

YORK-POQUOSON SHERIFF'S OFFICE	GENERAL ORDERS
SUBJECT: Hostage Incidents	NUMBER: GO 2-23
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 11, 2019	REVIEW DATE: January 2, 2019
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: GO 2-23, January 1, 2003	APPROVED:  Sheriff
VLEPSC: OPR.05.01	

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13 **POLICY**

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15 Hostage and barricade situations present extreme danger to deputies and citizens. Each

16 hostage/barricade situation is different, but a basic plan may provide deputies with guidelines to

17 help defuse the situation safely. Whatever happens, the Sheriff expects deputies to react logically

18 and sensibly. Above all, deputies shall not fuel a hostage taker's stress, but shall strive to contain or

19 limit the situation. The paramount objective in a hostage incident is its peaceful resolution and the

20 safe release of hostages. Further, hostage negotiators must meet eligibility criteria as set forth in

21 this policy and must successfully complete all training as prescribed by the Sheriff or his

22 designee.

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24 **PURPOSE**

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26 The purpose of this general order is to establish general guidelines applicable to a hostage/barricade

27 incident and to establish criteria for selection and utilization of hostage negotiators.

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29 **PROCEDURE**

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- 31 • General
- 32 ○ The first 10-20 minutes of a hostage/barricade situation are the most emotionally
- 33 charged and present the greatest danger.
- 34 ○ Stress is high both among deputies and other individuals involved.
- 35 ○ Normally, there is no need to rush to a solution.
- 36 ■ Time may reduce stress and allow communication to begin.

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- Additionally, time is needed to assess the situation and to secure the surrounding area.
- Patrol deputies who respond to hostage incidents shall not undertake any tactics other than what is immediately necessary to protect lives.
- Dispatcher responsibilities
 - Since dispatchers may be the first to receive information concerning a hostage/barricade situation, they shall gather as much information as possible and transmit it to deputies in the field clearly and quickly so that upon arrival at the scene they are aware of the dangers.
 - Dispatchers shall attempt to keep the caller on the telephone to answer the following questions:
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- Responsibilities of first deputies on-scene
 - The duties and responsibilities of the first deputy on the scene include the following:
 - Assess whether a hostage/barricade situation exists.
 - Inform emergency communications and request the on-duty supervisor's presence and additional back-up.
 - Attempt to contain the situation at its present location.
 - Safely remove all innocent persons from the danger area. Those persons who cannot be removed immediately shall be instructed to seek protection where they are if gunfire is taking place.
 - Briefly detain any witnesses to obtain information about the incident.
 - Inform the on-duty supervisor of all pertinent facts upon his or her arrival.
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

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- On-duty supervisor's responsibilities
 - Upon arrival at the scene, the on-duty supervisor shall assume command of all deputies and shall make all appropriate decisions until he or she is relieved by higher authority.
 - Duties and responsibilities of the supervisor include the following:
 - Notify appropriate personnel within the Sheriff's Office and support agencies.
 - Notify the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, and command staff.
 - After determining the danger of the situation, make the appropriate notifications, which may include call-up of ERT members.
 - Calling-up of individual deputies. See [GO 2-22, Unusual Occurrences](#).
 - Request Fire and Life Safety (EMS) to stand by in the general area.
 - If appropriate, request trained Sheriff's Office crisis/hostage negotiators or mutual aid specialized units, such as a helicopter or communications specialists. See, [RR 1-17, Jurisdiction; Mutual Aid](#).
 - Notify the PIO and request to have news media inform the public to stay out of area. See [RR 1-13, Media Relations](#).
 - Establish an inside and outside perimeter to ensure a safe area in which to operate.
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - Pedestrians and vehicles may be permitted within the outer perimeter as the on-scene supervisor determines.
 - Establish a command post in a safe area that is not visible to the hostage taker.
 - Assign a deputy or other person to record personnel assignments and to develop a chronological log of events at the command post.
 - Arrange for the evacuation of any injured persons.
 - Arrange for and supervise the evacuation of any bystanders in the danger area. If bystanders cannot be evacuated, they shall be instructed to seek protection where they are.
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- [REDACTED]
- A trained hostage negotiator should be consulted prior to authorizing conversation between the suspect and friends or family.
- Make every effort to persuade the suspect to surrender voluntarily before using force.
- Formally transfer command of the incident to higher authority upon being relieved by a command officer.
 - The transfer of command must be understood by both parties, the on-duty supervisor relinquishing command and the command officer accepting command.
 - The transfer of command must include a complete operational briefing that includes:
 - ❖ Manpower on-scene;
 - ❖ Manpower in-route to the scene;
 - ❖ Status of the ERT if activated;
 - ❖ Status of hostage negotiators if activated;
 - ❖ Detailed information on the hostage taker;
 - ❖ Detailed information on the hostages.

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- Special equipment
 - Hostage/barricade incidents may require the use of specialized equipment or personnel on the scene such as:
 - Throw phones to establish communication with the hostage taker(s);
 - Specialized ERT equipment and personnel.

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- [REDACTED]

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- Negotiating with hostage taker/barricaded persons
 - Negotiation involves establishing trust between the hostage takers, requiring "give and take" on both parts.
 - Of primary importance in establishing a dialog are the following points:
 - Once on scene only the assigned negotiator shall communicate with the suspects.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
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- De-escalation
 - The ultimate goal of any hostage/barricade situation is to end the standoff without the injury or loss of life of the hostages or hostage taker/barricaded subject.
 - Once the hostage taker has been captured, the following actions shall be performed:
 - If hostages are released prior to the suspect surrendering, these individuals should be immediately interviewed to obtain any and all relevant information.
 - The suspect shall be removed from the scene immediately in a screened unit following an extensive search of his or her person incident to an arrest.
 - The on-scene investigator or investigating deputy shall take the suspect to a place for interrogation.
 - Hostages shall be removed immediately upon capture of the suspect.
 - The incident commander shall alert all participants by radio that the hostages are exiting the scene.
 - Medical treatment shall be provided, if applicable.
 - Find a quiet area so that hostages may be united with their families.
 - The incident commander shall assign an investigator to interview each hostage to obtain statements.
 - The crime scene shall be preserved until processed for evidence by assigned investigators.
 - The area shall remain cordoned off until the Incident Commander declares it open.
 - Deputies who are no longer needed shall be cleared for normal assignments by the on-duty supervisor.
 - Investigations shall be made into any surrounding property damage, e.g., bullet holes in neighboring building or destroyed lawns and gardens. Investigations shall include photographs.

- After action reports
 - The Incident Commander shall submit a comprehensive after action report to the Sheriff on all hostage/barricade incidents.

CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM (CNT)

- See [GO 2-43, Emergency Response Team Operations](#) for CNT:
 - Qualifications,
 - Selection Criteria,
 - Assessment Process,
 - Training Requirements,
 - Team Organization,
 - CNT Call-Out,

- 217 ○ Team Duties,
- 218 ○ CNT Equipment, and
- 219 ○ Team Training,