



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Terrorism / Homeland Security*

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I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for reporting and relaying terrorism intelligence and information to the appropriate task force, law enforcement agency or other entity with a need and right to know.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Myrtle Beach Police Department to:

1. Investigate all situations, individuals and groups which may pose a bona fide terrorism threat to or within the City of Myrtle Beach;
2. Lawfully collect, maintain, and disseminate intelligence information, while safeguarding civil liberties and privacy protections, in order to protect the public from criminal conduct and acts of terrorism; and
3. Actively communicate with other Federal, State, and Local Organizations for the exchange of terrorism-related information.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Terrorism:** Terrorism is the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. As used in this section, "coerce" does not include an act of civil disobedience.

- B. Domestic Terrorism: Domestic terrorism is the unlawful or threatened use of force or violence by a group or individual based and operating entirely within the United States or its territories, without foreign direction, committed against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives.
- C. International Terrorism: International terrorism involves violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or any state, or acts that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or any state. These acts appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping. International terrorist acts occur outside the United States or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons apparently intended to be coerced or intimidated, or the locale in which the perpetrators operate or seek asylum.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. LIAISON WITH OTHER AGENCIES.

1. A member of the Command Staff assigned to the Investigative Division will be designated as the Terrorism Liaison Coordinator and shall be responsible for the management of all terrorism-related information. The management of terrorism-related information includes receipt of information, dissemination and retention both from within the Department and to and from any outside agency.
2. All terrorism-related information or reports having a possible nexus to terrorism, whether generated internally at the Department or received from an outside agency, shall be forwarded to the designated Terrorism Liaison Coordinator who will be responsible for:
 - i. The review of this information and its further dissemination, as appropriate;
 - ii. Approving the dissemination of all terrorism-related information both within the Department and to outside agencies; and
 - iii. Maintaining records of information received, retained and disseminated.

3. The Chief of Police may temporarily assign members of the Myrtle Beach Police Department as Task Force Members with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and/or the Department of Homeland Security. These Task Force Members will report directly to the Terrorism Liaison Coordinator.

B. REPORTING SUSPECTED TERRORISM INTELLIGENCE

The Terrorism Liaison Coordinator or designee will be notified as soon as practical of all situations and possible criminal activity in which a perceived motive toward terrorism or the intent to affect the City's security as described in the definitions above exists. These incidents include, but are not limited to:

1. Information that indicates a known person(s) or suspect(s) has or intends to commit or aid, or somehow further or conceal an act of terrorism;
2. Details that indicate a suspect(s) is providing materials or financial support with the intent that this support be used, in whole or in part, to further an act of terrorism;
3. Suspected immigration violations in which the investigating officer, citizen, informant, or source believe the person(s) is engaged in activity supporting terrorism;
4. The presence or suspicion of activity related to the possession of any type of explosive device (except common fireworks) or manufacture of such a device;
5. Details that indicate any building or any portion of any infrastructure, communications, transportation, utilities or services are threatened, or the activity reported has a direct link to suspicious activity relating to terrorism;
6. Information that identifies a threat or suspicious activity that threatens any natural resource or the environment (except illegal dumping; i.e., old furniture, broken concrete, yard waste, or illegal burning of yard waste);
7. Information that indicates a person(s) possesses or is manufacturing a chemical agent or any chemical substance, material or product or any component or compound that is considered highly dangerous, which the officer or citizen reasonably believes is capable of causing:

- i. Death or substantial bodily harm;
 - ii. Substantial deterioration or contamination of food, water, equipment, supplies or material of any kind; or
 - iii. Substantial damage to natural resources or the environment.
8. Information pertaining to a letter, note or any other type of written correspondence of mail, or a package delivered by any person, or electronic mail, or delivered by any postal or delivery service, or any similar means of communication where the intent is terrorism.

C. OFFICER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. If after responding to an incident or while investigating, the Officer believes there may be a nexus to terrorism, the Officer shall immediately notify their Supervisor who will consult with the Watch Commander regarding the incident.
- 2. Officers contacting a subject who is suspected of terrorism-related activities will contact the Terrorism Liaison Coordinator or designee before releasing the individual.
- 3. A thorough vehicle search and inventory is desirable on any vehicle suspected of being involved in terrorism-related activity. Federal, State, and Local laws as well as Myrtle Beach Police Department procedures regarding vehicle search and seizure apply. Any search or inspection will include photographing and forensic processing as appropriate under the circumstances.
- 4. The Investigating Officer will complete the appropriate report to document any incident(s) in which a person, group of persons, structure, property, or a part of the infrastructure is threatened or is in imminent danger, or another crime has been committed and the motivation is suspected to be terrorism. All such reports shall be forwarded to the designated Terrorism Liaison Coordinator for follow-up.
- 5. When terrorism-related evidence is observed or discovered, if safe to do so, the scene shall be secured. An Officer shall remain on the scene until the proper investigating agency is notified and responds.
- 6. If notification to another agency is made and/or a representative from another agency responds to the scene, the Investigating Officer shall document in the incident report the date and time of

the notification as well as date and time the representative arrived on the scene.

D. WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Upon notification of an incident or receiving information that an investigation has revealed that a person or group is believed to be involved in or may be motivated by terrorism, as defined above, the Watch Commander shall cause the Terrorism Liaison Coordinator or designee to be notified.
2. If the Terrorism Liaison Coordinator or designee cannot be reached, the Watch Commander will cause notification to be made to the Assistant Chief and the Chief of Police.
3. The Watch Commander will then cause notification to be made to the appropriate agency and coordinate the response.

E. THE TERRORISM LIAISON COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Notify the Assistant Chief and the Chief of Police of the preliminary details, and provide updates as appropriate;
2. Respond to the scene, if necessary, and assist in the investigation as appropriate;
3. Take appropriate action to inform Department officers as well as other agencies and entities with a need and right to know of intelligence that identifies an immediate terrorist threat. That action may be in the form of a bulletin, telephone notification, roll-call briefing, or other available means depending on the nature of the information and type of threat.
4. Notify the appropriate agency (FBI, DHS, etc.) and coordinate the appropriate agency response;
5. Ensure all information is provided to the appropriate agencies and coordinate further follow-up investigation and case management, as necessary; and
6. Coordinate all investigations and activities involving Department personnel that are directly related to Terrorism/Homeland Security.