

San Diego Police Department

San Diego Police Department
California Assembly Bill 481
Military Equipment Outline

San Diego Police Equipment

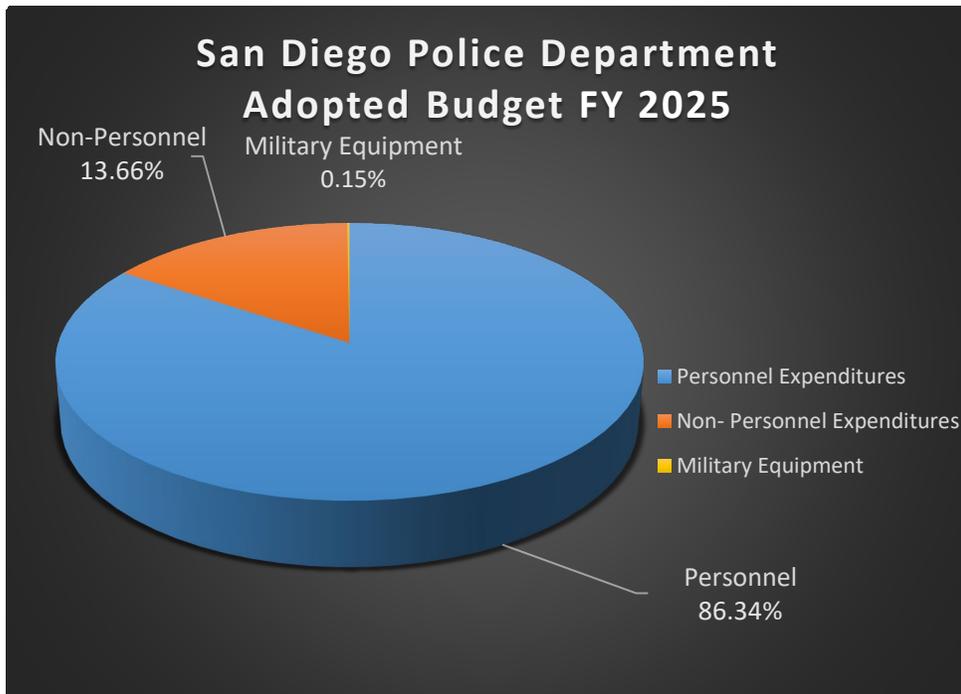
Summary / Goal of Presentation

- To seek San Diego City Council approval for continued use of military style equipment as defined in California State Assembly Bill 481.
- To outline and explain the uses for current equipment being utilized by the San Diego Police Department.
- To outline the equipment described in State Assembly Bill 481 currently utilized by the department is needed to maintain public safety and the highest quality of police service to all of our communities.
- Only 0.15% of the adopted FY2026 SDPD Department Budget is allocated for equipment listed Assembly Bill 481.



San Diego Police Equipment

FY2026 Budget Chart



General Fund Expenditures:

Category	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	Percentage of Annual Budget
Personnel Costs	\$614,695,588	86.34%
Non-Personnel Costs	\$97,219,958	13.66%
Military Equipment Costs (Subset of Non-Personnel Costs)	\$ 1,120,563	.15%
TOTAL	711,915,546	100%

San Diego Police Equipment

Budget comparison

- The annual budget for military equipment cost decreased by approximately \$8,000.
- Therefore, the percentage of the annual budget for military equipment for 2024 was 0.16% and 2025 was 0.15%.
- The number of SWAT PRT Assists calls and the use of specialty munitions, such as Pepperballs and OC foggers increased from 2024.



San Diego Police Equipment

2024 vs 2025 Use Comparison

2024		2025	
CODE 11	19	CODE 11	16
CODE 12	1	CODE 12	5
PRT ASSIST	53	PRT ASSIST	85
HIGH-RISK WARRANTS	18	HIGH-RISK WARRANTS	25



San Diego Police Equipment

Summary / Goal of Presentation

- To emphasize that the San Diego Police Department does not participate in the 1033 program for procuring surplus military equipment. The last piece of equipment the department received from this program was an unmanned robot that was returned in March of 2020.
- The items listed in the SDPD Annual Military Equipment Report are all manufactured by civilian companies. The acquisition and implementation of each tool stems from incidents where lives were lost, and an important equipment need was identified. The overall purpose of their use is de-escalation, stand off distance, safety and most importantly, the preservation of human life.



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD SWAT Team

- The majority of the equipment described in Assembly Bill 481 is utilized exclusively by the SDPD SWAT Team. The mission of the SDPD SWAT Team is to use training, sound tactical planning and equipment to bring a safe resolution to critical incidents.
- The SDPD SWAT Team maintains the highest level of operational readiness through the development of sound tactical strategies and innovative training programs.
- The SDPD SWAT Team is always used by the department as a de-escalation tool. Only certain specific exigent circumstances will dictate early aggressive tactical action. A vast majority of all SWAT call outs end with a peaceful resolution.



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD SWAT Team

- Primary Response Team (PRT) Officers – 365 days a year / 24 hours a day coverage in the field. The PRT concept was adopted by the SDPD after the Crandall Street Tragedy in June of 1981. Primary Mission – Emergency citizen and officer rescues.
- Special Response Team (SRT) Officers – A minimum of a Team Leader and 6 officers on call at all times. The SRT concept was adopted by the SDPD after the McDonalds Restaurant tragedy in July of 1984. Primary Mission – Hostage Rescue and complex armed barricaded suspect response.



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD SWAT Team

- SWAT Sniper Team – 2 Team Leaders and 12 officers (fully staffed). Highly trained officers that provide “Overwatch” protection at large events. Snipers also provide the SWAT Team a greater stand-off distance and observation capability at critical incidents.
- SWAT Snipers are assigned to large events to protect citizens against an attack like what occurred at the Las Vegas Harvest Festival in October of 2017. Primary Goal – to protect citizens against a sniper based or active shooter type attack.



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD SWAT Team – Complying with Surveillance Ordinance

- Equipment utilized by the San Diego Police Department and exclusively by the SDPD SWAT Team, complies with the Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology (Surveillance Ordinance) adopted by the City of San Diego on September 9, 2022.



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD Mobile Command Vehicles

- SDPD Mobile Command Vehicles: Self-contained command posts designed to provide the Incident Commander a mobile base of operations.
- Mobile 1 – 40-foot Mobile Command Vehicle.
- Mobile 2 – 24-foot Mobile Command Vehicle.
- Mobile 3 – 44-foot Mobile Command Vehicle that has decontamination and prisoner processing capabilities.
- Mobile 4 – Command Vehicle with communications ability.
- Mobile 7 – Command Vehicle with Communications ability. (new vehicle)
- ENT (Emergency Negotiations Team) Command Vehicle.
- SWAT Special Equipment Vehicle (SEV)



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD Mobile Command Vehicles



San Diego Police Equipment

SDPD Mobile Command Vehicles



San Diego Police Equipment

Armored Rescue Vehicles

- (1) 2 door armored rescue vehicle and (1) 4 door armored rescue vehicle.
- Provides a high level of ballistic protection for a rescue team when dealing with an armed suspect.
- The Armored Rescue Vehicles are not equipped with any affixed weapons and are utilized by the SWAT Team as a defensive tool (ballistic protection during citizen/officer rescues etc.).
- The 4 door armored rescue vehicle is equipped with Bio-Chemical, Radiological and Nuclear detection equipment and a fresh-air breathing system. This allows officers safe access into a potentially hazardous environment to affect a citizen or officer rescue.



San Diego Police Equipment

Armored Rescue Vehicle 4 Door



San Diego Police Equipment

Armored Rescue Vehicle 4 Door



San Diego Police Equipment

Armored Rescue Vehicle 2 Door



San Diego Police Equipment

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

- The UAS systems utilized by the department can assist at any incident where an aerial perspective would be beneficial.
- UAS are only used during critical incidents and high-risk operations with authorization from the Chief of Police.
- UAS allow SWAT Officers to obtain a view of an area without sending an officer to an uncleared/dangerous position where a robot has limited or no access.
- UAS are only used by officers that have completed a certification course and have attended continuous training for safe operation. All of the UAS in the SDPD inventory can be legally purchased by civilians.



San Diego Police Equipment

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)



