

GENERAL ORDER



Title
**Specialized Equipment Support Unit
(SESU)**

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GO-OPS-805.03

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Distribution
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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I. BACKGROUND

The Specialized Equipment Support Unit (SESU) is located within the Homeland Security and Counter Terrorism Section (HSCT) of the Special Operations Division (SOD). When activated, the unit supports a variety of law enforcement activities that require a law enforcement response involving specialized equipment and/or resources.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has established the SESU to provide services that require the expertise of specially trained members and specialized equipment. It is the primary mission of the SESU to support the Special Operations Division during civil disturbance events or demonstrations. However, SESU is also available to support other units of the Department.

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department is to provide and maintain a Specialized Equipment Support Unit to respond to incidents such as, civil disturbance events, demonstrations and crime fighting related initiatives and to ensure that the deployment of the SESU is managed to achieve effective, efficient and appropriate coordination within MPD and in response to outside requests for assistance.

III. Definitions

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meaning designated:

1. Unified Command – a structure that brings together the “Incident Commanders” of all organizations involved in the incident in order to coordinate an effective response at the same time carrying out their own jurisdictional responsibilities.
2. Unified Commander – The commander responsible for the overall management of the incident, including development and

implementation of overall objectives and strategies and approval of ordering and releasing resources.

3. Unified Command Post – a specific location established outside of the incident location to facilitate direction and coordination of activities across agencies and jurisdictions.
4. Office of Domestic Preparedness – principal component of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for enhancing the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to respond to, and mitigate the consequences of, incidents of domestic terrorism.

IV. REGULATIONS

- A. The SESU shall not be deployed for lifesaving, rescue and/or any duty that conflicts with the mission of the D.C. Fire and EMS, except as outlined within this order.
- B. All requests for assistance from an outside agency shall be approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.
- C. The SESU will not deploy to locations where SESU assistance was not requested.

V. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

- A. Request for the Specialized Equipment Support Unit (SESU)

When the need for the SESU is anticipated in advance, members shall:

1. Request SESU services through the Commander, Special Operations Division or his/her designee;
2. Advise the SOD Commander/designee of their location; and
3. Indicate the type of service requested from the SESU.

- B. On-scene Special Operations Division Official Responsibility

1. The on-scene SOD official shall take full charge of the SESU deployment with the exception that;
 - a. On any incident that Unified Command has been established, the SESU must report their availability for deployment to the Unified Command Post on the scene;
 - b. When a Unified Command Post has been established, all tactical operations involving multiple agencies will be coordinated through the Unified Commander.

2. Ensure the deployment of SESU is necessary and consistent with Department policy.

C. Deployment

1. The following are examples where SESU may support other MPD units.
 - a. Civil Disturbances;
 - b. Demonstrations;
 - c. Assisting investigative units with lighting and other technical support;
 - d. Assisting canine with the recovery of evidence and human remains to include operational clean-up and canine decontamination efforts;
 - e. Assisting the Emergency Response Team with tactical insertion and entry;
 - f. Providing technical and logistical support during the service of warrants;
 - g. Assisting Major Crash units with accident reconstruction; and
 - h. Assisting the Explosive Ordinance Unit (EOU) with EOU specialized equipment/resources.
2. The following are examples when SESU may support other public safety agencies, upon the approval of the Chief of Police/designee.
 - a. Providing specialized equipment and support to public safety authorities working or responding to a developing situation where the unit's expertise and equipment may be needed;
 - b. Assisting federal and local public safety authorities with Domestic Security Operation functions.

D. Training

1. Tools and Machinery
 - a. Pursuant to the Office of Domestic Preparedness Lesson Plan, new members shall receive an eighty-hour (80) block of instruction through the Institute of Police Science (IPS) on the proper use and care of all equipment currently utilized by the SESU.

- b. Senior SESU members shall strictly supervise the use and handling of specialized equipment.
- c. Members shall be given written and scenario-based examinations to ensure sufficient knowledge of the mechanized systems, specialized equipment, and policy and procedures related to SESU.
- d. Members shall be re-certified annually.

2. Vehicles

- a. Members operating SESU vehicles over 20,000 GVW shall be required to accumulate thirty hours of supervised roadway operation through instruction provided by the Institute of Police Science (IPS).

NOTE: Under no circumstance shall a member operate these vehicles without having met the required operating mandate. (There is no CDL required since this is equipped to be an emergency vehicle).

- b. Members shall demonstrate a working knowledge of all the equipment installed on the vehicle.

E. Responsibilities of the Office of Unified Communication (OUC)

- 1. When the request for SESU is in an emergency situation, The Director, Office of Unified Communication, shall ensure notification has been made to the:
 - a. Commander of SOD, or designee, when a member has requested the services of SESU;
 - b. Chief of Police (or designee) when an outside agency has requested the services of SESU;
 - c. Official in charge of the Synchronized Operations Command Center (SOCC) of the location, time, nature of request, and authorizing official.
- 2. Upon notification from a mobile unit that SESU has been requested, the OUC dispatcher shall;
 - a. Immediately notify his/her supervisor of the location, time and nature of request;
 - b. Coordinate communication between field units and SESU; and
 - c. Coordinate communications with the Incident Commander from

the Federal Emergency Management System (FEMS) on any incident where the Unified Command Post is established.

- F. Responsibility of the Synchronized Operations Command Center (SOCC)
1. The official in charge of the SOCC shall be responsible for:
 - a. Notifying the Chief of Police that SESU has been requested, when the request is from an outside agency;
 - b. Notifying the Executive Assistant Chief of Police (EAC) that SESU has been requested;
 - c. Notifying the Assistant Chief of Police, Special Services Command, that SESU has been requested;
 - d. Notifying the Commander of the Patrol District where SESU has been requested;
 - e. Notifying the District Watch Commander where SESU has been requested; and
 - f. Notifying the Public Information Office (PIO) where it appears that either the location or incident may draw the attention of the media.
- G. Commander, Special Operations Division shall:
1. Approve all requests by members of the Department requesting SESU.
 2. Prepare and forward to the Assistant Chief of Police, Special Services Command, an After-Action Report (AAR) within 72 hours following the deployment of SESU. The AAR shall contain the following:
 - a. A complete and detailed report of equipment and systems that were deployed, and procedures and operations that were utilized;
 - b. Comments regarding the effectiveness of the services provided and the obstacles and problems encountered in carrying out assigned activities relative to the deployment; and
 - c. Recommendations for improvement and corrective action taken to address obstacles and problems.
- H. Director, Institute of Police Science shall:
1. Ensure that members of SESU complete all required training as outlined in this directive.

2. Issue Certificates of Training for members completing the SESU vehicle and annual recertification training.
 - a. Forward original certificates to the Commander, SOD.
 - b. Maintain a copy of the training record.
- I. The Assistant Chief of Police, Special Services Command, shall:
 1. Receive all After-Action Reports;
 2. Review AARs for operational improvements and Departmental training opportunities; and
 3. Forward AARs with recommendations through channels to the Chief of Police.

// SIGNED //
Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police

CHR:NMJ:SOA:DAH:JAH:njg