1-67       MULTI-AGENCY TASK FORCE

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

2-8 Use of On-Body Recording Devices (OBPD)
2-52 Use of Force: General
2-60 Preliminary and Follow-up Criminal Investigations
3-30 Line Inspection Process
5-3 Criminal Investigations Divisions

B. Form(s)

2-52 Use of Force General

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

1-67-1       Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to outline how the Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF) is a specialized unit which assumes responsibility in criminal investigations related to critical incidents, such as officer-involved shootings (OIS), in-custody deaths, and criminal allegations related to the use of force.

1-67-2       Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to provide the Albuquerque Police Department (Department/APD) with a standardized professional, comprehensive, and neutral criminal investigative response to any use of force with criminal allegation(s) against an officer. These investigations include critical incident officer-involved shooting(s) (OIS(s)), in-custody death(s), and any underlying crime that may be investigated. Should any other investigation of an underlying crime where an officer employed a use of force and based upon probable cause, that the force used by the officer involved in the incident was contrary to law, the MATF assumes case responsibility for that criminal investigation as well.
By partnering with other agencies in an agreement known as through the Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), MATF detectives promote accountability, shares investigative techniques and resources, and produces a fair, impartial, and highly professional investigation. The MATF will ensure quality control in its investigations and provides the professionalism required in constitutional policing and accountability to the community.

The Administrative investigations of incidents where MATF is responsible for the criminal investigation, will be conducted by the Force Division or the Internal Affairs Section. MATF will not conduct administrative investigations into any use of force.

1-67-3 Definitions

— Buddy Officer

A Buddy Officer is any uninvolved Albuquerque Police Department officer whose presence was requested by an involved officer or witness officer to remain on the scene during the initial investigation until the involved or witness officer is released from the scene by the MATF. The purpose is to provide emotional support through the presence of a peer.

A. Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA)

Civilian police complaints are complaints originating externally from non-Department personnel, independent agency of City government, not part of either the City administration or City Council, which was created by City ordinance and is overseen by a board comprised of community members, consistent with All civilian complaints are forwarded to the Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA) for investigation. The CPOA will investigate civilian complaints unless apparent criminal misconduct is identified by the CPOA.

Complaints indicating apparent criminal misconduct will be administratively investigated by IAD and, if appropriate, criminally investigated by the appropriate criminal investigative unit or agency.

Civilian police complaints are assigned CPC numbers. The format is CPC, year, hyphenated unique six-digit number, for example, CPC16-123456.

CPOA policy and procedures are not governed by the Department; however, they follow the City Ordinance Section, ROA 1994, §§ 9-4-1 et seq., Albuquerque Police Officers’ Association Collective Bargaining Agreement (APOA CBA), and Department policy 1 to 9-4-1-14.

Civilian Police complaints may be resolved through mediation or investigation.
The Department will track allegations regarding misconduct involving civilians who are homeless and/or have behavioral health issues, mental illness or disorders, whether or not it is related to a complaint.

The information relating to alleged misconduct is obtained from the CPC form and tracked through the software programs IAPro/BlueTeam.

The CPOA receives, investigates, and reviews complaints and commendations submitted by community members concerning Department personnel. The CPOA also reviews Department policies, practices, and procedures, in order to provide recommendations throughout the policy development process and ultimately to the Chief of Police.

The CPOA is an independent agency created by municipal ordinance and is neither part of the City of Albuquerque administration nor the City Council. The law creating the agency notes that its purpose is to foster policing policies that effectively maintain social order, mutual trust, and cooperation and improve communications between police and civilians.

The CPOA serves as a civilian police oversight body. Its responsibilities include investigating civil complaints relating to police conduct; monitoring and reporting on police internal affairs matters; gathering and analyzing data on policing trends; providing community outreach, and promoting a spirit of accountability.

B. Critical Incident Officer-Involved Shooting (COIS)

An officer-involved shooting is the intentional discharge of a firearm by a sworn officer in the line of duty, when the officer fires upon a threat or attack upon their person or another. An accidental shooting during a critical incident could also be investigated by the MATF.

