

Oakland Police Department

Controlled Equipment Impact Report

Item(s): Mobile Command Centers

Applicable Use Policy: DGO I-28 Mobile Command Centers (MCC)



## Description and Purpose

Mobile Command Center (MCC)	
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Oakland Police Department maintains Mobile Command Centers<sup>1</sup> (MCC) for command, control, and communications at the scene of critical incidents, natural disasters, community events, and search operations. They are centrally located to make them available to respond to any crisis in the City of Oakland in a short period. The vehicles may be equipped with mobile radios on multiple bands, CAD (Computer aided Dispatch), Field Based Reporting (FBR), Monitors, White Boards, High intensity lighting, and a mast-mounted camera. They also have a conference area where briefings may be held. The MCC is a resource for any mission deemed necessary by the Chief of Police, or designee.</p> <p>Mobile Command Vehicle was built in conjunction with the Oakland Fire and Oakland Police Departments as a unified command vehicle but can also alternate between fire specific and police specific missions. The vehicle was custom built by Lynch Diversified Vehicles (LDV, Inc.), LDV Model #MCC301181-07.</p>
<b>Manufacturer's Product Description</b>	<p>The Oakland Police Department owns 1 Mobile Command Vehicles (MCV). Our MCV was built in conjunction with the Oakland Fire and Oakland Police Department as unified command vehicle but can also alternate between fire specific and police specific missions. The vehicle was custom built by Lynch Diversified Vehicles (Freightliner MT-55, 30,000-lb GVWR) with rear air ride suspension and air brake. Our MCV was converted into a MCC by adding desktop workstations, police radios and emergency lighting. The MCV is 30" long. The MCV has been used in conjunction with the Oakland Fire Department during past Oakland Raider Football Games, Golden State Warrior Basketball Games, Oakland A's Baseball Games, GSW Parades, most notably. The MCV was also deployed during the aftermath of the Ghost Ship (2016) Fire to support Fire and Police operations.</p>
<b>How the item works</b>	<p>The vehicle provides mobile, remote access to radio, internet planning and operational resources to assist with the command and control of major incidents and other planned operations. The vehicle also has the capability to dispatch officers and firefighters, as well as receive 9-1-1 calls.</p>
<b>Expected lifespan</b>	15 years
<b>Quantity</b>	The Oakland Police Department owns 1 MCC.
<b>Purpose and intended uses and/or effects</b>	<p>The MCV is not a tactical vehicle but rather a multi-purpose vehicle to help facilitate command and control during field incidents by both the Oakland Fire Department as well as the Oakland Police Department by providing intelligence assets. The vehicle does not have any armor nor is it deployed in such a manner as it to be used in such a way. The vehicle is to be deployed at the periphery of a tactical incident if one such arises. The Traffic Commander is the coordinator of the command vehicles. Traffic Commander (Lieutenants and above) shall only authorize the deployment of a MCV for any incidents which it would be deemed beneficial to do so.</p>

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<b>Community Resource Center (CRC)</b>	
<b>Description</b>	Community Resource Vehicles are built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.
<b>Manufacturer's Product Description</b>	Custom Build for OPD on Ford F59 gas chassis, 7.3L V8 engine, 6-speed TorqShift automatic transmission, All aluminum body construction, Extreme duty body storage compartments, LED scene lighting, Emergency lighting and siren package, Flip down step on the rear bumper, Front conference room fixed table, Magnetic surface dry erase white boards, Exterior monitor compartment, High resolution display monitors, Multi-function printer/copier, Custom aluminum cabinetry, (4) Interior workstations, Spider base task chairs, 15kW gasoline generator, Full vehicle surge suppression system, Prewired for future rear mast, Prewired for communications radios, CAT6
<b>How the item works</b>	CRV can serve as mobile offices that supply shelter and may be used as a mobile command and communication center. The CRV will be deployed to areas in the community to provide high visibility violence deterrence after significant violent activity, missing persons investigations, and homicide scenes where a chaplain has been called out, and Department of Violence Prevention staff are present to comfort families affected by the violence and to provide needed resource information.
<b>Expected lifespan</b>	15 years
<b>Quantity</b>	The Oakland Police Department owns 3 CRVs.
<b>Purpose and intended uses and/or effects</b>	The Oakland Police Department owns 3 Community Resource Vehicle (CRV), was purchased to be used in the community to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The vehicle will also serve as a community resource center during critical incidents, distribute sanitation supplies, public engagement, and dissemination of emergency health supplies in a disaster. The vehicle was custom built by Lynch Diversified Vehicles (LDV Model #30MCC-34769-20), 2022 Freightliner MT-55 forward control chassis. 26,000-lb. GVWR with air ride rear suspension and hydraulic brakes.

