



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-2000
Officer Involved Critical Incident - Tiedeman Road at I-480
West, Brooklyn, OH 44144, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Use of Force Policy Received
Involves: Southwest Enforcement Bureau (O)
Activity Date: 07/01/2025
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher received the Use of Force Policies utilized by the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) SWAT Team at the time of this incident.

Four policies related to the use of force were provided and included the following:

- Less lethal impact munitions Policy – SEB 105
- Marksman observer team policy – SEB 107
- Use of deadly force policy for marksman observer – SEB 106
- Use of force – SEB - 104

The documents received have been attached to this investigative report for further review.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. 2025-06-28 LESS LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS POLICY SEB-105
2. 2025-06-28 MARKSMAN OBSERVER TEAM POLICY SEB-107
3. 2025-06-28 USE OF DEADLY FORCE POLICY FOR MARKSMAN OBSERVER SEB-106
4. 2025-06-28 USE OF FORCE SEB-104

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SOUTHWEST ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT · BOMB DISPOSAL

Policy Number: SEB-105

Subject: LESS LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS POLICY

Issued by: Asst. Unit Commander Tarase

Effective Date: June 11, 2013

Review:

*"This policy statement and the procedures there under are intended for **Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB)** use only. The policies, procedures, and regulations are for internal administrative purposes and are not intended to create any higher legal standard of care or liability in an evidentiary sense than is created by law. Violations of internal SEB policies, procedures, regulations, or rules form the basis for disciplinary action. Violations of law form the basis for civil and/or criminal sanctions to be determined in the proper judicial setting, not through administrative procedures of SEB."*

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide MEMBERS of Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) with guidance of Less Lethal Impact Munitions.

II. POLICY

A. MEMBERS of SEB (herein referred to as MEMBERS) are required to affect the arrest of persons or to ensure public safety during times the unit has been activated in an incident/situation. The degree of force used, depends upon what the MEMBER perceives as objectively reasonable based upon the totality of the circumstances confronting the MEMBER at the time. Further, the MEMBER may escalate the application of force to overcome either increasing resistance or an increasing danger to public safety.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. For the purposes of this policy, less lethal impact projectiles are defined as those munitions that can be fired, launched or otherwise propelled for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance or preventing serious injury without posing a significant potential of causing death. Examples of less lethal impact projectiles include kinetic batons, rubber pellets and other like items.

IV. PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO USE LESS LETHAL IMPACT PROJECTILES



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- A. Only personnel, who have successfully completed an authorized training course or scheduled training through SEB in the use of less lethal projectiles, shall be authorized to deploy them during an actual operation.

V. JUSTIFICATION FOR USE

- A. The employment and use of these devices are decisive actions that can assist in achieving the goal of protection of life and property and/or the restoration of order. They should be considered whenever the use of less lethal options would assist in enabling an arrest, restoring order and/or reducing the risk of more serious injury. Circumstances justifying the use of these munitions include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. To bring an unlawful incident/situation safely and effectively under control.
 - 2. To restrain or control a resistant individual.
 - 3. Subduing vicious animals.
 - 4. To protect themselves or another from physical harm.
 - 5. As directed by the Unit Commander or designee.

VI. REPORTING

- A. The use of less lethal impact munitions constitutes a use of force and, as such, must be reported in accordance with the standards set forth in this manual (see Use of Force).

VII. INJURED PERSONS

- A. Any person subjected to an impact by less lethal munitions shall be evaluated by emergency medical personnel prior to incarceration.

VIII. STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION AND HANDLING

- A. Storage of less lethal munitions should conform to manufacturer's recommendations. Generally, they should be stored in their original container in a cool, dry place. Munitions which have been removed from their original container shall be clearly and conspicuously identified as "less lethal" to prevent confusion with lethal munitions. Under no circumstances shall less lethal impact projectiles be kept in a manner that could lead a person to confuse them with lethal munitions. Generally, they should be stored in a separate container, cabinet, or separate shelf, which is clearly marked.



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- B. Except as previously noted, less lethal impact projectiles should be transported in a safe and secured manner. This not only protects the munitions from possible damage, but also insures the safety of team members.
- C. Under no circumstances shall any person be authorized to tamper with or alter in any manner, any less lethal projectiles. Misfires and duds shall be recovered, rendered safe and removed from service. Appropriate measures shall be made to remove any munitions from service which have malfunctioned or been damaged. This procedure shall be handled by any member of SEB who is an instructor in Specialty Impact Munitions.
- D. Upon receiving munitions for actual deployment, that person shall be responsible for ensuring that these munitions are “less lethal” and are used in accordance with this policy.

IX. PROCUREMENT AND INVENTORY CONTROL

- A. These munitions shall be procured in accordance with the purchasing procedures established by SEB. Inventory, serviceability and tracking shall be the responsibility of the Specialty Munitions Instructor or his designee responsible for handling other types of munitions.

