

LOS SANTOS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff's Emergency Response Team
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES



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Mission Statement

The Los Santos County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) is the premier Special Response organization serving the greater Los Santos Metropolitan and County areas.

The LCSO SERT is a specialty unit tasked with handling the most hazardous, high-risk and high-profile incidents that can occur in a jurisdiction outside the capabilities of normal departmental and law enforcement personnel.

As a matter of jurisdictional authority, LCSO SERT is regularly trained for and tasked with responding to matters of the highest importance to government stakeholders and the greater public, primarily within the following scopes:

- High-Risk Arrests, Warrants
- Critical Incident Response
- Critical Special Incident Response
- High-Profile Event Security & HVI Protection
- Search & Rescue Incidents

SERT Values: *Vigilance. Courage. Excellence.*

The LCSO SERT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is hereby established to outline the procedures, tasking, and direction of the LCSO SERT in a manner that ensures public transparency and accountability.

This SOP, and its contents within, applies solely but utterly to all members on a full-time or part-time basis in the course of their duties participating with the LCSO SERT. This document will achieve this by outlining, specifically, their operations and standards.

All SERT personnel, regardless of status, are hereby expected to withhold themselves to the outlined standards and expectations while abiding by community guidelines, department SOP, and other applicable subdivision regulation as applicable.

