



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE INFORMATION REPORT

DATE: March 23, 2022

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

SUBJECT: DRAFT Military Equipment Policy per AB 481

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RECOMMENDATION: Receive the department draft policy and inventory of military equipment as defined by AB 481, and provide direction as necessary.

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BACKGROUND: California State Assembly Bill 481, effective January 1, 2022, establishes requirements for the acquisition and use of military equipment in law enforcement and state agencies. Specifically, the bill requires that law enforcement agencies create or update their military equipment policy, with the approval of their governing body. An inventory of military equipment must be produced, and presented in a public hearing. Once the policy is established, it must be posted on the department website, and the department must submit an annual report regarding use of the equipment. The approval process for the military equipment use policy must commence no later than May 1, 2022.

Within AB481, “military equipment” is defined as those items falling within the following categories:

- Drones, robots
- Armored vehicles
- Command and control vehicles
- Firearms of .50 caliber or greater
- Ammo of .50 caliber or greater
- Firearm or accessories designed to launch projectiles
- Flashbangs, tear gas, pepper balls, grenades, etc.
- Projectile launch platforms such as 40mm launchers, bean bags, rubber bullets, etc.
- Any other equipment determined by governing body

DISCUSSION: The Santa Cruz Police Department’s (“the Department”) draft Military Equipment Policy #705 includes a definition of military equipment in alignment with AB 481; the roles and responsibilities assigned to the Department’s Military Equipment Coordinator; the Department’s current military equipment inventory, including a description of the items, quantity, capabilities, purchase cost, purpose, authorized use, expected lifespan, training and legal and procedural rules; when approval is needed for funding, acquiring or using military equipment; coordination with other jurisdictions, community engagement and annual report, and the public submittal of complaints, concerns and questions.

Submitted by:

Bernie Escalante  
Acting Chief of Police

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- a) Draft Santa Cruz Police Department Policy #705 "Military Equipment"
- b) Draft Santa Cruz Police Department Military Equipment Inventory