


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 4.39</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: TACTICAL RESPONSE TO IN-PROGRESS VIOLENT INCIDENTS</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Policies and Procedures Tactical Response to Violent Incidents Violent Incidents 	<p>State Certification Standards: 5.17</p>		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to prescribe the policies and procedures of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office in regards to the Tactical Response to Violent In-Progress Situations.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that personnel are prepared to respond to a location in the event of a violent in-progress situation that requires an immediate law enforcement response.

DISCUSSION

Law enforcement personnel need to know the tactical response procedures to be followed when an incident involves a hostile armed suspect(s) in an occupied school, government building, or other public facility.

On-duty personnel may need to respond as quickly as possible to neutralize any individual(s) actively engaged in wounding and/or killing others in a school or other public facility and to render appropriate assistance to those who may have been injured.

For the purposes of this General Order, the suspect must be engaged in, or threatening to engage in, the commission of a potentially life threatening act that poses imminent danger to the safety of others and that may produce multiple casualties involving those in the immediate area.

I. GENERAL

- A. Regardless of rank or assignment (except those performing duty in the Rabun County Detention Center and involved in court proceedings), whether in uniform or plain clothes, all on-duty deputies are expected to immediately take the following response measures should an in-progress shooting incident be reported at a school or public facility.
- B. Deputies closest to the incident will immediately respond code 3 unless already involved in a life threatening or other emergency situation. Normally this will include:
 - 1. All Uniform Patrol Deputies operating within the area of the incident;
 - 2. Warrant Units, Criminal Investigations Division personnel, and all on-duty SRT team and hostage negotiation personnel (GBI: 404-244-2600); and supporting SWAT Teams (GSP SWAT: 770-535-6941/ Hall Co SWAT: 678-780-9063, Sheriff Couch)
 - 3. Off Duty SRT team members when called out in accordance with their policies and procedures.
- C. All other on-duty personnel will remain "in-service" and be prepared to respond when directed by the on-scene supervisor until the situation is terminated or resolved.
- D. Only other life threatening, emergency calls for service will be handled. All non-emergency requests for assistance or other routine departmental activities will be handled when the situation permits.

II. FIRST RESPONDING DEPUTY PROCEDURES (10-01-07)

- A. When responding to a shooting incident at a school building, the first responding deputy will report directly to the Incident Command or locate school officials and attempt to make contact with the principal or designee to establish that a shooting is in progress and to gain as much additional information about the situation as possible. Responding deputies must obtain the location of any School Resource Officer on scene for further intelligence, information and assistance.
- B. The deputy will broadcast over the radio any additional information obtained and then enter the building for the express purpose of locating, confronting, and neutralizing the armed suspect (s). It shall be the deputy's option to use such force as appropriate to stop the situation, up to and including deadly force.
- C. Initial entry will be made as soon as another deputy arrives on the scene unless additional deputies response time would be too great and waiting for their arrival would significantly jeopardize the lives or safety of others.
- D. If the first responding deputy is not in uniform, she/he will enter the building wearing assigned body armor and whatever identification is available, as long as the identification is visible from the back and front.

III. ACTIONS OF FIRST ENTRY DEPUTY

- A. The first entry deputy must:

1. Be prepared to engage the suspect(s);
 2. Use such force as necessary to stop the shooting
 3. Maintain radio contact with other responding deputies; and
 4. Provide intelligence about the scene, movement of the suspect(s), and need for additional entry personnel.
- B. Should it appear the situation is a hostage or barricaded incident and the lives of others are not in imminent danger, first entry deputies will isolate and contain the area, relay as much information to the on-scene supervisor as possible, and await further instructions.
- C. The principle objective should be to stabilize the situation, to reduce subject(s) tension, and to prevent the situation of escalating.
- D. All reasonable measures will be taken to avoid confrontation with the suspect(s) in favor of controlling and containing the situation until the arrival of trained tactical team and hostage negotiation personnel.
- E. Follow-up deputies who arrive at the incident scene will deploy around the incident location and will be prepared to enter the building as back-up to the first entry deputy(s) or to establish and internal perimeter and render any assistance to wounded or evacuating personnel.
- F. Unless otherwise directed, on-duty SRT team members should provide backup to the initial entry deputy.
- G. Other arriving SRT/SWAT team personnel will deploy as directed by their commander.

IV. FIRST RESPONDING SUPERVISOR DUTIES

- A. Unless performing duties as the initial entry deputy, the closest supervisor to the scene, regardless of rank or duty assignment, will assume command of all departmental law enforcement personnel until otherwise directed.
- B. When notified by Rabun County Central Communications of an in-progress shooting incident at a school or other public building, the Watch Commander will broadcast a "10-3, 10-33 tactical alert" and instruct the dispatcher to rebroadcast the tactical alert on all agency radio channels.
- C. Unless otherwise directed, the main radio zone talk group will be the frequency for all departmental response personnel.
- D. The first responding supervisor will obtain as much information as possible about the incident and deploy additional personnel to either enter the building or assume perimeter security around the threatened area.

V. RESPONSE OF ADDITIONAL DEPUTIES

- A. Whenever possible, the entry of additional deputies should be made in teams of two or three deputies. Their duties are to:
 - 1. Provide immediate support to the first entry deputy(s);
 - 2. Locate, neutralize, or place in custody the perpetrator(s); and
 - 3. Pass-along reconnaissance and intelligence information to other on-scene deputies.
- B. Assistance must be given as soon as possible to personnel who are wounded or who may be attempting to evacuate the threatened area.

VI. EVACUATION

- A. It can be expected that a shooting incident will produce mass panic and that individuals will take all necessary steps to flee from the perpetrators. Others not in immediate danger, may elect to remain locked in safe areas within the building until it is safe to leave
- B. In a school setting, students, staff, faculty, and visitors will be directed to take cover within classrooms, offices, and other safe areas that can be locked and secured, preventing outside entry.
- C. No attempt should be made to evacuate individuals "locked-down" until the situation is stabilized and it is declared safe to do so unless the perpetrator directly threatens such individuals and their immediate evacuation becomes required.
- D. Soon as possible and it is safe to do so, the on-scene commander should form teams of available deputies to search for and recover individuals in the building.
- E. The first priority must be to locate and treat any wounded personnel who are unable to leave under their own power.
- F. As individuals are located, deputies should escort them from the building by providing them with armed protection. Deputies may be required to reenter the building numerous times until all individuals have been evacuated.
- G. When it is safe to do so, deputies should be accompanied by school officials when attempting to make contact with those who are "locked-down" within classrooms and other secure areas.
- H. Evacuated individuals must be directed to proceed as quickly and orderly as possible to designated safe locations where their identification can be established and where accountability of all persons can be maintained.
- I. Those being removed should be told to depart from the building with their hands on top of their heads until it can be reasonably determined that they are not involved in perpetrating the incident.

VII. SITE MANAGEMENT

- A. It is imperative that control of the area surrounding the incident location be achieved as quickly as possible. There will only be a short period of time to limit vehicular and pedestrian traffic before news of

the event becomes public and concerned parents, friends, and members of the media and others attempt to gain access to the threatened school or facility.

- B. The first task is to establish an inner perimeter and, when manpower becomes available, an outer perimeter to prevent entry by non-law enforcement personnel. Designated control points for each county high school and middle school should be established and used as needed.
- C. Non-county law enforcement officers, such as from Georgia State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, or Department of Transportation should be used when available for outer perimeter control functions.
- D. The locations for the forward command post, public safety staging areas, and media assembly areas for incidents occurring at county high schools and middle schools will be identified and all personnel will be advised of the locations.
- E. All responding Fire and EMS personnel will be directed to remain at designated staging areas until the incident scene is declared safe for their entry.

VIII. INCIDENT COMMAND AND CONTROL

- A. The On-Scene Commander will be responsible for supervising all law enforcement personnel operating at and within the inner perimeter.
- B. Unless otherwise directed, the senior Sheriff's Office officer will assume Tactical Command when the incident occurs in a school or public facility within the unincorporated area of the county.
- C. In all situations involving the deployment of the responding SRT to the incident scene, a member of the Command Staff will assume tactical command.
- D. The On-Scene Commander will maintain communications with and receive directions from the various senior law enforcement officials operating at the county's forward command post.

IX. TACTICAL COMMAND POST

- A. The department's On-Scene Commander will establish a command post at a safe location normally outside the inner perimeter, out of direct sight of the perpetrator, and as close to the incident scene as is appropriate in order to effectively command the situation.
- B. Co-located at the Tactical Command Post will be the SRT and hostage negotiation team supervisors and other key supervisory and support personnel as designated to resolve the incident.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Departmental personnel responding to the incident will use Radio Zone MRD unless otherwise directed.
- B. All other on-duty personnel will use assigned talk group and be prepared to respond to the incident scene when directed.

- C. The Tactical Commander will monitor assigned groups and will use it for all requests to EMA personnel for additional assistance.

XI. INCIDENT COMMAND

- A. Because of the potential complexity of any school shooting incident and the number of agencies that will respond, a unified command structure will be followed. Under this concept, the senior officers representing the on-scene law enforcement agencies at the incident will share incident command.
- B. These officials will normally operate at the designated forward command post located near the outer perimeter.
- C. The principle responsibilities of these officials are to:
 - 1. Provide support and resources to the Tactical Commander;
 - 2. Establish the outer perimeter, public safety staging area, media assembly area; and
 - 3. Coordinate the evacuation of individuals in the threatened and adjacent areas to the reunification site or other safe location.
- D. Command Staff will determine if there is a need to initiate the recall of all off-duty personnel in accordance with the department's Mobilization General Order once a shooting incident has been confirmed.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County