“Tueri et defendere”
To Protect and Defend

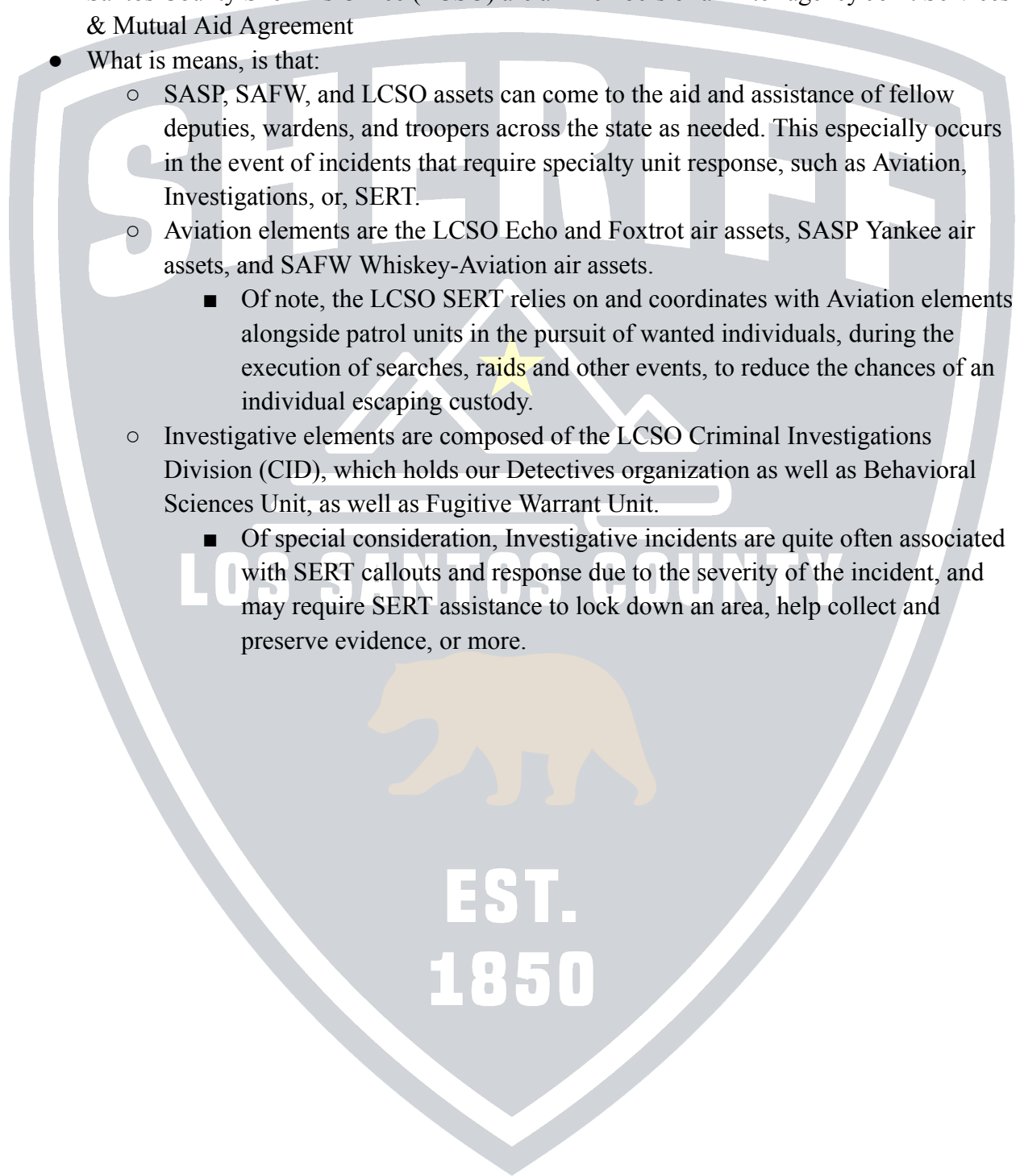
SERT Procedure & Protocol

SERT Operations | Defined

- High-Risk Arrests and Warrant Service
 - LCSO SERT defines High-Risk Arrests and Warrant Services such as raids a reasonable application of deploying SERT assets, particularly if the high-risk nature is to a degree not affordably able to be mitigated with standard units.
- Critical Incident Response
 - Critical Incident Responses (CIR) are events outside the normal experience that pose actual or perceived threats of injury or exposure to death that can overwhelm both an individual's and organization's available resources. An example of a Critical Incident Response could be a hostage crisis, active shooter callout, barricaded suspect, and more.
- Critical Special Incident Response
 - Building off the last definition, a Critical Special Incident Response (CSIR) further exhausts available resources in a critical incident. Generally, a CISR is of a specialty nature such as a natural disaster, act of terrorism, a mass casualty event, deployment of civil disturbance resources (Riot Response), HVI detail / designee under attack, and more.
- High-Profile Event Security & HVI Protection
 - A High-Profile Event could be as simple as a parade, to a sports game, to the protection of political appointees other designated persons to be protected. Likewise, this includes the scope of High Valuable Individual- or HVI- protection, such as responding to incidents that involve the San Andreas Governor when within LCSO jurisdiction, or at the request of SASP, around San Andreas at large.
- Search & Rescue Incidents
 - The LCSO SERT also includes the premier Search & Rescue organization for the state of San Andreas. Composed of specialty volunteers as members of the LCSO SERT, as well as personnel in other divisions who have become certified as S&R team members through training. The LCSO SERT S&R unit is deployed primarily in response to a missing person incident, particularly in rugged, forested or mountainous terrain, on waterways, but not exclusively.

San Andreas Law Enforcement Joint Service & Mutual Aid Agreement

- San Andreas State Police (SASP), San Andreas Fish & Wildlife (SAFW) and the Los Santos County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) are all members of an inter-agency Joint Services & Mutual Aid Agreement
- What is means, is that:
 - SASP, SAFW, and LCSO assets can come to the aid and assistance of fellow deputies, wardens, and troopers across the state as needed. This especially occurs in the event of incidents that require specialty unit response, such as Aviation, Investigations, or, SERT.
 - Aviation elements are the LCSO Echo and Foxtrot air assets, SASP Yankee air assets, and SAFW Whiskey-Aviation air assets.
 - Of note, the LCSO SERT relies on and coordinates with Aviation elements alongside patrol units in the pursuit of wanted individuals, during the execution of searches, raids and other events, to reduce the chances of an individual escaping custody.
 - Investigative elements are composed of the LCSO Criminal Investigations Division (CID), which holds our Detectives organization as well as Behavioral Sciences Unit, as well as Fugitive Warrant Unit.
 - Of special consideration, Investigative incidents are quite often associated with SERT callouts and response due to the severity of the incident, and may require SERT assistance to lock down an area, help collect and preserve evidence, or more.



