



# ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

**NUMBER:** 50.05

**TITLE:** Mobile Field Force

**SERIES NUMBER:** 50

**SERIES TITLE / SUBJECT:** Operations Support

**TOPICS/ REFERENCE:** Critical Incident Response, Less Lethal, Rapid Response

**APPENDICIES:** A, B

**ORIGINAL / EFFECTIVE ISSUE DATE:** April, 23, 2008

**DATE OF LAST REVISION:** May 01, 2013

**THIS ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL REVISED OR RESCINDED**

**CALEA STANDARDS:** 46.2.2 – 46.2.3

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**Policy:**

It is the policy of the Rockford Police Department to deploy a well trained and properly equipped Mobile Field Force to civil disturbances and other critical incidents as necessary.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this Order is to provide guidelines and procedures for the function, organization, activation, equipment, training and selection of the Mobile Field Force.

This Order is comprised of the following numbered sections:

- I. DEFINITIONS
- II. QUALIFICATIONS AND REMOVAL
- III. PROCEDURES
- IV. TRAINING
- V. CHEMICAL MUNITIONS
- VI. LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS
- VII. AFTER-ACTION REPORT
- VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE
- IX. REVIEWS, REVISIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

**APPENDICES:**

- A. Mobile Field Force Organizational Chart
- B. Mobile Field Force Vehicle Markings

## I. Definitions:

- A. Mobile Field Force: A platoon of 40-60 officers that have received specialized training and tactics to deal with and diffuse volatile civil disturbances employing platoon tactics, small squad tactics, or mobile tactics from vehicles.
- B. Squad: A squad consists of eight officers. A sergeant or senior officer will be the squad leader. Two officers will be drivers. One officer will be a grenadier. There are two squad cars assigned to a squad.
- C. Team Commander: An officer, usually a Commander, who will report to the Command Post and act as a liaison with the chief law enforcement officer in charge of the incident.
- D. Operational Team Leader: An officer, usually a lieutenant or senior sergeant, who is in operational control during an incident. The Operational Team Leader is in charge of deployment of the Mobile Field Force and makes tactical decisions during incidents. The Operational Team Leader conducts training and completes training & attendance reports on team members. The Operational Team Leader acts as the Team Commander during the Team Commanders absence.
- E. Executive Officer (XO): An officer, usually a lieutenant or senior sergeant, who assists the Operational Team Leader during a call out. The XO maintains an activity log for the after-action report and completes other assignments as directed. The XO controls the movement of the line with direction from the Operational Team Leader and is trained to function as the Operational Team Leader if necessary as well as assist in training and general team management.
- F. Squad Leader: An officer, usually a sergeant or senior officer, who is responsible for the activities of each squad member. All communications will be directed to the Squad Leader who will carry out assignments as directed by the Operational Team Leader.
- G. Squad Officers: A squad is the basic element of the Mobile Field Force. Each squad usually consists of eight officers. These officers are under the direction of their Squad Leader, Executive Officer, or the Operational Team Leader.
- H. Grenadiers: One per squad. Grenadiers are trained to use less-lethal weapons and deliver chemical weapon munitions. They are equipped with a 37mm gas gun and/or other less-lethal weapon(s) including launched munitions and hand-thrown chemical munitions.
- I. Medic: An officer that has had training in advanced first aid and/or is a qualified paramedic/EMT. Medic's will render first aid to any injured members of the Mobile Field Force and ensure the injured are safely removed from the field if the situation dictates such removal.
- J. Rear Guard(s): Rear Guard officer(s) are assigned to guard and protect equipment as well as squad cars from damage or theft. These vehicles and equipment are usually in the staging area.
- K. Prisoner Processing Officer(s): Officers designated to process arrests and hold arrested persons pending transport.

## II. Qualifications and Removal:

- A. Qualifications for selection to the Mobile Field Force
  - 1. Membership is voluntary.
  - 2. Applicants must be a sworn officer who is off probation.
  - 3. Applicants must have an average score of 37 or higher on their last two-year's evaluations.

