



**Annual Report on the Police Use of Military Equipment  
Assembly Bill 481 Report 2025  
Reporting Period – Calendar Year 2024**

**Prepared by Lieutenant Daniel Hall  
Irvine Police Department**

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## Introduction:

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the Irvine Police Department's (IPD) use of military equipment in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 481. The purpose of this report is to provide transparency, accountability, and insights into the department's acquisition, deployment, and usage of military equipment during the reporting period.

On September 30, 2021, the Governor of the State of California approved AB 481 requiring law enforcement agencies to obtain approval of the applicable governing body (Mayor and City Council) by adoption of a military equipment use policy. The department is required to seek City Council approval of their military equipment use procedure by ordinance at a regular open meeting prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment, as defined.

The bill allows the governing body to approve the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment within its jurisdiction only if it determines that the military equipment meets specified standards. The ordinance is subject to an annual City Council review to determine whether, based on an annual military equipment report, the standards set forth in the approving ordinance have been met. The City Council may renew the authorizing ordinance, disapprove authorization for particular military equipment where standards have not been met, or require modifications to the military equipment use procedure to address any non-compliance with standards.

AB 481 requires a law enforcement agency that receives approval for military equipment use to submit an annual military equipment use report. The use report is for each type of military equipment approved by the governing body within one year of approval and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The law enforcement agency shall also make each annual military equipment report required by this section publicly available on its internet website for as long as the military equipment is available for use.

The annual military equipment report shall include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment:

- (1) A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use.
- (2) A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment.
- (3) The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response.
- (4) The total annual cost for each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be provided for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report.
- (5) The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment.
- (6) If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.

Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report pursuant to this section, the law enforcement agency shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the general public may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report and the law enforcement agency's funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

## Methodology:

The information presented in this report is based on data provided by the Irvine Police Department. The data includes inventory records, training documentation, deployment reports, and community engagement efforts related to the use of military equipment. The reporting period for this analysis is from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

## Overview of Military Equipment:

Military equipment refers to specialized equipment, typically obtained from surplus military supplies or federal programs, that law enforcement agencies acquire and utilize to enhance their capabilities in critical situations. Such equipment may include armored vehicles, tactical gear, riot control equipment, surveillance technology, and specialized firearms.

## Training and Deployment Procedures:

The Irvine Police Department places significant emphasis on training its officers to safely and effectively utilize military equipment items. Officers receive specialized training on the operation, maintenance, and deployment procedures specific to each type of equipment. This training includes scenario-based exercises, de-escalation techniques, and an emphasis on the preservation of life and the protection of individual rights.

Deployment of military equipment is conducted in accordance with departmental policies and protocols. The decision to deploy such equipment is carefully evaluated, and a supervisor's approval is typically required. Situations warranting the use of military equipment include high-risk operations, acts of terrorism, armed confrontations, and natural disasters where public safety and officer well-being are at stake. Oftentimes, this equipment is deployed by the Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team.

## Summary of Military Equipment Usage:

The summary of military equipment usage is intended to describe specific incidents where the equipment was deployed, including the nature of the incident, the equipment used, and the outcome of the deployment.

During the reporting period, the Irvine Police Department deployed its military equipment during the following situations:

### ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE(S) DEPLOYMENTS:

3/30/24: Officers responded to a patrol call for service on Rockefeller for a domestic violence investigation. Officers observed a male subject in the residence and heard the sound of a gunshot/explosion. Officers retreated back to their vehicles and a SWAT activation occurred. SWAT operators drove to the location utilizing the Bearcat. The suspect complied and surrendered.

05/16/24: Officers responded to the 241 toll road and Santiago Canyon Road to make contact with a suicidal homicide suspect who had just shot a UPS driver in the City of Irvine. The suspect was laying in the backseat of a vehicle and refused multiple commands. The Bear and Bearcat were used to isolate the vehicle. A flashbang was used in an effort to get the suspect to comply. When that failed, a pepperball was utilized and the suspect was ultimately apprehended by a police canine.

07/11/24: Tustin PD was investigating a robbery that occurred in the city of Tustin. The victim had been robbed by the suspect at gunpoint. The Bear and Bearcat were utilized to transport operators from a command post to the suspect's residence in the City of Fontana. These vehicles were utilized for cover and concealment, as well as a staged emergency transport vehicle. The suspect complied and surrendered.

10/04/24: The Bearcat and two SWAT operators were staged in the City of Tustin at the Tustin Tiller Days festival in the event a tactical response was needed for any incident that occurred during the festival.

### NOISE FLASH DIVERSIONARY DEVICE

04/17/24: IPD detectives were conducting a human trafficking investigation near the La Quinta hotel in Irvine. A noise flash diversionary device or NFDD, also referred to as a flashbang, was deployed during an open-air takedown of the suspect. The device diverted the suspect's attention and allowed officers to safely take him into custody.

### NOISE FLASH DIVERSIONARY DEVICE / PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER:

05/16/24: Officers responded to the 241 toll road and Santiago Canyon Road to make contact with a suicidal homicide suspect who had just shot a UPS driver in the City of Irvine. The suspect was laying in the backseat of a vehicle and refused multiple commands. The Bear and Bearcat were used to isolate the vehicle. A flashbang was used in an effort to get the suspect to comply. When that failed, a pepperball was utilized and the suspect was ultimately apprehended by a police canine.

### KINETIC BREACHING TOOL:

06/23/24: Patrol officers responded to a call for service on Kempton for a male walking around the neighborhood carrying a large butcher knife. Upon officers arrival, the suspect fled into a residence. Officers attempted to speak with him via PA and telephone. Officers forced entry into the residence based upon a Ramey warrant for the subject. The suspect barricaded himself in a locked bedroom and refused to cooperate. On-duty SWAT personnel and CNT personnel responded to attempt to negotiate. The bedroom door was eventually breached utilizing the Kinetic Breaching Tool, and the suspect safely surrendered to SWAT personnel.

### Colt AR-15 Assault Weapon:

08/08/24: Patrol officers responded to an emergency call for service on Green Tree of a male chasing a female with a knife outside of a residence. Patrol officers arrived and located a suspect who was actively stabbing a female victim. The suspect was not compliant and also threatened responding officers. An officer involved shooting occurred as one officer deployed a department issued Colt AR-15 rifle to stop the suspect's violent actions.

### 40MM LESS LETHAL:

08/16/24: Patrol officers responded to a call for service on Peppermint regarding a suicidal subject. The suspect was agitated, non-compliant, and threatened officers with firearms. He eventually exited the residence and advanced on officers. An officer successfully deployed a 40mm less lethal round, effectively striking the subject, and officers were able to safely detain him for further evaluation.

GAS MUNITIONS / PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER/ 40MM LESS LETHAL:

11/10/24: Patrol officers responded to a call for service of a man with an axe threatening others in a city park. The suspect barricaded himself in a city restroom at the park. The suspect made threats toward officers and eventually fled from the restroom. Officers deployed three 40mm less lethal sponge rounds at the suspect during the apprehension. Another officer deployed a pepperball towards the area of the suspect without hitting him in an effort to deter him and prevent him from escaping.

