

*This General Order contains investigatory techniques not otherwise known to the general public.*

# NEW HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE

## GENERAL ORDERS



GENERAL ORDER **412**

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 1, 2012

### HOSTAGES & BARRICADED SUSPECTS

#### **412.1** PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to set forth guidelines for handling hostage situations and barricaded suspects, which present unique problems for the Department of Police Service and other law enforcement agencies.

#### **412.2** POLICY

It is the policy of the New Haven Department of Police Service to provide protection to the public and law enforcement personnel during hostage and barricaded suspects incidents. Proper planning and training will reduce the risks involved with these incidents.

#### **412.3** DEFINITIONS

**HOSTAGE**: A person held by one party in a conflict as security so that specified terms will be met by the opposing party.

**BARRICADED SUSPECT**: A person who takes a position of cover or concealment or maintains a position in a structure to resist capture by law enforcement personnel. A barricaded suspect may be armed or suspected of being armed with a weapon.

#### **412.4** PROCEDURES

##### **A. HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS**

Promises of immunity, leniency, and/or payment of ransom are rarely effective and generally not offered. Trained negotiators will be permitted to exercise discretion consistent with their training.

Personnel involved in barricaded/hostage situations shall be patient and exercise caution. The use of deadly force is governed by General Order 300.

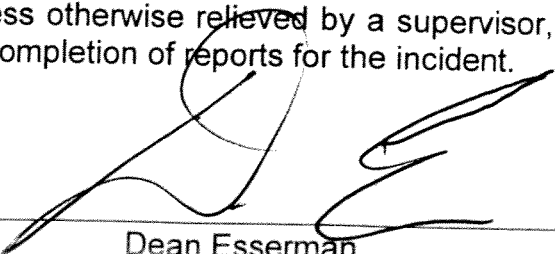
**B. INITIAL RESPONSE**

Until the Incident Commander has been designated, the first supervisor, or the first responding officer if a supervisor is not available, on the scene of an actual or potential hostage/barricade situation shall consider the following:

- Attempt to avoid confrontation in favor of controlling and containing the situation until the arrival of trained personnel and/or trained hostage negotiation personnel
- Ensure that the Shift Commander is aware of the situation
- Notification to the Communications Supervisor
- Notification of tactical and hostage negotiation personnel
- Establishment of inner and outer perimeters
- Evacuation of bystanders and injured persons
- Establishment of central command post and appropriate chain of command
- Request and establish an area for ambulance, rescue, fire and surveillance equipment
- Establish an area for the news media
- Pursuit/surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes

**C. REPORTING**

Unless otherwise relieved by a supervisor, the initial officer at the scene is responsible for completion of reports for the incident.

  
Dean Esserman  
Chief of Police

  
Date