

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle Quarterly (QUGV) Inspection Reports for Quarters 1 and 2 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the November 17, 2023 and March 21, 2024 Board of Police Commissioners (Board) reports relative to the QUGV Quarterly Inspection Report for Quarters 1 and 2 of FY 2023-24.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On April 9, 2024, your Committee considered November 17, 2023 and March 21, 2024 Board reports relative to Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle Quarterly Inspection Reports for Quarters 1 and 2 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. According to the Board, on November 8, 2022, it approved the use of the QUGV. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) implemented the program, as delineated in Administrative Order No. 6, dated May 30, 2023 (Attached to the reports). As directed in the Administrative Order, Metropolitan Division is required to provide a quarterly report to the Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB) documenting the QUGV field deployments. Prior to the implementation date, the Council introduced Motion 2A, dated May 23, 2023, instructing the LAPD to provide quarterly reports to the Council as well. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team of Metropolitan Division was assigned the implementation, management, and deployment of the QUGV. The use of the QUGV was reserved for specific incidents, including high-risk incidents that met SWAT's deployment criteria.

The QUGV was deployed one time during Quarter 1 and adhered to all established protocols and procedures. As part of the Quarter 1 report, an assessment was conducted of the tracking system utilized by Metropolitan Division for the approval, deployment, and documentation of each QUGV deployment. The system proved to be effective and Metropolitan Division will continue to assess the tracking system for efficiency.

During Quarter 2, the SWAT team reported two QUGV deployments. The first deployment on October 17, 2023, involved Newton Area patrol officers responding to a radio call of an Assault with a Deadly Weapon suspect at 1000 East 7th Street. As patrol officers approached the apartment in question, they discovered the suspect had fired multiple rounds into his upper floor neighbor's apartment unit. The suspect failed to submit to arrest, the incident was declared an armed barricade, and SWAT was notified.

The SWAT team responded to the incident and determined that using the QUGV was the best option to peacefully resolve the incident.

The QUGV was deployed to the third floor of the apartment complex and its camera system was utilized to record the suspect's actions. The QUGV was situated in the middle of a hallway and provided cover from the suspect's door. The QUGV allowed officers to remain at a safe distance from the suspect, enhanced situational awareness, and provided a means to observe the suspect's movement through the camera without endangering SWAT officers. After chemical agents were introduced into the apartment, the suspect opened the door and surrendered without further incident.

The second deployment on November 8, 2023, involved Hollywood Area patrol officers who responded to an armed suspect on a Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority bus. After approximately 75 minutes of attempted dialogue with the suspect, the incident was declared an armed barricade and SWAT was notified. Upon SWAT's arrival, a request for the combined deployment of the small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) and the QUGV was initiated due to the suspect having a firearm on the floor of the bus next to his feet.

The sUAS observed the suspect to be sleeping or unconscious with the firearm next to his feet on the floor of the bus. It would have been impossible for a tracked robot to navigate the steps of the bus; therefore, the QUGV was deployed. As the QUGV entered the bus, the suspect awoke from his sleep. The QUGV was positioned to create a barrier between the suspect and the firearm. The suspect was ordered off the bus where he surrendered and was taken into custody without incident. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the two reports. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Public Safety Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
RODRIGUEZ:	ABSENT
LEE:	YES
McOSKER:	YES
PARK:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	NO

ARL
4/9/24

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-