

Police Department AB 481 Military Equipment

City Council Meeting
March 4, 2025

John Cregan, Chief of Police
Christopher Mahurin, Lieutenant

AB 481

- September 30, 2021- Assembly Bill 481 signed into law.
- Codified by Government Code sections § 7070-7075
- 481: Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition and Use
 - Help with transparency, accountability, oversight of acquisition and use of equipment
 - Safeguards to protect public welfare, safety, civil rights and liberties

AB 481 Requirements

- Post a draft policy and equipment inventory online 30 days prior to public meeting
- Seek Government body approval of a Policy and Ordinance as well as prepare an Annual report which includes:
 - How the equipment is used
 - Maintenance use and costs
 - Quantity possessed
 - Internal Audits
 - Community input and questions on use and complaints
 - Requires council approval for the acquisition of funds associated with military equipment

Categories of Equipment

- AB 481 has 15 categories of equipment that fall under the law
- The Santa Rosa Police Department has equipment that qualifies for 8 of those categories

SRPD Categories of Equipment

1. Projectile Launchers
2. “Flashbang” grenades, “tear gas” and “pepper balls” (Chemical Agents/Diversionary Devices)
3. Command and Control Vehicles
4. Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)
5. Specialized Firearms and Ammunition of less than .50 caliber
6. Armored Personnel Carriers (Armored Rescue Vehicles)
7. Battering Rams, Slugs, and Breaching Apparatuses that are Explosive in Nature
8. Unmanned Aerial or Ground Vehicles

Projectile Launchers

- Allows officers to use chemical agents or kinetic energy projectiles
- Officers can deploy these from a greater distance, which provides an alternative option for a higher-level use of force
- This category includes 40mm less-lethal launchers and sponge rounds

40MM Launcher



Chemical Munitions

Diversiónary Devices

- Includes items such as Flashbangs and CS gas.
- Flashbangs are a distraction device used by the SWAT team during high-risk situations
- SWAT team uses chemical agents to help extract a subject from a fixed location, deny an area to a suspect, or safely detain a suspect who poses a risk of violence
- Mobile Field Force uses chemical agents in a riotous situation
- This category includes CS gas and flashbangs. SRPD has disposed of chemical agent munitions we no longer have a need for and continues to evaluate our munitions.



CTS 9230

Deftech 1032

CTS 7290

Deftech 56854



Command and Control Vehicles

- Vehicles with radio communication and technology to facilitate the command and control of units in the field
- For special events, critical and non-critical incidents, and natural disasters
- Allows for mobile command and dispatching by being near the actual incident location, allowing for better decision-making
- This category includes a mobile command vehicle and Hostage Negotiations/Command and Control Vehicle
- Command vehicle was not used in 2024 and will be removed from the fleet in 2025

Mobile Command Vehicle



Mobile Hostage Negotiations, Command and Control



Long Range Acoustic Device

- A communication system to relay critical information during situations such as:
 - Natural disasters, evacuations, protests, high-risk search or arrest warrants, hostage/barricade situations, search and rescues
 - The warning tone on the SRPD LRAD has been disabled

LRAD 100X



Specialized Firearms and Ammunition

- SRPD has specialized rifles and ammunition (includes 5.56mm and .308 caliber) used by the SWAT Team
- They allow for more precision and accuracy than handguns as well as provide longer distances
- This minimizes the risk to the public and officers instead of the use of a standard handgun
- SRPD has launching cartridges that allow the option for deploying chemical munitions

FN Rifle 5.56mm and SAKO Tikka .308 Rifle



Armored Rescue Vehicles

- Used to provide ballistic protection to citizens and officers during rescues, critical incidents, or other hazardous situations
- Used as a rescue vehicle in the event a victim or an officer is in dire need of rescue
- These are reinforced civilian vehicles

Lenco Bearcat - SRPD



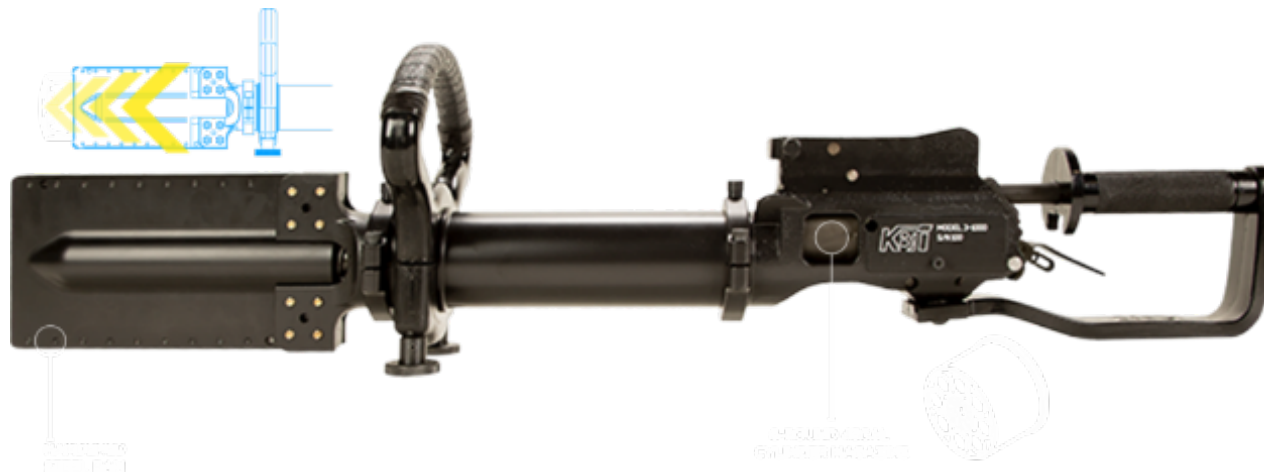
Breaching Apparatuses

- Breaching shotgun rounds are used in high-risk entries or barricade/hostage situations where entry needs to be made quickly
- The KBT breaching tool is a self-contained impact ram with powder-actuated cartridges that go directly into a door or entryway.
- In less urgent or high-risk situations, officers have access to handheld battering rams

Royal Arms TESCRA



Kinetic Breaching Technologies (KBT)



Unmanned Aerial or Ground Systems (Drones & Robots)

Allows officers to view areas from locations they would not normally be able to or would need to be in a heightened risk of danger to obtain the same information

- This allows for a better view and greater ability to gather more information
- Used for things such as searching for missing individuals, looking for suspects, documenting crime scenes
- SRPD would like to purchase four drones for interior buildings and small/tight area outdoor searches

Autel EVO II



Robotex Avatar 2



The policy, inventory, and ordinance is available online at:

<https://srcity.org/3217/Policies>

Questions or concerns related to the policy can be sent to:

AB481@srcity.org

If Approved

- SRPD will continue to have access to the resources and items deemed military equipment that were available prior to AB 481
- SRPD will be able to purchase additional drones to assist with searches of missing people and clearing buildings.
- SRPD will track the usage of items and prepare an annual report detailing that usage and any future purchases
- These tools and items will continue to give SRPD options to help safely resolve violent and volatile incidents to maintain the safety of the community

Without Approval

- The Department will not have access to and will cease using any items listed in AB 481
- SRPD will no longer have the tools to effectively respond and minimize risk to critical incidents
- SRPD will rely on outside agencies to help resolve certain critical incidents; although, there are legal barriers which might not allow this

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Police Department that the Council introduce an ordinance to (1) amend Title 2 of the Santa Rosa City Code by adding Chapter 2-38, Military Equipment Use Ordinance, and (2) approve Santa Rosa Police Department Policy 707 – Military Equipment.

Questions?