C. In-Custody Death

The death of a person while in the custody of an APD Department officer. “In-custody death” is defined as the physical arrest or detention of a person by either submission to the officer’s physical presence or physical control. The mere presence of an officer with a subject does not constitute an in-custody status. For the purposes of this section, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), “in custody-” means the physical restraint of a person or a show of authority that in some ways restrains the liberty of an individual.

D. Involved Officer

A sworn officer or supervisor, or Prisoner Transport Unit (PTU) personnel, who used, participated in, or ordered the application of force, or who had custody of an individual at the time of the use of force or the individual’s death.
A. Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF)

The Multi-Agency Task Force is an investigatory task force composed of different police agencies and established by a memorandum of agreement (MOA). Its purpose is to conduct criminal investigations related to officer-involved shootings, uses of force where criminal allegations are made, and in-custody deaths, and, at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

B. Involved Officer

An involved officer is a sworn officer or supervisor, including Prisoner Transport Personnel, who used, participated in, and ordered the application of force, or who had custody of a person at the time of the use of force or the person's death.

C. Witness Officer

This witness officer is a sworn officer or supervisor, including Prisoner Transport Personnel, who did not use, participate in or order the application of the use of force but who was present on the scene and saw the application of force. A witness officer is required to cooperate in all phases of the investigation conducted by MATF. Cooperation includes providing a statement to investigators about his/her involvement as well as describing what he/she observed during the incident.

D. Buddy Officer

A buddy officer is any uninvolved Albuquerque Police Officer whose presence was requested by an involved officer or witness officer to remain on the scene with the involved officer during the initial investigation, and until the involved or witness officer is released from the scene by the MATF. The purpose is to provide emotional support through the presence of a peer.

Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA)

The CPOA is an independent agency, created by municipal ordinance, and is neither part of the City of Albuquerque administration nor of the City Council. The ordinance creating the agency notes that its purpose is to foster policing policies that effectively maintain social order, mutual trust, and cooperation and improve communications between police and civilians.

The CPOA serves as a civilian police oversight body and its responsibilities include the investigation of civil complaints relating to police conduct; monitoring and reporting on police internal affairs matters; gathering and analyzing data on policing trends; providing community outreach. Its responsibilities include investigating civil complaints relating to police conduct; monitoring and reporting on police internal affairs matters; gathering and analyzing data on policing trends; providing community outreach, and
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Critical G.O. Officer-Involved Shooting (COIS)

An Officer-Involved Shooting is the intentional discharge of a firearm by a sworn officer in the line of duty, when the officer fires upon a threat or attack upon his/herself or another. An accidental shooting during a critical incident could also be investigated by the MATF.

E. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

An agreement between the participating agencies which expresses an agreement to assist and participate in the established investigative purview of the Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF).

F. Multi-Agency Task Force (MATF)

An investigatory task force composed of different law enforcement agencies and prosecuting offices as established by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The purpose of the MATF is to conduct criminal investigations related to critical incidents involving officer-involved shootings (OISs), uses of force where criminal allegations are made, and in-custody deaths.

G. Witness Officer

A sworn officer or supervisor, or Prisoner Transport Unit personnel, who did not use any force but was present on the scene and saw or otherwise perceived the application of force. A witness officer is required to cooperate in all phases of the investigation conducted by MATF. Cooperation includes providing a statement to investigators about their involvement and describing what they observed during the incident.

Rules and Responsibilities

A. The MATF shall investigate officers, sworn personnel in the APD Department under the following conditions:
1. Critical incident OIS—Officer-Involved Shootings, whether they result in injury or death or not;

2. The death of any individual while in police custody; and

3. Any criminal allegation of force from an Albuquerque Police Department officer or Prisoner Transport Unit officer while working in their authorized capacity.

B. The MATF shall assist outside Law Enforcement Agencies in their criminal investigations of similar critical incidents as stated in the MOU or at the request of the agency and the approval of the Chief of Police.

C. The MATF shall assume the criminal investigation into other parties who are not sworn personnel for any crimes or events that immediately led up to sworn personnel's use of force.

D. The MATF shall not conduct administrative interviews or investigations.

E. On-Scene Responsibilities

1. The on-scene investigative supervisor shall ensure the following:

   a. Ensure the call-out team conducts an investigative and administrative briefing of the incident as soon as possible;

   b. Ensure any civilian community members who are witnesses on-scene are immediately identified and an interviews are attempted;

   c. Evaluate the scene for additional needed resources;

   d. Identify and prioritize critical investigative tasks;

   e. Provide resources to and direct on-scene detectives;

   f. Networking, coordinating and monitoring communication with other investigative units and outside agencies as necessary;

   g. Complete administrative tasks associated with the call-out prior to the conclusion of the preliminary investigation;

   h. Notify City Legal prior to concluding the on-scene investigation;

   i. Primary, secondary, and collateral detectives/officers;

   j. The on-scene investigative supervisor;

   k. MCST primary detective/investigator and MCST supervisor;

   l. District Attorney’s Office representatives; and
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5. Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) representative, if needed;

6. The primary dispatched officer will participate in this briefing; and

7. Additional officers or Crime Scene Specialists (CSS); with pertinent information may also participate in the briefing; and

8. Assisting personnel from the Investigative Bureau; and

9. Observer from the Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD).

c. For an administrative briefing, Notify City Legal prior to concluding the on-scene investigation ensure that only the personnel who are needed are present. This includes, but is not limited to:

   i. Chief of Police;
   ii. Bureau Deputy Chief(s);
   iii. Area Commander(s);
   iv. Office of the Mayor designee;
   v. CPOA; and
   vi. IAFD representative(s).

d. Notify a City of Albuquerque Legal Department attorney prior to concluding the on-scene investigation.

F. Detective Responsibilities

The detective shall:

1. 

a. Follow the procedures outlined in SOP Preliminary and Follow-up Criminal Investigations (refer to SOP Preliminary and Follow-up Criminal Investigations for sanction classifications and additional duties);

b. Ensure that all evidence to establish material facts related to the criminal investigation of the incident, including, but not limited to, audio and video recordings, photographs, and other documentation is collected;

c. Canvass for and interview witness(es). In addition, the detective shall encourage witness(es) to provide and sign a Crime Scene Canvass and Witness Information Form in their own words;

d. Ensure interviews of involved and witness officers are conducted individually as soon as possible;

e. Ensure that all officers who were involved in the incident, witnessed the incident, or who were on-scene when the incident occurred are identified and documented;

f. Conduct investigations in a rigorous manner designed to determine the facts and, when conducting interviews, avoid asking leading questions. The Detective shall never ask officers or other witnesses any questions that may suggest legal or procedural justifications for officers’ conduct;
g. Record all interviews; and
h. Consider all relevant evidence, including circumstantial, direct, and physical evidence, as appropriate, and make credibility determinations. The detective shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve material inconsistencies between the officer, subject, and witness statements; and
i. As discovery/evidence is received, notifying Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD) personnel of its existence and their ability to receive a copy.

G. 3. MATF Coordinator Responsibilities

a) The MATF Sergeant shall:
   1. Respond to all critical incident OIS's, or if on leave, sending a designee;
   b) Initiate communication with partnering agencies in the MOUMOA when an MATF case is initiated into a critical incident OIS or other related investigation into an officer's use of force;
   c) Continuously work with local prosecutors who normally review MATF cases to ensure any follow-up needs are completed per the prosecutors request; and
   d) Respond to all requests from the agencies listed in the MOUMOA to assist on any of their cases that need APD Department resources, per consistent with the MOUMOA.

H. Witness Officer Responsibilities

1. A witness officer shall be required to cooperate in all phases of the investigation conducted by MATF. Cooperation includes providing a statement to investigators about their involvement and describing what they observed during the incident.

D. Case File Management

1. The investigative unit supervisors shall:
   a) Use a Department-approved automated tracking system for the overall management of all past and present investigative case files.
   b) Maintain case files on all cases in which investigative activities are ongoing; and
   i. The case files provide an immediate information resource to investigators.
3. The case files will be consolidated and transferred into the Central Records System when the case is suspended or closed.

4. Any records related to any MATF investigation will be closed to the public and/or have limited access until released by the MATF Coordinator or Violent Crimes Lieutenant.