Mobile Comm Usage:

DATE	TYPE OF CALL	DETAIL
02/01/24	INVESTIGATION	TRAFFIC COLLISION
03/01/24	SUPPORT	PERSIAN NEW YEAR
04/20/24	PUBLIC	OPEN HOUSE
04/22/24	SUPPORT	CNT TRAINING
05/04/24	SUPPORT	CICLO IRVINE
05/16/24	INVESTIGATION	HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION
07/10/24	CNT/SWAT	AOD TUSTIN PD IN FONTANA
08/06/24	PUBLIC	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
09/20-09/21/24	SUPPORT	WOODBIDGE CROSS COUNTRY
10/05/24	SUPPORT	GLOBAL VILLAGE
11/04-11/07/24	SUPPORT	SERGEANT TESTING SCENARIO

Drones and Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Vehicle:

In 2024, the Irvine Police Department (IPD) UAS team conducted approximately 2,900 flights, accumulating over 700 hours of airtime. The breakdown includes approximately 900 Drone as First Responder (DFR) flights and 2,000 traditional UAS deployments. A UAS vehicle was deployed over 80 times to support extended operations beyond standard patrol-based assignments. The team remains composed of 15 pilots, and while UAS continues to serve as a collateral assignment within the department, we now have one full-time DFR operator working 40 hours per week.

The primary purpose of the UAS program remains the enhancement of public and officer safety through aerial surveillance in various situations, including but not limited to: search & rescue, situational awareness during critical incidents, missing persons, fleeing suspect searches, SWAT operations, high-risk traffic stops, event security and planning, and any other situation where the UAS would improve officer safety, public safety, and suspect safety.

Over the past year, the UAS team has been deployed in numerous critical operations, including suspect searches, barricaded suspect incidents, and tactical operations. Additionally, UAS has played a significant role in monitoring crime trends, particularly in assisting with residential burglary response and prevention efforts.

The Drone as First Responder (DFR) program has continued to expand in its second year of implementation. DFR drones have been deployed 900 times this year, allowing officers to gain real-time situational awareness before arriving on the scene.

- In 2024, the department purchased two drone boxes to support DFR operations.
- In 2025, asset forfeiture funds were used to purchase two additional drone boxes to assist in areas targeted by SATG.
- DFR operations now fly from four locations, covering approximately one-third of the city.
- Additional drone boxes are being acquired to expand coverage, with the long-term goal of achieving citywide rapid response capabilities.

IPD's UAS team remains a critical asset in public safety beyond standard law enforcement operations. The UAS program has provided assistance to the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) in hotspot mapping, search and rescue missions, and fire abatement efforts. Additionally, drones have been deployed at every major public event and concert, improving situational awareness and facilitating effective responses to calls for service.

The UAS team also continues to support allied agencies, including neighboring law enforcement agencies such as Tustin, Newport Beach, Santa Ana, and Huntington Beach, as well as federal and state partners such as the DEA, HTTC Taskforce, California State Parks, FBI, and FAA.

## Summary of Complaints:

The department did not receive any complaints concerning military equipment use in 2024.

## Violations of Policy / Internal Audits:

An internal review regarding the use of the aforementioned equipment revealed no violations of policy.

## Total Annual Costs and Inventory of Military Equipment:

The estimated annual cost for the maintenance and use of the military equipment in our current inventory is defined in our policy and listed under each specific item. Not all items incur an annual maintenance cost. The following constitutes an inventory of previously purchased equipment deemed to be military equipment as defined by our policy:

The department currently maintains 27 drones, consistent with the previous year. The cost of the UAS van and truck remains unchanged, while the addition of two drone boxes enhances our DFR capabilities.

### **707.4.1 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS)**

Quantity: 27

Capabilities: Sustained flight controlled by a remote pilot on the ground.

Expected Lifespan: 3 to 5 years.

Product Description: Commercially available platforms designed for aerial productivity with configurability for industrial applications, flight safety, and data security.

Purpose and Authorized Use: To assist police personnel in enhancing public safety while protecting the rights and privacy of the general public (Policy 339.2).

Training Required: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 License and department-provided monthly training.

Initial Cost: \$200,000.

Annual Cost: \$100,000.

### **707.4.2 UAS VAN**

Quantity: 1

Capabilities: Mobile command post for supporting UAS deployments.

Expected Lifespan: 10 years.

Product Description: 21-foot Command Center Sprinter 3500 MBE 3.0L.

