



MOBILE FIELD FORCE

Directive: 13 – 114

Date of Issue: October, 2015 Amends/Cancel: N/A

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to provide guidelines and procedures for the function, organization, activation, equipment, training and selection of the Mobile Field Force.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Maryland Capitol Police Department to deploy a well-trained and properly equipped Mobile Field Force to civil disturbances and other critical incidents as necessary.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Mobile Field Force:** Officers that have received specialized training and tactics to deal with and diffuse volatile civil disturbances employing platoon tactics, small squad tactics, or mobile tactics from vehicles.
- B. **Squad:** A squad consists of eight officers. A sergeant or senior officer will be the squad leader. Two officers will be drivers. One officer will be a grenadier. There are two squad cars assigned to a squad.
- C. **MFF Commander:** An officer, usually a Lieutenant or designee, who will report to the Command Post and act as a liaison with the chief law enforcement officer in charge of the incident.
- D. **Squad Leader:** An officer, usually a sergeant or senior officer, who is responsible for the activities of each squad member. All communications will be directed to the Squad Leader who will carry out assignments as directed by the MFF Commander.
- E. **Squad Officers:** A squad is the basic element of the Mobile Field Force. Each squad usually consists of eight officers. These officers are under the direction of their Squad Leader or the MFF Commander.
- F. **Grenadiers:** One per squad. Grenadiers are trained to use less-lethal weapons and deliver chemical weapon munitions. They are equipped with less-lethal weapon(s) including launched munitions and hand-thrown chemical munitions.
- G. **Medic:** An officer that has had training in advanced first aid and/or is a qualified paramedic/EMT. Medic's will render first aid to any injured members of the Mobile Field Force and ensure the injured are safely removed from the field if the situation dictates such removal.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS

A. Qualifications for selection to the Mobile Field Force:

1. Membership is voluntary.
2. Applicants must be a sworn officer who is off probation.
3. Applicants must have meets standards or higher on their last year's performance evaluations.
4. Applicants must have passed the Department Fitness/Agility Test within the last year.
5. Applicants must have passed the most recent Department firearm qualification course.
6. Applicants must have passed a Department or Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission approved impact weapons class.
7. Applicants must not have any sustained excessive force complaints within the 5 year period immediately prior to application for Mobile Field Force.
8. Applicants must be able to work well in a team environment and follow orders.
9. Applicants must be able to function well under stress.

B. The Chief of Police, or designee, will select and appoint the Mobile Field Force Commander.

C. The MFF Commander will review all applications for the Mobile Field Force and submit a list of selected candidates to the Chief of Police, or designee, for final approval.

D. Causes for removal from the Mobile Field Force:

1. Failure to maintain minimum levels of physical fitness;
2. Loss of any certification under Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission whether temporary or permanent;
3. Disciplinary action resulting in suspension from duty without pay by the Chief of Police or Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission;
4. Failure to maintain, in operational readiness, any equipment issued to a member;
5. Loss of or intentional damage to, any Mobile Field Force equipment being used by a member;
6. Lack of participation in a minimum of 75% of Mobile Field Force training. Exceptions include conflicts with scheduled mandatory Department training and vacations scheduled and approved prior to Mobile Field Force training;
7. Any Mobile Field Force team member may voluntarily resign from the team at any time;
8. In the opinion of the Team Commander, after consulting with other team members, supervisors, and commanders, that removal of a team member is in

the best interests of the Mobile Field Force team.

- E. The MFF Commander will submit a report, recommending removal of a member from the Mobile Field Force team, to the Chief of Police for final approval, citing the cause or causes for such recommendation.
- F. The Chief of Police may, but is not required to, hear an appeal from the member under consideration for removal. The decision of the Chief of Police is final.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. **Function:** The Mobile Field Force is designed to provide a rapid, organized and trained response to civil disorder, crowd control, or other tactical situations. Tactics used are based on small squad tactics developed by the Office of Domestic Preparedness, as well as traditional Mobile Field Force tactics. The Mobile Field Force may be used to:
 - 1. Control and/or disperse unruly crowds;
 - 2. Rescue civilians and police officers under hazardous conditions;
 - 3. Apprehend multiple offenders in crowd situations;
 - 4. Isolate areas of civil disorder or disaster by the use of large, organized perimeters;
 - 5. Provide security at sensitive sites;
 - 6. Other assignments as directed by the Chief of Police or designee.
- B. **Activation of Mobile Field Force:** Only the Chief of Police or designee may activate the Mobile Field Force. The following items may be taken under consideration when reaching a decision to activate the Mobile Field Force.
 - 1. A civil disorder situation is beyond the control of or could potentially become beyond the control of available on-duty personnel.
 - 2. A natural or man-made disaster has occurred that cannot be managed with available on-duty personnel.
 - 3. Other situations where the Mobile Field Force is the appropriate response after consideration of all facts and information known at the time and consultation with the Mobile Field Force Commander.
- C. **Activation Procedures:** Upon authorization and notification to the MFF Commander that the Mobile Field Force is being activated, the following procedures will be used.
 - 1. The Mobile Field Force Team Commander, or designee, will begin notifying Team members that the Team has been activated and to report for duty. The Squad Leaders, local Shift Supervisor can assist if requested to do so. The Mobile Field Force Commander will be responsible for maintaining a current callback list of team members to be furnished to all local Commanders and kept on file and available to Shift Supervisors. .
 - 2. After the Mobile Field Force has been activated, their duties and

responsibilities will be as directed by the Chief of Police, his designee or MFF Commander.

D. Equipment: The following equipment will be provided to all members of the Mobile Field Force:

1. One black utility or BDU uniform with flame resistant undergarment.
2. Disturbance control kit containing: chest protector, elbow and kneepads, shin guards, padded gloves, forearm pads and carry bag.
3. Helmet with face shield (gas mask compatible).
4. NIOSH approved gas mask.
5. CN/CS gas mask canister (2 issued).
6. Rain poncho.
7. Riot Shield 20X36.
8. Personal Hydration System.
9. Nylon duty belt, holster, handcuff case and baton ring.
10. 26" baton.
11. Medic only - medic bag with medical field supplies and portable fire extinguisher with leg holster.

E. Each team member is responsible for keeping his/her equipment in a state of operational readiness at all times. And adhere to the policies regarding care and use of department issued equipment as outlined in Directive 6-100.

F. The Mobile Field Force Commander will ensure all Mobile Field Force equipment is maintained in proper working order and inspected for operational readiness on a bi-annual basis. A bi-annual inspection report will be completed and kept on file with the Mobile Field Force Commander.

VI. TRAINING

A. Training curriculum and scheduling will be the responsibility of the Mobile Field Force Commander. Budget, personnel and time constraints will be taken into consideration. The Commander of the Special Services Division must approve all training.

B. The Mobile Field Force team will train as a group a minimum of twice per year. Additional training will be done as needed and authorized.

C. All team members must participate in a minimum of 50% of scheduled in-service training to remain a member of the Mobile Field Force team. Consideration can be made for vacations scheduled and approved prior to training and conflicts with Department mandatory training.

D. Training and attendance records will be completed and documented by the MFF Commander and submitted to the Training Unit to be maintained on file.

VII. CHEMICAL MUNITIONS

- A.** The Mobile Field Force has the option of utilizing chemical munitions. The deployment of chemical munitions will only occur in an outdoor setting, excluding OC, which is an organic substance. Chemical munitions can be delivered by launcher, grenade, or aerosol. The following chemical munitions are authorized for the Mobile Field Force.
1. CS: An irritant that affects the lachrymal glands causing involuntary closing of the eyes, stinging skin, runny nose and a feeling of tightness in the chest. International color code is Blue.
 2. CN: An irritant that affects the lachrymal glands causing visual impairment and tearing, upper respiratory system irritation and itching. International color code is Red.
 3. HC: Is white smoke used to hide movement, test wind direction, create diversion or use in conjunction with CS or CN to keep gas in area longer. International color code is Yellow.
 4. OC: Oleoresin Capsicum is a naturally occurring substance found in the cayenne pepper. OC works on the principle of being an inflammatory agent. It irritates and inflames the mucous membranes causing involuntary closing of the eyes. United States color code is Orange.
- B.** Only team members who have successfully completed an approved training course shall be certified and authorized to deploy chemical munitions.
- C.** Except in an emergency life-threatening situation, chemical munitions will not be deployed without authorization from the MFF Commander.
- D.** Use of chemical munitions will be documented in a Use of Force Report as outlined in Directive 8-101 by the deploying officer and the after-action report submitted by the MFF Commander.

VIII. AFTER-ACTION REPORT

An after-action report will be written any time the Mobile Field Force is activated, whether or not the team is deployed to an incident. The after-action report will document, at a minimum, the names of team members who responded and the nature of the incident prompting the activation. If the team is deployed to an incident, the after-action report will document the team's activities from time of activation until time of de-activation. This report will be written by the MFF Commander, or designee, and submitted to the Chief of Police within 7 days after the incident.