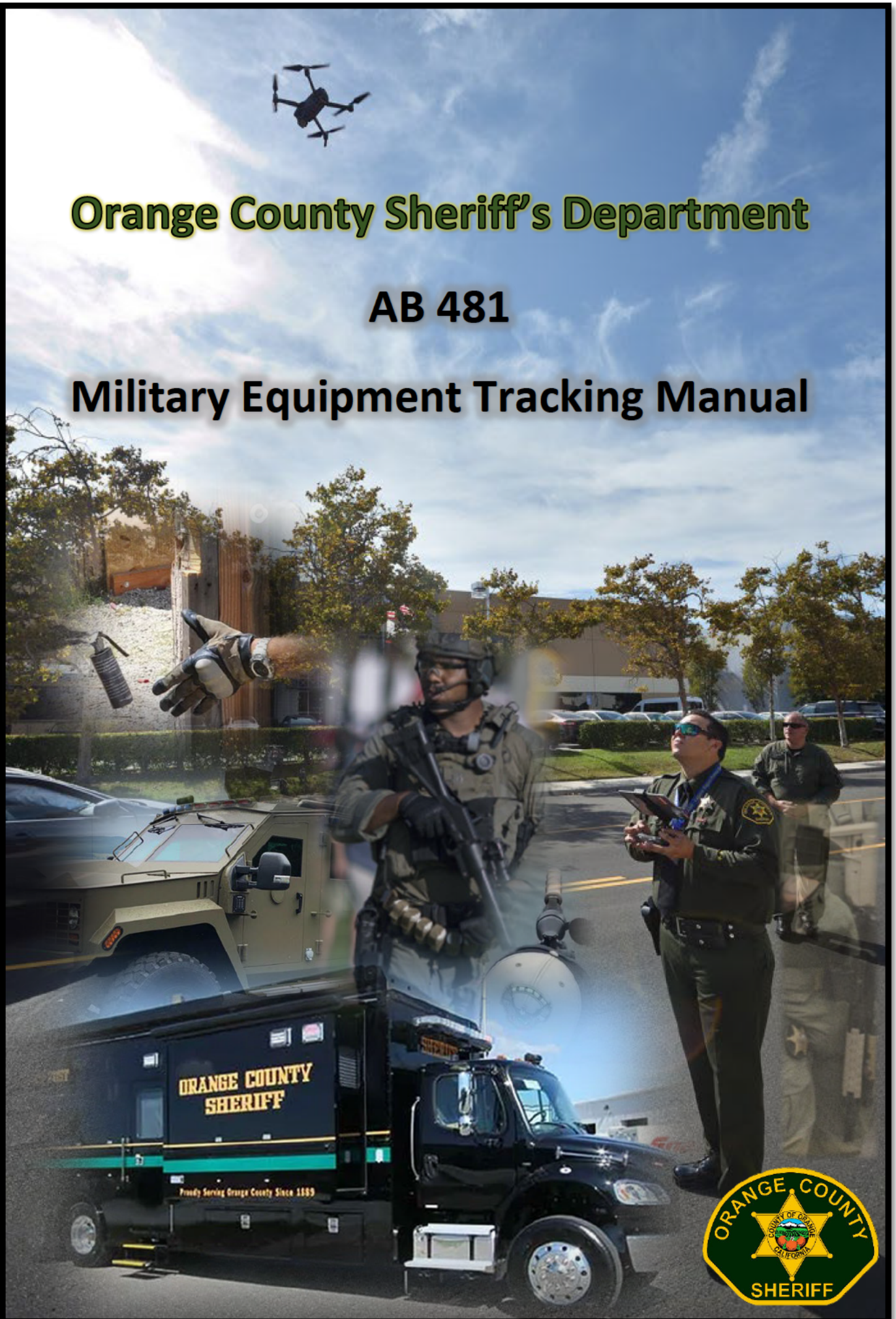


Orange County Sheriff's Department

AB 481

Military Equipment Tracking Manual



History

In September of 2021, the State of California enacted [Assembly Bill 481](#), which states the “acquisition of military equipment and its deployment in our communities adversely impacts the public’s safety and welfare, including increased risk of civilian deaths, significant risks to civil rights, civil liberties, and physical and psychological well-being...Military equipment is more frequently deployed in low-income Black and Brown communities, meaning the risks and impacts of police militarization are experienced most acutely in marginalized communities.”

The bill now requires California law enforcement agencies to meet specific criteria pertaining to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment as defined by [Government Codes 7070 - 7075](#).

