


**BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DEPARTMENTAL ORDER**

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TO: ALL PERSONNEL

FROM: SHERIFF-CORONER

SUBJECT: HOSTAGE SITUATIONS - CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

DATE: JULY 6, 2011

POLICY: Hostage and/or barricaded suspect situations pose a dangerous and often complex law enforcement problem. Such situations will be controlled in a manner designed to ensure the safe release of a hostage, safeguard the lives of employees and the public, and to apprehend the responsible.

I. AUTHORITY:

1. California Penal Code §6030

II. ACTION:

1. This order replaces Departmental Order 5056, dated September 15, 1999.
2. Effective immediately, the following actions and procedures shall be implemented:

Distribution "B and C" – All sworn personnel, all dispatchers, and all personnel assigned to, or supporting, the Corrections Division.

Original: September 15, 1999

Revised: July 6, 2011

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III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. All available techniques (i.e., hostage negotiations, SWAT, etc.) will be utilized to persuade the hostage takers to surrender. All significant decisions reached during negotiations regarding the use of chemical agents, special weapons, etc. will be made by the jail commander or, in his absence, the captain - operations division.
- B. The hostage negotiating team will be the liaison between the hostage takers, SWAT, and the captains.
- C. No person, regardless of rank, has any authority while held as a hostage.
- D. Personnel will not offer themselves in exchange for any hostage.
- E. Personnel who are not hostage negotiators will not make promises to hostage takers.

IV. PROCEDURES:

- A. Containment and notifications:
 - 1. Correctional staff on the scene, and under the direction of the jail watch commander, will isolate and contain hostage takers by establishing an inner perimeter securing all affected areas and implementing a lockdown of the facility.
 - 2. Correctional staff on the scene will secure avenues of escape while avoiding contact with the hostage takers.
 - 3. The jail watch commander will ensure that the following personnel are notified in the event of a hostage/barricaded situation:
 - a. on-duty patrol sergeant;
 - b. all correctional lieutenant;
 - c. jail commander;
 - d. captain of the operations division;
 - e. undersheriff; and
 - f. sheriff.
- B. The jail watch commander will:
 - 1. Ensure the facility is locked down and conduct a count.

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2. Determine additional personnel required to continue jail operations.
 3. Whenever possible, assign personnel to video tape the incident.
 4. Coordinate the activities of responding personnel directing them to posts or staging areas.
 5. Obtain available information about the hostage takers and hostage, making this information available to the negotiating team. This information should include, but is not limited to:
 - a. booking and classification information;
 - b. exact location of hostage takers and hostage;
 - c. floor plan of the area;
 - d. weapons being used; and
 - e. physical and mental status of the hostage and hostage takers.
 6. After the hostage situation has terminated:
 - a. ensure involved correctional personnel submit written reports;
 - b. provide immediate medical treatment as required; and
 - c. place hostage takers in disciplinary segregation.
- C. The jail commander, or, in his absence, the operations captain, will assume command of the incident.
- D. The SWAT commander, upon arrival, will assume tactical control of the situation.
- E. The public information officer will issue media press releases.
- F. In the event that hostage negotiations fail, the incident commander will decide if the tactical team will be deployed.