

# **AB-481 Annual Report**

Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition, and Use

**2023-2024**



# Our approach and values



Partnership – Leadership – Excellence – Regional



Open & accountable



Acquire, train and use only that equipment that increases safety broadly



Our maintenance and deployment of specialized equipment used by trained deputies means that smaller agencies in Marin County are relieved of possessing the equipment, but they are advantaged with MCSO having the capability.



# AB-481 Summary

- September 30, 2021 – Gov. Newsom signed 8 police reform bills, including AB 481
- Increase transparency, accountability, oversight for acquisition and use of equipment
- Provide safeguards to protect public's welfare, safety, civil rights and liberties
- Requires an annual report to summarize
  - Equipment usage and updates
  - Document internal audits
  - Summarize community feedback
- Create public forum for input and engagement





# Why do we need this equipment

## Goal:

Safe, peaceful  
resolution for the  
involved parties,  
the public, and  
deputies

## Concerns:

Actions,  
capabilities, and  
intentions

## Factors that influence sound decisions:

Time, distance,  
and cover



# Board of Supervisor's Approval

In October 2022, The Marin County Board of Supervisors approved our Military Equipment inventory and policy drafts.

- Marin County Sheriff's Office Policy 706 *Military Equipment* details the required definitions, authorizations, use and documentation outlined in the Assembly Bill.
  - This annual report will detail use from the date of BOS approval - July 2023 to June 2024



# MCSO AB 481 Equipment List

AB 481 Category	Equipment Type / Description	How Equipment Was Funded	How Long Equipment Has Been in Inventory	Comparable Bay Area Counties**
Category 1	Remote Controlled Robot (Tactical Robot)/sUAS	General Fund	2006/2018	
Category 3	Armored Rescue Vehicle	UASI Security Grant	2013	
Category 5	Command Vehicle	General Fund	2001	
Category 7	Breaching Round / Projectile	General Fund	2016	
Category 10	Patrol Rifles / Precision Rifles	General Fund	1997	
Category 12	Diversionsary Devices / Tear Gas	General Fund	20+ years	
Category 13	Long Range Acoustic Device	UASI Security Grant	3 months	
Category 14	Less Lethal / Kinetic Energy Rounds	General Fund	2004	

**\*\* Possess and approve similar equipment per AB481 reports**



# Authorized sUAS Mission Types

- Public safety and life preservation missions
- Search and Rescue (SAR) / missing person missions
- Requests from local, state, or federal fire authorities
- Pursuant to a search warrant or consent
- Authorized training missions
- Post-incident crime scene
- Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), hazardous materials
- Natural or human caused disasters, including full overview for post-incident analysis/documentation
- No surveillance or proactive flights; all for incidents

**ALL Missions must meet criteria outlined in policy and be approved by watch commander prior to deployment**





# Equipment Use Summary

- Category 1 (Tactical Robot/sUAS)
  - Number of uses
    - 28 (sUAS Only)



Quarterly reports for use can be found at  
<https://www.marinsheriff.org/publications/data-statistics>