Those requirements include but are not limited to:

- Creating a military use policy.
- Obtaining approval of that policy by each agency’s applicable governing body.
- Publishing that policy 30 days prior to the above required approval hearing.
- Creating an Annual Report of each agency’s military equipment use.
- Holding a community engagement meeting within 30 days of submitting/publicly releasing the above Annual Report.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Department has fulfilled the above requirements by creating Policy 711 - Military Equipment, obtaining approval from the Board of Supervisors, providing an online resource for community complaints/engagement, and assigning the responsibility of the required Annual Report and coordination of the community engagement meeting to the SAFE Division.

Per the legislature and OCSD Policy 711, the following OCSD assets are defined as military equipment:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers.
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants.
- Modified operational vehicles, e.g., SWAT and specified command post vehicles. Sergeant vehicles used as a mobile command post does not apply.
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. This does not include items to remove a lock, such as bolt cutters or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person.
- Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, excluding standard-issue shotguns and standard-issue shotgun ammunition.
- Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Penal Code § 30510 and Penal Code § 30515, with the exception of standard-issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber.
- Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.
- "Flashbang" grenades and explosive breaching tools.
- Munitions containing tear gas or oleoresin capsicum (OC), and pepperballs, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.
- TASER® Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and long-range acoustic devices (LRADs).
- 40mm projectile launchers, "bean bag," rubber bullet and specialty impact munition weapons.
- Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

Purpose

Per [Assembly Bill 481](#), [Government Code 7072\(a\)\(2\)](#) states the military use Annual Report must include a "summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use." To fulfill this requirement, the SAFE Division created the **AB481 Military Equipment Tracker (MET)**.

The purpose of this manual is to guide approved users through the appropriate utilization of the MET to ensure both accuracy and ease of use. This manual is intended to be as streamlined and user-friendly as possible; however, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the SAFE Division at (714) 834-3429.

Overview

AB481 requires that all usage and training associated with military equipment be tracked and documented. In a proactive effort to meet this requirement and effectively conduct any future audits, the MET was designed to capture all information related to two categories: training and usage.

When military equipment is utilized at an incident or training event, that equipment must be documented on the MET. The Bureau in charge of each incident/training event will be responsible for entering all specified equipment utilized in their jurisdiction, regardless of the source of the equipment itself. For example, for an incident occurring in Dana Point, Dana Point will be responsible for documenting any equipment utilized, including anything used by personnel not assigned to Dana Point.

An exception to the abovementioned Bureau responsibility is the involvement of certain specialty units, e.g., SWAT, the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), the Aviation Support Bureau (ASB), and the Hazardous Devices Squad (HSD). Whenever any specialty unit is utilized in an incident, they will be responsible for their own MET entries, regardless of jurisdiction.

Another exception would be that all drone usage will be entered into the MET by the ASB from the information they received from the required flight log provided by the Pilot in Charge (PIC) or Visual Observer (VO).

See the *Example Scenarios* section of this manual for further clarification.

Definitions

For the purposes of military tracking and the MET, here are several key definitions:

Usage: The intentional or unintentional operation, launch, discharge, detonation, activation, ignition, or impact of specified equipment by a person or object in response to an incident requiring investigative or enforcement action shall be a reportable "usage" of the item. For vehicles, including unmanned aerial systems (UAS), robots, and mobile command vehicles (excluding supervisor vehicles), a usage occurs when the item performs a function to assist in the mission of the investigative or enforcement action.

Consumables: Munitions or chemical agents.

Training: Any training course or exercise which utilizes specified equipment, including consumables.

Detailed Field Breakdown

Event Date	DR/Incident Number	Incident Address	City/Area	Bureau	Division	Event Type

Event Date: The date the usage/training took place.

DR/Incident Number: The associated Orange County Sheriff's Department DR or Incident Number. *When assisting an outside agency, i.e., a SWAT detail, Mobile Field Force incident, or AOA, the outside agency DR or Incident Number will go in the "Summary of Use" field.*

Incident Address: Address where the usage/training took place.

City/Area: City where the usage/training took place. Or, if the location is part of an unincorporated area, but has a distinct name, e.g., Trabuco Canyon, Coto de Caza, Rancho Mission Viejo, etc., enter the area name.

Bureau: Bureau utilizing the equipment.

Division: Division utilizing the equipment will be self-populated after the Bureau entry.

Event Type: *Training or Usage*, as defined in the Overview.

**Although it may seem redundant to list both the Division and the Bureau in situations for which they are the same, it is necessary for future auditing purposes.*

Detailed Field Breakdown (Continued)

Purpose	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Consumables (Munitions)	
					Type Used	Number Used

Purpose: The reason for the usage/training.

When *Training* is selected as the “Event Type,” the “Purpose” will automatically default to *Training*, as shown below.

When *Usage* is selected as the “Event Type,” the drop-down menu will automatically populate with the following: *Civil Unrest, Criminal Surveillance, Crowd Control, Evidence Collection, Intelligence Gathering, Search and Rescue, Subject/Community Care, and Suspect Apprehension*. See below.

Event Type	Purpose
Training	Training

Event Type	Purpose
Usage	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Unrest Criminal Surveillance Crowd Control Evidence Collection Intelligence Gathering Search and Rescue Subject/Community Care Suspect Apprehension </div>

Although the definitions of the above “Purpose” selections may appear self-evident, the ambiguity of some terms might cause confusion when deciding to classify your incident, since there might appear to be more than one choice. To mitigate this, the definitions for each selection (for the purposes of MET documentation) are defined below:

- **Civil Unrest:** Usages related to mass acts of civil disobedience, e.g., public protests, demonstrations, strikes, riots, or unlawful assemblies.
- **Criminal Surveillance:** Usages related to the surveillance of criminal activity, i.e., utilizing a drone to get aerial surveillance footage of a drug house under investigation.

- **Crowd Control:** Usages related to the management of large groups of people at events such as concerts, parades, street fairs/festivals, or other non-criminal forms of public demonstration.
- **Evidence Collection:** Usages related to the collection of evidence.
- **Intelligence Gathering:** Usages related to the gathering of intelligence, i.e., utilizing a drone to assess the layout of a building, field, landmark, etc.
- **Search and Rescue:** Usages related to search and rescue, i.e., utilizing the drone or Bearcat to search for potential victims at the scene of a hazard, bomb threat, fire, etc.
- **Subject/Community Care:** Usages related to the safe mitigation of incidents involving missing persons, unhoused persons, persons experiencing mental health issues (5150's), etc.
- **Suspect Apprehension:** Usages related to the arrest or detainment of a criminal suspect.
- **Training:** Usages related to a training course or exercise.

Equipment: Class of equipment utilized. The drop-down menu includes the following: *Consumables, Firearms, Less Than Lethal, Remote Controlled, and Vehicles.*

Type: Type of equipment utilized. (Drop-down menu selection**)

Manufacturer: Manufacturer of the type of equipment utilized. (Drop-down menu selection**)

Model: Model of equipment utilized, based on Equipment>Type>Manufacturer. (Drop-down menu selection**)

Consumables (Munitions) – Type Used: Type of munition used.

Consumables (Munitions) – Number Used: Amount of munitions used.

***Each of these drop-down selection options is determined by the pre-selected classification. The selection made in the "Equipment" category determines the drop-down selections available in the "Type" category, which in turn populates the "Manufacturer" and "Model" drop-down options.*

Detailed Field Breakdown (Continued)

Training Use Only		Summary of Use (200 Characters Max)	Entered by (Sergeant Name)
Number of Personnel Trained	Training Course Length (Hours)		

Number of Personnel Trained (*Training Use Only*): Number of personnel attending a training class or exercise involving military equipment.

Training Course Length (Hours) (*Training Use Only*): Length of training course or exercise.

Summary of Use: Any outside agency DR/Incident Number or Name should be entered in this section. Any other applicable notes or anomalies can also be entered here. Do NOT copy/paste any narratives in this section. This field has a 200-character maximum.

Entry Timeframe Guidelines

To ensure the accessibility of the MET, while still maintaining a reasonable degree of data protection, the MET will refresh on a monthly basis. Meaning, on the first day of every month, the previous month will be archived and no longer available for access. An entry for last month's event may be entered on the next month's spreadsheet.

When edits to a previous MET month need to be made, please email the SAFE Division with the required updates.

Scenario Examples

Example #1:

Units respond to a call of a suicidal subject holding a knife in the Laguna Niguel Regional Park. Due to premise history and a need for additional staff, an Aliso Viejo unit also responds. The Aliso Viejo Deputy ultimately discharges one .40 mm foam baton and strikes the subject in the torso. The suspect surrenders and is later transported for a 5150 WIC evaluation.