San Diego Police Equipment

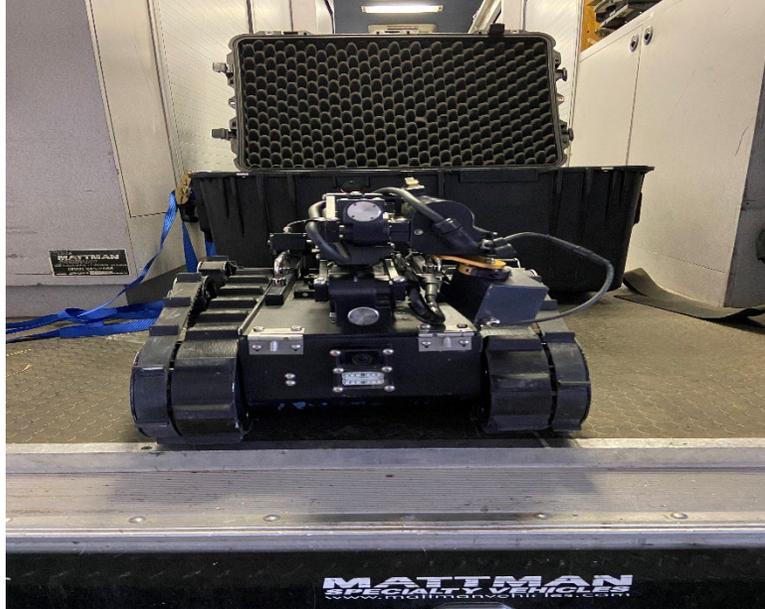
Tracked Robots

- Robots are used exclusively by SWAT Officers during critical incidents and high-risk operations.
- The SDPD SWAT Team currently utilizes two types of robots operationally. The ICOR Mini-Caliber Robot and the FLIR FirstLook Robot.
- The ICOR Robot is larger and has the ability to open unlocked door handles. The FirstLook is a smaller robot, with more maneuverability.
- Robots allow SWAT Officers to obtain a view of an area without sending an officer to an uncleared/dangerous position.
- SWAT Officers regularly train on safe robot deployment.



San Diego Police Equipment

Tracked Robot (large)



San Diego Police Equipment

Tracked Robot (small)



San Diego Police Equipment

Department Issued Rifles

- Patrol Officers: Colt Carbine LE Series AR-15 Rifle.
- SWAT Officers Only: Daniel Defense Semi-Automatic AR-15 Rifle.
- SWAT Snipers Only: Accuracy International .308 Caliber Bolt Action Rifle.
- Ammunition: Listed in the report associated with each weapon system.



San Diego Police Equipment

Department Issued Rifles



San Diego Police Equipment

Pepperball Launchers

- Pepperball launchers are used only by SWAT Officers.
- Used to deploy an extended range Pepperball in response to an assaultive or actively resisting suspect.
- SWAT Officers must complete a Pepperball Certification Course and re-qualify with the Pepperball equipment annually.



San Diego Police Equipment

Diversionsary Device - Flashbang

- Flashbang canisters are used only by SWAT Officers.
- Used as an attention getting or distraction device.
- When deployed, the canister emits a loud noise and bright light after a 1.5 second delay.
- Only deployed in a cleared area with at least five feet of open space.
- SWAT Officers must complete a certification course and re-qualify with the equipment annually.



San Diego Police Equipment

40mm Launchers

- The department has two types of 40mm launchers, single launchers and multi-launchers (exclusively used by SWAT only).
- Used to launch a 40mm sponge round or chemical agent ferret round (exclusively used by SWAT only).
- The 40mm sponge round is used only on assaultive suspects or suspects actively resisting with access to a weapon.
- 40mm Chemical Agent Ferret Rounds are used to drive a suspect from a structure or to prevent a suspect from accurately firing out of a location at citizens or officers in an emergency situation.



San Diego Police Equipment

40mm Launchers



San Diego Police Equipment

Chemical Agents

- Chemical agents are deployed exclusively by SWAT Officers.
- Chemical agents are used to drive a suspect or suspects from a structure or location. They are also used to prevent an armed suspect from accurately firing at officers and citizens during an emergency situation.
- Chemical agents can be used on violent or assaultive persons. (Open air, only with the permission of the Chief of Police or his / her designee).
- Delivery methods depend on proximity to the target type of agent being deployed and size of the structure.



San Diego Police Equipment

LRAD

- The LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device) is a type of loudspeaker system that emits a focused and directional beam of sound.
- The LRAD is used as a PA system to issue Emergency Evacuation Orders, communicate with a suspect where direct communication is not possible, or to relay directions to a crowd in a noisy environment (unlawful assembly announcements).
- The department currently has 3 types:
 - The LRAD Model 100X (Large)
 - The LRAD Model 500X-RE (Compact)
 - LRAD – Model 450 XL



San Diego Police Equipment

Beanbag Shotgun

- Beanbag Shotguns are Extended Range Impact Weapons capable of firing a 12-gauge bean bag round.
- Beanbag Shotguns are affixed with a bright orange stock and fore-end for easy identification.
- Beanbag Shotguns can be deployed to impact suspects demonstrating assaultive or life-threatening behavior.
- Beanbag Shotguns are NOT utilized by the department during civil unrest or crowd control situations.



