



# CITY OF COVINA

## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 27, 2025

TO: Ric Walczak, Chief of Police

FROM: Keith Sutherland, Police Sergeant

SUBJECT: Annual Military Equipment Report-2024

### **Introduction**

Assembly Bill (AB) 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from the applicable governing body, the adoption of a military equipment use policy, as specified by ordinance, prior to taking actions related to the funding, acquisition or use of military equipment. The term military equipment is defined within AB 481. Under this definition, military equipment is acquired and available to law enforcement through the military or private companies.

On March 15, 2022, the Covina Police Department (CPD) approved Policy Section 706, which includes our military equipment inventory and supporting documents. This policy and documents are maintained by the CPD and posted on our website which is available to the public. The policy was adopted by the applicable governing body (City Council) by ordinance on April 19, 2022.

CPD Policy § 706.7 requires an annual report to be submitted to the City Council for review via the Chief of Police as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include information from the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment listed within the inventory. This memorandum serves as the annual report covering the dates between January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

### **Report**

#### **(1) Military Equipment Use and Purpose**

In an effort to track the purpose of Military Equipment and use within the Department to address AB 481 reporting requirements, the Department utilizes a document to track this requirement which is maintained by the Support Services Captain. These documents were reviewed and utilized to prepare this memorandum. A summary of the use and purpose of use of military equipment during the above-mentioned dates is as follows:

Unit	Date	Incident No.	AB 481 Equipment Used & Purpose
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SRT	02/27/24	Training	Robot
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted residential searches using the Robot. The Robot was used for training to search and locate possible suspects, victims or witnesses.

SRT	02/29/24	Search Warrant	Pepper ball munitions / UAV / ARV Mamba / Command & Control Vehicle
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) served a search warrant at 1017 W. 3rd. St in the City of Pomona. (2) pepper ball rounds were deployed at a subject and struck him in the lower mid-section. The subject was subsequently detained and arrested. ARV MAMBA was used during the operation for cover and concealment purposes. A designated Command & Control Vehicle was used for command purposes during the service of the search warrant. A UAV was used for surveillance, intelligence and tactical purposes.

SRT	03/05/24	Search Warrant	ARV Mamba / UAV / Command & Control Vehicle / LRAD
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) served a search warrant at 15162 Masline St., Baldwin Park. The ARV MAMBA was used during the operation for cover and concealment purposes. The LRAD (attached to the ARV MAMBA) was used to communicate with occupants at the residence during the service of the search warrant. A designated Command & Control Vehicle was used for command purposes during the service of the search warrant. A UAV was used for surveillance, intelligence and tactical purposes.

SRT	03/12/24	Training	Chemical Munitions
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) used (2) DefTec SpedeHeat devices, (1) DefTec Maximum Smoke device and (5) Pepperball Live-Maxx rounds during this training. Operators were also exposed to CS gas and Pelargonic Acid Vanillyl amide (PAVA) during this training.

SRT	04/01/24	Training	Noise Flash Device (NFD)
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Purpose: Officer Jovanni Marquez who was assigned to the Special Response Team (SRT) used (1) NFD for training at Los Angeles County Sheriff Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) basic SWAT school.

SRT	04/09/24	Training	Chemical Munitions
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) used (1) DefTec CS SpedeHeat, (1)Muzzle Blast CS device, Skat Shell CS device, and (1) Han Ball CS grenade during this training. Operators were exposed to CS gas.

SRT	04/23/24	Training	Robot / UAV
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted stealth searches using the Robot and UAV. The Robot and UAV were used for training to search and locate possible suspects, victims or witnesses.

SRT	05/28/24	Training	Chemical Munitions / Kinetic Energy Munitions (Bean Bag)
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) used (2) Flameless Tri-Chamber CS Devices and (4) 37mm CS Ferret projectiles during this training. Also utilized were (2) bean bag rounds for training purposes. During this training, operators were exposed to CS gas.

