Tactical Team Audits

I.   Mission
   a. A Tactical Team audit program is intended to provide a comprehensive and honest evaluation of a tactical team's mission readiness and overall capabilities.

II. Background
   a. Since its formation, CATO has conducted a number of tactical team audits.
   b. Such reviews have also been carried out by the NTOA and individuals such as Capt. John Kolman (LASD ret.) and Sgt. Ron McCarthy (LAPD ret.)
   c. These typically focus on a comprehensive audit of a tactical team but may also examine a specific critical incident.

III. Specific purpose of an audit
   a. Carry out an evaluation of an agency's critical incident response capabilities
   b. Conduct an overall review of the SWAT Team
   c. Provide the agency with specific recommendations for possible improvement

IV. Foundational Aspects
   a. A tactical audit uses various sources as a "base line" for the review
      i.   CATO training courses and guidelines
      ii. NTOA SWAT Team guidelines
      iii. California POST SWAT guidelines
      iv. California POST Safety guidelines
      v.   Experience and knowledge of the Audit Team members and others
      vi. General findings from prior audits

V.   Focus of effort
   a. Policies/Standard Operating Procedures
   b. Facilities
   c. Weapons
   d. Ammunition/Munitions
   e. Vehicles
   f. Equipment
   g. Training
   h. Operational issues
   i. Documentation
   j. Crisis Negotiations
   k. Tactical Dispatchers and other support resources

VI. Policies/Standard Operating Procedures
   a. General policies such as Use of Force, etc.
   b. Specific SWAT policies
   c. Team organization
   d. Activation
   e. Threat Matrix or similar
   f. Physical Fitness requirements
   g. SOPs the provide oversight for the team's functions
   h. Job descriptions: Team Commander, Team Leader, operator, precision rifle, etc.
   i. Selection, retention and removal

VII.   Facilities
   a. SWAT Armory
   b. Equipment room
   c. Vehicle storage
VIII.   Weapons
   a. Service life and maintenance
   b. Individual rifles & Handguns
   c. Team weapons such as 40mm launchers
IX.   Ammunition/munitions
   a. Training vs. Duty
   b. Shelf life
   c. Proper storage
X.   Vehicles
   a. SWAT truck
   b. Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV)
   c. Support vehicles
XI.   Equipment
   a. Individual
   b. Team equipment
XII.   Training
   a. POST Core competencies
   b. Mission specific training
   c. Training v. Qualification
   d. Safety protocols
XIII.   Operational issues
   a. Planning
   b. Operational plans
   c. Debriefing
XIV.   Documentation
   a. Training
      i. Lesson plans and training/qualification documentation
      ii. Individual and team training records
   b. Operational
      i. Department reports
      ii. After Action Reports
XV.   Crisis Negotiations
   a. Policies/SOP's
   b. Integration with the SWAT Team
   c. Equipment
   d. Training
XVI.   Tactical Dispatchers & other support resources
   a. Policies/SOP's
   b. Command post integration
   c. Equipment

d. Training

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