



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



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SUBJECT: STATE POLICE BOMB TEAM

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and procedures for the application and selection process for membership into the New Mexico State Police Bomb Team, and guidelines for its deployment and utilization.

2.0 POLICY

It is the policy of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS) to maintain a highly flexible and skilled Bomb Team for the performance of specialized assignments involving explosives or suspected explosives that require the use of special equipment, skills, and tactics.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all New Mexico State Police commissioned personnel within the New Mexico Department of Public Safety.

4.0 REFERENCES

- A. **FBI National Guidelines for Bomb Technicians**
- B. **ATF Federal Regulations Section 27 CFR**
- C. **EPA Regulation 40 CFR 264.1(G)(8) and 270.1(C)(3)**
- D. **OSHA Federal Regulation Part 1910.120 (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)**

5.0 DEFINITIONS

- A. **Bomb Team** – The Bomb Team is a specialty team within the Department of Public Safety that shall be comprised of commissioned state police officers. The State Police Bomb Team falls under the command structure of the Special Operations Bureau. The team is directly supervised by one commander and one assistant commander with an allotted strength approved by the Chief. The Bomb Team’s primary responsibility is to respond to all hazardous incidents relating to explosives and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and to employ safe techniques, as necessary. The Bomb Team may also perform in a supportive role to all other specialty teams and federal and local law enforcement agencies, as needed.
- B. **Bomb Technician’s Assistant** – Members of the Bomb Team who have received the forty (40) hour basic demolition and explosives recognition course instructed by the State Police Bomb Team, but who have not yet attended the FBI Hazardous Devices School. Bomb Team assistant will operate in supportive roles to certified Bomb Team technicians.
- C. **Certified Bomb Technician** – Members of the Bomb Team who have attended and successfully completed the FBI Hazardous Devices School.

D. Senior Bomb Technician - Members of the Bomb Team who have completed the FBI Hazardous Devices Recertification School and have the ability to serve as a lead Bomb Technician in any given scenario presented to the Bomb Team

6.0 PROCEDURE

A. Activation

1. The State Police Bomb Team may be activated by the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety, the Chief of State Police and his command staff, and the Bomb Team commander or assistant commander.
 - a. During critical incidents the bomb team will assist other specialty teams/bureaus/divisions.
2. The Bomb Team commander and assistant commander will be the central point for activating the Bomb Team.
3. The Bomb Team commander will determine the specific personnel. Either certified or non-certified, that will respond to handle each mission.
 - a. A bomb technician's assistant will operate in a supportive roll to the certified bomb technician who will be the lead technician on all missions.
 - b. The commander or assistant commander will determine who will be the lead technician on all missions.
4. During times when the commander and assistant commander are unavailable, a certified bomb technician may be designated as the acting commander by the commander or assistant commander to handle missions. This will not prohibit the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety or the Chief of State Police, or their designees, from designating a lead certified bomb technician during emergency calls for service when the commander and/or assistant commander cannot be reached.
5. When any commissioned officer is called to the scene where an explosive or IED is discovered, the State Police Bomb Team will be notified to respond to the incident. Under no circumstances will a commissioned officer who is not assigned to the Bomb Team attempt to move or handle, in any way, an explosive or IED.
 - a. Responding departmental officers will set up and maintain an appropriate perimeter, until the Bomb Team arrives on scene, and obtain as much information concerning the call as possible for the responding technicians.
 - b. The appropriateness of a perimeter will be based on the responding officer's judgment based on the facts and/or circumstances known at the time of arrival and consistent with training.

B. Operations

The State Police Bomb Team is responsible for responding to a large variety of hazardous situations. The following outlines responses to calls for service and the responsibilities of the Bomb Team. However, calls for service may vary and the technician's response may be adapted depending on the type of mission. This portion of policy will act as a guide or plan for Bomb Team responses, but will not restrict a technician's ability to adapt his/her response.

