

## LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICE (LRAD)

### 385.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures related to the proper use and deployment of a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD).

### 385.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) that a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) be used with live or recorded voice messages to communicate with the community during natural disasters, crowd management and control situations, or when other forms of communication are ineffective or inoperable to unequivocally communicate messages from OCSD and safely resolve uncertain situations where communicating with the public, or an individual, is paramount. All usage of the LRAD will be documented on the AB 481 Military Equipment Tracker (MET) in accordance with Assembly Bill 481 and OCSD Policy 711.

### 385.3 DEFINITION

The Orange County Sheriff's Department currently utilizes one model of the LRAD System;

- **LRAD 100XSTD System.** This system is a portable device which can be carried and operated by a single user. It can also be mounted to a vehicle via a magnetic mount and operated by a vehicle passenger.

The LRAD system has the capability to provide highly effective long range communication. The system will broadcast clear messages or voice commands. The system can be used to de-escalate situations through clear unambiguous direction and communication. The system has the capability to provide highly effective long range communication. The system will broadcast clear messages or voice commands. The system can be used to de-escalate situations through clear unambiguous direction and communication.

The LRAD system can broadcast instructions and messages with greater clarity and distance than traditional loudspeakers or public address (PA) systems. The system can effectively broadcast messages through wind, crowds, and engine/background noise. Broadcasts can be clearly heard by people inside vehicles and buildings. The LRAD's clear communication leads to a safer environment during critical incidents and enhances the safety of the community, criminal subjects, and public safety personnel.

The tone function of the LRAD has been permanently disabled by the manufacturer from the device and shall not be reinstalled.

### 385.4 OPERATION OF THE LRAD

The LRAD can play pre-recorded messages and work as a PA system. It has the capability to emit acoustic sound levels in excess of accepted OCHA noise hazard levels, so Members operating the LRAD must stay behind the device, wear appropriate hearing protection, and follow the below guidelines:

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1. Never operate the LRAD at maximum power.
2. Never operate the LRAD where persons may be within 32 feet of the device, or where the reflected distance between Members and an acoustically reflective object (e.g., a building, a wall, or a bulkhead) is located closer than 32 feet in front of the device and 3 feet to each side.
3. Never point the LRAD at Members in the immediate vicinity of its operating position.
4. Operators must ensure the device is positioned, aimed, and operated in a manner that avoids exposing nearby Members and bystanders to excessive sound pressure levels.

Examples of potential LRAD deployments include:

- (a) Communicate information to residents during disasters.
- (b) Communicate with large crowds (e.g., during demonstrations, parades, festivals, concerts, and sporting events).
- (c) Crowd management and control.
- (d) Establish safety zones and enforce perimeters.
- (e) Traffic control management.
- (f) Conduct Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operations.
- (g) Conduct Mobile Field Force (MFF) operations.
- (h) Communicate during hostage and barricaded subject situations.
- (i) Serve high risk search warrants.
- (j) Communicate with subjects threatening suicide who are in an inaccessible location.
- (k) Conduct search and rescue operations.

### **385.5 APPROVAL**

The LRAD may only be deployed with the approval of the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) Commander or designee. If a rapidly evolving situation places the public or law enforcement in danger or where serious property damage is probable, trained Members are permitted to deploy the LRAD prior to approval. The scene supervisor shall ensure that the SEB Commander or designee is notified as soon as practical.

### **385.6 MAINTENANCE**

The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) will be responsible for proper storage and maintenance of the LRAD system. The LRAD device should be checked for proper functionality during CNT training when applicable.

### **385.7 TRAINING**

All CNT Members shall receive initial training on the LRAD before utilizing it in the field. The training will consist of the LRAD set up, proper usage, and safety considerations. The LRAD may only

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be deployed by Members who have been properly trained in its use and procedures. A record of trained Members will be kept and maintained by the CNT Sergeants.