<b>Hostage Negotiation Vehicle (HNTV)</b>	
<b>Description</b>	The Hostage Negotiation Vehicle serves as a mobile command and communications center for law enforcement responding to critical incidents, particularly those involving hostages or barricaded individuals.
<b>Manufacturer's Product Description</b>	Farber Vehicle 25' Chassis Designed for communication, negotiator and ECM. CINT Commander (Negotiations Recording and Control System). This system also includes software that allows it to be used as a pretext phone call device with digital recording, data logging, and control features. The system includes the following items: 1. COMMBBox 2. Software with free software updates online 3. All required cables 4. One headset and four headphones with adapters 5. External room monitor speaker 6. Pelican carrying case 7. Integrated 836 Bluetooth 8. 12 volt cell phone charger adapter 9. Technical Support 10. Five-year limited warranty (refer to warranty information).
<b>How the item works</b>	The HNT vehicle serves as a mobile office and communication center that supplies shelter and protection while facilitating negotiations, and gathering intel, during critical incidents.
<b>Expected lifespan</b>	Lifespan not listed by manufacturer.
<b>Quantity</b>	The Oakland Police Department owns 1 HNV.
<b>Purpose and</b>	Incident Commander (Lieutenants and above) shall only authorize the deployment of a MCV for any incidents which it would be deemed beneficial to do so. Only

<b>intended uses and/or effects</b>	members of the Hostage Negotiation Team are eligible to drive this vehicle.
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## **Fiscal Costs**

### ***Initial Costs***

☒ The Oakland Police Department (OPD) currently owns/possesses/uses the equipment.  
Initial costs (if known) to obtain the equipment were:

Equipment	Per-unit cost	Total cost
Mobile Command Center	~\$599,563.15	~\$599,563.15
Community Resource Center (LDV Model #30MCC-34769-20)	~\$302,088.41	~\$302,088.41
Community Resource Center (LDV Model #MCC-34923-20) x(2)	~\$305,164.81	~\$305,164.81
Hostage Negotiation Vehicle	~\$226,611.07	~\$226,611.07

Note the initial cost that the items cost the Department. Include caveating information (e.g., if it has been many years, we no longer have invoices, etc.) if applicable.

### ***Estimated or anticipated costs for each proposed use***

Similar to utilizing any vehicle, there are associated wear and tear and fuel costs for each deployment of an armored vehicle. The Department fuels the armored vehicles at City fuel stations; this cost is within the entire fuel budget for the OPD fleet (OPD and other City Departments work with the City's Public Works Administration for fuel).

### ***Estimated or anticipated costs of potential adverse impacts***

***Failures of the equipment might cause the Department to have to purchase additional items, at a cost per item as indicate Estimated or anticipated ongoing costs***

Each vehicle costs the Department \$1791 - \$2449 annually, which is an inter- departmental cost that is paid to the City's Public Works Administration for upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle. This ongoing cost covers wear and tear and repairs due to normal operation. Costs due to damage incurred as a result of misuse or the actions of others (e.g., persons ramming the vehicle) may not be covered by this cost nor reimbursed by the person responsible.

The Department must store each Mobile Command Center in a parking area that is secured from public access; these spaces are generally used for other Department vehicle parking thus spreading the cost across the Department's fleet.

