



# Surveillance Use Policy

## SWAT – TAC CAT – Tactical Custom Armored Track Loader San Diego Police Department

### PURPOSE

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) SWAT TAC-CAT (Tactical Custom Armored Track Loader) is used for the following purposes:

1. To provide ballistic and environmental protection for SWAT personnel and civilians during rescue, barricaded suspects, active shooter, terrorist attack, or other critical incident operations conducted in hazardous environments.
2. To enhance officer and public safety during high-risk incidents by providing a man-operated or remotely operated armored platform capable of breaching barriers, deploying chemical agents, and delivering real-time visual observation to support tactical decision-making.

### USE

The SDPD SWAT TAC-CAT is authorized to support the following types of operations:

1. Provide armored mobility and ballistic protection during barricaded suspect incidents, hostage rescues, high-risk search warrants, and other critical tactical operations.
2. Assist with the safe approach and breaching of fortified structures.
3. Support rescue or extraction of injured civilians or officers under fire or in hazardous environments.
4. Provide live video observation for command and control during high-risk incidents to enhance situational awareness.

The following rules and processes are required prior to each use of the TAC-CAT:

1. All requests for SWAT TAC-CAT support can be initiated by any personnel who are or plan to be part of a response to support a specific incident or event with a specific support objective.
2. The SWAT C.O or his/her designee must evaluate the request and approve the operation prior to deployment. This SWAT C.O. or his/her designee are specially trained to assess whether TAC-CAT use complies with SDPD's authorized purposes and procedures.
3. Only authorized and trained members of the SWAT Team may operate or be in possession of the TAC-CAT.
4. The SWAT unit will ensure that when using the TAC-CAT, all citizen rights will be strictly observed.

### DATA COLLECTION

The TAC-CAT is equipped with multiple cameras designed to enhance operator safety and provide visual feedback during operations, including a PTZ camera, three claw-mounted cameras, and a rear-view camera. All cameras are capable of infrared operation for low-light or no-light conditions.



# Surveillance Use Policy

## SWAT – TAC CAT – Tactical Custom Armored Track Loader

### San Diego Police Department

The TAC-CAT's camera system can transmit live video to the operator's control station and, if configured, to an incident command post for situational awareness.

The TAC-CAT is equipped with an integrated digital video recorder (DVR) capable of recording or capturing still images.

The TAC-CAT does not automatically record any video or images. Recording must be manually activated by the TAC-CAT operator and authorized by a SWAT Supervisor for each specific operation.

If recording is activated, the captured video and/or audio are considered Digital Media Evidence (DME) and treated as official evidence throughout the remainder of the operation until properly impounded and documented by assigned SWAT officers.

During all operations, the TAC-CAT operator is trained to make every effort to only capture visual imagery relevant to the law enforcement contact or operational target to protect the privacy of uninvolved persons and property.

## HOW IS IT ACTUALLY STORED

All DME in the form of recorded video or still images are stored on a Secured Digital (SD) Card or external recording device integrated into the TAC-CAT's DVR system. These devices are accessible only to authorized SWAT personnel assigned to the operation and responsible for collection, transfer, and impound of the data.

Once the mission concludes, any recorded DME is extracted by SWAT personnel and transferred to a secure portable drive for impound at the SDPD Property Room. The original SD card or device is then wiped clean for reuse.

All TAC-CAT DME is labeled, logged, and impounded in accordance with SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing Identification Marks.

## DATA ACCESS

All recorded DME remains in the physical possession of SWAT personnel until it is impounded.

Access to recorded material is restricted to SDPD SWAT personnel and authorized investigative staff directly involved in the operation.

Once impounded, retention, access, duplication, or release of DME are governed by **SDPD Procedure 3.02**.

## DATA PROTECTION

All DME is secured on physical recording media until it is transferred for impound.

The TAC-CAT's DVR system and SD cards are not connected to any wireless or cloud-based system, and no external party has remote access to the video feed or recorded data.



# Surveillance Use Policy

## SWAT – TAC CAT – Tactical Custom Armored Track Loader San Diego Police Department

Once impounded, all protection, retention, and access control are managed through the SDPD Property Unit or the Evidence.com system per established Department procedures.

### DATA RETENTION

Once DME is impounded, retention periods are governed by SDPD Procedure 3.02 – Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property, Evidence, and Articles Missing Identification Marks.

Retention timeframes depend on the nature of the incident and any related investigative or prosecutorial requirements, and in accordance with state law.

### PUBLIC ACCESS

Any DME recorded by the TAC-CAT may only be released to the public via a public records request if directly associated with a critical incident defined under California Senate Bill 1421 or in accordance with legal proceedings.

Prior to impound, access is limited strictly to authorized SWAT personnel.

### THIRD PARTY DATA SHARING

The SWAT Unit does not share TAC-CAT recorded DME with any third-party vendors.

All recorded evidence is physically impounded and maintained solely within the SDPD Property Room or Evidence.com system.

### TRAINING

Only SDPD SWAT personnel who have completed TAC-CAT Operator Training are authorized to operate or deploy the TAC-CAT.

Training includes operational safety, equipment inspection, and adherence to all Department policies and procedures.

### AUDITING THE OVERSIGHT

Each TAC-CAT deployment and any activation of recording capability must be authorized and supervised by a SWAT Supervisor.

The SWAT Supervisor ensures that all actions and recordings comply with Department policy and procedures, approved use cases, and this Surveillance Use Policy.

The SWAT Command regularly reviews TAC-CAT deployments to ensure accountability and compliance.



# Surveillance Use Policy

SWAT – TAC CAT – Tactical Custom Armored Track Loader  
San Diego Police Department

## MAINTENANCE

SDPD TAC-CAT equipment is inspected and maintained routinely to ensure operational safety, mechanical reliability, and the integrity of all protective systems.

Inspections are performed before and after each deployment to confirm proper function of drive systems, hydraulic breaching tools, communication components, and video display capabilities.

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