

Memorandum

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

FROM: Anthony Mata
Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: DUTY MANUAL ADDITION:
L 2703 ACOUSTIC HAILING
DEVICES**

DATE: August 29, 2022

APPROVED

Memo #2022-043

BACKGROUND

An acoustic hailing device (AHD) is a high-power loudspeaker whose primary purpose is to project sound over long distances, through ambient noise, or through barriers. The most common use of an AHD is to provide intelligible notifications, instructions, or information. Some AHDs have the capability of being used as a sonic weapon, producing a non-lethal, non-kinetic tone or sound designed to irritate or incapacitate subjects. In all cases, AHD sound levels are scalable and controllable.

There are several types of AHDs on the market. The Genasys Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs) owned by the Police Department and the Office of Emergency Management are one type of AHD. Each AHD has its own set of manufacturer's specifications for recommended usage. For example, the LRAD 100X recommends not using the device at maximum volume when someone is within 10 meters. The LRAD 500X increases that distance to 75 meters. For that reason, the policy is being produced with the requirement that the devices always be positioned at a safe distance, used at a safe volume level, and used for a safe duration, per the manufacturer's specifications.

ANALYSIS

The Duty Manual has been revised to reflect changes described below. Additions are shown in *italics and underlined*.

L 2703 **ACOUSTIC HAILING DEVICES:**

Added 08-29-22

An acoustic hailing device (AHD) is a high-power loudspeaker designed to project sound over long distances, through ambient noise, or through barriers. Events where an AHD may be used include, but are not limited to, First Amendment activities, civil disturbances, active shooter events, tactical events, evacuations, and natural disasters. Department members may use AHDs in the following applications:

- *When necessary to provide notifications, instructions, or information.*

- When necessary to remove individuals from an area.
- When necessary to deny access to an area that is currently unoccupied.

AHDs may only be used under the following circumstances:

- When the device is used to provide notifications, instructions, or information, the use is authorized by an on-duty lieutenant or higher.
- When a tone or sound is used to remove individuals from an area or deny access to an unoccupied area, the use is authorized by a Deputy Chief or higher.
- The operator has completed an approved training course taught by a qualified Department member or representative of the manufacturer of the AHD.
- The device is positioned at a safe distance from the intended recipients, per manufacturer's specifications.
- The device's volume is set at a safe level for the intended recipients, per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The device is used for a safe duration for the intended recipients, per the manufacturer's specifications.
- When a tone or sound (not speech) is used to move individuals from an area or used to deny access to an area, identification and verbal warning shall be given pursuant to Duty Manual section L 2601.1 IDENTIFICATION AND VERBAL WARNING or L 2312 DISPERSAL ORDER, as applicable.
- When a tone or sound (not speech) is used to move individuals from an area or used to deny access to an area, the use shall be documented on a General Offense report as a use of force pursuant to Duty Manual chapter L 2600 USE OF FORCE. The report shall include a description of the tone or sound, the volume setting, the approximate distance to the intended recipients, and the duration of use.
- When a tone or sound (not speech) is used to move individuals from an area or used to deny access to an area, consideration should be given for the environment and/or individuals behind the intended recipients (i.e., the background). The necessity or benefits of using the device should be weighed against the potential effect it may have on uninvolved individuals.
- When used to move individuals from an area, AHDs will be used intermittently to allow the individuals an opportunity to vacate the area, absent any incapacitating effects of the AHD.

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AHDs may not be used under the following conditions:

- When used to move individuals from an area, AHDs may not intentionally be used against children, the elderly, or pregnant individuals.
- When used to move individuals from an area, AHDs may not be used at a distance, sound level, or for a duration likely to cause injury, per the manufacturer's specifications.

ORDER

Effective immediately, all Department personnel shall adhere to the above Duty Manual section.



Anthony Mata
Chief of Police

AM:SD:MZ