The MET entry for this incident would be as shown:

Event Date	DR/Incident Number	Incident Address	City/Area	Bureau	Division	Event Type
04/06/22	22-000000	28241 La Paz Rd.	Laguna Niguel	Laguna Niguel	Southwest Operations	Usage

Purpose	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Consumables (Munitions)	
					Type Used	Number Used
Subject/Community Care	Less Than Lethal	40 mm Launcher	Penn Arms	Single Shot L140	Impact Sponge Rnd	1

Training Use Only		Summary of Use (200 Characters Max)	Entered by (Sergeant Name)
Number of Personnel Trained	Training Course Length (Hours)		
		AV unit discharged one .40mm round at resistant 5150 subject holding a knife.	Sgt. J. Jones #1212

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Example #2:

Mission Viejo units respond to an armed robbery suspect barricaded in a vehicle at the Sonic Drive-In on Jeronimo Road. Mission Viejo sends a drone airborne to get a closer look at the suspect and the surrounding area. SWAT arrives on scene and ultimately utilizes the Bearcat to approach the vehicle and deploys tear gas. The suspect surrenders and is taken into custody.

The MET entry for this incident would be as shown:

Event Date	DR/Incident Number	Incident Address	City/Area	Bureau	Division	Event Type
04/06/22	22-000000	25505 Jeronimo Rd.	Mission Viejo	Air Support	Special Operations	Usage
04/06/22	22-000000	25505 Jeronimo Rd.	Mission Viejo	Special Enforcement Bureau	Special Operations	Usage
04/06/22	22-000000	25505 Jeronimo Rd.	Mission Viejo	Special Enforcement Bureau	Special Operations	Usage

Note: If a DR or Incident Number has multiple entries, i.e., a DR involved multiple pieces of military equipment, the MET will automatically flag that DR or Incident Number in red (as shown above). *This is for documentation purposes only and does NOT indicate any error.*

Purpose	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Consumables (Munitions)	
					Type Used	Number Used
Suspect Apprehension	Remote Controlled	Drone	Skydio	2	Not Applicable	
Suspect Apprehension	Vehicles	Armored Vehicle	Lenco	BEARCAT	Not Applicable	
Suspect Apprehension	Less Than Lethal	CS/Gas/Smoke	Combined Tactical Solutions	5230	CS Canister Cold	1

Training Use Only		Summary of Use (200 Characters Max)	Entered by (Sergeant Name)
Number of Personnel Trained	Training Course Length (Hours)		
		Drone utilized during call of 211 suspect barricaded in a vehicle at Sonic Drive-In.	Sgt. M. Jones #0001
		BearCat utilized during call of 211 suspect barricaded in a vehicle at Sonic Drive-In.	Sgt. C. Example #0002
		Tear Gas utilized during call of 211 suspect barricaded in a vehicle at Sonic Drive-In.	Sgt. N. Real #0003

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Example #3

Mobile Field Force deputies from the Intake Release Center respond to assist the Santa Ana Police Department with a civil unrest incident in the area of Main Street and 5th Street. An IRC Deputy fires approximately 15 pepperball rounds at a subject attempting to light a building on fire. Santa Ana apprehends the subject and the crowd disperses.

The MET entry for this incident would be as shown:

Event Date	DR/Incident Number	Incident Address	City/Area	Bureau	Division	Event Type
04/06/22		Main St. / 5th St.	Santa Ana	Intake Release Center	Intake Release Center	Usage

Purpose	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Consumables (Munitions)	
					Type Used	Number Used
Civil Unrest	Less Than Lethal	Pepperball Launcher	Tippman	Tippman - Not Applicable	Pepperball Rnd	15

Training Use Only		Summary of Use (200 Characters Max)	Entered by (Sergeant Name)
Number of Personnel Trained	Training Course Length (Hours)		
		Pepperball launcher utilized on subject attempting to start a fire during a Santa Ana civil unrest incident. Santa Ana PD (Station 31) DR# 00-00000	Sgt. J. Smith #0004

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Example #4:

The TTC hosts an 8-hour Less Than Lethal training course. There are 25 students, who each fire two .40 mm foam baton rounds at a rubber range dummy.

The MET entry for this incident would be as shown:

Event Date	DR/Incident Number	Incident Address	City/Area	Bureau	Division	Event Type
04/06/22		1900 W, Katella Ave.	Orange	Training Bureau	Training	Training

Purpose	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Consumables (Munitions)	
					Type Used	Number Used
Training	Less Than Lethal	40 mm Launcher	Penn Arms	Single Shot L140	Impact Sponge Rnd	50

Training Use Only		Summary of Use (200 Characters Max)	Entered by (Sergeant Name)
Number of Personnel Trained	Training Course Length (Hours)		
25	8	8-hour less lethal course at the TTC. 25 students in attendance, who each shot two .40mm rounds.	Sgt. John Smith #1234