



AB 481/Government Code 7070-7075 Military Equipment Use Policy Annual Report

LIEUTENANT BRANDON CUTTING

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



AB 481 Overview

- **September 30, 2021:**
 - AB 481 was signed into law as Government Code sections 7070 – 7075
- **Legislative intent:**
 - To increase public transparency by which all California law enforcement agencies fund, acquire, and/or use military equipment, as defined by AB 481.
- **Law Enforcement Agency Requirements:**
 - Present to the Board of Supervisors a Military Equipment Use policy.
 - Provide an annual report to the Board of Supervisors and the public after first year of adoption.
 - *Hold at least one, well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting prior to annual report being presented to the Board of Supervisors. (Done 3/20/2025)*
- **Board of Supervisor Requirements:**
 - Approve a “Military Equipment” policy through the adoption of an ordinance. *(Approved 5/24/22)*
 - Annually renew or modify the policy upon receipt of annual report.



AB 481 Overview (cont.)

- **Board of Supervisors Role:**
- Approve a “Military Equipment” policy through the adoption of an ordinance. *(Approved 5/24/2022)*
- Approve the 2024 Annual Report
- Per AB 481 (7071(d)), this approval will be granted if the Board determines the following:
 - The military equipment is necessary because there is not a reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety.
 - The proposed military equipment use policy will safeguard the public’s welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.
 - If purchasing the equipment, the equipment is reasonably cost effective compared to available alternatives that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety.
 - Prior military equipment use complied with the military equipment policy that was in effect at the time, or if prior uses did not comply with the accompanying military equipment use policy, corrective action has been taken to remedy nonconforming uses and ensure future compliance.

Sheriff's Office Equipment

The Military Use Policy (707) is posted on the Sheriff's Office website (www.sonomasheriff.org)



Military Equipment

707.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the approval, acquisition, and reporting requirements of military equipment (Government Code § 7070; Government Code § 7071; Government Code § 7072).

707.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Government Code § 7070):

Governing body – The elected or appointed body that oversees the Office.

Military equipment – Includes but is not limited to the following:

- Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles.
- Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers.
- 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.
- Tracked armored vehicles that provide ballistic protection to their occupants.
- Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
- Weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind.
- Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. This does not include a handheld, one-person ram.

Sheriff's Office Equipment (Cont.)

The Annual Reports are also posted on the Sheriff's Office website
(www.sonomasheriff.org)

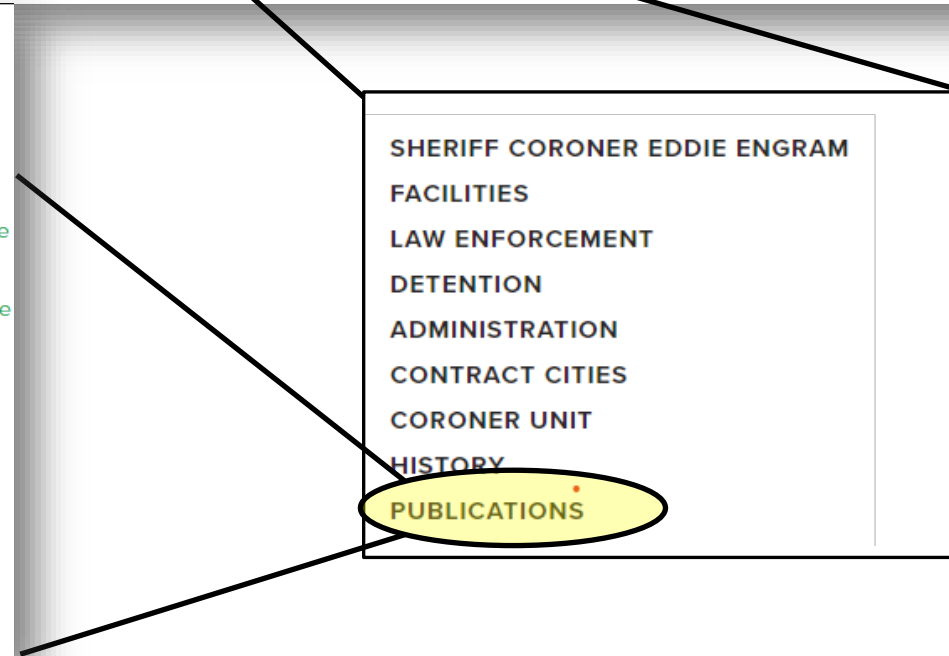
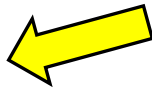


Annual Reports

- [Fiscal Year 2023-2024, published August 2024](#). If you have a black and white printer, you may [view and print the grayscale version here](#).
- [Fiscal Year 2022-2023, published October 6, 2023](#). If you have a black and white printer, you may [view and print the grayscale version here](#).
- [Fiscal Year 2021-2022, published August 31, 2022](#). If you have a black and white printer, you may [view and print the grayscale version here](#).
- [Fiscal Year 2020-2021, published August 26, 2021](#). If you have a black and white printer, you may [view and print the grayscale version here](#).
- [Fiscal Year 2019-2020, published October 15, 2020](#). If you have a black and white printer, you may [view and print the grayscale version here](#).

Military Equipment Inventories (AB 481)

- [2024 Annual Military Equipment Report](#)
- [2023 Annual Military Equipment Report](#)
- [2022 Annual Military Equipment report](#)





Policies, Related Legislation, & Guidelines

Policies:*

- **300:** Use of Force
- **303:** Control Devices and Techniques
- **404:** Special Operations Unit
- **407:** Hostage and Barricade Incidents
- **606:** Unmanned Aerial Systems Operations (Drones)
- **705:** Armored Rescue Vehicle
- **706:** Mobile Command Center (MCC)
- **707:** Military Equipment

Legislation:

- **AB 48:** Crowd Control legislation

Guidelines:

- **POST:** Crowd Management, Intervention, and Control

Community Feedback

We received feedback from the community in three ways:

- Community meeting (03/20/2025)
- Social media platforms
- Public comment today





Next Steps

Over the next year, if approved, the Sheriff's Office will:

- Produce another annual report update and present it to the community and Board of Supervisors in 2026.
- Conduct additional community engagement regarding the use of "military equipment" prior to the next annual report update.
- Continue to maintain a place on the Sheriff's website for people to express concerns, or file complaints related to Sheriff's Office policy.



Recommended Action

- The Sheriff's Office is bringing this Annual Report and community feedback to the Board of Supervisors.
- We request the Board adopt a resolution making required findings pursuant to AB 481 that the military equipment use policy, and ordinance complies with the standards for approval set forth in Government Code Section 7071(d) and satisfies the requirements of AB 481.



Thank you!