4. Applicants must be in excellent physical health.
  5. Applicants must have passed the most recent Department firearm qualification course.
  6. Applicants must have passed a Department or State of Illinois approved impact weapons class.
  7. Applicants must not have any sustained excessive force complaints within the 5 year period immediately prior to application for Mobile Field Force.
  8. Applicants must be able to work well in a team environment and follow orders.
  9. Applicants must be able to function well under stress.
- B. The Chief of Police, or designee, will select and appoint the Mobile Field Force Team Commander, the Operational Team Leader, and the Executive Officer.
- C. The Team Commander will review all applications for the Mobile Field Force and submit a list of selected candidates to the Chief of Police, or designee, for final approval.
- D. Causes for removal from the Mobile Field Force:
1. Failure to maintain minimum levels of physical fitness;
  2. Loss of any certification under Illinois Training and Standards Board or other certifying agency, whether temporary or permanent;
  3. Disciplinary action resulting in suspension from duty without pay by the Chief of Police or Board of Fire and Police Commissioners;
  4. Failure to maintain, in operational readiness, any equipment issued to a member;
  5. Loss of or intentional damage to, any Mobile Field Force equipment being used by a member;
  6. Lack of participation in a minimum of 75% of Mobile Field Force training. Exceptions include conflicts with scheduled mandatory Department training and vacations scheduled and approved prior to Mobile Field Force training;
  7. Any Mobile Field Force team member may voluntarily resign from the team at any time;
  8. In the opinion of the Team Commander, after consulting with other team members, supervisors, and commanders, that removal of a team member is in the best interests of the Mobile Field Force team.
- E. The Team Commander will submit an officer's report, recommending removal of a member from the Mobile Field Force team, to the Chief of Police for final approval, citing the cause or causes for such recommendation.
- F. The Chief of Police may, but is not required to, hear an appeal from the member under consideration for removal. The decision of the Chief of Police is final.

### III. Procedures:

- A. Function: The Mobile Field Force is designed to provide a rapid, organized and trained response to civil disorder, crowd control, or other tactical situations. Tactics used are based on small squad tactics developed by the Office of Domestic Preparedness and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS), as well as traditional Mobile Field Force tactics. The Mobile Field Force may be used to:
1. Control and/or disperse unruly crowds;
  2. Rescue civilians and police officers under hazardous conditions;

3. Apprehend multiple offenders in crowd situations;
  4. Isolate areas of civil disorder or disaster by the use of large, organized perimeters;
  5. Provide security at sensitive sites;
  6. Other assignments as directed by the Chief of Police or designee.
- B. Activation of Mobile Field Force: Only the Chief of Police or a Commander of Police may activate the Mobile Field Force. The following items may be taken under consideration when reaching a decision to activate the Mobile Field Force.
1. A civil disorder situation is beyond the control of or could potentially become beyond the control of available on-duty personnel.
  2. A natural or man-made disaster has occurred that cannot be managed with available on-duty personnel.
  3. Other situations where the Mobile Field Force is the appropriate response after consideration of all facts and information known at the time and consultation with the Mobile Field Force Team Commander.
- C. Activation Procedures: Upon authorization and notification to the Shift Commander that the Mobile Field Force is being activated, the following procedures will be used.
1. The Shift Commander will notify the Mobile Field Force Team Commander that the Mobile Field Force is being activated. If the Team Commander is unavailable or cannot be reached, the Operational Team Leader will be notified. If the Operational Team Leader cannot be notified, the Executive Officer will be notified.
  2. The Mobile Field Force Team Commander, or designee, will begin notifying Team members that the Team has been activated and to report for duty. The Shift Commander can assist if requested to do so. The Mobile Field Force Commander will be responsible for maintaining a current callback list of team members to be furnished to all command officers and kept on file in the Shift Commander's office.
  3. After the Mobile Field Force has been activated, their duties and responsibilities will be as directed by the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, Assistant Deputy Chief of Police or Incident Commander.
- D. Equipment: The following equipment will be provided to all members of the Mobile Field Force:
1. One black utility or BDU uniform with flame resistant undergarment.
  2. Disturbance control kit containing: chest protector, elbow and kneepads, shin guards, padded gloves, forearm pads and carry bag.
  3. Helmet with face shield (gas mask compatible).
  4. NIOSH approved gas mask.
  5. CN/CS gas mask canister (2 issued).
  6. Rain poncho.
  7. Riot Shield 20X36.
  8. Personal Hydration System.
  9. Nylon duty belt, holster, handcuff case and baton ring.
  10. 26" baton.
  11. Medics only - medic bag with medical field supplies and portable fire extinguisher with leg holster.
- E. Each team member is responsible for keeping his/her equipment in a state of operational readiness at all times.

