



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement

SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP (SOG)

GENERAL ORDER	EFFECTIVE DATE	RESCINDS/AMENDS	APPLICABILITY
56	June 09, 2020	November 17, 2010	All Sworn Members

References

CFA 17.04M

1 POLICY

- A** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement staffs a Special Operations Group (SOG) to enhance the Division's response capabilities during critical incidents or special details. SOG team missions and objectives include support of the Division's regional operations and the agency's core mission, interagency assistance, domestic security, dignitary protection, search and rescue, and any incidents requiring high-risk law enforcement response coordinated through Florida's law enforcement mutual aid program.
- (1) The SOG teams are designed around the Division's unique law enforcement responsibilities, specialized equipment, and specially trained personnel. SOG teams are capable of providing a security presence and specialized tactical response in Florida's diverse marine and woodland environments.
 - (2) SOG teams provide support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and emergency response organizations that do not have the equipment, personnel or capabilities to provide such response.
- B** Team members are selected from within the Division in consideration of their law enforcement capabilities, self-motivation, and physical fitness. Assignment to a SOG Team is a secondary duty and will be voluntary.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A** The Special Operations Group is responsible for providing specially trained rapid response tactical teams to protect the public, property and Florida's natural resources, to respond to domestic security threats, natural disasters, and civil disturbances, and to other incidents requiring a tactical law enforcement team response.
- B** SOG team members are required to attend and successfully complete each biannual physical fitness assessment at or above the established fitness standards.
- C** SOG team members are required to maintain "Ready Condition" for deployment at anytime with the exception of periods when the participant is on approved leave.

3 PROCEDURES

A Division personnel interested in serving on a SOG team will notify the Regional Commander or SOG Team Commander of their interest in becoming a team member. Upon meeting the minimum selection criteria and successful completion of the required physical fitness assessment, and when team vacancies exist, potential team members will be recommended for selection to the respective team's Regional Commander. The Regional Commander will have final approval for selection of team members.

B SOG Team Member Qualifications

- (1)** Potential SOG team members must meet the following criteria:
 - (a)** At least one year of satisfactory law enforcement service with the Division, including completion of the member's Field Training Program and initial employment probationary period.
 - (b)** Free from any injury or disability which could adversely affect his/her physical performance and prevent the sworn member from performing the essential duties.
 - (c)** Not presently on light duty status or administrative leave.
 - (d)** Not had a suspension for disciplinary reasons for a minimum of one year.
 - (e)** Must be in good physical condition and maintain a regular exercise regimen.
 - (f)** Must have the ability to work with the general public and advance a positive image of the Division.
 - (g)** Must have the ability to properly handle people during stressful situations.
 - (h)** Must not have any sustained excessive use of force complaints.
- (2)** If the applicant does not meet the above criteria, the applicant may request an exception to the appropriate Deputy Director. The request and the waiver must be in written format and retained in the regional files.

C Recruitment and Selection

- (1)** Participants may be recruited for the following positions:
 - (a)** Team Member (TM)
 - (b)** Assistant Team Leader (ATL)
 - (c)** Team Leader (TL)
 - (d)** SOG Team Commander (TC)
 - (e)** SOG Team Backup Commander (BUC)
- (2)** Recruitment Process
 - (a)** Applicants for TM, ATL, and TL must successfully pass the required Cooper Institute Fitness Test at the 60% level (vertical jump, 1 minute sit-ups, 1 minute push-ups, and 1.5 mile run or 12 minute swim).
 - (b)** Applicants for TC and BUC must successfully pass the required Cooper Institute Fitness Test at the 60% level OR receive a waiver from the Regional Commander.
 - (c)** If the applicant does not participate in the Cooper Institute Fitness swim test, a swimming proficiency test (10 minute tread, 100 yard swim, and pool exit) is required.
 - (d)** Upon successful completion of the physical fitness assessment, applicants must submit to an oral interview. The interview board, appointed by the Regional Commander, will rank

and approve each applicant for team membership suitability. The interview board shall be composed of the TC, one TL, and one member designated by the appropriate Regional Commander.

- (e) Upon successful completion of the physical fitness assessment and interview, the applicant will be awarded team status or placed on a Regional SOG Reserve List which may be drawn from for a period of one year to fill team vacancies.
 - (1) If an applicant is not awarded team status during the one year reserve status, they must reapply and re-qualify through the physical fitness assessment and interview.
 - (2) Recruitment assessments and interviews will be held based on regional team vacancies and needs.

D For additional information on SOG Team membership, including selection criteria and complete physical fitness assessment standards, please consult the SOG Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

E Training

- (1) New SOG Team members will attend the first available SOG Basic Skills School. The Basic Skills School will include at least the Patrol Rifle Course and the Team Movement Course.
- (2) Continued SOG training requires at least 24 training and readiness exercise hours each quarter, including but not limited to, the following areas:
 - (a) Firearms/CQB
 - (b) Land Navigation/SAR/Patrol
 - (c) Incident Command System and Natural and Man-Made Disaster Response
 - (d) Tactical Vessel/Waterborne Operations
 - (e) RECON
 - (f) USAR familiarization

F Activation and Deployment

- (1) SOG Teams may be activated upon request from local, state, and federal agencies, or from within the Division. The affected Regional Commander may authorize team deployments depending upon the request.
 - (a) The Division Director or designee can also activate SOG Teams as needed to respond to unusual occurrences or critical incidents in consultation with the affected Regional Commander(s).
- (2) The decision to activate SOG teams depends on the specifics of the request, the SOG capabilities for responding to the request, and consideration of other law enforcement resources and responsibilities available for responding to the request.
- (3) The Florida Mutual Aid Plan is the official procedure in response to emergencies, disasters, civil disturbances and unusual occurrences.

G SOG Standard Operating Procedures Manual

- (1) Refer to the SOG Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual for additional information.

4 FORMS

FORM NUMBER	FORM TITLE
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