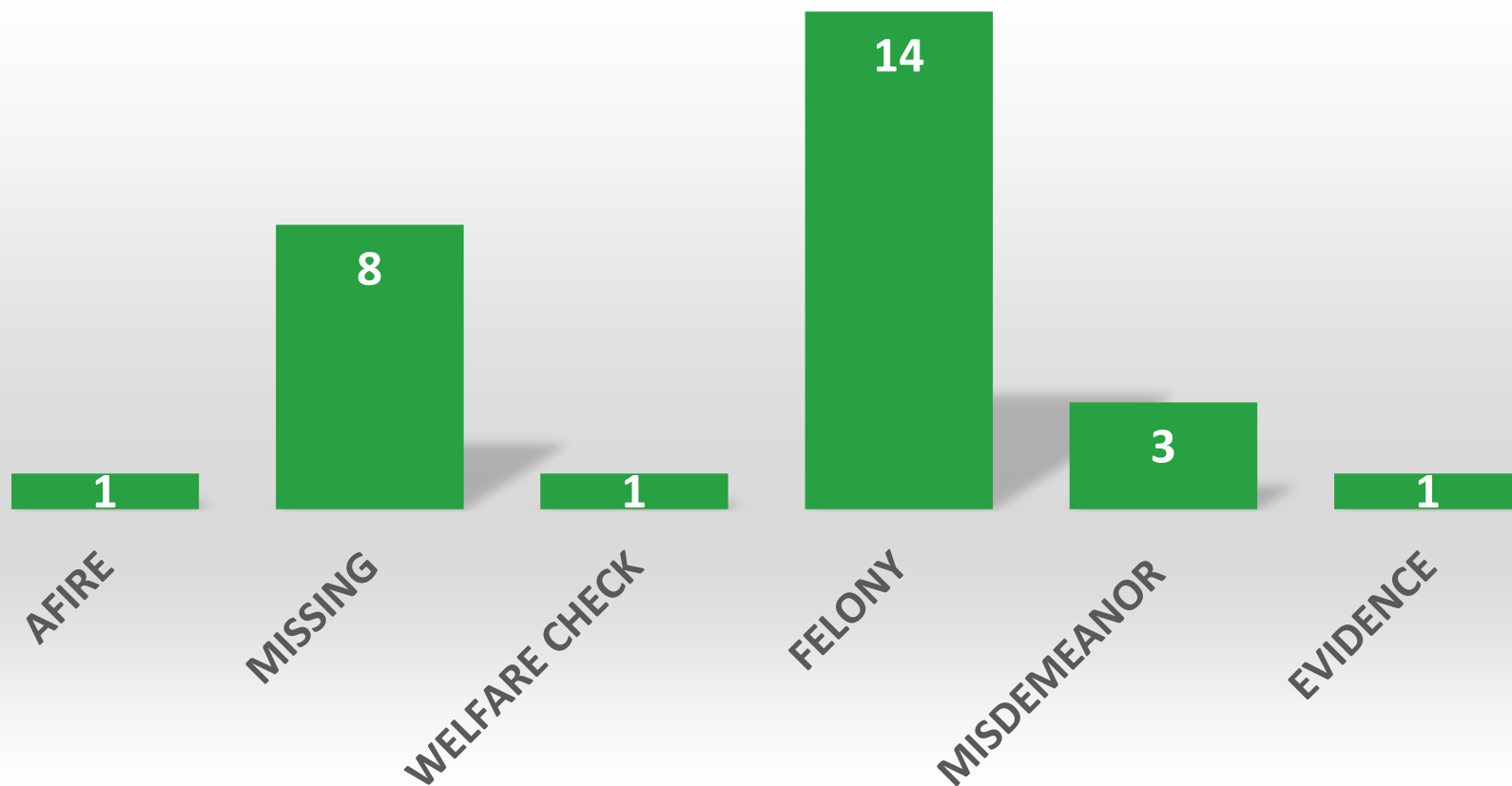
## Example of Use:

*The Marin County Sheriff's Office sUAS team was requested by the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) to assist with a barricaded subject in San Rafael. The suspect was wanted in connection with an assault with a deadly weapon. One sUAS flight was conducted in the area with a duration of approximately twelve minutes. The suspect was ultimately taken into custody without incident by SRPD*





# sUAS Missions, FY 23-24



**28 TOTAL MISSIONS**



# Equipment Use Summary

- Category 3 (Armored Rescue Vehicle)
- Category 5 (Command Vehicle)
- Category 10 (Specialty Rifle)
  - Number of uses
    - 1 (Bearcat ARV, Command Vehicle and SRT Rifles deployed)



## Example of Use:

*The Marin County Sheriff's Office sUAS team was requested by MCSO Patrol Units to assist with an aerial surveillance for an armed, barricaded, suicidal subject, believed to be inside his residence. One flight was flown for a total of approximately five minutes in an attempt to see inside the subject's residence, located on the second floor of an apartment building. The suspect was ultimately located near Miwok Stables, on Tennessee Valley Rd and was involved in an 8+ hour communications with Crisis Negotiations Team and Special Response Team before peacefully surrendering.*



