



Cathedral City Police

2023 Military Equipment Annual Use Report

Background

- California State Assembly Bill 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their local governing body (Mayor and City Council) by adopting a military equipment use policy. This bill was approved by the Governor on September 30, 2021.
 - Cathedral City Police met with the city council in April of 2022 and had their military equipment program approved by city council.
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Annual Report Requirement

- The annual military equipment report shall, at a minimum, include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment:
 - (1) A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use.
 - (2) A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment.
 - (3) The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response.
 - (4) The total annual cost for each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be provided for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report.
 - (5) The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment.
 - (6) If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.
- (b) Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report pursuant to this section, the law enforcement agency shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the general public may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report and the law enforcement agency's funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

Military Equipment Purpose

Cathedral City Police have a varied inventory of military equipment. Although the agency possesses military equipment, it does not mean that it is used on a daily basis. Critical incidents and life-threatening crimes are often unpredictable and dynamic. These incidents can exceed the capabilities of a standard patrol operation equipment. Our military equipment options assist our Commanders, Sergeants, Officers and Special Assignment Units in bringing dangerous situations to a safe and effective resolution. When the equipment is utilized, it is used by officers who are trained, professional and safe in the use of the equipment.

Cathedral City Police are committed to our community and ensuring a sense of well-being and responsiveness. We utilize select military equipment at community events as a way to create public awareness, transparency, education and to build trust. Military equipment may also be deployed at community events to ensure public safety for all who attend and enjoy the vast events our community has to offer.

Military Equipment Inventory

Unmanned, remotely piloted powered aerial vehicles (3)

Purpose: Search and located reported missing children or at-risk adults. Search and Rescue Operations to locate lost or injured hikers. A law enforcement specific application involving Aerial Drones are used for open terrain or large field searches as a force-multiplier to assist in high-risk apprehensions of armed violent suspects. Aerial drones can be used as an interior search tool to locate suspects barricaded inside a residence or commercial structure.

Non-handheld breaching rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature (2)

Purpose: Explosive breaching tools are utilized to open barricaded or reinforced doors. Avon frangible shotgun ammunition is used to breach doors and points of entry on fortified doors or structures. The rounds are used to impact door hinges, doorknobs and locks.

Assault Weapons defined under PC 30510 & PC 30515 (81 AR-15 Rifles, 3- .308 Rifles, 2- SMG, 3- MP5)

Purpose: Inventory includes AR style fully automatic rifles and select fire subcompact rifles. Semi-automatic Benelli shotguns. Increased accuracy and precision at long range distances.

Military Equipment Inventory

Flashbang grenades and explosive breaching tools (39)

Purpose: Light sound diversionary devices (LSDD-Flashbangs) are diversionary devices used to minimize risk to all parties through the temporary distraction or disorientation of armed and violent suspects that pose significant danger to the officers and community. The effects of the LSDD reduce a suspect's reactionary capabilities and allow for momentary disorientation, which creates tactical advantage. LSDD is a hand delivered device and generally deployed on the exterior of structures. They are also utilized inside residence during critical life-threatening incidents. Provides a humane fright of aggressive dogs that pose a threat to officers.

Explosive breaching tools are used to breach fortified structures to establish a point of entry.

Explosive charges are fashioned to produce little to no fragmentation at the time of detonation.

Explosive breaching effectively reduces the time spent overcoming a fortified door or structure. The reduction in time mitigating a hardened structure increases officer safety and the element of surprise. Blast injuries are reduced by using low yield explosives that mechanically overcome door frames and locking mechanisms. Explosive breaching mandates extensive schooling and certification processes.

Military Equipment Inventory

Tear Gas (143)

Purpose: Chemical agents are deployed through various means to include hand delivery and weapon launchable. Munitions are either 37mm or 40 mm caliber, shotgun ferret rounds or cannister shotgun launched ordinance. Hand delivered chemical agents are placed in metal burn boxes to reduce fire hazards.

Command and Control Vehicles built or modified to facilitate the operational control & direction of units (1)

Purpose: Command vehicles are built in various platforms to include ½ ton pickup chassis, vans, trailers, and RV style configurations. Vehicles are built to better assist in command and control during law enforcement operations, natural disasters, and public safety issues. Vehicles are designed with additional communication abilities, computers, white boards, lighting, generators, and mission essential supplies.

40mm projectile launchers (9)

Purpose: Less lethal 40mm launchers and rubber bullet munitions. Munitions are configured for high and low energy impact. Munitions have the additional benefit as a barrier round for breaking vehicle and residential glass so that chemical munitions can be deployed. 40mm less lethal has been effective in disarming violent suspects, armed suspects, and subjects who are suicidal with minimal injury and risk to the person, law enforcement or the public.

Military Equipment Inventory

40mm projectile launchers (9 launchers & 185 rounds)

Purpose: Less lethal 40mm launchers and rubber bullet munitions. Munitions are configured for high and low energy impact. Munitions have the additional benefit as a barrier round for breaking vehicle and residential glass so that chemical munitions can be deployed. 40mm less lethal has been effective in disarming violent suspects, armed suspects, and subjects who are suicidal with minimal injury and risk to the person, law enforcement or the public.

Bean Bag Launchers (23 shotguns & 156 rounds)

Purpose: Less lethal bean bag is utilized through a marked/orange colored easily identifiable less lethal shotgun. The bean bag round is a small led pellet filled munition mad of high-density cloth. Bean bag is the predecessor to 40mm less lethal having similar benefits as other less lethal platforms.

Rubber Bullet Launchers (10 munitions)

Purpose: Sting ball grenades, launch .38 caliber rubber bullets and are hand delivered. Generalized use in a tactical operation is infrequent in use and deployment. Search warrants, violent combative subjects, or hostage rescue scenarios are criteria for consideration and use against suspects. 40mm and 37mm launchers are capable of deploying rubber bullet munitions. An effective less lethal tool used routinely with success.

Military Equipment Use 2023

Cathedral City Police Department participate in a regional SWAT team (Desert Regional SWAT) consisting of three agencies, Palm Springs Police, Cathedral City Police and Indio Police. When the team is activated for a critical incident or special event, SWAT officers from each agency will assist in the city where the incident occurred. Palm Springs and Indio Police also have military equipment which they utilized in conjunction with Cathedral City Police during those critical incidents.

In 2023 Desert Regional SWAT utilized military equipment in Cathedral City on three critical incidents. The incidents ranged in nature from search warrants for armed attempt murder suspects to an illegal assault weapons manufacture. We were also present at three community functions and two special events.

We also assisted with our partnering agencies on five critical incidents, four special events outside of Cathedral City, as well as the Coachella Music Festival and Stagecoach Music Festival.

Military Equipment Use 2023

- Cathedral City Police Officers and Special Assignment Officers deployed with 40mm Less Lethal devices throughout the year. No 40mm projectile rounds were used during the year.
- Cathedral City SWAT Officers used one Noise Flash Diversion Devices during this last year. The use of the NFDD occurred during a search warrant for weapons manufacturing. Any other devices were used specific to training only.
- Cathedral City SWAT Officers did not utilize any tear gas during the calendar year outside of training.
- The use of all military equipment in 2023 enabled officers to bring violent incidents to a safe successful conclusion.

Military Equipment Use 2023

- Cathedral City Police utilized their UAVs 100 times during the year of 2023. The uses varied from search and rescue, suspect searches, search warrants, in conjunction with SWAT operations, documenting and photographing crime scenes and calls for service in the south hills of Cathedral City.
- In the calendar year of 2023, Cathedral City Police did not have any unauthorized use of its military equipment. All uses of equipment were within the scope, purpose and met policy requirements. Additionally, there were no complaints made about the use of military equipment.

Military Equipment Costs

Unmanned, remotely piloted powered aerial vehicles

Expected Life Span: 5-7 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$3,000.

Non-handheld battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature.

Expected Life Span: Until expended. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$500.

Assault Weapons defined under PC 30510 & PC 30515

Expected Life Span: No expiration. Fiscal Impact: \$0- \$20,000.

Flashbang grenades and explosive breaching tools

Expected Life Span: 5 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$4,000.

Military Equipment Costs

Tear Gas

Expected Life Span: 5-7 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$4,000.

Command and Control Vehicles

Expected Life Span: 15-20 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$5,000.

40mm projectile launchers

Expected Life Span: Launchers = No expiration. Fiscal Impact: \$0- \$3,000.

40mm Round = 5 years.

Bean Bag Launchers

Expected Life Span: Launchers = No expiration

Bean bag rounds = 5 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$3,000.

Rubber Bullet Launchers

Expected Life Span: 5 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$500.

Military Equipment Costs

When military equipment has reached significantly low levels, or have been exhausted, or the department requires acquisition of any of the items listed, the Department may order equipment as needed in each calendar year by adhering to the City and Department rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

Cost estimated with the military equipment are not a guaranteed expenditure each year. Some annual cycles may require no purchases while others may call for replacing items due to the service life coming to an end.

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