

RECOMMENDATION SUBMISSION AND RESPONSE FORM

2022 MEU #11

DISCUSSED BY SCPRC	05/20/2022	APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED		PENDING FURTHER REVIEW	X
RECEIVED BY SPD	08/17/2022	APPROVED AND PENDING		SPD UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT	
RETURNED TO SCPRC	09/09/2024	PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION		DENIED	

SCPRC RECOMMENDATION

GO 580.02 Use of Force
GO 410.06 Military Equipment Use

SPD policy does not explicitly limit or prohibit SPD from using robots or drones as a Use of Force option

Changes to Existing Policy(s): Add specific language to SPD policy and city code to prohibit the use of Robots or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a Use of Force option against any person without exception.

Under GO 410.06(H) under UAS and Robot, add the following language to subsection (g):
"Robots and Unmanned Aircraft Systems shall not be used as a Use of Force option against any person."

Under GO 580.02(F), add line (g) under subsection (1) using the following language: "By means of a Robot, Unmanned Aircraft System, or any other type of remote-operated military equipment."

SCPRC RECOMMENDATION RATIONALE

While the discussion of use of deadly robots has been happening for years among military and law enforcement circles, the recent decision by San Francisco Board of Supervisors to initially authorize San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to use robots to kill suspects when "loss of life to members of the public or officers is imminent and outweigh any other force option." his language and the arguments supporting them raise deep Oakland Police Department made a similar proposal, which has widely condemned by both residents and human rights groups alike.

Regardless of what law enforcement or legal professionals may claim, there is nothing normal conversation in the course of modern law enforcement practices and the Commission rejects any assertion to the contract. AB 481 requires law enforcement agencies to disclose how police use military weaponry and equipment, justify that use, and have it approved annually through a governing body such as the City Council. there is no data-driven evidence or ethical principle that

While robot and drone use-of-force has never before been approved in Sacramento (and assuringly, SPD has publicly state it has no plans or interest to request this authorization), it also has never been prohibited and the Commission has concerns with how certain SPD policies' language are ambiguous enough to allow for SPD to use remote-operated technology as a UOF option. We believe clear ethical boundaries are necessary to ensure SPD maintains the utmost respect for the humanity of all Sacramento community members regardless of their suspicions or illegal activities. Therefore, we recommend for the City Council to explicitly prohibit Robots or UAS vehicles from being used to kill any person without exception and regardless of exigent circumstances.

SPD RESPONSE

GO 525.09, Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS): The policy prohibits any unsafe operation or violation of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations pertaining to the weaponization of UAS. Specifically, the FAA prohibits operating a device with any weapon attached (§ 363 of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act).

RM 532.16, Bomb Squad Manual: Use of robots for any use of force option is not a consideration listed in the manual.

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

N/A

APPENDIX

N/A