By Order of

Unit Commander

SEB Chairman



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I have read the *LESS LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS POLICY* and understand it.

Printed Name

Signature

Date



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Policy Number: SEB-107

Subject: MARKSMAN/OBSERVER (SCOUT) TEAM POLICY

Issued by: Asst. Unit Commander Tarase

Effective Date: June 11, 2013

Review:

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the Marksman/Observer (SCOUT) Team of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) with guidelines for their use and deployment. Equipment needs and recommendations for the SCOUT Teams are beyond that stated in the SEB Personnel Uniform and Equipment Policy in effect.

II. POLICY

The members assigned to SCOUT Teams participate in duties that are police marksman specific. These duties require the SCOUT Team to perform some duties that need specific procedures to ensure SEB member safety as well as the effectiveness of the operation. The duties also require SCOUT Team members to maintain or have access to equipment specific to the mission that they are assigned.

III. PROCEDURES

A. SCOUT Team equipment should consist of the following in addition to that specified in *SEB Personal Uniform and Equipment Policy*.

1. Scoped rifle capable of 1.0 minute of angle groups @100 yards
2. Match grade ammunition for rifle
3. Case and cleaning kit for rifle
4. Optics, spotting scope, or binoculars
5. Ear protection
6. Data book for rifle



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7. Pencil/pen and paper
8. Ground pad or poncho
9. Knife
10. Canteen and food to last without re-supply or relief for up to eight hours

B. Incident deployment

1. Prior to initial deployment, all SCOUT Teams (2 man team) shall be briefed of the incident and specific operational orders.
2. Region Commanders shall designate a side of the location that the team is requested to have observation of and brief the team. The SCOUT Team will have the discretion of tactics to position themselves in the best obtainable position and location to accomplish their goal.
3. The individual team shall locate a position that is at a sufficient distance from the location to avoid compromise. They also will be within range to positively identify targets and provide an effective neutralizing shot if required to do so.
4. Once the SCOUT Teams are in position they will advise the Command Post of their exact location. The SCOUT Teams should utilize the "clock face deployment" procedure when giving their position. The location of any inner perimeter team members must also be relayed to the SCOUT Teams so that cross fire is avoided.

C. Methods of target engagement

1. Protection of Life.

If a marksman takes a shot, he or his spotter shall immediately notify the Command Post that the shot was taken and of the known results of this shot. This is required for the safety of any hostages and other SEB Members.

2. Marksman Initiated Hostage Rescue.

Entry Team Leader advises the SCOUT Teams over the radio that he has control and begins a countdown. The deployed SCOUT Teams will give an audio acknowledgement over the radio.

When the Entry Team Leader reaches two (2) he will un-key the radio and listen for the SCOUT Teams to call "no shot" or he will initiate on the shot being fired.



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3. Simultaneous Shots by Multiple Marksmen.

Completed as in (2) above.

D. Observation Mission

1. Observation and intelligence gathering are the primary role of the SCOUT Team.
2. SCOUT Teams shall keep the Command Post advised of any pertinent information that they gather. This will be communicated to the Command Post via radio using brief descriptions as to not tie up the radio. The use of cellular telephone by the Observer is permissible.

By Order of

Unit Commander

SEB Chairman



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I have read the ***MARKSMAN/OBSERVER (SCOUT) TEAM POLICY*** and understand it.

Printed Name

Signature

Date



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT · BOMB DISPOSAL

Policy Number: SEB-106

Subject: USE OF DEADLY FORCE POLICY FOR MARKSMAN/OBSERVER TEAMS

Issued by: Asst. Unit Commander Tarase

Effective Date: June 11, 2013

Review:

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the members of Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) Marksman/Observer (SCOUT) Team policy on the use of deadly force in hostage situations where Hostage rescue options have been ordered. This policy is specific for the SCOUT Teams. The current Southwest Enforcement Bureau Policy and Procedure Guidelines will be followed for all other use of force incidents.

II. POLICY

The Marksman/Observer Team members, during a hostage situation, when necessary to rescue any hostages, may utilize deadly force to preserve the life of any hostages or SEB Members.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Hostage Rescue

1. Whenever possible, reasonable efforts will be made to resolve hostage incidents peacefully and affect the safe release of the hostage(s) and apprehension of the suspect.
2. Often during hostage situations, suspect(s) have either injured or killed hostages, or threatened to do so. Given the dynamics of a hostage situation, Command Personnel cannot fail to respond in the hope that threatened acts will not be carried out.



