



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Long Range Acoustical Device LRAD*

Number: *272-A*

Effective Date: *January 10, 2015*

Revised Date: *February 13, 2018*

Rescinds: *272*

Dated: *January 10, 2015*

Approved By:

PURPOSE

To provide guidance in the deployment and use of the Long Range Acoustical Device, LRAD. The main deployment use of this device is emergency notification system to be utilized during natural disasters. The device may also be used as a safe distance communications device when dealing with a barricaded subject, hostage situations or during times of large crowds, or civil unrest. The device also has a less than lethal powerful warning tone capability.

DEFINITION

1. Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD) - is a tool used for conducting long range communications, hailing, and warnings. The system utilizes amplified directed acoustic signals designed to communicate with authority and exceptionally high intelligibility at distances not practical for the unassisted human voice.

PROCEDURE

1. STORAGE

- A. The Department currently utilizes two (2) LRAD 100x units. These units are stored in lockable hard cases. Each unit is hand portable and free standing. The units may also be mounted magnetically to any metal object or vehicle. A magnetic mount will be stored with each unit.
- B. One unit will be stored in the SWAT vault located at the police sub-station. This unit will be under the care and control of the SWAT unit/team commander(s). One unit will be stored at the main police

department in the weapons vault. This unit will be under the care and control of the Patrol/CINT//Special Operations section supervisors. The unit stored at the main police building will be signed in and out by a supervisor.

C. The hands free adapter for the LRAD will be stored in the main police department vault. This unit will primarily be used by members of the CINT team during prolonged periods where a hand mic is not practical.

D. Each unit will be audited annually by the Office of Professional Standards.

2. DEPLOYMENT

A. PATROL / CINT OPERATIONS

1) The LRAD shall be utilized by a minimum of two trained and qualified officers. One officer will act as the operator and the other will act as a security officer for the officer engaged in the set up and operation of the LRAD unit.

2) The unit may be attached to a vehicle utilizing the magnetic mount or carried by hand and placed in a strategic location.

B. The use of the LRAD as a public address system to communicate with the general public, barricaded suspects or crowds will not be considered as a use of force. However, the use of the LRAD as a public address system shall be documented in the uniform crime report (if completed) and a LRAD report (attached).

C. The LRAD alert tone is a less lethal force option which may be used to gain compliance, disperse or affect the arrest of a combative or aggressive individual, group or crowd. Use of the LRAD in this manner constitutes a use of force and will be documented according to established regulation.

3. SWAT OPERATIONS

A. Whenever possible, the LRAD will be utilized from the SWAT armored vehicle. The most notable exception would be when utilized as a public address system for special functions or training.

B. The unit should be mounted to the vehicle utilizing the magnetic mount. The control panel should be relocated from the LRAD housing to the interior of the vehicle and controlled from within granting the user a secure environment to operate in.

- C. The use of the LRAD as a public address system to communicate with general public, barricaded suspects or crowds will not be considered as a use of force. However, the use of the LRAD as a public address system will be documented in the SWAT after action report in the form of a LRAD user report (attached).
- D. The LRAD alert tone is a less lethal force option which may be used to gain compliance, disperse or affect the arrest of a combative or aggressive individual, group or crowd. Use of the LRAD in this manner constitutes a use of force and shall be documented according to established regulation.

4. OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Must be aware of all warnings and cautions listed in the manufacturer's operating manual and training guidelines.
- B. Must be aware of the safe operating distances required when using the LRAD.
- C. Must document the distance, level of force and duration at which the LRAD was applied. (There will be a range finder contained within the unit storage container to acquire accurate distances).
- D. Any damage to the unit must immediately be reported to the operator's direct supervisor and a loss report completed as per current regulation.
- E. In the event the LRAD is operated as an offensive weapon (use other than a public address system), the use of the device will be documented on the LRAD user report form (attached). In the event the use the LRAD constitutes a use of force, the LRAD user form will accompany a use of force report. LRAD user reports will be reviewed and stored by the patrol section captain. SWAT LRAD use reports will be reviewed and stored by the SWAT commander.

5. WARNINGS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- A. ***The LRAD is capable of producing sound pressure levels that have the potential to cause temporary or permanent hearing damage.*** Always follow the safety precautions described in the LRAD manual, as well as the unit's interfaces.

****Please note the warnings and take adequate measures to ensure safe operation of the unit.**

- 1) Read and follow all instructions. Instructions should be kept in a place known to and accessible by the operators of the LRAD.
- 2) Install the LRAD in accordance with the instructions contained in the manual.

- 3) Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus that produce heat.
- 4) Do not connect or disconnect any cables to the unit while the primary circuit is live, unless the area is known to be non- hazardous. Sparks may occur, be aware of the environment.
- 5) Unplug the apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- 6) Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- 7) Do not open in hazardous locations or areas.

6. DISTANCES

- A. Refer to the LRAD manual for distance warnings and cautions prior to tones being initiated. A range finder should be utilized whenever possible to accurately determine distances from the LRAD unit.
- B. If practical, the manufacturer's recommended exclusion zone will be marked off with cones, tape, flagging or any other item that can be used for marking/referencing a distance prior to LRAD tone initiation.
- C. If not practical, the exclusion zone will be enforced by officers outside the exclusion zone but near enough to secure the immediate area.

LRAD User Report

Event #: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Officer/Operator (4 digit): _____

Type Event: _____

Distance to Target(s): _____ Volume Setting: Lo / Med / Hi

Duration of LRAD activation: _____

Authorized by: _____

Summary of incident:

[illegible]

Captured on video: Yes / No

Reviewed by: _____ Date/ Time: _____

Comments:
