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November 17, 2023

BPC #23-221

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: QUADRUPED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE QUARTERLY INSPECTION
REPORT.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, November 14, 2023, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Munoz".

REBECCA MUNOZ
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED
RICHARD M. TEFANK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
11/9/23
DATE

November 1, 2023

1.1

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: QUADRUPED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE QUARTERLY
INSPECTION REPORT – QUARTER 1, FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and FILE the Los Angeles Police Department's (Department) Quarter 1 Report, Fiscal Year 2023/2024 on the Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV) program.
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Los Angeles City Council (Council) the quarterly report on the QUGV program as directed in the attached Motion.

BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2022, the Board approved the use of the QUGV. The Department implemented the program, as delineated in the attached Administrative Order No. 6, dated May 30, 2023. As directed in the Administrative Order, Metropolitan Division was 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 Department 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.

DISCUSSION

Special Weapons and Tactics Team conducted the required evaluation for the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, in the following areas:¹

1. Approved deployment of the QUGV;
2. Permissible Uses; and,
3. Tracking system to capture the approval and deployments of the QUGV.

¹ Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023), Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023), Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024) and Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024).

REPORTING

During Quarter 1, the QUGV logged its first and only deployment on August 12, 2023. The incident involved an Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS). The suspect, who was believed to be armed, had secreted himself behind a staircase where numerous community members were dining and walking about.

The Incident Commander approved the deployment of the QUGV, in conjunction with the Commanding Officer of Metropolitan Division, who then sought approval from the Acting Commanding Officer of CTSOB, Commander Shannon Paulson. Commander Paulson approved the deployment of the QUGV as the incident met the requirements for a barricaded suspect.

The QUGV was utilized to safely remove what was believed to be a rifle and handgun away from the suspect, so SWAT officers could safely approach, detain the suspect and begin medical treatment. The suspect was arrested without the use of additional force by SWAT officers.

Quarter 1				
Deployment No.	Date	Time Deployed	Deployment Description	Division / Bureau
1	August 12, 2023	23:33	Armed Barricaded Suspect	Olympic / West Bureau

CONCLUSION

The QUGV was deployed one time during Quarter 1 and adhered to all established protocols and procedures. As part of this 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.

On September 15, 2023, Media Relations Division released a Critical Incident Review video describing the OIS incident that included the use of the QUGV. The critical incident video was viewed over 32,000 times with positive feedback from the public.

Should you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief David J. Kowalski, Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, at (213) 486-8780.

Respectfully,


MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved *November 14, 2023*
Secretary *Rebecca Muñoz*

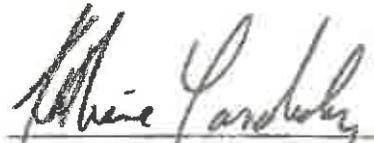
Attachment

MOTION

As with the use of any new technology used in policing, it is important that the City Council have appropriate oversight and the ability to modify or halt the program if circumstances warrant.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Police Department to provide ~~quarterly reports~~ to the Council on the deployments of the Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV), including where and why the QUGV was deployed, the outcome of the deployment, and any issues arising from the deployment. The report should include how these deployments were in compliance with the QUGV deployment policy that the Police Department has shared with the Council in the report.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council expressly declare its intent to closely monitor the QUGV program and to modify the deployment policy or suspend the program at any time if the use was outside of policy or if after the use the Council feels that the policy in place does not address all of the concerns of the Council.