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3. To effectively manage hostage situations, Command Personnel must establish certain priorities concerning human life if hostage rescue capability is to exist. SEB philosophy shall dictate the priority of life as follows:
 - a. Lives of hostages and lives of innocent persons in the area
 - b. Lives of police/rescue personnel
 - c. Lives of suspects/criminals
4. These priorities are not meant to infer that the life of a suspect is unimportant. It does establish that the lives of hostages and innocent persons will not be put at risk to avoid a deadly force resolution.
5. Based upon defined priorities of life and the on-going threat to hostages, citizens, and law enforcement personnel, it may become necessary for tactical personnel to resolve the incident through the use of lethal force.
6. Due to the ever-changing characteristics of a hostage incident, the window of opportunity for this method of resolution to take place may only exist for a matter of seconds. If the policy and procedures are not in place for action to be immediately taken, and the opportunity is lost, it may not re-occur. In this case failure to take decisive action may cost the life of a hostage.
7. Tactical experts nationwide, as well as the International Chiefs of Police Association and the National Tactical Officers Association, have long supported what has been described as the "open air option." Once specific criteria are met, any team member with the opportunity and capability to resolve the situation with lethal force may, in fact, utilize that option.
8. Specific criteria:
 - a. Does the suspect have a hostage or is believed to have a hostage?
 - b. Does the suspect indicate or state he will kill the hostage(s)?



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- c. Can it be reasonably verified the suspect is armed or has the potential for killing hostages?

If the above criteria are met, Southwest Enforcement Bureau Command Personnel can then issue the "Delta Order" (upon Region Commander's approval). The Delta Order advises all personnel the open-air option is in effect and they are not required to obtain additional command authorization to utilize lethal force to resolve the incident.

If this situation occurs, officer's actions are not to be considered a violation of progressive use of force policy.

9. The use of deadly force to prevent serious bodily harm or death to any person (Hostage or SEB Team Members) may be used without any prior command.
10. The utilization of deadly force (DELTA ORDER) to initiate a hostage rescue must be ordered. The Region Commander will issue this order with the Host City's senior on duty officer in charge and the Region Commander's agreement that all other means have been exhausted. This decision would be utilized only as a last resort when:
 - a. Negotiations have broken down
 - b. Killing of the hostages is imminent
 - c. Hostage taker is known or is believed to have the means of carrying out his threat to kill
 - d. He has the opportunity of carrying out this threat
11. When authorized to use deadly force to initiate a hostage rescue the SCOUT Team shall retain the authority to not take the shot.
12. Review Boards may be required by the city in which the SCOUT Team has been deployed. In the event that a Board of Review is required by that city's Use of Force Policy any member that has been involved in the discharge of a weapon shall be subject to the Board of Review.
13. In the event that a SCOUT Team uses deadly force within the course of a SEB call-out, the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team (CISD) will be contacted by the SEB Commander or his designee.



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Introduction to the CISD Team is mandatory for all members of SEB that participated in the call-out that led to the use of lethal force. This will take place as soon as possible after the incident has concluded and before members are released.

By Order of

Unit Commander

SEB Chairman



SOUTHWEST ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT · BOMB DISPOSAL

I have read the ***USE OF DEADLY FORCE POLICY FOR MARKSMAN/OBSERVER TEAMS*** and understand it.

Printed Name

Signature

Date



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT · BOMB DISPOSAL

Policy Number: SEB-104

Subject: USE OF FORCE

Issued by: Asst. Unit Commander Tarase

Effective Date: June 11, 2013

Review:

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide MEMBERS of the SOUTHWEST ENFORCEMENT BUREAU (SEB) with guidance of in the use deadly and non-deadly force.

II. POLICY

In vesting police officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. Therefore, it is the policy of SEB that police officers shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer or another.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Deadly Force: Any use of force that is likely to cause death or serious bodily harm.
- B. Non-deadly Force: Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Parameters for use of deadly force
 - 1. Defense of life and significant threat to others
 - a. An officer may use deadly force to protect themselves or others from what he reasonably believes to be an immediate threat of death or serious bodily harm.



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- b. An officer may use deadly force to affect the capture and prevent the escape of a suspect where the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical harm to the officer or others.
 - c. No distinction shall be made relative to the age of the intended target of deadly force. Self-defense and imminent threat shall be the only policy guideline for employing deadly force.
- B. Specific procedures relating to the use and discharge of firearms
- 1. A firearm used by a police officer against another human being is considered deadly force. The previously listed parameters are equally applicable to the use of firearms.
 - 2. Police officers shall adhere to the following guidelines regarding the use and discharge of their firearm.
 - a. When feasible, a police officer should identify himself as a law enforcement officer and state his intent to shoot before using a firearm.
 - b. Warning shots **shall never be utilized!**
 - c. Except for general maintenance, storage or authorized training, officers shall not draw or exhibit their firearms unless circumstances create a reasonable cause to believe it may be necessary to use the weapon in conformance with this policy.
 - 3. In addition to the self-defense situation and the arrest of a suspect as previously outlined, a police officer may also discharge a weapon under the following circumstances:
 - a. During range practice or competitive sporting events.
 - b. When the situation occurs, a firearm may be used in the following situations:
 - 1) For self-defense and/or defense of others;
 - 2) To prevent the suffering of a badly injured animal or in the defense of a menacing animal.
 - 3) As long as the use of the weapon is objectively reasonable given the totality of the circumstances confronting the officer at the time of use.



