



City of Atascadero  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Dan Suttles**  
Chief of Police

## AB 481 MILITARY EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

Dear Community Members,

The Atascadero Police Department is committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

The documents posted on this page are provided in accordance with California Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481), which requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their governing body before acquiring or using certain equipment defined by state law as "military equipment." The law also requires agencies to make available to the public a Military Equipment Use Policy and an inventory identifying equipment subject to the requirements of AB 481.

The following documents are available for review:

- Military Equipment Use Policy – This policy establishes the authorized uses, oversight requirements, training standards, reporting requirements, and accountability measures governing equipment subject to AB 481.
- Military Equipment Inventory List – This document identifies the equipment owned or sought by the Atascadero Police Department that falls within AB 481 reporting requirements, including information regarding capabilities, authorized uses, fiscal impacts, legal restrictions, and required training.

The Department has maintained AB 481 compliance materials since the law's implementation. The primary change reflected in the current inventory is the addition of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, which the Department is seeking to acquire for public safety operations.

The proposed UAS program is intended to enhance public safety, improve situational awareness, support search and rescue operations, assist with emergency management, document crime and traffic collision scenes, and promote officer and community safety. Any use of UAS technology would be governed by applicable federal, state, and local laws, as well as Department policies and procedures designed to protect privacy, civil liberties, and constitutional rights.

Working together to **serve**, build **community** and enhance **quality of life**.

Thank you for taking the time to review these materials and for your continued interest in the operations of the Atascadero Police Department.

Sincerely,

Dan Suttles  
Chief of Police  
Atascadero Police Department

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## Military Equipment

### 708.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition, and reporting requirements of military equipment (Government Code § 7070; Government Code § 7071; Government Code § 7072).

#### 708.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Government Code § 7070):

**Governing body** – The elected or appointed body that oversees the Department.

**Military equipment** – Includes but is not limited to the following:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers.
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached.
- Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants.
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. This does not include a handheld, one-person ram.
- Firearms and ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, excluding standard-issue shotguns and standard-issue shotgun ammunition.
- Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including firearms and accessories identified as assault weapons in Penal Code § 30510 and Penal Code § 30515, with the exception of standard-issue firearms.
- Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.
- Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools.
- Munitions containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.
- Area denial electroshock devices, microwave weapons, water cannons, long-range acoustic devices (LRADs), acoustic hailing devices, and sound cannons.
- Kinetic energy weapons and munitions.
- Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

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### **708.2 POLICY**

It is the policy of the Atascadero Police Department that members of this department comply with the provisions of Government Code § 7071 with respect to military equipment.

### **708.3 MILITARY EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR**

The Chief of Police should designate a member of this department to act as the military equipment coordinator. The responsibilities of the military equipment coordinator include but are not limited to:

- (a) Acting as liaison to the governing body for matters related to the requirements of this policy.
- (b) Identifying department equipment that qualifies as military equipment in the current possession of the Department, or the equipment the Department intends to acquire that requires approval by the governing body.
- (c) Conducting an inventory of all military equipment at least annually.
- (d) Collaborating with any allied agency that may use military equipment within the jurisdiction of Atascadero Police Department (Government Code § 7071).
- (e) Preparing for, scheduling, and coordinating the annual community engagement meeting to include:
  - 1. Publicizing the details of the meeting.
  - 2. Preparing for public questions regarding the department's funding, acquisition, and use of equipment.
- (f) Preparing the annual military equipment report for submission to the Chief of Police and ensuring that the report is made available on the department website (Government Code § 7072).
- (g) Establishing the procedure for a person to register a complaint or concern, or how that person may submit a question about the use of a type of military equipment, and how the Department will respond in a timely manner.