LCSO SERT Operational Breakdown

- SERT Activation
 - *SERT Deployment*
 - LCSO SERT may only be deployed in full at the request of a member of LCSO, SAFW, or SASP Command, or the ranking Shift-Supervisor on duty.
 - Within reason, a **limited number** of SERT operators may activate as a Rapid Response Force while continuing their regular Patrol duties. If too many of the available Law Enforcement personnel are on SERT duty, even in a limited capacity, they **must** stand-down and fully-return to patrol duties until a time they're able to reactivate for either Rapid Response or Full Response activities.
 - Upon activation, LCSO SERT may only consist of a maximum of five members for 'calls for service' while active. During applicable Critical Incidents, the limit of five units can be modified or removed to account for the needs of the specific scene.
 - While SERT is a subdivision, it can be both reactionary and proactive. You can patrol as a normal Deputy in your department's vehicle or a SERT unmarked unit, and if the resource is asked for, you may respond. You have all the standard patrol gear, but in addition you have your SERT issued gear. Do not put on your Full, Tier-3 SERT gear unless in an active shooter situation or similarly-rated risk environment. This makes it easier for others to ID the Deputies best trained for those situations, while also reducing awkwardness while responding to other calls.
 - SERT Tier-2 gear (T-Shirt and SERT Vest wearing Tan) is authorized for general-purpose wear. Please be reasonable. The tier-2 gear is not meant to be a full replacement for the LCSO Duty Uniform for our Deputies.
- Pre-Mission Planning
 - When at all possible or available, the SERT Commander or applicable Incident Commander shall conduct a briefing with the SERT Team before entry into a situation, when the situation provides it. This briefing will include:
 - Mission objectives
 - Intelligence gathering and analysis
 - Team assignments and responsibilities
 - Tactical plan and contingencies
 - Equipment and resource allocation
 - Risk assessment and mitigation strategies

- SERT Equipment

- *Weaponry, Armor, Gear*

- LCSO SERT is renowned for their tan-colored gear, clearly identifying them as members of our force.
- LCSO SERT is authorized to run the following weaponry:
 - Standard Issue Glock 19
 - Less-Than-Lethal Shotgun, Mossberg 590 / 'Lethal' Shotgun
 - Standard Issue Semi-Automatic AR-15
 - Full-Auto M-4 Carbine
- Tier-2 - 'Rapid Response Force'
 - SERT T-Shirt w/ BDU pants & SERT plate-carrier authorized
 - Tactical helmet authorized in LIMITED USE.
- Tier-3 - 'Tactical Deployment Force'
 - Full SERT BDU with SERT plate-carrier w/ TacHelm and all billeted equipment.

- *Vehicles*

- LCSO SERT members, when running in an authorized manner as SERT, are allowed to utilize a tan-in-color **unmarked** vehicle outfitted with lights, siren, and the identifiable license plate 'SERT'.
- While operating a SERT vehicle following the above criteria, SERT personnel are able to perform '**Rapid Response Force**' duties as needed, while also fulfilling patrol functions.
 - The Authorized Vehicles for Rapid Response Force are the Tahoe, F250, and Charger.
- While still able to perform Marked-Unit functions, if performing a **Traffic Stop**, unless another unit isn't available, the Rapid Response Force **must request a marked unit to respond to the traffic stop.**
- While operating as a member of the LCSO SERT, personnel will be required to activate for **Full-Response SERT** events and situations that are of a generally high-profile, often but not always planned, manner. In these events, personnel are authorized to respond with the tan-in-color **marked** F350 with truck-bed configured for specialty equipment storage.
 - In the event of a rapidly deteriorating situation of an incident of the most critical nature, SERT Command or a LCSO, SAFW or SASP Command Official may authorize the deployment of the **Armored Bearcat** for response. Due to the nature of this vehicle's deployment requirement, this vehicle is only to be used in the most utmost and dire situations.

- After Action Protocol

- Following the conclusion of a SERT operation, a debriefing session shall be conducted by the SERT commander to review the operation's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.
- All equipment used during the operation shall be cleaned, inspected, and properly stored.
- Any injuries sustained by Team members shall be documented, and appropriate medical care shall be provided.
- Lessons learned from the operation shall be documented and incorporated into future training and operational planning.