SRT	07/09/24	Search Warrant	ARV Mamba / WCPD Bearcat / Command & Control Vehicle
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) served a search warrant at 17015 E. Brookport St., Covina The ARV MAMBA and WCPD Bearcat were used during the operation for cover and concealment purposes. A designated Command & Control Vehicle was used for command purposes during the service of the search warrant. A UAV was used for surveillance, intelligence and tactical purposes.

SRT	08/21/24	Search Warrant	APD Bearcat / NFD / Command & Control Vehicle / LRAD
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) served a search warrant at 827 Arcadia Ave Apt. E Arcadia. The Azusa PD Bearcat was used during the operation for cover and concealment purposes. Operator Ramirez deployed a NFD on the second story 4-side of the residence as a distraction as operators approached the front door. The mobile LRAD was used to make knock and notice announcements to the occupants inside the condominium. A designated Command & Control Vehicle was used for command purposes during the service of the search warrant.

Community Engagement	09/25/24	24-21398	ARV Mamba / UAV
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Purpose: The Department hosted National Night Out (NNO) at Heritage Park. ARV MAMBA and a UAV were used and displayed. Members of the Department discussed these devices and/or demonstrated the use of the equipment with the public.

SRT	10/10/24	Search Warrant	APD Bearcat / UAV / Command & Control Vehicle
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) served a search warrant at 4129 Alderson Ave., Baldwin Park. The Azusa PD Bearcat was used during the operation for cover and concealment purposes. A UAV was used for surveillance, intelligence and tactical purposes. A designated Command & Control Vehicle was used for command purposes during the service of the search warrant.

Patrol	10/12/24	24-16797	UAV / ARV Mamba / Command & Control Vehicle
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Purpose: The Covina Police Department staffed the annual Thunderfest Car Show. The UAV was used during this event for surveillance, intelligence and tactical purposes. The ARV Mamba was parked in the 400 blk of N. Second Ave to block vehicular traffic on Citrus Ave. The Command & Control Vehicle was designated for use for command purposes.

SRT	10/16/24	Training	Chemical Munitions
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) used (2) Flameless Tri-Chamber CS Devices during this training. During this training, operators were exposed to CS gas.

SRT	11/05/24	Search Warrant	NFD
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) assisted West Covina Police Department with serving a search warrant at 1125 Charlemont Ave in Hacienda Heights. During the service of the search warrant, a West Covina Operator deployed a NFD that was assigned to Officer G. Hagle.

SRT	11/13/24	Training	UAV
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted open area searches using the UAV. The UAV was used for training to search and locate possible suspects, victims or witnesses

SRT	12/18/24	Training	UAV
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Purpose: The Special Response Team (SRT) conducted building searches at the DEA Shoot house using the UAV. The UAV was used for training to search and locate possible barricaded suspects.

In 2024, the Department utilized (4) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), commonly referred to as drones. The UAV devices are used by members of the the Department UAS Team. These devices were acquired through private donations and approved by City Council prior to their purchase. The devices were acquired for use for the purpose of supporting law enforcement operations within the Department. CPD policy section 606 governs the use of these devices. The following is a spreadsheet showing the use of each device by make/model and identification number. The spreadsheets indicate date used, the assigned incident number associated with the use and the total flight time. Flight time is measured numerically (.1 is equal or less than 6 minutes).

**UAS Make/Model:** Autel Evo 2

**UAS Identification:** U1

<b>Date</b>	<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Total Flight Time</b>
1/24/2024	24-1779	.3
1/27/2024	24-2018	.4
2/25/2024	24-4283	.2
2/25/2024	24-4284	.4
2/29/2024	24-4576	1.0
2/29/2024	24-4576	1.6
3/05/2024	24-5012	.8
3/13/2024	24-5872	.8
3/21/2024	Training	.1
3/21/2024	Training	.4
4/03/2024	24-7511	.2
7/03/2024	24-14787	.4
7/09/2024	24-15233	.9
8/01/2024	24-16933	.4
10/01/2024	24-21398	2.2
10/10/2024	24-22614	.9
11/13/2024	24-25568	.7

**UAS Make/Model:** Autel Lite

**UAS Identification:** U2 Champ

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
4/10/2024	24-7917	.3
5/14/2024	24-10714	.4

**UAS Make/Model:** DJI U3

**UAS Identification:** U3

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
2/29/2024	24-4576	.1
3/21/2024	Training	.1
3/21/2024	Training	.2
4/22/2024	24-8958	.3
11/13/2024	24-25568	.3

**UAS Make/Model:** DJI U4

**UAS Identification:** U4

Date	Incident #	Total Flight Time
NONE		

## **(2) Complaints or Concerns**

The CPD did not receive any complaints from the public regarding the use of military equipment as described under CPD Policy 706.10.

## **(3) Internal Audit, Violation(s) and Action(s)**

An internal audit of how the Department used military equipment did not reveal any significant issues and/or violations that required any actions by the Department.

During the annual report audit in 2024, it was determined the method of determining the quantity for certain items in 2025 will be determined by rounds contained within the original manufacturer's packaging for certain items, specifically certain rounds such as Pepperball. It was also determined that Bean Bag, 40mm projectiles and breaching rounds often times are

maintained in the original manufacturer's packaging or stored on a designated side saddle with the the launcher and/or shotgun. Symbols used to designate Greater Than ( > ), Less Than ( < ) and an asterisk ( \* ) will be used on the inventory document when applicable. The inventory document will contain a legend explaining the meaning of the symbol.

#### **(4) Annual Cost**

The City Council approved the Military Equipment Inventory report in 2024. This document included the projected annual cost (funds) for the acquisition, maintenance, repair, upgrade, replacement and ongoing costs associated with military equipment. Equipment is assigned an item number within this inventory list and will be referred to by number henceforth.

Item numbers 1-18 (Ground Robots) did not require any funds as projected in 2024. The majority of these items are not operational and kept for parts.

Item number 19 (ARV-MRAP) did not require any funds as projected in 2024. In June 2023, the MRAP was diagnosed with an electrical issue and is currently not operational.

Item number 20 (ARV-MAMBA) had maintenance related costs in 2024. The right front wheel cylinder had leakage, which led to an inspection of the drivetrain. Other axle and hub related issues were found and fixed. Repairs were made by Performance Truck Repair costing \$7,974.48. In July of 2024, the MAMBA had a flat tire. Performance Truck Repair responded to the station and fixed the issue costing \$592.00. Fuel related costs for the ARV-MAMBA are acquired through the fuel tank dispensary system at Public Works and billed to the Department. The MAMBA is currently operational.

Item numbers 21-25 (LRAD) did not require any funds as projected in 2024.

Item number 26 (Noise Flash Device) The Police Department purchased (5) DefTech Noise Distraction Devices from Adamson Police Products resulting in a cost of \$186.65.

Item number 27 (Spede-Heat CS) The Police Department purchased (10) Spede-heat #1072 from Adamson Police Products resulting in a cost of \$337.00.

Item numbers 28 (Flameless Tri-Chamber CS Munitions) did not require any funds as projected in 2024.

Item number 29 (5230B Indoor CS Muntions) The Police Department purchased (10) 5230B indoor baffled CS canisters from Adamson Police Products resulting in a cost of \$337.00.

Item number 30-51 (Chemical Agent Kit and related contents / Launcher / Pepperball / 40mm munitions) did not require any funds as projected in 2024.

Item numbers 52 (Bean Bag Munitions) The Police Department purchased (100) 12ga. Drag Stablizing Bean Bag munitions from Adamson Police Products resulting in a cost of \$728.80.

Item numbers 53-54 (Breaching Munitions / Launching Devices) did not require any funds as projected in 2024.