Purpose and Authorized Use: Provide a mobile platform for safe UAS deployments.

Training Required: Class C driver's license.

Initial Cost: \$255,052.

Annual Cost: \$42,000.

### **707.4.3 UAS TRUCK**

Quantity: 1

Capabilities: Mobile command post for supporting off-road, smaller, and simultaneous UAS deployments.

Expected Lifespan: 10 years.

Product Description: Ford F250 Crew Cab with Standard Bed.

Purpose and Authorized Use: Provide a mobile platform for safe UAS deployments.

Training Required: Class C driver's license.

Initial Cost: \$150,000.

Annual Cost: \$20,000.

### **DFR Drone Boxes** *(New for 2024)*

Quantity: 2 (Two purchased in 2024)

Capabilities: Automated drone deployment and remote piloting for DFR operations.

Coverage Area: Four locations covering approximately one-third of the city

Purpose and Authorized Use: Enable faster drone response times and reduce the need for manual launch by on-site officers.

Training Required: Part 107 Certification and system-specific operator training.

Initial Cost: \$22,000 per unit

Annual Cost: TBD

#### **707.4.4 FIREARM - RIFLE**

Description: Firearm designed and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

Quantity: 140

Capabilities: Fires a lethal projectile

Expected Lifespan: 20+ years

Product Description: Patrol rifle of .223 or 5.56 caliber

Purpose and Authorized Use: May be deployed in any circumstance where personnel can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed (Policy 314.3.3).

Training Required: 16-hour POST approved course with qualification and annual training with requalification.

Initial Cost: \$125,100

Annual Cost: N/A

#### **707.4.5 40MM PROJECTILE LAUNCHER**

Description: Less lethal weapon which uses a propellant cartridge to launch a kinetic energy impact projectile.

Quantity: 77

Capabilities: Fires a less lethal kinetic energy projectile.

Expected Lifespan: 20+ years

Product Description: LMT 40mm SingleShot Launcher #1425.

Purpose and Authorized Use: Less lethal, intermediate force option (Policy 310.3.1).

Training Required: Training and qualification once per year.

Initial Cost: \$69,300

Annual Cost: N/A

#### **707.4.6 MOBILE COMMAND VEHICLE(S)**

Description: A vehicle used to enhance communication and coordination during emergency incidents, special events, or community outreach.

Quantity: Two (Mobile Command Communications Vehicle (MCCV) and Mobile Comm)

Capabilities: On-scene incident command functions may be performed from a mobile command vehicle.

Expected Lifespan: 20 years

Product Description:

- MCCV: Fleetwood Motorhome
- Mobile Comm: Freightliner Custom

Purpose and Authorized Use: A mobile command vehicle provides a strategic location for police personnel during emergency incidents, special events, or community outreach events. Use of this equipment is also appropriate for large scale events that require advanced coordination of large numbers of police and other safety or first responder personnel.

Training Required:

- MCCV: Class C driver license and additional department provided vehicle-specific, driver and operational training.
- Mobile Comm: Class B drivers license and additional department provided vehicle specific, driver and operational training.

Initial Cost:

- MCCV: \$152,665
- Mobile Comm: \$399,127

Annual Cost:

- MCCV: \$12,008
- Mobile Comm: \$10,999

## **707.5 MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY - SWAT**

The following constitutes an inventory of previously purchased equipment deemed to be military as defined by this policy. The equipment in this section is primarily used by members of the SWAT Team.

### **707.5.1 FIREARM - RIFLE**

Description: Firearm designed and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire one or more projectile(s) through a rifled bore for each pull of the trigger.

Quantity: 28

Capabilities: Fires a lethal projectile.

Expected Lifespan: 20+ years

Product Description: Patrol rifle of .223, 5.56, and .308 caliber

Purpose and Authorized Use: May be deployed in any circumstance where personnel can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed (Policy 314.3.3).

