

Armored Tactical Tractor

386.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for deploying the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Armored Tactical Tractor (ATT).

386.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) that the ATT be used in response to critical incidents to enhance officers and community safety, improve scene containment and stabilization, and assist in resolving critical incidents. Additionally, the tactical tractor may be deployed during natural disasters in a life savings capacity and as displays for community outreach events.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 481 and OCSD Policy 711, the ATT usage will be documented on the AB 481 Military Equipment Tracker (MET).

386.3 DEFINITIONS

Armored Tactical Tractor (ATT): A specially designed armored vehicle used by SWAT teams for high-risk incidents.

Hydraulic Breaching Ram: An attachment to the ATT designed for controlled breaches of various structures including, walls, doors, and windows. It is equipped with five infrared cameras for 360° visibility and a tactical, non-lethal chemical agent delivery system.

Grapple Claw: An attachment to the ATT designed to remove obstacles, debris, and barricades from an area, aiding in clearing paths and ensuring safe approaches.

Vehicle Extraction Tool: An attachment to the ATT designed to move or immobilize vehicles or move obstructions.

Armored Personnel Platform: An attachment to the ATT that can be raised to enable second- and third-story entries or rescue operations. It includes video monitoring, self-contained lighting, eight shooting ports, ballistic glass, and an adjustable sliding front door for fortified positioning.

Network Video Recorder (NVR): A digital recording device integrated with the ATT that captures, video footage from the vehicle's cameras.

386.4 OPERATION OF THE ARMORED TACTICAL TRACTOR

This policy is intended to provide personnel assigned to the SWAT Team with the responsibilities associated with deploying the ATT. The Department shall operate the ATT in a manner that observes constitutional rights and in accordance with local, state, and federal law.

The Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) Commander, or designee, will manage the ATT and the program to ensure safe, effective deployments within Department policies and procedures. ATT

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operations should prioritize community safety, minimize property damage, and ensure the safe resolution of high-risk incidents.

When tactically feasible, the electricity and gas to the target structure should be shut off prior to the use of the ATT and its attachments, including the hydraulic breaching ram, grapple claw, vehicle extraction tool, and armored personnel platform.

386.4.1 DEPLOYMENT CRITERIA

Factors to consider with the ATT deployment may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Type of crime(s) involved
- (b) Potential violence with firearms, explosives, or chemical agents
- (c) The number of armed suspects or potential victims in need of rescue
- (d) Superior weaponry or presence of body armor possessed by the suspect(s)
- (e) The need to remove barriers, obstacles, or vehicles
- (f) The need to make entry ports into a structure where entry ports are fortified or previously did not exist
- (g) Whether the ATT provides an alternate method:
 - 1. Of breaching windows and doors of a structure during SWAT incidents
 - 2. To deploy chemical agents or Light Sound Diversionary Devices (LSDDs)
 - 3. To move SWAT team personnel to a desired location
 - 4. Of resolving a SWAT incident for both the suspect and deputies

386.5 APPROVAL

The ATT may only be deployed with the SEB Commander's or designee's approval. If a rapidly evolving situation places the public or law enforcement in danger, trained SWAT team personnel are permitted to deploy the ATT prior to approval. The scene supervisor shall notify the SEB Commander or designee as soon as practical.

386.6 MAINTENANCE

The SWAT Breaching Sergeant is responsible for the proper storage and maintenance of the ATT. The ATT should be checked for proper functionality once a quarter and documented on its maintenance log stored in the SWAT database.

386.7 TRAINING

Designated SWAT team personnel are required to successfully complete a 16-hour ATT Operator Course in order to become an authorized ATT Operator. ATT Operators will train quarterly to maintain proficiency. Only SWAT team personnel who have been trained in its use shall be permitted to deploy it during high-risk incidents.

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386.8 RECORDING / DATA

- The primary purpose of the ATT's Network Video Recorder (NVR) is to document and preserve video evidence for law enforcement-related incidents, including high-risk operations and non-criminal events. These recordings will enhance criminal prosecutions, improve officer safety, reduce civil liabilities, provide a visual record of significant events, and contribute to future training.
- Evidence-related recordings must be uploaded to the Digital Evidence Management System (D.E.M.S.), a secure cloud-based platform designated for evidence or training purposes.
- Recordings with evidentiary value will be booked and stored in accordance with Policy 802. Recordings shall be retained in D.E.M.S. for a minimum of 2 years, or longer, if required by the Board of Supervisors' approved Retention and Disposition Schedule. Recordings that are part of ongoing criminal investigations or civil litigation must be preserved until the case is resolved.
- Recordings relevant to a pending criminal prosecution or pending civil claim or lawsuit will not be made for use as a training tool until the prosecution, claim, or lawsuit is resolved.
- Any requests for subpoenas, California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests, or discovery should be directed to the Records Division.

REVIEW OF RECORDINGS

It is the policy of the Department to extend to its members the ability to review all available Department Media when writing reports, preparing for courtroom testimony, and prior to making voluntary statements. Please refer to Policy 303 - Department Media for additional information regarding Department recordings.