### **708.4 MILITARY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY**

The following constitutes a list of qualifying equipment for the Department:

See Attached

### **708.5 APPROVAL**

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall obtain approval from the governing body by way of an ordinance adopting the military equipment policy. As part of the approval process, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall ensure the proposed military equipment policy is submitted to the governing body and is available on the department website at least 30 days prior to any public hearing concerning the military equipment at issue (Government Code § 7071). The military equipment policy must be approved by the governing body prior to engaging in any of the following (Government Code § 7071):

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- (a) Requesting military equipment made available pursuant to 10 USC § 2576a.
- (b) Seeking funds for military equipment, including but not limited to applying for a grant, soliciting or accepting private, local, state, or federal funds, in-kind donations, or other donations or transfers.
- (c) Acquiring military equipment either permanently or temporarily, including by borrowing or leasing.
- (d) Collaborating with another law enforcement agency in the deployment or other use of military equipment within the jurisdiction of this department.
- (e) Using any new or existing military equipment for a purpose, in a manner, or by a person not previously approved by the governing body.
- (f) Soliciting or responding to a proposal for, or entering into an agreement with, any other person or entity to seek funds for, apply to receive, acquire, use, or collaborate in the use of military equipment.
- (g) Acquiring military equipment through any means not provided above.

### **708.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

This policy recognizes the need for agencies to provide assistance to each other, whether in ongoing combined or regional operations, occasional planned operations, or in exigent circumstances. Where applicable to the provisions of Government Code § 7070 through § 7075, such assisting agencies must comply with their respective military equipment use policies when rendering assistance.

### **708.7 ANNUAL REPORT**

Upon approval of a military equipment policy, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee should submit a military equipment report to the governing body for each type of military equipment approved within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use (Government Code § 7072).

The Chief of Police or the authorized designee should also make each annual military equipment report publicly available on the department website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The report shall include all information required by Government Code § 7072 for the preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment in department inventory.

### **708.8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing the annual report, the Department shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the Department should discuss the report and respond to public questions regarding the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

**ATASCADERO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL  
ATTACHMENT TO POLICY MANUAL SECTION 708  
INVENTORY LIST OF AB 481 DEFINED MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

<b>Equipment Name:</b> 5.56mm Semi-Automatic Rifles and Ammunition - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)		
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 7 owned		<b>Lifespan:</b> Approximately 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> Semi-automatic rifles that fire a 5.56mm projectile.		
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b> Colt		
<p><b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.</li> <li>● When an officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.</li> <li>● Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.</li> <li>● When authorized or requested by a supervisor.</li> </ul>		
<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> The initial cost of equipment is approximately \$1,100 per rifle. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.		
<b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force and Firearms including Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections: 300, 305, 310, 312, 314.7.3, 433.		
<b>Training Required:</b> Officers must complete a CA POST-certified 24-hour patrol rifle course as well as regular department firearms training and qualifications as required by law and policy.		

<b>Equipment Name:</b> 5.56mm Semi-automatic Rifles and Ammunition - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)		
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 17 owned		<b>Lifespan:</b> Approximately 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> Semi-automatic rifle capable of firing a 5.56mm projectile.		
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b> Bushmaster XM15-E2S Patrolman Rifle. Short-barreled carbine for patrol operations		
<p><b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.</li> <li>● When an officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.</li> <li>● Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.</li> <li>● When authorized or requested by a supervisor.</li> </ul>		

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<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> The initial cost of equipment is approximately \$1,100 per rifle. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.
<b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force and Firearms including Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections: 300, 305, 310, 312, 314.7.3, 433.
<b>Training Required:</b> Officers must complete a CA POST-certified 24-hour patrol rifle course as well as regular department firearms training and qualifications as required by law and policy.

<b>Equipment Name:</b> 5.56mm Semi-Automatic Rifles and Ammunition - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)		
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 3 owned		<b>Lifespan:</b> Approximately 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> Semi-automatic rifles that fire a 5.56mm projectile.		
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b> Heckler and Koch G36C is a compact deployable patrol rifle ideal for compact carry locations such as motor vehicles and motorcycles.		
<b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include but are not limited to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.</li> <li>● When an officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.</li> <li>● Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.</li> <li>● When authorized or requested by a supervisor.</li> </ul>		
<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> The initial cost of equipment is approximately \$1,100 per rifle. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.		
<b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force and Firearms including Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections: 300, 305, 310, 312, 314.7.3, 433.		
<b>Training Required:</b> Officers must complete a CA POST-certified 24-hour patrol rifle course as well as regular department firearms training and qualifications as required by law and policy.		