Training Required: 16-hour POST approved course with qualification and additional training on safe use and deployment and device functionality. Must demonstrate proficiency with recertification twice per year.

Initial Cost: \$25,200

Annual Cost: N/A

### **707.5.2 40MM PROJECTILE MULTI-LAUNCHER**

Description: Less lethal weapon which uses a propellant cartridge to launch a kinetic energy impact projectile.

Quantity: Three

Capabilities: Fires a less lethal kinetic energy projectile.

Expected Lifespan: 20+ years

Product Description: Penn Arms PGL65.

Purpose and Authorized Use: Less lethal, intermediate force option (Policy 310.3.1).

Training Required: Training and qualification once per year.

Initial Cost: \$4,500

Annual Cost: N/A

### **707.5.3 ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE - BEAR**

Description: An armored rescue vehicle deployed during high-risk incidents, special events, and community outreach.

Quantity: One

Capabilities: Mobile armored vehicle to support high-risk deployments.

Expected Lifespan: 15 years.

Product Description: Ballistic Engineered Armored Rescue (BEAR) Vehicle, steel armor construction.

Purpose and Authorized Use: To assist police personnel in enhancing public safety while transporting first responder personnel and/or community members to/from high-risk situations. Provide a mobile platform for safe personnel deployments.

Training Required: Class B driver license.

Initial Cost: \$293,745

Annual Cost: \$52,500

### **707.5.4 ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE - BEARCAT**

Description: An armored rescue vehicle deployed during high-risk incidents, special events, and community outreach.

Quantity: One.

Capabilities: Mobile armored vehicle to support high-risk deployments.

Expected Lifespan: 15 years.

Product Description: Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter Attack Truck (BEARCAT) Vehicle, steel armor construction.

Purpose and Authorized Use: To assist police personnel in enhancing public safety while transporting first responder personnel and/or community members to/from high-risk situations. Provide a mobile platform for safe personnel deployments. Suppress active fire(s) using the built-in fire mitigation technology.

Training Required: Familiarization with the built-in fire mitigation and ALS equipment

Initial Cost: \$365,986.

Annual Cost: \$48,000.

### **707.5.5 KINETIC BREACHING TOOL**

Description: A hand-held breaching tool engineered to deliver high impact energy to defeat locking mechanisms.

Quantity: Seven

Capabilities: Provides for safer, faster, stronger breaching.

Expected Lifespan: 10 years

Product Description: Powder activated kinetic energy force entry tool.

Purpose and Authorized Use: May be deployed in any circumstance where the member needs to breach a door quickly and safely.

Training Required: Training on safe use and deployment and device functionality.

Initial Cost: \$10,000

Annual Cost: N/A

### **707.5.6 BREACHING SHOTGUN**

Description: Manually operated, pump-action, tube magazine fed, closed-bolt, 12-gauge firearm used to defeat locking mechanisms.

Quantity: Two

Capabilities: Traditional breaching method provides for quick breaching of multiple locking mechanisms.

Expected Lifespan: 10 years

Product Description: Remington 870 MCS Tactical Shotgun.

Purpose and Authorized Use: May be deployed in any circumstance where the member needs to breach a door quickly and safely.

Training Required: Training on safe use and deployment and device functionality.

Initial Cost: \$2,000.

Annual Cost: N/A

### **707.5.7 CHEMICAL AGENT LAUNCHING DEVICE**

Description: Device for alternate delivery of a chemical agent.

Quantity: Two

Capabilities: Affixes to a shotgun to allow for safe deployment of a chemical agent from a distance.

Expected Lifespan: 20+ years

Product Description: Defense Technology 12-GAUGE TKO/LAUNCHING CUP.

Purpose and Authorized Use: Less lethal, intermediate force option (Policy 310.3.1).

Training Required: Training on safe use and deployment and device functionality. Must demonstrate proficiency with recertification twice per year.

