



2022

# MILITARY EQUIPMENT ANNUAL USE REPORT



## **Background**

On September 30, 2021, the Governor of the State of California approved AB-481 requiring law enforcement agencies to obtain approval of the applicable governing body (Mayor and City Council), by adoption of a military equipment use policy.

The Desert Hot Springs Police Department met with the city council in April of 2022 and had their military equipment program approved by the council.

The bill requires the publication of the military equipment use procedure and the annual military equipment report on the Department's website.

## **Annual Reporting Requirements as per AB 401, Section 7072**

(a) A law enforcement agency that receives approval for a military equipment use policy pursuant to Section 7071 shall submit to the governing body an annual military equipment report for each type of military equipment approved by the governing body within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The law enforcement agency shall also make each annual military equipment report required by this section publicly available on its internet website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The annual military equipment report shall, at a minimum, include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment:

1. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use.
2. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment.
3. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response.
4. The total annual cost for each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be provided for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report.
5. The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment.
6. If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.

(b) Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report pursuant to this section, the law enforcement agency shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the general public may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report and the law enforcement agency's funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

## **Military Equipment Purpose**

The Desert Hot Springs Police Department has a varied inventory of military equipment, the mere possession of the equipment does not warrant its use for every incident. Although most tools, equipment, and resources listed as military equipment in AB481 are found in a military environment and may be similar in nature, the application in which the equipment is used is significantly different for public safety and law enforcement.

Critical incidents and life-threatening crimes are often unpredictable and dynamic in nature. A variety of military equipment options can greatly assist department personnel in bringing those incidents to an efficient resolution in a safe manner. When the equipment is utilized, it is used by officers who are trained, professional, and safe in the use of the equipment.

## **Military Equipment Inventory**

### **Unmanned, remotely piloted powered aerial vehicles (2)**

#### **Purpose:**

- Collection of evidence in the form of aerial photography/video in support of an investigation (i.e., shooting scenes, homicide scenes).
- Provide the ability to monitor rapidly evolving reports of at-large persons suspected of serious criminal offenses or individuals threatening violent behavior before potentially dangerous face-to-face contact is required.
- Providing critical overwatch protection during popular large-scale special events by increasing our ability to recognize traffic

safety hazards or potential pre-assault indicators, and proactively circumventing pending danger or violence without significantly increasing staffing requirements.

- Conduct aerial searches for missing persons.
- Provide aerial observation to assist in managing natural disasters (i.e., fires, floods, storms).
- Community events for engagement and developing public trust.

### **Assault Weapons defined under PC 30510 & PC 30515 (24 AR-15 Rifles and 4- MP5)**

Purpose: Inventory includes AR style rifles and select fire subcompact rifles.

### **40mm Projectile Launchers (4)**

Purpose: 40mm launchers are capable of deploying rubber bullet munitions. An effective less lethal tool used routinely with success.

### **Bean Bag Launchers (7 shotguns)**

Purpose: Less lethal bean bag is utilized through a marked/orange colored easily identifiable less lethal shotgun. The bean bag round is a small led pellet filled munition made of high-density cloth. Bean bags are the predecessor to 40mm less lethal having similar benefits as other less lethal platforms.

## **Usage**

An Unmanned Aerial System has been utilized 8 (eight) times from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The uses varied from search warrants and documenting and photographing crime scenes throughout the city.

The 40mm Projectile Launchers were utilized one (1) time from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

The Less Lethal bean bag 40mm Projectile Launchers were utilized one (1) time from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

In the calendar year of 2022, Desert Hot Springs Police Department did not have any unauthorized use of its military equipment. All uses of the equipment were within the scope, purpose, and met policy requirements. Additionally, there were no complaints made about the use of military equipment.

## **Military Equipment Costs**

Unmanned, remotely piloted powered aerial vehicles.  
Expected Life Span: 5-7 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$3,000.

Assault Weapons Defined Under PC 30510 & PC 30515  
Expected Life Spam: No expiration. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$3000.

40mm projectile launchers

Expected Life Span: Launchers = No expiration. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$3,000.

