	<b>Winchester City Sheriff's Office</b> <b>Manual of General Orders</b>  <b>Operations</b> <b>310</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> May 1, 2014 Accreditation Standards: <b>OPR .05.01</b>
		<b>Original Policy:</b> May 1, 2014 <b>Last Review Date:</b> May 1, 2020 <b>Next Review Date:</b> May 1, 2023
		<b>By Authority of:</b> <hr/> <b>Les R Taylor, Sheriff</b>
<b>Subject: Active Shooter</b>		

## I. POLICY

It is not unusual for the Special Response Team (S.R.T.) to arrive at the scene of a barricaded incident and find that patrol personnel have contained the suspect within a secure perimeter. Generally, there is time for the S. R. T. to deploy their personnel without serious concern of suspect escape. Once the incident has been isolated, time enables patrol and/or S.R.T. personnel to formulate a structured and deliberate plan. However, there are scenarios that require immediate deployment and rapid intervention of patrol personnel prior to the arrival of the S.R.T. In these cases delayed deployment could have catastrophic consequences. These scenarios often involve an ongoing “shots-fired” or “downed officer/victim rescue.” It is the policy of the Winchester City Sheriff’s Office to locate any suspect(s) actively engaged in any ongoing life-threatening situation and eliminate this threat as quickly and safely as possible.

## II. PURPOSE

Necessitate the immediate and rapid deployment of deputies to eliminate the life- threatening suspect(s) with the appropriate use of force, containment, and/or arrest.

## III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Immediate Deployment/ Rapid Intervention” – The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to an ongoing, life-threatening situation where delayed deployment could otherwise result in death or serious bodily injury to innocent persons. Immediate deployment/rapid intervention tactics are not a substitute for the conventional response to a barricaded gunman/hostage situation.
- B. “Active Shooter” – One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. The overriding objective of an active shooter appears to be that of mass murder, rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery, hostage taking, etc. For the purpose of this policy, the term “active shooter” will also include anyone who uses any other deadly weapon to systematically or randomly inflict death or serious bodily injury on others over a continuous or extended period of time.

## IV. WHEN TO DEPLOY

- A. To confront and neutralize aggressive deadly behavior by the suspect(s).
  - 1. The event is ongoing and the suspect(s) is actively engaged in causing death or serious bodily injury. This may be the result of:

- a. An “active shooter;”
- b. An attack with edged weapons;
- c. Placing and/or detonating explosive devices.

2. The incident location, by its very nature, is believed to contain multiple victims:

- a. Educational facilities (including day care);
- b. Crowded parks/events;
- c. Special events;
- d. Sporting events;
- e. High density housing units, etc.

B. To affect a victim/officer rescue.

1. A victim or law enforcement officer is gravely wounded and delayed recovery could result in their demise.
2. The suspect may or may not be actively involved in an assault, however, an assault is imminent and immediate recovery of a wounded victim/officer is crucial.
3. Although possibly uninjured, due to the location of the victim(s) or officer(s), an immediate recovery may be necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury.

## **V. INITIAL RESPONDERS**

A. The initial responder is most likely to be a patrol deputy. The actions of the initial responders are critical and certain guidelines should be followed, if practical.

1. Assess the situation.

a. The first deputy may establish the Incident Command Post (ICP). Typically, the first arriving deputy will assume the role of incident commander until relieved by supervisory personnel. However, if back-up units are delayed, then the first deputy on the scene should attempt to locate the suspect(s) and eliminate the threat to unarmed victims.

b. Gather information as rapidly as possible. This can be achieved through various means, including, but not limited to:

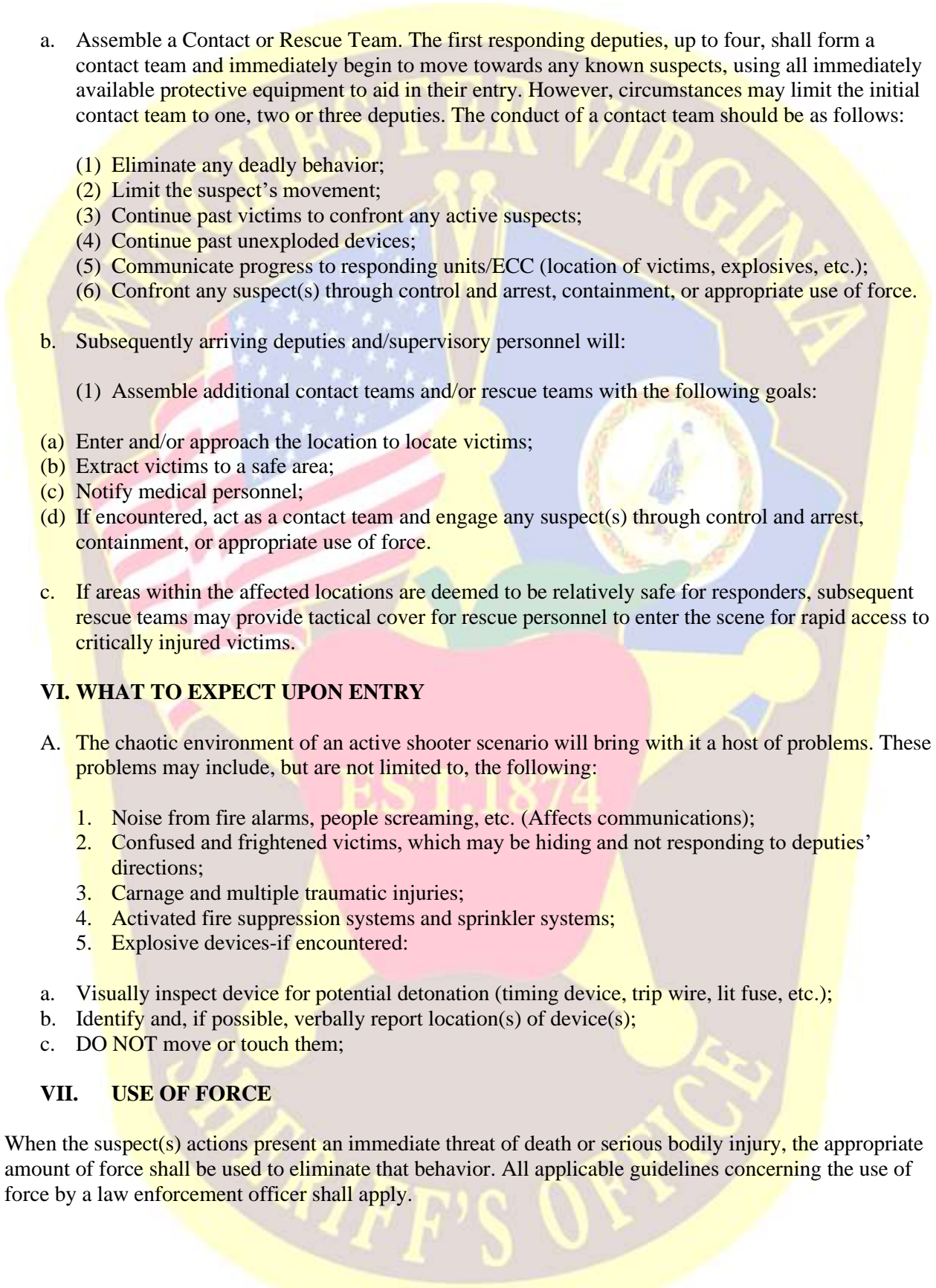
- (1) Dispatcher obtained information;
- (2) Reports from fleeing persons;
- (3) Sounds of gunfire/explosions;
- (4) Deputy’s own observations.

2. Broadcast the situation to responding units:

- a. Location and number of suspects (if known);
- b. Type of weapons involved;
- c. Determine if immediate deployment rapid intervention tactics are appropriate and necessary;
- d. Safe approach route to staging area for arriving deputies.

3. If Immediate Deployment/Rapid Intervention tactics are deemed necessary, the initial IC will:



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- a. Assemble a Contact or Rescue Team. The first responding deputies, up to four, shall form a contact team and immediately begin to move towards any known suspects, using all immediately available protective equipment to aid in their entry. However, circumstances may limit the initial contact team to one, two or three deputies. The conduct of a contact team should be as follows:
    - (1) Eliminate any deadly behavior;
    - (2) Limit the suspect's movement;
    - (3) Continue past victims to confront any active suspects;
    - (4) Continue past unexploded devices;
    - (5) Communicate progress to responding units/ECC (location of victims, explosives, etc.);
    - (6) Confront any suspect(s) through control and arrest, containment, or appropriate use of force.
  - b. Subsequently arriving deputies and/supervisory personnel will:
    - (1) Assemble additional contact teams and/or rescue teams with the following goals:
      - (a) Enter and/or approach the location to locate victims;
      - (b) Extract victims to a safe area;
      - (c) Notify medical personnel;
      - (d) If encountered, act as a contact team and engage any suspect(s) through control and arrest, containment, or appropriate use of force.
  - c. If areas within the affected locations are deemed to be relatively safe for responders, subsequent rescue teams may provide tactical cover for rescue personnel to enter the scene for rapid access to critically injured victims.

## **VI. WHAT TO EXPECT UPON ENTRY**

- A. The chaotic environment of an active shooter scenario will bring with it a host of problems. These problems may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Noise from fire alarms, people screaming, etc. (Affects communications);
  - 2. Confused and frightened victims, which may be hiding and not responding to deputies' directions;
  - 3. Carnage and multiple traumatic injuries;
  - 4. Activated fire suppression systems and sprinkler systems;
  - 5. Explosive devices-if encountered:
- a. Visually inspect device for potential detonation (timing device, trip wire, lit fuse, etc.);
- b. Identify and, if possible, verbally report location(s) of device(s);
- c. DO NOT move or touch them;

## **VII. USE OF FORCE**

When the suspect(s) actions present an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury, the appropriate amount of force shall be used to eliminate that behavior. All applicable guidelines concerning the use of force by a law enforcement officer shall apply.

## VIII. WHEN SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM ARRIVES

- A. When Special Response Teams arrive; they are generally better-equipped and trained to resolve crisis scenarios. However, due to the possible size and scopes of an active shooter scenario, continued assistance by first responding deputies is critical. As soon as practical, the Incident Commander will:
1. Coordinate and relinquish contact team responsibility, unless the S.R.T. leader deems continued operations by patrol units are necessary;
  2. Assist with containment responsibilities;
  3. Assist with rescue teams if necessary;
  4. Acting as a “pathfinder” for S.R.T. which includes:
    - a. Directing S.R.T. deputies to the last known location of the suspect(s);
    - b. Reporting location(s) of explosives;
    - c. Providing any pertinent information such as known suspect description, weapons, etc.