Initial Cost: \$350

Annual Cost: N/A

### **707.5.8 CHEMICAL AGENTS**

Description: Less lethal device utilized to deploy and discharge chlorobenzylidene malonitrile (CS) and oleoresin capsicum (OC) gas.

Quantity: 100

Capabilities: Designed to deliver chemical agents during high-risk situations.

Expected Lifespan: 5 years

Product Description: Individual, single use canisters of CS or OC gas.

Purpose and Authorized Use: Less lethal, intermediate force option (Policy 310.3.1).

Training Required: Training on safe use and deployment and device functionality. Must demonstrate proficiency with recertification twice per year.

Initial Cost: \$5,000

Annual Cost: Recurring purchase as needed

### **707.5.9 PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER**

Description: Less lethal launcher which uses a high pressure air system to launch kinetic energy impact munition.

Quantity: Nine (eight TACSF 69 caliber semi/3 round burst/full auto multi-launcher and one FN 303 less lethal launcher).

Capabilities: Fires a less lethal kinetic energy projectile.

Expected Lifespan: 20+ years

Product Description:

- TACSF 69 caliber, semi/3 round burst/full auto multi-launcher
- FN 303 less lethal launcher

Purpose and Authorized Use: Less lethal, intermediate force option (Policy 310.3.1).

Training Required: Training and recertification twice per year.

Initial Cost:

- TACSF 69 caliber, semi/3 round burst/full auto multi-launcher: \$2,880
- FN 303 less lethal launcher: \$1,299

Annual Cost: N/A

### **707.5.10 NOISE FLASH DIVERSIONARY DEVICE (NFDD)**

Description: Device that produces a loud sound with a bright light that is intended to cause confusion and distraction.

Quantity: 30

Capabilities: Distraction device used to minimize the risks to all parties by the temporary distraction or disorientation of potentially violent or dangerous suspects.

Expected Lifespan: 5 years

Product Description: Separating fuse affixed to a non-bursting steel canister.

Purpose and Authorized Use: To distract/disorient potentially violent or dangerous suspects.

Training Required: Training and recertification twice per year.

Initial Cost: \$1,000

Annual Cost: Recurring purchase as needed.

### **707.5.11 RECON SCOUT**

Description: The Recon Scout is a throwable/drivable remote controlled platform that is equipped with a camera allowing the operator to obtain instantaneous video within indoor and outdoor environments.

Quantity: One

Capabilities: Remote operated, drivable platform capable of transmitting live video from a forward facing camera.

Expected Lifespan: 10 Years.

Product Description: A small throwable remote operated platform equipped with a camera capable of being driven up to 150 feet from the operator while transmitting video back to the operator.

Purpose and Authorized Use: To assist police personnel in enhancing public safety while protecting the rights and privacy of the general public.

Training Required: None.

Initial Cost: \$2,000

Annual Cost: N/A

## Acquisition of Additional Equipment:

During the calendar year 2024, the Irvine Police Department did not purchase any new or additional military equipment.

## Future Acquisition of Additional Equipment:

As the size of our police department grows, so does the need for our equipment and inventory. During the calendar year 2024, the Irvine Police Department initiated a procurement process to purchase new Colt patrol rifles to replace our current existing inventory of older model Colt rifles. We will also acquire additional rifles for our training unit as well as our vehicle fleet. These items will be received and inventories will be updated during the 2025 calendar reporting period.

## Community Outreach and Transparency:

The Irvine Police Department recognizes the importance of maintaining open lines of communication with the community regarding the use of military equipment. Efforts to promote transparency and engage with the community are of the utmost importance.

It is important to note that the deployment of military equipment is subject to continuous review and evaluation to ensure its necessity, appropriateness, and adherence to departmental policies.

Pursuant to AB 481 and department policy, the Irvine Police Department will be sharing this annual use report meeting at the Irvine City Council Meeting on April 8, 2025.