

**SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
POLICE DEPARTMENT**



**Assembly Bill 481
Annual Military Equipment Report 2024**

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481) was signed into law and became effective on January 1, 2022. AB 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their governing bodies before purchasing, raising funds for, or acquiring military equipment, by any means, including surplus military equipment from the federal government.

Law enforcement agencies are also required to seek governing body approval before collaborating with another law enforcement agency in the deployment or use of military equipment within the governing body's territorial jurisdiction or before using any new military equipment for a purpose, in a manner, or by a person not previously approved by the governing body.

The law defines the governing body as “the elected body that oversees a law enforcement agency or, if there is no elected body that directly oversees the law enforcement agency, the appointed body that oversees a law enforcement agency.” For the San Diego Community College District Police Department (“SDCCD PD”), the governing body is the Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District.

AB 481 also requires the submission of an annual military equipment report to the Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District (“SDCCD”). This is that annual report.

ANALYSIS

The SDCCD PD retains and employs various equipment that falls within AB 481’s definition of “military equipment.” The equipment is maintained and in place so SDCCD PD can safely achieve its mission to safeguard and protect the communities on all the SDCCD campuses, administrative offices, and properties.

The mere possession of this equipment does not warrant its use for every incident, nor has the SDCCD PD been accused recently or in the past of indiscriminate use of these types of equipment.

The SDCCD PD recognizes that critical incidents are unpredictable and often fluid and dynamic in nature. The SDCCD PD prides itself on its training, use of best practices, and forward-thinking in technology and the tools it acquires and utilizes in its mission for the safety of its personnel and the safety of community members, faculty/staff, employees, students, and visitors alike.

The use of all equipment, not just “military equipment,” is predicated on the mission of the SDCCD PD, policy, training, law, the safety of our officers, and the safety of our communities. Officers and incident commanders alike are influenced by the totality of the circumstances, public safety, civil rights, all available information at the time of a critical incident or disaster, and the desire to bring that incident to a safe resolution.

Assembly Bill 481

AB 481 is intended to increase transparency, accountability, and oversight surrounding the acquisition and use of military equipment by state and local law enforcement. AB 481's definition of "military equipment" was much more than armored vehicles, large-caliber firearms, explosive projectile launchers, explosive breaching tools, and "flashbang" grenades.

AB 481 also speaks to the acquisition of military equipment by any means, including the 1033 Federal Surplus Property Program (1033 Program) and the purchase of military equipment using grants or SDCCD funding. The SDCCD PD does not participate in nor has it acquired equipment under the 1033 Federal Surplus Property Program.

The SDCCD PD must now submit an annual military equipment report to the Board of Trustees. The report must contain specific information, including; the equipment's uses, any complaints received, any internal audits or other information about violations of the Military Equipment Policy, and the cost of such use.

AB 481 designated the following 15 categories of items as "military equipment":

- (1) Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- (2) Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers. However, police versions of standard consumer vehicles are specifically excluded from this subdivision.
- (3) High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees, two and one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached. However, unarmored all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorized dirt bikes are specifically excluded from this subdivision.
- (4) Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants and utilize a tracked system instead of wheels for forward motion.
- (5) Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
- (6) Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- (7) Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. However, items designed to remove a lock, such as bolt cutters, or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person, are specifically excluded from this subdivision.

- (8) Firearms of .50 caliber or greater. However, standard issue shotguns are specifically excluded from this subdivision.
- (9) Ammunition of .50 caliber or greater. However, standard issue shotgun ammunition is specifically excluded from this subdivision.
- (10) Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sections 30510 and 30515 of the Penal Code, with the exception of standard issue service weapons and ammunition of less than .50 caliber that are issued to officers, agents, or employees of a law enforcement agency or a state agency.
- (11) Any firearm or firearm accessory that is designed to launch explosive projectiles.
- (12) "Flashbang" grenades and explosive breaching tools, "tear gas," and "pepper balls," excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.
- (13) Taser Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD).
- (14) The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launchers, "bean bag," rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons.
- (15) Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

The SDCCD PD owns, maintains, and utilizes equipment from Categories 10 and 14.

Category 10

AR-15 Rifles: A semi-automatic shoulder-fired long gun that fires a rifle caliber cartridge. The SDCCD PD-approved AR15 style weapon system is designed to fire a .223/5.56 caliber projectile.

.223 Caliber or 5.56mm Rifle Ammunition: Rifle ammunition manufactured specifically for rifles chambered in 5.56mm or .223 Remington. The capability of .223 caliber or 5.56mm rifle ammunition used in conjunction with an AR-15 type rifle provides officers the ability to engage hostile suspects at distances generally greater than the effective distance of their handguns. Rifle ammunition fired from AR-15 rifles offer advantages over handguns, such as increased accuracy potential and the ability to defeat soft body armor.

Category 14

Beanbag Less Lethal Shotguns: This is a standard Remington Model 870, 12-gauge shotgun that has been modified with an orange stock and fore-end. Beanbag shotguns are capable of firing a 12-gauge beanbag round with a maximum effective range of sixty (60) feet. Beanbag shotguns utilized with beanbag rounds may be deployed to impact subjects demonstrating assaultive behavior or life-threatening behavior. Beanbag shotguns utilized with beanbag rounds may also be used to control an actively resistive subject reasonably believed to possess or have immediate access to a deadly weapon,

Beanbag Ammunition: The 12-gauge beanbag ammunition, commonly known as a beanbag round, consists of a fabric sock containing lead shot contained within a standard 2 ¾ inch shot shell casing.

The SDCCD PD requires officers to be trained in using this equipment and be certified before its use. In addition to the initial training, annual reoccurring training and qualification are required in these categories.

ANNUAL REPORT

A. Usage and Purpose of Use

The SDCCD PD did not have any cases involving the deployment of Category 10 or Category 14 equipment during the 2024 calendar year reporting period.

B. Complaints or Concerns

The SDCCD PD received no complaints or concerns reported to the SDCCD PD about the designated equipment during the 2024 calendar year reporting period.

C. Internal Audits

There were no deployments of our Category 10 or Category 14, military equipment, and as such, there were no resulting expenses during the 2024 calendar year reporting period.

D. Total Costs

Inspection of equipment and training are critical components of maintaining operational readiness. Annual costs include staff time for training to comply with legal/policy requirements, consumables (i.e. ammunition, targets), and any normal maintenance or repairs needed to maintain operational readiness of the equipment. Costs are approximate and all costs associated with the training and deployment of identified military equipment are funded through the SDCCD PD's budgeted general funds.

Category 10 – Annual maintenance and training costs for the 2024 calendar year: \$9,985.20
(Rifle ammunition)

Category 14 – Annual maintenance and training costs for the 2024 calendar year: \$7,620.95
(Beanbag ammunition)

E. Quantity

In the 2025 calendar year, the SDCCD PD intends to purchase munitions, previously used from training, to return on-hand quantities to previously approved levels.