<b>Equipment Name:</b> 40 caliber and 9mm Semi-Automatic Rifles and Ammunition - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)		
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 2 owned		<b>Lifespan:</b> Approximately 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> Semi-automatic rifles that fire a 40 caliber and 9mm projectile.		
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b> The Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine gun is designed to meet a wide range of tactical requirements for specialized teams.		
<b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include but are not limited to:		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.</li> <li>● When an officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.</li> <li>● Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.</li> <li>● When authorized or requested by a supervisor.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> The initial cost of equipment is approximately \$1,100 per rifle. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.</p>
<p><b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force and Firearms including Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections: 300, 305, 310, 312, 314.7.3, 433.</p>
<p><b>Training Required:</b> Officers must complete a CA POST-certified 24-hour patrol rifle course as well as regular department firearms training and qualifications as required by law and policy.</p>

<b>Equipment Name:</b> .308 caliber bolt-action Rifle and Ammunition - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)	
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 1 owned	<b>Lifespan:</b> Approximately 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> The Remington 700 Sniper Rifle fires a .308 caliber projectile at extended distances.	
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b> The Remington 700 is the number one bolt-action of all time, proudly made in the U.S.A. For over 50 years, more Model 700s have been sold than any other bolt-action rifle before or since. The legendary strength of its 3-rings-of-steel receiver paired with a hammer-forged barrel, combine to yield the most popular bolt-action rifle in history.	
<p><b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> This rifle is exclusively authorized for use by a sniper-trained SWAT officer, and may be deployed in circumstances where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be necessary. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the rifle may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.</li> <li>● When the officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.</li> <li>● Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.</li> <li>● When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.</li> <li>● When authorized or requested by a supervisor.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> \$1,604.12 per rifle. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.	

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**Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:** All applicable State, Federal and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force including Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections 300, 305, 310, 312, 314.7.3.

**Training Required:** In addition to patrol rifle and standard SWAT Operator training, SWAT Snipers must complete a CA POST-certified sniper course as well as regular SWAT Sniper training and qualifications as required by law and policy.

**Equipment Name:** .308 caliber bolt-action Rifle and Ammunition - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)

**Quantity Owned/Sought:** 1 owned

**Lifespan:** Approximately 15 years

**Equipment Capabilities:** The AXSA LE Sniper Rifle fires a .308 caliber projectile at extended distances.

**Manufacturer Product Description:** The Accuracy International AX308 rifle is a precision bolt-action rifle designed for accuracy and reliability in various shooting scenarios, including long-range shooting and tactical applications. The rifle is built on a sturdy chassis system constructed from high-grade materials, providing stability and durability. The barrel is equipped with a heavy-profile, match-grade barrel, the AX308 rifle delivers superb accuracy and consistent shot-to-shot performance. The barrel is cold hammer-forged and precision-machined to ensure exceptional quality and longevity.

**Purpose/Authorized Uses:** This rifle is exclusively authorized for use by a sniper-trained SWAT officer and may be deployed in circumstances where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be necessary. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the rifle may include but are not limited to:

- This bolt-action rifle is replacing the aging Remington 700 Sniper Rifle.
- Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- When the officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.
- Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.
- When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- When authorized or requested by a supervisor.

**Fiscal Impacts:** This rifle was purchased and gifted by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisor Council. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.

**Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:** All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force including Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections 300, 305, 310, 312, 314.7.3.

**Training Required:** In addition to patrol rifle and standard SWAT Operator training, SWAT Snipers must complete a CA POST-certified sniper course as well as regular SWAT Sniper training and qualifications as required by law and policy.