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1. Found military ordnance will be reported to the United States Military for disposition. The State Police Bomb Team will provide support for the responding military explosive ordnance disposal team, as requested or directed.
2. Found explosives will be destroyed, in accordance with EPA and OSHA Federal Regulations, with special consideration and exception allowed during emergency calls for service.
3. **Improvised Explosive Devices** will be rendered safe depending on the responding certified technicians' determination about the best technique to utilize. This is based on the technician's training, experience, and due regard for minimal collateral damage. Hand entry into a device will only be allowed during life-threatening situations. Under no circumstances will a hand entry technique be used when there is no existing threat to human life.
4. Upon determination of a chemical, biological, or radiological weapon, the FBI will be notified. The FBI will have jurisdiction over all such weapons or devices. The State Police will provide support to the FBI during these types of incidents, as requested or directed.
5. The State Police Bomb Team will not respond to bomb threats. In general, the Bomb Team does not conduct searches for IEDs. Staff of the facility, along with responding public safety personnel, should conduct searches of their own facility as it would be more practical for them to identify suspicious packages or items that are out of place. Once a suspect package has been located, the Bomb Team will then be requested to respond and initiate/render safe procedures.
6. The State Police Bomb Team will operate under the Critical Incident Management System.
7. Members of the Bomb Team who are engaged in any Bomb Team assignment shall be excluded from the Department of Public Safety's policy concerning ballistic body armor. The Bomb Team Commander, Assistant Commander, Senior Bomb Technician, or Lead Bomb Technician shall state the level of ballistic protection, if any, is needed for the particular assignment/job Bomb Team members are engaged in.

C. Selection, Qualification, Membership, and Training

1. Selection – Application process

All applicants must have a minimum of two (2) years patrol experience and have successfully completed the department FTO program. Patrol experience may include time spent in patrol with other agencies prior to becoming a commissioned State Police officer. Officers must also successfully meet the following criteria to be considered for the Bomb Team:

- a. Must have a written letter of support from commissioned officer's commander;
- b. Must provide officer evaluation forms for the last two (2) years of service, if applicable;
- c. Must also be required to complete an EOD stress course designed by the Bomb Team Commander. The course will be in a bomb suit and SCBA to evaluate the physical fitness level of Bomb Team members.

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- d. Must pass an oral board evaluation, to include a dexterity and manipulations exercise. The oral board shall be comprised of certified bomb technicians;
- e. Must submit two (2) investigative reports upon arrival to the oral board interview for evaluation of investigative and writing skills;
- f. Must have HAZ/MAT certifications through the awareness and operations level; and
- g. Must not have any medical conditions that would make them ineligible for the FBI Hazardous Device School.

2. Qualification

Upon acceptance to the State Police Bomb Team, new members must successfully pass the following tasks to obtain permanent status on the team. If a new member to the Bomb Team fails to successfully pass the requirements below, or fails to complete the probationary period, he/she may be removed by the Chief upon recommendation from the Bomb Team commander. A Bomb Team member is on probation until they have successfully completed the F.B.I's Hazardous Devices School.

- a. Complete a physical examination as required by the FBI's Hazardous Devices School to ensure Bomb Team members are physically able to operate as a Bomb Team technician.
- b. Complete a forty (40) hour basic demolition and explosives recognition course instructed by the State Police Bomb Team to obtain bomb technician assistant status.
- c. Meet all requirements necessary to attend the FBI's Hazardous Devices School and complete it to obtain Certified Bomb Technician status.
- d. Complete probationary period.
- e. Maintain a level of physical fitness as required to perform all bomb technician tasks.
- f. Participate in trainings, missions, and team activities satisfactory to the Bomb Team commander, assistant Bomb Team commander and senior bomb technicians.

3. Training

All personnel will attend in-service training, as well as specialized training outside the department as allowed by budgetary constraints Bomb Team members are required to attend training courses designed to maintain a high level of readiness and expertise for response to found explosives, IEDs, explosive chemicals, hazardous materials, operations in unknown atmospheres, and dignitary protective details. The following are minimum training requirements for each member of the Bomb Team. If a Bomb Team member fails to meet these training mandates, they may be removed from the team by the Chief upon recommendation from the Bomb Team commander.

Bomb Team members must attend sixteen (16) hours of monthly training as a team in the areas of explosive ordnance disposal, improvised explosive devices, disruption/render safe techniques, and equipment operations.

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- a. Bomb Team members must attend two (2) forty (40) hour in-service training course annually designed and instructed by members of the State Police Bomb Team.
 - b. Certain specialized training courses are sometimes offered for certified and/or non-certified Bomb Team Technicians. Should members of the Bomb Team be assigned to these training courses, they will still be mandated to meet the regularly scheduled training requirements. These specialty courses are needed to ensure the Bomb Team is operating with the most up-to-date techniques and equipment and shall not count toward the mandatory team training hours.
 - c. All certified Bomb Technicians are required to attend and successfully pass the FBI's Hazardous Devices Recertification School every three (3) years from the date of their initial certification.
 - d. All team members will be required to submit to an OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) medical screening.
 - e. All Bomb Team members shall maintain a high level of physical fitness to ensure operational readiness. Team members will also be required to complete an EOD stress course designed by the Bomb Team Commander. The course will be in a bomb suit and SCBA to evaluate the physical fitness level of Bomb Team members bi-annually.
4. Dismissal
- a. Membership and participation as a part of the team is considered a privilege not a promotion. To maintain team integrity and the highest level of standards, all members are subject to disciplinary action and may be removed from the team, without cause, by the Chief of the State Police. Reasons for removal or suspension from the team may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Failure to attend special assignments;
 - ii. Failure to attend training unless excused;
 - iii. Failure to maintain team standards; and/or
 - iv. Failure to meet district duties and responsibilities.

D. Duties and Responsibilities

The following will outline the Bomb Team's responsibilities. All certified Bomb Team technicians will be trained and must remain proficient in performing the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Render safe and/or remove suspected IEDs, incendiary devices, explosives, explosive chemicals, pyrotechnics, and ammunition as currently defined by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF);
2. Provide legal, proper, and safe transportation, disposal and/or storage of explosives, and other items referred to above;
3. Conduct bombing crime scene investigations. Post blast investigation will be conducted by certified bomb technicians only;
4. Provide basic awareness recruit training as requested by the Training and Recruiting Bureau;
5. Collect and preserve evidence after rendering safe procedures;

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6. Store, maintain, and inventory Bomb Team equipment;
7. Provide technical support to special operations;
8. Provide dignitary protection;
9. Prepare and participate in explosive-related training programs;
10. Maintain and be familiar with a technical library of Bomb Data Center publications and other explosive related materials;
11. Maintain professional and training liaison with other local Bomb Teams, explosives detecting canine units, military EOD units, federal agencies, and professional associations;
12. Compile and report technical data on explosive devices and incidents;
13. Develop agency emergency response plans for bomb threats, actual improvised explosive devices, and bombing crime scenes;
14. Develop and promulgate bomb threat awareness and safety programs for public and private organizations; and
15. Report found or recovered military ordnance to United States Military EOD units.

E. Uniforms

Refer to department policy *ADM: 24 Uniforms, Grooming, and Equipment*, for the uniform designated for team members.

F. Equipment / Maintenance

It is the goal of the team to keep equipment in a constant state of readiness and to be accountable for all the issued equipment. The field of explosive ordnance disposal requires a wide variety of very specialized equipment and explosives. This type of equipment must be maintained to ensure the Bomb Team's readiness for a response. The following will provide guidelines for inspection and maintenance of equipment and explosives issued to the Bomb Team.

1. Documented monthly inspections will be completed on all equipment issued to each team member. These inspections will ensure that all equipment is in good operating condition. Bomb Team members shall ensure issued equipment is properly maintained. Copies of the documented inspections shall be forwarded to the Special Operations Bureau commander. The Special Operations commander shall forward copies of the inspection forms to the Research & Development.
2. Bomb Team members will prepare and submit a complete equipment inventory to the Bomb Team commander in July of each year.
3. Damaged equipment will be immediately reported to the Bomb Team commander. The commander shall report the damage to the Special Operations Bureau and ensure that the item is replaced or repaired.
4. The Bomb Team will conduct monthly maintenance on, and inspection of, specialized equipment, such as containment vessel, robot/trailer, and bomb response vehicles.
5. The Bomb Team will conduct monthly inspections of explosive magazines to ensure proper storage and inventory of explosives.

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6. The Bomb Team shall store and transport all explosives according to ATF federal regulations. The Department of Public Safety will provide storage containers and storage areas that comply with ATF federal regulations.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

NONE

8.0 APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: s/Scott Weaver
DPS Cabinet Secretary

DATE: November 29, 2017