# Training for Equipment Use

## sUAS

- All pilots are licensed through FAA – (PART 107 Certification)
- Complete a 40-hour operators' course, including night flying, before participating in missions
- Attend at least bi-monthly sUAS training covering topics including policy, procedure, new laws, and practical use
- 10 trained members

## SRT

- Command Vehicle, ARV and specialized weapons/munitions have specialized training
- Complete an 80-hour SWAT school
- Attend 12-hour training sessions monthly  
Minimum of 104 hours per calendar year
- 19 trained members





# Data Retention for sUAS Footage

- Most of the AB481 equipment usage is from our Agency's sUAS Team.

*Community question: A question was asked about uninvolved persons that may be captured in the footage*

- Any aerial footage captured as a part of an investigation is stored in accordance with our Department data storage policy.
  - Incidents that are not forwarded for prosecution are deleted from the server after 60 days
  - Incidents that are forwarded for prosecution will be stored longer for evidentiary purposes.



# New Equipment Purchases

During this Annual Report period (July '23-June '24) MCSO purchased one new item that meets the criteria for AB481 approval.

To communicate with people in crisis and peacefully resolve incidents, our Crisis Negotiations Team successfully secured a grant for a Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) before AB 481 came into effect. In February 2024, the LRAD model 100x was delivered to the Sheriff's Office and has since been utilized exclusively for training purposes, ensuring our team is well-prepared to leverage its capabilities when the need arises in the field.



*Long Range Acoustic Device  
(LRAD) Model 100x*



# Equipment Replacement

During this Annual Report period (July '23-June '24) MCSO purchased replacement equipment that falls under AB481.

- Replacement Noise Flash Diversionary Devices and Training Fuses (Oct '23)
- Replacement 37mm CS Gas rounds (May '24)





# New Equipment '24 -'25

- During the upcoming year, the Marin County Sheriff's Office will look to purchase replacement sUAS devices which will be better suited for confined spaces (interior of structures, between trees or low-lying debris)
  - *Previously discussed during last AB481 reporting period, but not yet purchased*
- Research retirement of sUAS at end of life and replacement with similar devices



# Possible Funding Sources

- County of Marin General Fund
- County of Marin Capital Improvement Project
- Asset Forfeiture Funding
- Local, State and Federal Grants
- Reallocation of County Resources
- Transfer of Department of Defense property to Law Enforcement Agencies (obtained through the 1208 or 1033 Programs) \*

*\* MCSO has NOT sought out or received the transfer of Department of Defense equipment through the 1208 or 1033 Programs since 2020. Future equipment transfers may be sought, but not for equipment that meets AB481 reporting criteria*





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# Equipment Categories & Definitions per AB 481 – Currently Possess

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles (Category 1)
- High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), two-and-one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached (Category 3)
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units (Category 5)
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature (Category 7)
- Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber (Category 10)
- Noise-flash diversionary devices and explosive breaching tools, munitions containing tear gas or OC, excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray (Category 12)
- TASER® Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and long-range acoustic devices (Category 13)
- Kinetic energy weapons and munitions (Category 14)



# Policy and Practices

## sUAS

- All members of the organization must follow policy to participate in missions
- Certificate of Authorization (2023-WSA-11811) with the FAA, renewed every two years
- Weaponization prohibited
- Liability insurance in place
- A Notice to Airman (NOTAM) will be filed with FAA for each mission
- Risk assessment and pre-flight will be conducted by sUAS pilot
- Mission reports completed and summaries published quarterly

## Crisis Response Unit

- Comprised of two specialized teams: the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) and the Special Response Team (SRT)
- Coordinated team to resolve critical incidents that are hazardous, complex, or unusual
- Includes hostage taking, barricaded suspects, snipers, terrorism, and high-risk incidents or warrants





# sUAS Equipment Images