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<b>Equipment Name:</b> 40mm Less Lethal Launchers and Kinetic Energy Munitions - CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(14)	
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 9 owned	<b>Lifespan:</b> Approximately 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> The 40mm Less Lethal Launcher is capable of firing 40mm Kinetic Energy Munitions.	
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b>	
<b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> To compel an individual to cease his/her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option. A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application. The 40mm Less Lethal Launchers and Kinetic Energy Munitions are intended for use as a “less lethal” use of force option, which serves as an additional option to mitigate the possibility of using lethal force.	
<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> \$3,400 initial purchase per launcher, \$2,500 initial purchase of 40mm projectiles. The ongoing cost for munitions will vary.	
<b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing police use of force. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on Use of Force, primarily Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual sections 300 and 308.	
<b>Training Required:</b> Initial orientation courses, including qualifications, are provided by Department members who have attended a POST-certified instructor’s course; annual recertification, including qualifications by demonstrated use in a training environment, is required of all operators.	

<b>Equipment Name:</b> - .556 AR-15 Patrol Rifles, CA Govt. Code §7070(c)(10)	
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 16	<b>Lifespan:</b> 15 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> Semi-automatic rifle capable of firing a 5.56mm projectile.	
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b> 5.56 Sionic AR-15 Patrol Rifles for patrol operations and SWAT Team deployment.	
<b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> Officers may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These Patrol Rifles are replacing the aging Patrol Rifle inventory.</li> <li>• Situations where the officer reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.</li> <li>• When an officer is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.</li> <li>• Situations where an officer reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect’s firepower.</li> <li>• When an officer reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.</li> <li>• When an officer reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor and when authorized or requested by a supervisor.</li> <li>• These Patrol Rifles are replacing the aging Patrol Rifle inventory.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> The initial cost of equipment is approximately \$2,350 per rifle. The ongoing costs for ammunition vary, and maintenance is performed by Department staff.
<b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable State, Federal, and Local laws governing the use of force by police. Various Atascadero Police Department Policies on the Use of Force, primarily sections 300 and 308 of the Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual.
<b>Training Required:</b> Officers must complete a CA POST-certified 24-hour patrol rifle course as well as regular department firearms training and qualifications as required by law and policy.

<b>Equipment Name:</b> - Unmanned Aerial Systems	
<b>Quantity Owned/Sought:</b> 2	<b>Lifespan:</b> 5 years
<b>Equipment Capabilities:</b> Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) provide real-time aerial surveillance, reconnaissance, mapping, search-and-rescue support, and incident assessment capabilities while enhancing officer safety and operational awareness.	
<b>Manufacturer Product Description:</b>	
<b>DJI Matrice 4T Universal Edition:</b> Enterprise-grade unmanned aerial system equipped with thermal imaging, low-light imaging, zoom capabilities, and real-time aerial observation features designed for public safety operations.	
<b>DJI Matrice 4E Universal Edition:</b> Enterprise-grade unmanned aerial system designed for aerial mapping, surveying, scene documentation, and incident assessment with high-resolution imaging capabilities.	
<b>Purpose/Authorized Uses:</b> Search and rescue operations, crime scene documentation and mapping, tactical and critical incident support, disaster assessment and emergency management, suspect search and apprehension support, public safety and infrastructure assessment, and traffic collision investigation and special event management.	
<b>Fiscal Impacts:</b> \$7,799 Initial purchase for Matrice 4E. \$5,099 Initial purchase for Matrice 4T.	
<b>Legal/Procedural Rules Governing Use:</b> All applicable Federal, State, and Local laws governing the operation of Unmanned Aerial Systems, including Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and airspace restrictions, constitutional protections related to privacy and search and seizure, and applicable California laws. UAS operations shall be conducted in accordance with Atascadero Police Department Policy Manual Section 613 (Unmanned Aerial Systems), the Atascadero Police Department UAS Operations Manual, and other applicable Department policies and procedures.	
<b>Training Required:</b> Operators must possess and maintain a current FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate and complete Department-approved UAS operator training. Training includes aircraft operations, FAA regulatory compliance, flight safety, emergency procedures, privacy and constitutional law considerations, evidence collection, and public safety mission deployment. Operators must complete recurrent training and proficiency evaluations as required by Department policy and FAA regulations.	