40mm Round = 5 years.

Bean Bag Launchers

Expected Life Span: Launchers = No expiration

Bean bag rounds = 5 years. Fiscal Impact: \$0-\$3,000.

When military equipment has reached significantly low levels, or have been exhausted, or the department requires acquisition of any of the items listed, the Department may order equipment as needed in each calendar year by adhering to the City and Department rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

Cost estimated with the military equipment are not a guaranteed expenditure each year. Some annual cycles may require no purchases while others may call for replacing items due to the service life.

# ADDENDUM

## DHSPD Military Equipment Inventory

	Quantity
Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles	2
Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers	0
Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants and utilize a tracked system instead of wheels for forward motion	0
Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units	0
Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind	0
Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature (items designed to remove a lock, such as bolt cutters, or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person, are specifically excluded)	0
Firearms of .50 caliber or greater (standard issue shotguns are specifically excluded)	0
Ammunition of .50 caliber or greater (standard issue shotgun ammunition is specifically excluded)	0
Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sections 30510 and 30515 of the Penal Code (except for standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber)	24 – AR 15 Rifles 4 – MP 5
Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles	0
“Flashbang” grenades and explosive breaching tools, “tear gas,” and “pepper balls” (excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray)	0
Taser Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)	0
The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launchers, “bean bag,” rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons	4 – 40mm LL 6 – LL shotguns 120–LL beanbag rounds 53 – 40mm sponge rounds
Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight	0



## Desert Hot Springs Qualifying Military Equipment:

- **Unmanned, remotely piloted powered aerial or ground vehicles**
  - Search and locate reported missing children or at-risk adults
  - Search and Rescue Operations to locate lost or Injured hikers
  - A law enforcement specific application involving Aerial DRONES are used for open terrain or large field searches as a force-multiplier to assist in high-risk apprehensions of armed or violent suspects. Aerial drones can be used as an interior search tool to locate suspects barricaded inside a residence or commercial structure. Larger DRONE platforms are deployed by the Sheriff's Department Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Team
  - A tracked armored vehicle remotely piloted for use in explosive ordinance disposal
  - Unmanned robotics have numerous applications. Robotics are used instead of personnel in high-risk environments to increase safety for law enforcement
- **Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle**
  - The MRAP is a large ballistic armored rescue vehicle which can be used for a number of critical situations. It can be deployed for aid during search warrant services as well as rescue missions to include civilians, officers, and hostage situations with seating for 10 adults
  - The MRAP, though the County is fortunate to have good southern California weather, is primarily used in open desert areas, however, it can be used in any dangerous weather condition with the ability of extreme off-road capabilities. The MRAP is also used for large parcel outdoor illegal marijuana grow enforcement. The MRAP has 4X4 capability and able to transport or evacuate victims in a flood, fire or other natural disaster. Operation requires a Class "B" driver's license
- **Armored Vehicles**
  - Inventory includes four (4) Lenco Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter-Attack Trucks (BEAR-CATS). The BEAR-CATS, or Rescue Vehicles, are primarily used during high-risk tactical enforcement operations, officer rescues, and vehicle borne interventions. Additional deployments are used during criminal unrest and riots. Rescue vehicles provide ballistic safety during containment and apprehension of armed violent suspects
  - Rescue vehicle for on-campus active shooter incidents to rescue injured victims
  - 4X4 capability to transport or evacuate victims in a flood, fire or other natural disaster
  - BOMB-CAT bullet resistant rescue vehicle provisioned with a front mounted Water Cannon. BOMB-CAT use is for tactical operations and explosive ordinance mitigation and fire suppression
  - Rescue vehicles provide numerous safety capabilities for law enforcement, victim rescues, and overall community safety
- **Vehicles with Breaching or Entry apparatus attachable**
  - BEAR-CAT vehicles have attachable metal booms that can be used for breaching structures, fences, or ramming objects during high-risk incidents, to include active shooter incidents on school ground or buildings

- TAC-CAT vehicle - A tracked bullet resistant caterpillar tractor driven and deployed during high-risk and tactical operations with various hydraulic boom attachments including claw, chemical agent dispersal box and ram extension
- **Non-handheld battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature**
  - Explosive breaching tools
  - Avon frangible shotgun ammunition is used to breach doors and points of entry on fortified doors or structures. The rounds are used to impact door hinges, doorknobs and locks
- **Assault Weapons defined under PC 30510 & PC 30515**
  - Inventory includes AR style rifles that function at full and semi-automatic capability (fully automatic rifles are only assigned to SWAT personnel)
  - Semi-automatic Benelli shotguns
  - Increased accuracy and precision at long range distances
  - Currently used by most law enforcement agencies across the nation
- **Flashbang grenades and explosive breaching tools**
  - Light Sound Diversionary Device (LSDD-“Flashbangs”) are diversionary devices used to minimize risk to all parties through the temporary distraction or disorientation of armed and violent suspects that pose significant danger to the deputies and community. The effects of the LSDD reduce a suspect’s reactionary capabilities and allow for momentary disorientation which creates a tactical advantage. LSDD is a hand delivered device and generally deployed on the exterior of structures
  - Provides a humane fright of aggressive dogs that pose a threat to deputies
  - Explosive breaching tools are used to breach fortified structures to establish a point of entry. Explosive charges are fashioned to produce little to no fragmentation at the time of detonation. Explosive breaching effectively reduces the time spent overcoming a fortified door or structure. The reduction in time mitigating a hardened structure increasing officer safety and the element of surprise. Blast injuries are reduced by using low yield explosives that mechanically overcome door frames and locking mechanisms. Explosive breaching mandates extensive schooling and certification processes
- **Tear Gas**
  - Chemical agents are deployed through various means to include hand delivery and weapon launchable, such as pepper ball. Munitions are either 37mm or 40mm caliber, shotgun ferret rounds or cannister shotgun launched ordinance. Hand delivered chemical agents are placed in metal burn boxes to reduce fire hazards
- **Water Cannon**
  - The BOMB-CAT bullet resistant Rescue vehicle provisioned with a front mounted Water Cannon. BOMB-CAT use is for tactical operations and explosive ordinance mitigation and fire suppression
- **Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)**

- LRAD is an acoustic hailing device used for emitting amplified public announcements during search warrant services, barricaded suspects, or tactical operations. The loud audible technology ensures broadcasted announcements are loud and clear while offering advantages over less amplified patrol car PA systems. The LRAD can also be used for public announcements or safety advisements during natural disasters or evacuations
  - The larger LRAD 1000 system is portable and can be used for criminal unrest and rioting to provide clear dispersal orders for unlawful assembly
- **Command and Control Vehicles built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units**
  - Command vehicles are built in various platforms to include ½ ton pickup chassis, vans, trailers, and RV style configurations. Vehicles are built to better assist in command and control during law enforcement operations, natural disasters, and public safety issues. Vehicles are designed with additional communication abilities, computers, white boards, lightening, generators, and mission essential supplies
- **40mm projectile launchers**
  - Less lethal 40mm launchers and rubber projectile munitions- Munitions are configured for high and low energy impact. Munitions have the additional benefit as a barrier round for breaking vehicle and residential glass so that chemical munitions can be deployed. 40mm less lethal has been effective in disarming violent suspects, armed suspects, and subjects who are suicidal with minimal injury and risk to the person, law enforcement or the public
- **Bean Bag Launchers**
  - Less lethal bean bag is utilized through a marked/orange colored easily identifiable less lethal shotgun. The bean bag round is a small led pellet filled munition made of high-density cloth. Bean bag is the predecessor to 40mm less lethal having similar benefits as other less lethal platforms
- **Rubber Projectile launchers**
  - Sting ball grenade launches .38 caliber rubber projectiles and are hand delivered. Generalized use in a tactical operation is infrequent in use and deployment. Search warrants, violent combative subjects, or hostage rescue scenarios are criteria for consideration and use against suspects. Sting balls have a greater application in a Jail Corrections Environment
  - 40mm and 37mm launchers capable of deploying rubber projectile munitions. An effective less lethal tool used routinely with success