



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



580.17 USE OF THE LONG RANGE ACOUSTICAL DEVICE (LRAD) 02-23-17

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the deployment and use of the LRAD – Long Range Acoustical Device.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to deploy and use the LRAD to maximize the safety of all individuals involved in an incident.

PROCEDURE

- A. DEFINITION – Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD) - A high intensity directional acoustical array for long range, crystal clear hailing, notification, and an unmistakable warning tone. The LRAD is primarily used as a communication device.
- B. GENERAL
 1. The LRAD shall only be used by officers trained in its deployment and used in a manner consistent with Department policy and training.
 2. Officers shall document use of the LRAD warning tone on a subject only when used for prolonged periods.
 3. To ensure the LRAD is not damaged when mounted on the outside of a vehicle, it shall not be transported at speeds greater than 15 MPH.
- C. COMMUNICATION
 1. The LRAD may be used to issue dispersal orders during crowd and riot control situations or to address the public in the event of
 - a. Civil emergencies.
 - b. Natural disasters.
 - c. Evacuations.
 - d. Police incidents (e.g., missing persons, perimeters for wanted suspects/ K9 deployments, etc.)
 2. The LRAD device may be used by police negotiators to initiate verbal contact with a subject when other forms of communications are not practical.
 3. Except as described in section C.2. above, a prerecorded message shall be used to make announcements when possible. When the use of a pre-recorded message is not applicable or when additional information is necessary, the LRAD's handheld microphone or remote headset may be used.
- D. WARNING DETERRENT ZONE
 1. The LRAD Warning tone is a safe deterrent for use against hostile crowds or individuals.
 2. The warning tone shall only be used when authorized by a Lieutenant or higher authority with the exception of the Marine Unit. The Marine Unit may utilize the warning tone at the discretion of the patrol boat operators to gain attention and compliance on the region's waterways.
 3. When authorized for use in the field, the warning tone shall only be used
 - a. In short durations.
 - b. To gain immediate attention of persons, vessels or other vehicles.
 - c. As a distraction.
 - d. As needed during SWAT operations.
 - e. For other reasons determined by the incident commander.



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4. All officers in the immediate proximity of the LRAD for a prolonged period of time should wear ear protection.
5. Advance notification should be provided to perimeter officers prior to activating the warning tone.