



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

20-120
08/05/20

Requesting the Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Team

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish procedures and guidelines for requesting the Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Team (H/CNT).

The mission of H/CNT is to provide well-organized teams of negotiators who, when requested, are capable of responding effectively to critical incidents, such as hostage situations and barricaded suspects, as well as to high-risk suicide threats, and to other situations where negotiations might save lives.

Members are reminded to follow policies and procedures when dealing with a person in crisis and/or when involved in a critical incident. Prior to an H/CNT request, members should attempt to establish proper containment to prevent escape. Unless there are any exigent circumstances, members are reminded to utilize time, distance, and cover.

The request for H/CNT can be made when ANY member who is on-scene has determined that H/CNT can be utilized as a resource. H/CNT should be utilized during the following incidents:

- Hostage Taking (Confirmed or Unconfirmed)
- Barricaded Suspect(s)
- Armed Suicidal Subject(s)
- Certain Special Operation Bureau Deployments, e.g. high-risk search warrant(s)
- Suicide Intervention with Unarmed Subject(s) e.g. jumper

Members should request H/CNT if they are unable to get the subject to surrender within approximately 15 minutes of communication attempts. However, members do not need to wait 15 minutes if they deem an immediate H/CNT response is necessary. Members do not need to confer with supervisors prior to H/CNT request, however supervisors shall respond to the scene if H/CNT has been requested.

When requesting H/CNT, members should do the following:

- Request for H/CNT personnel via dispatch/radio. This will activate any available on-duty H/CNT members.
- If there is no response by on-duty H/CNT personnel, an on-scene member should contact the Department Operations Center (DOC). DOC will contact the H/CNT Officer-in-Charge or designee for a coordinated response of H/CNT.

The H/CNT Officer-in-Charge or designee will determine how many H/CNT members (approximately 3 to 5) are required based on the circumstances of each incident.

References:

Department General Order 5.21 – The CIT Response to Person in Crisis Calls for Service

Department General Order 8.01 – Critical Incident Evaluation and Notification

Department General Order 8.02 – Hostage and Barricaded Suspect Incidents



WILLIAM SCOTT

Chief of Police

Per DB 20-081, both sworn and non-sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this Department Bulletin in HRMS. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional guidance about the directive.