

**GENERAL ORDER**

February 2022

Immediately

**III-43**

Distribution: All Employees

Subject: **TACTICAL ROBOTIC SYSTEMS**

Index as:	Robotics	Spot	Tactical Robotic Systems
	Robotic Operator (RO)	SWAT	TSU
	Robotic System	SWAT Technical Support Unit (TSU)	Video Evidence
	RO	Tactical Electronics	

Accreditation Standards:

Cross Reference: G.O. III-14, Property and Evidence  
 G.O. III-15, High Risk Situations  
 USB SOP I-21, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

Replaces: **NEW POLICY**

This Order governs the use of Tactical Robotic Systems by the Department. It consists of:

- I. Policy
- II. Purpose
- III. Definitions
- IV. Training
- V. Procedures

I. POLICY

A. It is the policy of the St. Petersburg Police Department that Tactical Robotic Systems are to be used with the purpose of reducing risk of great body harm or death to officers, victims, suspects, and the public.

B. Tactical Robotic System Readiness

1. All Tactical Robotic Systems are identified as Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) equipment **only** and therefore will be under the direction and order of either the SWAT Commander or the Assistant SWAT Commander.

2. The Tactical Robotic Systems will **only** be operated by authorized SWAT personnel who have completed training in its safe operation.

3. All personnel authorized to use Tactical Robotic Systems will do so in a safe manner to minimize potential injury to persons or damage to property.

4. An electronic log documenting all operational deployments will be maintained by the SWAT Commander or their designee.

C. The Tactical Robotic Systems will **NOT** be utilized for:

1. Crowd control operations.
2. Calls for police service of a routine nature.
3. Surveillance or intelligence gathering outside of an identified High-Risk situation, as detailed in <J:\Research\GeneralOrders\III Operational General Orders\III-15 High-Risk Situations.pdf> which has prompted a SWAT response.
4. Routine patrol operations.
5. Traffic control or enforcement.
6. Any action intended to intimidate, coerce, or instill fear in any person not involved in a High-Risk incident.

## II. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of this Order is to:

1. Establish guidelines for deployment of Tactical Robotic Systems.
2. Establish guidelines for operation of Tactical Robotic Systems.

B. Tactical Robotic Systems may offer alternatives in search situations when Officers are presented with unknown or hazardous environments.

## III. DEFINITIONS

A. Remote Operator – A human being receiving information in the form of video, audio or other sensory input from the robotic system and providing commands to the system, directing the robotic system's operation.

B. Robotic System – A machine that serves to perform any task in place of a human being, but which requires inputs or physical control from a human operator.

## IV. TRAINING

B. Tactical Robotic System Training

1. All members of the SWAT Technical Support Unit (TSU) will complete periodic training with all Tactical Robotic Systems.

2. Other members of the SWAT Team may be trained in the use of some or all Tactical Robotic Systems, at the direction of the SWAT Commander or Assistant Commander.

3. An electronic training log will be maintained by the SWAT Commander summarizing training on all Tactical Robotic Systems.

4. All Tactical Robotic Systems will be inspected monthly by the SWAT Commander, or designee, and documented in the training log summary.

## V. PROCEDURES

### A. Tactical Robotic System Readiness

1. All Tactical Robotic Systems are identified as Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) equipment **only** and therefore will be under the direction and order of either the SWAT Commander or the Assistant SWAT Commander.

2. The Tactical Robotic Systems will **only** be operated by authorized SWAT personnel who have completed training in its safe operation.

3. All personnel authorized to use Tactical Robotic Systems will do so in a safe manner to minimize potential injury to persons or damage to property.

4. An electronic log documenting all operational deployments will be maintained by the SWAT Commander or designee.

### C. Tactical Robotic System Deployment Criteria

1. The deployment of Tactical Robotic Systems requires authorization from the SWAT Commander or Assistant Commander.

2. The Assistant Chief, Uniform Services Bureau will be notified by the SWAT Commander, or designee, of the deployment of Tactical Robotic Systems as soon as is practical.

3. Tactical Robotic Systems shall only be deployed by the SWAT team during authorized operations. Examples of such operations are outlined in <J:\Research\GeneralOrders\III Operational General Orders\III-15 High-Risk Situations.pdf>.

### D. Remote Operator (RO)

1. The Remote Operator (RO) is responsible for the direct control over the Tactical Robotic System and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure safe operation.

2. The RO shall be responsible for a pre- and post-operational inspection of the Robotic System.

3. The RO shall be responsible for ensuring any video, photographic or other digital evidence is properly uploaded, labeled, and categorized in the appropriate digital evidence management system.

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Anthony Holloway  
Chief of Police