San Diego Police Equipment

Breaching Equipment

- Explosive Breaching:
 - Used during crisis situations when necessary for the SWAT Team to quickly and effectively breach a door or port a wall.
 - Can be used to defeat a fortified door, wall or barrier and is considered a cutting tool.
 - Effective explosive breaching techniques allow SWAT Officers immediate entry into a structure with minimal risk to victims, officers, and suspects.
 - Only used with approval from the SWAT Commanding Officer and the Incident Commander when all the safety considerations have been evaluated.
 - Example: Used by Las Vegas SWAT Officers to defeat door fortification while responding to the Harvest Music Festival Active Shooter in 2017.



San Diego Police Equipment

Night Vision Equipment

- The SWAT Team currently utilizes NODs (Night Optical/Observation Devices).
- The majority of SWAT missions occur at night or in low-light environments. The NODs provide officers a tactical advantage and a higher degree of officer safety in those conditions.
- The use of NODs is extremely advantageous during hostage rescue, response to active shooters and other high-risk operations.
- SWAT Officers attend a 30-hour training course and must pass an annual low light weapons qualification shoot to utilize night vision equipment.



San Diego Police Equipment

Night Vision
Equipment PVS 14
(Single) & PVS 31



San Diego Police Equipment

Recent Example – Kearny Mesa – Code 11

- On October 16, 2025, Eastern Division Officers received a radio call of a subject involved in a prior Domestic Violence radio call, who had potentially pointed a rifle at hotel staff. Shortly after patrol officers arrived a Code-11 SWAT response was called.
- Once SWAT Officers arrived on scene, they relieved patrol officers who were set up inside the hotel and on the outer perimeter, outside the hotel.
- The Armored Rescue Vehicle (Bearcat) was deployed on the outer perimeter, near the hotel room window of the subject to provide armor for SWAT officers.
- SWAT quickly established a contact team in the hallway, outside the hotel room where the suspect was located.



San Diego Police Equipment

Recent Example – Kearny Mesa – Code 11

- SWAT was given the mission to “Contain and Negotiate.” The Emergency Negotiations Team (ENT) arrived and made numerous attempts to contact the suspect. Meanwhile SWAT officers deployed two flashbang devices in front of the suspects hotel room door to grab his attention.
- SWAT officers on the outer perimeter deployed chemical agent ferret rounds into the window of the hotel room via 40mm launchers. Interior SWAT officers later deployed a 5230B chemical agent baffled grenade underneath the suspects hotel room door.
- During SWAT operations the SDPD UAS unit provided overwatch operations via drone for the duration of the incident.
- A second volley of chemical agent ferret rounds was deployed into the room.
- Following the additional volley of ferret rounds, ENT successfully convinced the suspect to exit the hotel room. Interior SWAT units successfully took the suspect into custody without further incident.



San Diego Police Equipment

Recent Example – Clairemont – Code 11

- On August 16, 2025 , San Diego Police Officers responded to a mental case violent call where the subject attempted to stab his family members with a machete.
- SWAT Officers arrived on scene and replaced patrol officers on the perimeter of the target residence with SWAT personnel.
- The Armored Rescue Vehicle (Bearcat) was deployed to the front of the residence to provide armor for SWAT officers.
- UAS maintained drone overwatch for the duration of the incident.
- The subject partially exited the residence multiple times. The subject was holding a propane tank and attempted to light himself on fire. The subject was holding a knife and would throw objects at units.



San Diego Police Equipment

Recent Example – Clairemont – Code 11

- SWAT units impacted the subject with 40mm foam baton projectiles shortly after the subject exited the structure and threw items at officers.
- The subject made multiple statements that he wanted to “suicide by cop”.
- SWAT Officers deployed chemical agent ferret rounds via a 40mm launcher into the residence, which had no effect on the subject.
- SWAT Officers deployed a second volley of chemical agent ferret rounds into the structure. Shortly after, the subject opened the front door of the residence, laid on his stomach, and extended his hands forward.
- SWAT Officers advanced forward and took the subject into custody. SWAT deployed UAS drone assets and mini-tracked robots into the residence and cleared the interior prior to SWAT making entry.
- SWAT officers then made entry to clear the residence.



San Diego Police Equipment

Summary / Goal of Presentation

- The San Diego Police Department respectfully asks the City Council to certify the continued use of the safety equipment outlined in this presentation.
- Each piece of equipment is crucial for the department's ability to maintain public safety.



QUESTIONS?