to deploy the ARV (shots fired, suspected violence involving firearms, actual or suspected presence of explosives, etc.).

#### **707.3.2 RESCUE OPERATIONS**

An ARV may be utilized to perform rescue operations of citizens or officers. The ARV may be deployed to the scene of an incident involving hazardous chemicals or materials and may utilize onboard equipment to assist with the response and successful mitigation of the situation. The ARV has the capability to deliver law enforcement personnel specially trained in hazardous material operations to the scene of emergencies requiring this level of expertise.

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#### **707.3.3 PRE-PLANNED OPERATIONS**

Any sworn member of the Milpitas Police Department may request to deploy an ARV in a pre-planned operation by making the request to the Field Services Division Captain or his/her designee. The request should include, but is not limited to; the date and time frame of the operation; the location(s) of the operation; and the reason why the ARV is necessary for the success of the operation. The Captain or his/her designee will be responsible for approving/denying the request.

#### **707.3.4 PRE-PLANNED SPECIAL EVENTS**

With the approval of the Division Captain, an ARV may be staged at the location of a pre-planned special event for the purpose of providing a rapid response to acts of extreme violence. The vehicle should be parked and staged in a manner appropriate for the circumstances. Each event Incident Commander is responsible for communicating the intended use of the ARV to the SWAT Lieutenant prior to deployment. If approval is granted, a trained ARV driver will be assigned to deliver and provide security for the vehicle.

#### **707.3.5 PUBLIC RELATIONS**

An ARV may be deployed for public relations purposes, such as charity events, law enforcement demonstrations and other special events, with the approval of the Division Captain. If approval is granted, a trained ARV driver will be assigned to deliver and provide security for the vehicle.

#### **707.4 ALLIED AGENCY REQUEST**

Non-Emergency request for deployment of the ARV by an allied agency will be made through the on-duty Watch Commander who will then contact the Division Captain for authorization. If there is an allied agency request for an immediate ARV deployment to an emergency to assist in life-saving operations, the Watch Commander may authorize the deployment of the vehicle pursuant to Section 707.3 of this policy.

Upon approving an allied agency's request, two officers trained in ARV deployment will be assigned to deliver the ARV to the requesting agency. It is recommended that one officer drive the ARV and one officer assist with escorting the ARV in a marked patrol vehicle. The officer(s) will respond to the incident and deploy the ARV per the orders of the Incident Commander of the allied agency. Milpitas Officers will not deploy an ARV if the deployment conflicts with Milpitas Police Department's policies, procedures, practices or established law. Officers arriving on scene with the ARV will act as operators of the vehicle and security for the vehicle.

MPD officers deployed with an ARV should not be directly involved in the tactical operations of the allied agency unless specifically requested to do so by the requesting agency. If the MPD officers are asked to participate in any part of the Allied Agency's operation other than the operation of the ARV, the officer(s) shall contact the Division Captain as soon as practical and brief the Division Captain on the intended actions of the officers and allied agency. This policy is not intended to restrict officers from taking action if necessary to prevent loss of life or great bodily injury.

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If the allied agency's request for an ARV develops into an extended operation, the officers deploying the vehicle will contact the Division Captain and advise him/her of the situation. The Division Captain will be responsible for ensuring relief officers are deployed as necessary.

If multiple simultaneous requests are made for the ARV, the Division Captain will evaluate the situation and determine which request takes priority based on the nature of the incidents.

The Division Captain shall be notified when the ARV is deployed outside of city limits.

#### **707.5 TRAINING**

Officers are to be trained in the operation of the ARV prior to use. Training requirements will be set by the Division Captain in cooperation with the Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC) Training Manager. Training will include knowledge of this policy, rules of the road and basic knowledge of electronic/mechanical functions on the vehicle. The training will also include a driving exercise. SWAT personnel will receive advanced training and are expected to maintain a higher level of operational knowledge and expertise.

Only MPD personnel who have completed training and possess a valid California Driver's License will be authorized to drive/operate the ARV, unless a delayed deployment of an ARV would result in serious bodily injury or death.

The Division Captain or his/her designee is responsible for training officers on proper use, driving techniques and ensuring the vehicle is properly serviced and maintained.

#### **707.6 DOCUMENTATION**

Each deployment of an ARV shall be documented in a police report, a SWAT After Action Report or on the ARV Deployment Log. Training shall be documented and forwarded to the MPD Training Unit.

#### **707.7 OPERATING/STORAGE/MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES**

##### Backing

- (a) When operating the ARV in reverse and when persons, equipment or other property is within the immediate area of the ARV, a ground guide or spotter should be used unless officer safety would be jeopardized.

##### Inventory

- (a) The MPD officer operating the ARV during the deployment shall ensure that all of the vehicle's equipment has been returned to the ARV once the deployment is completed. The SWAT Sergeant shall ensure quarterly inventories/inspections are completed and a list of the equipment is stored inside of each ARV.

##### Fueling

- (a) Prior to securing the ARV after deployment, the MPD officer operating the ARV during the deployment shall ensure that the vehicle has sufficient fuel and is ready for re-deployment.

##### **Diesel Fuel**

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**Storage**

- (a) The ARV will be stored in designated parking locations on the Milpitas Police Department campus unless authorization for an alternative storage location is granted by the Division Captain.

**Damage**

- (a) If the ARV is damaged, the MPD officer operating the ARV during the deployment shall report the damage to the SWAT Lieutenant as soon as possible and complete a Vehicle Damage Control Report.