LCSO SERT Certifications, Training, and Standards

- SERT Standards
 - *Mandated Reporter*
 - All LCSO SERT members are mandated reporters of harassment, abuse, bullying, stalking, doxing, and other harmful behaviors that violate community guidelines of basic decency. If you see or hear or something, you must bring it up the chain.
 - Depending on the severity, you may go to your immediate supervisor or you can go to Admins. Any LCSO SERT members knowingly withholding information about harassment or other behaviors will be removed from LCSO SERT.
 - Any LCSO SERT member knowingly withholding information about harassment or other behaviors will be removed from LCSO SERT. All LCSO SERT members, regardless of department or status, are expected to abide by all Community Guidelines, departmental Standard Operating Procedures, and subdivision regulations.
 - *Professionalism*
 - All LCSO SERT members are upheld to a higher standard of professionalism than their peers in the patrol division. Due to the high-risk and high-profile nature of SERT encounters, the department cannot afford to have the integrity and capabilities of the team compromised or brought into question due to less-than-professional behavior and attitude in-game. This is particularly true during SERT-active periods, or even during your time as a patrol deputy. Your behavior impacts yourself, and this team. Act accordingly, and paint yourself, this team, and this department in a positive light.
- SERT Application, Tryout, Training Program Notice
 - *Application*
 - To apply, an individual must be employed with LCSO, and have at least attained the rank of Deputy. They must be in good standing in the community and department, and not have any recent warnings on record. They must not have any Use of Force violations on record, and undergo a comprehensive review of their reports history conducted.
 - Unfortunately, due to LCSO policy, subdivisional command personnel are not allowed to be members of another subdivision. Unless you wish to resign from your current command, you will not be allowed to join LCSO SERT.

- **Tryout*
 - Some, but not all, Applicants may be required to complete a tryout for evaluation of tactical capabilities and competencies before entry into the LCSO SERT.
 - This is generally required if the background cannot convey sufficiently that you have the required tactical response experience needed to succeed in the program.
- *Training Program*
 - Upon entry into LCSO SERT, it is expected to try to be available to attend any training hosted by SERT Command to train, drill, and evaluate response capabilities and where the team is at with their response readiness.
- SERT Accredited Certifications
 - *Tactical Weapons Course*
 - TBD
 - *LCSO Search & Rescue*
 - TBD
 - *Tactical Medicine (TACMED)*
 - After completing a course of study in both basic and intermediate medical practices, techniques, and procedures, with SAFR / OES medical staff, complete a certification test for applying these skills while in the midst of a CIR/CSIR event.
 - *Marine Intervention*
 - TBD
- SERT Training Guideline
 - *Team Leader Guidelines*
 - To serve in the role of Team Leader on the LCSO SERT, it is expected that:
 - You handle radio communication between the Team and Incident Command, Dispatch, and involved units.
 - Generally serve as the second or third-operator in a stack during breaching and clearing.
 - Receive training and instruction on Hostage / Crisis Negotiation, how to navigate an incident as both scene-commander and in a leader capacity..
 - Handle the responsibility of having final say on tactical decisions during an incident.
 - *Breacher Guidelines*
 - To serve in the role of Breacher on the LCSO SERT, it is expected that:

- The Breacher will typically be assigned a Shotgun while leading from the front, while also carrying breaching tools like controlled explosives, halligens, hammers, and more.
- Will be the designated Breacher and point-man during the approach through hallways, corridors and up to a doorway.
- Will be the deputy who first 'pies' applicable doorways, or tactically breaches the door with their equipment.
- Will be the fourth or fifth operator to enter the room, behind the team leader or medic, unless serving as rear- or scene-security for the element.
- Will be trained in EOD and EOD Robotic Operations as applicable

○ *Tactical Medic Guidelines*

- To serve in the role of Tactical Medic on the LCSO SERT, it is expected that:

- Will complete an accredited course of study through SAFR/OES and pass the LCSO SERT TACMED Certification Test.
- Provide life-saving interventions and treatments during a situation where the area may not be secured.

- The life of the patient is secondary compared to the life of the Medic. Do not needlessly risk the safety of you or your team to render aid.

- Still meet qualifications for SERT Operator.
- Generally the third or fourth individual into a room.

○ *SERT Operator Guidelines*

- To serve in the role of SERT Operator on the LCSO SERT, it is expected that:

- Will serve as the standard and primary force behind the LCSO SERT Team.
- Trained in the basics of breaching and clearing, riot control, perimeter holding and scene security, and situational response.
- Generally, the first individual into a room.