

Military Equipment

709.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition, and reporting requirements of military equipment (Government Code § 7070; Government Code § 7071; Government Code § 7072). This policy applies to all members of the city of Newark Police Department.

709.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Government Code § 7070):

Governing body – The elected or appointed body that oversees the Department.

Military equipment – Includes but is not limited to the following:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers, excluding police versions of standard consumer vehicles.
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached, excluding unarmored all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorized dirt bikes.
- Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants and utilize a tracked system instead of wheels for forward motion.
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. This does not include a handheld, one-person ram.
- 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 firearms and accessories identified as assault weapons in Penal Code § 30510 and Penal Code § 30515, with the exception of standard-issue firearms.
- Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.
- Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools.
- Munitions containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.
- TASER® Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and long-range acoustic devices (LRADs).
- Kinetic energy weapons and munitions.

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- Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

709.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Newark Police Department that members of this department comply with the provisions of Government Code § 7071 with respect to military equipment.

Items deemed to be "military equipment" by Government Code § 7070 (c) are used as a component of overall best practices for law enforcement agencies throughout the country. These tools have been tested in the field and are used by law enforcement agencies to enhance citizen and officer safety.

The Newark Police Department does not possess any tactical equipment that it has obtained from the military, nor does it possess any equipment that was designed for military use. The Newark Police Department does not participate in the Law Enforcement Support Officer (LESO) 10-33 program. The department does not currently receive or utilize surplus military equipment from the Federal government. It is the policy of the Newark Police Department to acquire and use equipment designed to enhance law enforcement's ability to ensure public safety and welfare.

709.3 MILITARY EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR

The Chief of Police should designate a member of this department to act as the military equipment coordinator. The responsibilities of the military equipment coordinator include but are not limited to:

- (a) Acting as liaison to the governing body for matters related to the requirements of this policy.
- (b) Identifying department equipment that qualifies as military equipment as defined by Government Code § 7070 (c) in the current possession of the Department, or the equipment the Department intends to acquire that requires approval by the governing body.
- (c) Conducting an inventory of all military equipment at least annually.
- (d) Collaborating with any allied agency that may use military equipment within the jurisdiction of Newark Police Department (Government Code § 7071).
- (e) Preparing for, scheduling, and coordinating the annual community engagement meeting to include:
 1. Publicizing the details of the meeting on the department's website at least thirty (30) days prior to any public hearing concerning the military equipment at issue.
 2. Preparing for public questions regarding the department's funding, acquisition, and use of equipment.
- (f) Preparing the annual military equipment report for submission to the Chief of Police and ensuring that the report is made available on the department website for as long as the equipment is made for use (Government Code § 7072).

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- (g) Establishing the procedure for a person to register a complaint or concern, or how that person may submit a question about the use of a type of military equipment, and how the Department will respond in a timely manner.

709.4 MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

The following constitutes a list of qualifying equipment for the Department:

[See attachment: Military Equipment Inventory.pdf](#)

709.5 APPROVAL

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall obtain approval from the governing body by way of an ordinance adopting the military equipment policy. As part of the approval process, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall ensure the proposed military equipment policy is submitted to the governing body and is available on the department website at least 30 days prior to any public hearing concerning the military equipment at issue (Government Code § 7071). The military equipment policy must be approved by the governing body prior to engaging in any of the following (Government Code § 7071):

- (a) Requesting military equipment made available pursuant to 10 USC § 2576a.
- (b) Seeking funds for military equipment, including but not limited to applying for a grant, soliciting or accepting private, local, state, or federal funds, in-kind donations, or other donations or transfers.
- (c) Acquiring military equipment either permanently or temporarily, including by borrowing or leasing.
- (d) Collaborating with another law enforcement agency in the deployment or other use of military equipment within the jurisdiction of this department.
- (e) Using any new or existing military equipment for a purpose, in a manner, or by a person not previously approved by the governing body.
- (f) Soliciting or responding to a proposal for, or entering into an agreement with, any other person or entity to seek funds for, apply to receive, acquire, use, or collaborate in the use of military equipment.
- (g) Acquiring military equipment through any means not provided above.

709.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Military equipment should not be used by any other law enforcement agency or member in this jurisdiction unless the military equipment is approved for use in accordance with this policy.

Military equipment used by any member of this jurisdiction shall be approved for use and in accordance with the policy. Military equipment used by other jurisdictions that are providing mutual aid to this jurisdiction, or otherwise engage in law enforcement operations within Newark shall comply with their respective military equipment use policies when rendering assistance.

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709.7 USE IN EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES

In exigent circumstances and with the approval of the Chief of Police or designee, the department may acquire, borrow and/or use military equipment that is not included in the military equipment inventory section of this policy.

In accordance with this section, if the department borrows, and/or uses military equipment in exigent circumstances, it must take all of the following actions.

- Make all efforts to provide written notice of the use to the City Council within fourteen (14) days, but in no event more than thirty (30) days following commencement of such exigent circumstance, unless such information is confidential or privileged under local, state or federal law.
- If it is anticipated that the use will continue beyond the exigent circumstance, submit a proposed amended military equipment policy to the City Council within ninety (90) days following the borrowing and / or use, and receive approval for continued use.
- Include the equipment in the department's next annual military equipment report.
- Department members are required to adhere to the Department's Military Equipment Procedure and all policies and procedures outlined within the Newark Police Department's Policy and Procedures Manual, regardless of jurisdiction.

709.8 ANNUAL REPORT

Upon approval of a military equipment policy, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee should submit a military equipment report to the governing body for each type of military equipment approved within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use (Government Code § 7072).

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should also make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the department website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include all information required by Government Code § 7072 for the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment in department inventory.

709.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Within thirty (30) days of submitting and publicly releasing the annual report, the Department shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the Department should discuss the report and respond to public questions regarding the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.