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C. Parameters for use of less lethal force:

1. Where deadly force is not authorized, officers should assess the incident in order to determine which less lethal technique or weapon will best de-escalate the incident and bring it under control.
2. Police officers are authorized to use team-approved less lethal techniques and issued equipment for resolution of incidents, as follows:
 - a. To protect themselves or another from physical harm; or
 - b. To restrain or control a resistant individual; or
 - c. To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.
 - d. To create a diversion, such as breaking windows or removing unwanted lighting.

D. Training and qualifications

1. Deadly weapons:

- a. Authorized weapons utilized by SEB members must be those that have been approved and registered through the officer's home agency. Additionally, the officer must have received departmental training on the firearm(s) utilized and be subject to passing annual state qualifications through his agency.

SEB members will be subject to tactical firearms qualifications on these weapons as well.

SEB specified weapons, such as the submachine gun or scoped long gun, must be those with which the team member has received training through SEB.

Additionally, SEB members will be subject to passing the state qualification, as well as SEB qualifications for any SEB authorized weapon.

- b. The team shall schedule regular training and qualification sessions for SEB approved weapons, which will be graded on a pass/fail basis.



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- c. SEB members, who fail to receive a passing score in accordance with team testing procedures, shall be relieved of their SEB responsibilities.
 - d. SEB members shall not be permitted to carry any weapon and/or ammunition with which they have not been able to qualify with during the calendar year.
 - e. SEB members that have taken extended leave due to an illness or injury may be required to re-qualify before returning to SEB duties.
2. Less lethal systems and methods:
- a. SEB members are not permitted to use a less lethal weapon unless qualified in its proficient use as determined by training procedures.
 - b. The following less lethal weapons are authorized:
 - 1) Taser
 - 2) ASP/Straight Baton
 - 3) Chemical munitions
 - 4) Less lethal munitions
 - a) Impact Weapons
 - b) Chemical munitions
- E. Reporting use of force
1. The Region Commander or his designee will prepare a written report according to team procedures in the following situations:
 - a. When a firearm is discharged outside of the firing range.
 - b. When a use of force results in death or injury.
 - c. When a less lethal weapon is used on a person.



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2. A supervisor from the receiver agency will be immediately summoned (if not already present) to the scene and will comply with investigative procedures as required by the department in the following situations:
 - a. When a firearm is discharged outside of the firing range.
 - b. When a use of force results in death or serious injury.
 - c. When a subject complains that an injury has been inflicted.

F. Team response

1. Deadly force incident

- a. When a SEB member's use of force causes death or serious physical harm, the officer shall be placed on temporary leave from SEB until all requirements are completed at the home agency, which could include administrative leave after completing all internal investigative requirements and until it is determined by a mental health professional, that the police officer is ready to return to duty.
- b. When deadly force is used within the course of a SEB call-out, the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team (CISD) will be contacted by the SEB Commander or his designee.

Introduction to the CISD Team is mandatory for all members of SEB that participated in the call-out that led to the use of lethal force. This will take place as soon as possible after the incident has concluded and before members are released.

- c. The receiver agency shall conduct both an administrative and criminal investigation of the incident.
- d. The Cuyahoga or Medina County Prosecutor's Office shall be immediately contacted by the receiver agency any time a team member uses force that results in death or serious physical injury. Their investigation is not intended to replace or take the place of the receiving agency's criminal or administrative investigations.



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2. Administrative review of critical incidents

- a. It is recognized when an officer is faced with a violent suspect, it may be necessary to employ unconventional techniques to control the situation and ensure officer safety. Such incidents must be thoroughly documented and justified.
- b. All reported uses of force will be reviewed by the SEB Chain of Command to determine whether;
 - 1) Any SEB rules, policy or procedures were violated;
 - 2) The policy was clearly understandable and effective to cover the situation;
 - 3) SEB training is currently adequate
- c. All findings of policy violations or training inadequacies shall be reported to the SEB Command Staff for resolution and/or discipline.
- d. All use of force incident reports shall be retained as required by state law.
- e. There will be a regular review of use of force incidents by the SEB Chain of Command to ascertain training and policy needs.

By Order of

Unit Commander

SEB Chairman



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I have read the ***USE OF FORCE POLICY*** and understand it.

Printed Name

Signature

Date