



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GENERAL ORDERS

SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

PURPOSE:

This policy outlines the responsibilities of users of special purpose vehicles, which provide specialized equipment and a support base for technical or tactical operations.

**GENERAL
PROCEDURES:**

The senior deputy coordinating a particular activity where a special purpose vehicle is used is responsible for ensuring the below listed procedures are followed. Unless operational concerns dictate otherwise, all special use vehicles will be parked at the Vehicle Service Center when not in use.

Division Commanders and/or Special Team Commanders are to designate the persons or positions authorized to operate special purpose vehicles and their equipment.

Special Team Commanders are to ensure that only those special team personnel trained in the use of a special purpose vehicle assigned to their team will operate it. Training is to consist of:

1. Familiarization with vehicle maintenance needs.
2. Function of the vehicle in team activities.
3. Familiarization of the equipment assigned to the vehicle.

Whenever a special purpose vehicle is used, users are to return it in a clean condition. The special purpose vehicle, once returned to the parking area, is to be filled up with gasoline and made ready to activate. All radios and lights are to be turned-off.

**MOBILE
COMMAND POST:**

Whenever the Mobile Command Post is activated, the supervisor in charge is responsible for the security of all equipment within the command post. Radio communications with other agencies will be used to coordinate activities, and kept to a minimum. The Mobile Command Post is to be operated in a businesslike manner. Personnel are to be kept to a minimum. The deputy assigned to the unit is responsible for the vehicle's interior cleanliness. Shift supervisors may activate the Mobile Command Post. The Command Post is to be equipped with radios, telephones, writing pads, and report forms.

DIVE TEAM TRAILER:

Use of this trailer is normally authorized by the Dive Team Commander, who is responsible for the Dive Team Trailer, whenever it is activated. The Dive Team Commander is also responsible for the security and the cleaning of the trailer. The Dive Trailer is to be activated whenever the Dive Team is activated.

Sufficient diving equipment is to be stored in the trailer to support the operations of a four-man dive team, at a minimum.

BOMB**TRUCK/TRAILER:**

Activation is normally authorized by a Hazardous Device Technician (HDT). Security and care of this unit is the responsibility of the HDT in charge of the bomb scene. The HDT is to ensure the amount of explosives loaded into the trailer does not exceed the maximum amount the trailer can safely vent. The HDT Commander is to maintain a manual of all special equipment to be kept in the truck. Only a Hazardous Devices Team member is allowed to operate the Bomb Truck/Trailer.

HELICOPTERS/FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT:

Aerial support is available for, but not limited to, these areas:

- Narcotic investigations.
- Marijuana eradication.
- Investigative surveillance in other types of investigations.
- Emergency response to “in-progress” calls.
- Pursuit support.
- Disaster response.
- Directed or random patrol.
- Search and rescue operations.
- Aerial photography.
- Support of SWAT operations.
- Detainee transport.

Operation of any aircraft by the Air Support Unit must be authorized. Any request for the Air Support Unit is to be directed to the Flight Unit Supervisor, who will authorize or seek authorization for the operation. Direct authorization for operation by the Sheriff or Command Staff will be acted upon immediately and the Flight Unit Supervisor notified as soon as possible. The Flight Unit Supervisor is to be notified of any operation.

Operation scheduling will normally be conducted by the Flight Unit Supervisor, with as much advance notice as possible. Whenever the Air Support Unit is activated, the following chain of command exists:

1. Sheriff.
2. Captain – Division Commander.
3. Air Crew.

Further description of policies/procedures concerning the helicopters/airplane can be found in the Air Support Unit Manual.

**FOUR-WHEEL
ALL-TERRAIN
VEHICLES:**

Primarily used by the search and rescue team in the locating of missing persons. The use of these vehicles by trained personnel in other situations may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

SWAT TRUCK:

Use of the SWAT Truck for reasons other than tactical operations will be at the discretion of the SWAT Commander. Procedures for the SWAT Truck are outlined in the SWAT Manual.

**UNMANNED
AERIAL SYSTEMS:**

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Team shall be comprised of personnel approved by the Sheriff or his designee. The team shall include Commanders, a UAS Coordinator, UAS Operators, and UAS Visual Observers. In addition to these required personnel, the team may include other personnel, as appropriate.

The authorized missions for the GCSO's UAS Team include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Video/photographs for investigative support.
- HAZMAT/ERT/Bomb Squad response/SWAT response.
- K9/Tracking operations.
- Search and rescue/missing person(s).
- Disaster response (including flood, hurricane damage, etc.).
- Community events.
- Other situations as approved by the Sheriff or his designee.

Further description of policies/procedures concerning the Unmanned Aerial System can be found in the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Team Manual

**CLANDESTINE LAB
RESPONSE TRUCK:**

Use of the Clandestine Lab Response truck is restricted to lab response. Procedures for this truck are outlined in the Clandestine Lab Response Truck Manual.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff