



## Request for information regarding Police equipment and training for protest situations

The special police tactics (SPT) has been the police's strategy to prevent public disorder in gatherings, since 2005. SPT aims to prevent disturbances in connection with demonstrations, general meetings and public events. The basic tactical principles are primarily based on research focusing on the disorder at sporting events. Accordingly, four conflict reducing principles have been identified and serve as the theoretical and practical foundation for the SPT;

- Knowledge
- Facilitation
- Communications
- Differentiation

The principles form the approach behind the tactics. The ultimate aim is that the conflict reducing principles will result in "Self-policing", meaning that the participants in a gathering themselves take responsibility to prevent individual participants to initiate disorder, by encouraging and rewarding good behavior.

If conflicts arise between different groups, the focus should be to prevent, so far as possible, that aggression escalates by applying the special police tactics. Dialogue is the main tool to achieve this aim by reaching out to as many participants as possible in large gatherings and to strive to create relationships between them and the police. This requires all police officers in an operation to be fully aware that they are part of the dialogue with the participants and that they relate to the situation subsequently.

The role of the so called "Dialogue police" is particularly important to establish a relationship between the participants in the gathering and the police. Their task is to provide a link between police and organizers, or other participants in the gathering. A key essential in the dialogue, is for the police to listen and to try to understand the groups collective and individual intention towards each other's and / or the. Based on that knowledge, the police may communicate and help the people involved to facilitate to achieve the legitimate aims

towards each other and the community, not only for democratic rights, but also in order to maintain order, security and safety.

Dialogue policing does not only consist of dialogue during an event. It's also about maintaining a constant contact and dialogue with people and groups who usually organize or participate in various types of public gatherings. It is important to emphasize that dialogue policing does not entail any form of criminal intelligence. The job is to gather information, provide information and to promote understanding and participation of all parties. For the police, it is about increasing opportunities to work with the four conflict reducing principles as a basis, and to the emergence Self-policing of participants in the gathering as a whole. The long term goal is to ensure the safe and secure practice of democratic rights and society.

The Swedish constituting, Public *Order Act* and the *Police Act*, constitutes the main regulatory and legislative framework. See the attached legal text in English.

SPT equipment is used only for SPT work. It contains a body armor consisting of shin guards, shoulder pads, forearm protection and shoes with toe-caps and penetration protection. The police officers are wearing a dark blue uniform similar in fashion to the regular police uniforms and meet the strict requirements for flame resistance, abrasion resistance, aeration and color fastness, as well as a helmet and mask. The equipment for the use of force by the police in this context is the same as in regular policing; gun, pepper spray (OC spray), expandable baton, handcuffs and bulletproof vest.

The most significant protective equipment used in these contexts is vehicles where the staff is laden in groups of eight people and work primarily with vehicle formations. The vehicles are available in two versions; lightly secured/armored and secured. A section consists of a head of department in a separate vehicle and four team vehicles led by a team leader.

SPT organization is available in Sweden's three metropolitan authorities, Stockholm County, Västra Götaland and Skåne. SPT-organization has become a normal ingredient at demonstrations and sporting events even when there is no risk of severe disorder. It is a sufficient circumstance that the number of participants in a gathering is expected to be so large that it may need guidance, routing, etc. to take the SPT organization in use. If there is a risk for severe disorder in one of the smaller towns in Sweden, SPT is available to them by soliciting amplification by the national reinforcement organization (NFO). As a request for amplification is sent to the NFO, the NFO can within 48 hours assist with 4 departments, and a commanding director.

An SPT police goes through extensive training. Regardless of what level you are working on in the SPT organization, you must have the same basic training, SPT-user training. After having achieved the basic knowledge, it is possible to continue to specific training for special functions as for example: cavalry, dog handler, dialogue-, events- and supporter police. Furthermore, it is possible to go through further training for various levels of management functions such as group manager, department manager, police chief, commanding

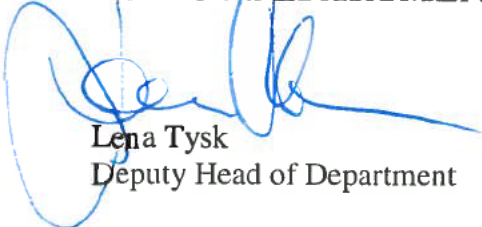
director and chief of staff. In parallel to the practical training to apply methods to prevent disorder and to respond to disturbances, which includes: loading and unloading of group vehicles, splitting, vehicle formations, tactical methods such as showing the way, tight security, sector patrols and double scale, you get training in theoretical blocks.

The SPT team member is the police who work in the field and have the closest contact with the public and protesters. Each SPT organization is tasked with a mission tactics for any individual assignment through a mission plan called a decision in general". It is the police officers themselves that operationalizes and determine how the task should be performed. By doing so, they further their understanding regarding the intelligence-based approach and are better suited to order and interpret tests and threats. It also helps the ability to interpret the assignment in relation to relevant legislation as well as to critically examine the activities based on both ethical and legal aspects. The approach enhances the knowledge of conflict dynamics in large gatherings to avoid acting in a way that contributes to the escalation of conflicts. In addition, each police is orientated on political and social contexts, opinion movements, etc. of how it affects police work and to understand how their own attitudes and values may influence the interpretations and choice of approaches in different situations.

Leadership training includes training to further enhance understanding in how management principles and mission tactics can be put into practice. Head commander authorizes a decision in general which is rewritten later to specific orders by a police chief and a departmental orders by a department head.

A large part of the development of the special police tactics is to be found in the SPT project "Knowledge of Special Police Tactics 2007-2010". See attached report from the SPT project, translated into English.

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