Presented by 
Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilwoman, Fifth District

Seconded by 

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6

May 30, 2023

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON November 8, 2022

**SUBJECT: QUADRUPED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE PROGRAM
DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

PURPOSE: This Order establishes deployment guidelines and procedures specific to the Quadraped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV). As part of the Department's commitment to the Preservation of Life, the QUGV will greatly increase officer safety and minimize risks associated with life-threatening calls for service that meet the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) deployment criteria.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Definition.** The QUGV refers to a ground vehicle operated on four legs without an onboard human presence.
- II. Responsibilities.** The QUGV will be assigned exclusively to Metropolitan Division's SWAT team and shall be reserved for use in high-risk incidents that meet SWAT deployment criteria. Special Weapons and Tactics personnel will be responsible for the safe operation of the QUGV during approved deployments and for documenting its use during deployment of the vehicle. Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB) will be responsible for the oversight and evaluation of the QUGV Program.
- III. Documentation and Inspection Procedures.** The request, approval, and/or disapproval of a QUGV deployment shall be documented on the SWAT After Action Report completed post deployment for review, transparency, and tracking. Metropolitan Division will be required to provide a quarterly report to CTSOB documenting QUGV field deployments. In addition, information regarding all QUGV deployments will be included in Innovation Management Division's annual Comprehensive Technology Report to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners and comply with California Assembly Bill No. 481.
- IV. Approval for Deployment.** Any deployment of a QUGV shall be approved by the on-scene Incident Commander in concurrence with the Commanding Officer or Designee of CTSOB. If deployment is approved by CTSOB, a notification shall be made to the Director, Office of Special Operations, and the Chief of Police. If an incident is such that it requires the response of personnel assigned to Emergency Services Division (i.e., Hazardous Devices and Materials Section), the Commanding Officer, Emergency Services Division or appropriate representative shall also respond to the scene.
- V. Permissible Uses.** The QUGV may be deployed to provide enhanced situational awareness solely during the following circumstances or types of incidents:
 1. Active shooter incidents;
 2. Assessment of explosive devices and explosions;
 3. Hostage situations;
 4. Natural disasters;
 5. Hazardous materials incidents;

6. Search and rescue operations; and
7. Barricaded suspect incidents.

Note: A SWAT response for a barricaded suspect requires:

- The suspect is probably armed; and,
- Probable cause exists to believe that the suspect has been involved in a criminal act or is a threat to the lives and safety of the community and/or police; and,
- Is in a position of advantage, affording cover and/or concealment; or is contained in an open area and the presence of approach of police officers could precipitate an adverse reaction by the suspect; and,
- The suspect refuses to submit to a lawful arrest.

VI. Prohibited Uses. The QUGV shall not be deployed or used in violation of the City of Los Angeles Municipal laws, California State laws, or the United States Constitution. When required under the Fourth Amendment or other provisions of the law, Department personnel shall obtain a search warrant or valid consent, unless another lawful exception applies.

The QUGV shall not be equipped with any weapon systems including any non-lethal or less-lethal weapon technology, shall not be equipped with or use any facial recognition software or analysis capabilities, and the QUGV shall not be used for routine patrol duties or covert surveillance operations.

Note: The QUGV shall not be deployed in a manner exceeding the manufacturer's recommendations.

VII. Protection of Privacy. Department Manual Section 1/140.15, Acquisition and Annual Reporting of Certain Information Systems and Technologies, ensures that Department personnel follow practices consistent with the protection of privacy and civil liberties.

The QUGV technology uses secured radio frequencies and/or Wi-Fi to directly transmit images, audio and video from the onboard QUGV camera to the handheld monitor(s). It does not transmit to third parties and is encrypted to prevent interception by unauthorized entities such as news outlets or public groups. Department policy ensures personnel with access to such data follow practices that are consistent with the protection of privacy and civil liberties. Digital evidence (photographs, video, or audio) captured by the QUGV's cameras during deployment shall be safeguarded in accordance with current Department policy.

VIII. Training. Personnel approved to utilize or manipulate the QUGV shall be trained in operations of the unit in accordance with the Manufacturer Guidelines. In addition to QUGV functionality, unit operators, and those overseeing unit operations, shall be trained in the policy and legal limitations governing the use of the unit and in strict compliance with privacy laws.

MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, CTSOB, shall have monitoring responsibility for this directive.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION "D"