Item numbers 55 and 56 (Aerial-Drone) or UAV devices were acquired in 2022 and mentioned in the Annual Military Equipment Report in 2024. These devices are utilized by the Department by UAS personnel for Department and/or City related incidents as outlined above. Registration for these devices is current. Accessories for these devices, specifically batteries, were purchased for the purpose of expanding total flight time capability and paid for by the existing PD budget.

Item number 57 (Command Vehicle) was acquired in 2024. This vehicle was acquired through the Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) which is managed by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) through designated Department personnel. This vehicle was mentioned in the Annual Military Equipment Report-2024 on page 8. This vehicle was added to the Military Equipment Inventory in 2024. The vehicle is operational and the desired equipment, such as radios and other items are being currently installed for command and control purposes.

Items numbers 58 and 59 (Aerial-Drone or UAV devices manufactured by DJI) were acquired in 2024 through a private donation to the Covina Police Foundation. The Covina Police Foundation assisted the Department acquiring two additional UAV devices, primarily designed for interior use, which expands the capabilities of the overall UAS Program. These devices were added to the Military Equipment Inventory in 2024. There has been minimal normal expenses for the UAV devices in 2024. These expenses include additional cables, batteries and cases that did not exceed \$200.00.

#### **(5) Quantity**

See attached CPD Military Equipment Inventory-2024 document for further details. The symbols for Greater Than ( > ) and Less Than ( < ) are used when applicable for items 51 and 52. Items 51 and 52 are generally removed from the original manufacturer packaging and placed within a side saddle on the designated device. The asterisk symbol ( \* ) is also used for item number 41. The asterisk symbol does not include single rounds located within the launcher hopper or similar separate storage device.

#### **(6) Additional Military Equipment-2024**

The Department will be researching available grant funding for additional military equipment, specifically (1) armored vehicle, such as a Lenco Bearcat or similar armored vehicle plus additional UAV devices to supplement the UAS program. The purpose of researching grant funding pertaining to an armored vehicle is to replace and/or add an armored vehicle to our existing inventory. The purpose of the researching additional UAV devices is to supplement and expand our UAS program. A possible source of funding for the UAV devices will be private donations.



The Department may need to acquire and/or replenish a certain quantity of items listed within the Military Equipment Inventory-2025 document, specifically breaching, NFD, chemical and kinetic munitions, in order to maintain stock of these items for future law enforcement use. The type (make and manufacturer) would be similar to those listed in the Military Equipment Inventory-2025 document and quantity would be determined based on projected need at time of purchase.

Any other military equipment, that falls outside or is not reflected in the Military Equipment Inventory-2025 document, sought by the Department will be brought to the attention of the City Council.

### **Other**

The Department maintains a relationship with the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) Program. Designated equipment within the Military Equipment-2025 document that was acquired directly from the US Military was audited by LESO personnel on April 10, 2024. The Department passed this audit. Designated Department personnel are assigned to manage the equipment associated with the LESO Program.

### **Conclusion**

Department Policy 706 pertains to military equipment as defined by AB 481. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition and reporting requirements of military equipment per Government Code 7070, Government Code 7071 and Government Code 7072. This memorandum serves as the 2024 Military Equipment Annual Report and will be submitted to the Chief of Police. Upon approval by the Chief of Police, the report will be submitted to the City Council and posted on the Department website as required by legislation. Within (30) days of submitting and publicly releasing this report, the Department will announce a community engagement meeting as required by legislation.

**Submitted by:** Keith Sutherland, Police Sergeant

**Reviewed & Approved by:** Ric Walczak, Chief of Police

**Signature:**



**Date:** 6/30/2025

**Report Release to Public Date via Department Website:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Public Meeting (within 30 Days of Report Release)**

- Date: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Time: 0800-0900 hours
- Location: Covina Police Department  
444 N. Citrus Ave Covina, CA 91723
- Publication of Meeting and Source: Department Website