- F. The Mobile Field Force Commander will ensure all Mobile Field Force equipment is maintained in proper working order and inspected for operational readiness on a quarterly basis. A quarterly inspection report will be completed and kept on file with the Mobile Field Force Commander. A copy of the quarterly inspection report shall be forwarded to the Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau. See *Memorandum 2008-013* for additional information.
- IV. Training:
- A. Training curriculum and scheduling will be the responsibility of the Mobile Field Force Commander. Budget, personnel and time constraints will be taken into consideration. The Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau must approve all training.
  - B. The Mobile Field Force team will train as a group a minimum of twice per year. Additional training will be done as needed and authorized.
  - C. All team members must participate in a minimum of 75% of scheduled in-service training to remain a member of the Mobile Field Force team. Consideration can be made for vacations scheduled and approved prior to training and conflicts with Department mandatory training.
  - D. Training and attendance records will be completed and documented by the Operational Team Leader or Executive Officer and submitted to the Training and Personnel Unit to be maintained on file.
- V. Chemical Munitions:
- A. The Mobile Field Force has the option of utilizing chemical munitions. The deployment of chemical munitions will only occur in an outdoor setting, excluding OC, which is an organic substance. Chemical munitions can be delivered by launcher, grenade, or aerosol. The following chemical munitions are authorized for the Mobile Field Force.
    1. CS: An irritant that affects the lachrymal glands causing involuntary closing of the eyes, stinging skin, runny nose and a feeling of tightness in the chest. International color code is Blue.
    2. CN: An irritant that affects the lachrymal glands causing visual impairment and tearing, upper respiratory system irritation and itching. International color code is Red.
    3. HC: Is white smoke used to hide movement, test wind direction, create diversion or use in conjunction with CS or CN to keep gas in area longer. International color code is Yellow.
    4. OC: Oleoresin Capsicum is a naturally occurring substance found in the cayenne pepper. OC works on the principle of being an inflammatory agent. It irritates and inflames the mucous membranes causing involuntary closing of the eyes. United States color code is Orange.
  - B. Only team members who have successfully completed an approved training course shall be certified and authorized to deploy chemical munitions.
  - C. Except in an emergency life-threatening situation, chemical munitions will not be deployed without authorization from the Team Commander or Operational Team Leader.
  - D. Use of chemical munitions will be documented in the after-action report submitted by the Team Commander or Operational Team Leader.

VI. Less-Lethal Weapons:

- A. Less-Lethal Force: The use of force, which encourages compliance and overcomes resistance without deploying deadly force techniques or weapons. The potential for death or serious physical injury to the subject is thus reduced.
- B. The use of less-lethal weapons is governed by General Order *1.10 - Less Lethal Weapons*. Only team members who have successfully completed an approved training course shall be certified and authorized to deploy less lethal weapons.
- C. Use of less-lethal weapons will be documented in the after-action report submitted by the Team Commander or Operational Team Leader.

VII. After-Action Report:

- A. An after-action report will be written any time the Mobile Field Force is activated, whether or not the team is deployed to an incident. The after-action report will document, at a minimum, the names of team members who responded and the nature of the incident prompting the activation. If the team is deployed to an incident, the after-action report will document the team's activities from time of activation until time of de-activation. This report will be written by the Team Commander, or designee, and submitted to the Chief of Police within 7 days after the incident.

VIII. Effective Date:

- A. The effective date of this Order is April 23, 2008

IX. Reviews, Revisions and Cancellations:

- A. This General Order will be reviewed annually by the Supervisor of the Mobile Field Force Unit and, when necessary, revised or cancelled in accordance with the procedures for reviewing written directives established in General Order *10.01 – Written Directives*.
- B. Any employee with suggestions for revisions and/or improvements to this order are encouraged to submit their ideas to the Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau.

BY ORDER OF

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Chet Epperson  
Chief of Police

## APPENDIX A

### Mobile Field Force Vehicle Markings

- A. Each Squad in the Mobile Field Force will be assigned a call sign. Each vehicle assigned to the Mobile Field Force will be numbered for easy identification of the squad it has been assigned to.
- B. Squad cars will be marked by white liquid shoe polish in the upper left-hand corner of the rear window. Letters and numbers will be in block style and approximately 16" high.
- C. Squad One will be given the call sign of F10. The two police cars assigned to Squad One will be marked with F10 and F11.
- D. Squad Two will be given the call sign of F20. The two police cars assigned to Squad Two will be marked with F20 and F21.
- E. Squad Three will be given the call sign of F30. The two police cars assigned to Squad Three will be marked with F30 and F31.
- F. Squad Four will be given the call sign of F40. The two police cars assigned to Squad Four will be marked with F40 and F41.
- G. If additional squads are assigned to the Mobile Field Force they will be given numbers in the sequential order following F40.
- H. The Operational Team Leader and Executive Officer will be in the same police car. Their car will be marked with FFL (Field Force Leader).
- I. The squad leader will always be in the first vehicle (F10, F20, etc.). Assistant Squad Leader will always be in the second vehicle (F11, F21, etc.).
- J. Support officers, Rear Guard and Medics will be in a squad(s) marked FS.
- K. If an arrest wagon is deployed with the Mobile Field Force Unit it will be marked with AW.