## **Impacts**

### ***Reasonably anticipated impacts***

#### Deliberate misuse.

Though unlikely, it is possible that Mobile Command Centers may be deliberately misused by employees. Some of the ways that the Department attempts to prevent deliberate misuse is through background checks of prospective employees, supervision and training, strict policy guidelines, robust reporting and accountability practices, and discipline for deliberate misconduct up to and including termination. Suspected criminal misuse of equipment may also be forwarded to the District Attorney's office or other appropriate prosecuting agency for charging consideration.

#### Unintentional misuse.

Unintentional misuse of Mobile Command Centers may come in many forms, from unfamiliarity or lack of training to the encountering of a scenario that was not anticipated in training or policy. The Department attempts to prevent unintentional misuse through thorough training, clear policy prescriptions, and robust review processes such as force reports, force review boards, and pursuit review boards.

#### Perception of militarization or exacerbation of a police/community divide.

While it is not the intent of the Department that this occur, the Department does recognize the possibility that its use of Mobile Command Centers may lead to a perception of militarization of the Department, or an exacerbation of any existing divides between the Department and the community it serves and is a part of. The Department attempts to overcome challenges such as this by taking full advantage of community forums required by policy and law (see for instance the mandated community engagement meeting in DGO K-07 and CA Government Code § 7072(b)), by completing full and robust reports such as this one, and by collaborating with the Police Commission in the creation of use policies and procedural safeguards surrounding this equipment.

#### Impact on persons.

There is an inherent possibility that injury can be caused when deploying Mobile Command Centers when a person is nearby. This possibility is remedied by training; The MCV and CRV shall only be used by trained personnel that have demonstrated ability in the operations of this vehicle per Oakland Police Department Policy.

## **Mitigations**

### ***Use of force and de-escalation policy – [DGO K-03](#)***

Controlled and military equipment frequently takes the form of a force option, or else is often used during high-risk situations where force may be used. OPD, in concert with the Police Commission, created a state-of-the-art use of force policy that centers the Department's mission, purpose, and core principles, provides clear guidance that force is only allowed when reasonable, necessary, and proportional, and makes clear the consequences of unreasonable force. Additionally, OPD's use of force policy incorporates a robust de-escalation policy (Section C), which mandates that officers use de-

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escalation tactics and techniques in order to reduce the need for force when safe and feasible.

The entirety of this policy – which encapsulates OPD’s values surrounding force and commitment to de-escalation – is a clear general procedural mitigation to the possible adverse impacts of the use of this equipment.

***Force reporting and review policy and practice – DGOs [K-04](#) and [K-04.1](#)***

Though the Department expects that every use of this equipment will be within the boundaries of policy and law, the Department also has clear procedures regarding force reporting and review in place. DGO K-04 and its attendant special orders require that force by officers – including force where controlled equipment was used – be properly reported and reviewed, with the level of review commensurate to the severity of the force incident. Additionally, for severe uses of force or where a use of force had severe outcomes, the Department utilizes Force Review Boards, led by top Department command staff and often attended and observed by Community Police Review Agency staff or Police Commission Chairs, to review every part of a force incident. These boards not only determine whether the force was proper, but also have wide latitude to suggest changes in policy, training, or practice, including with controlled equipment.

OPD’s force reporting and review policies and practices serve as important procedural mitigations to the possible adverse impacts of the use of this equipment.

***Complaint receipt and investigation procedures – [DGO M-03](#)***

The use of controlled equipment, as with any use of the police powers, is subject to the rules and laws that govern the Department and its employees. Complaints and allegations that the Department or its employees have violated these rules or laws are treated with the utmost seriousness, including proper intake at the Internal Affairs Division and investigation by the appropriate investigative individual. Where allegations are found to be substantiated, the Department uses a progressive discipline structure to serve both deterrent and rehabilitative functions. Finally, deliberate misconduct or actions contrary to the Department’s values are not tolerated and can lead to termination of employment.

OPD’s complaint receipt and investigation procedures serve as important procedural mitigations to the possible adverse impacts of the use of this equipment.

***Community outreach and specific inquiry pathways – DGO K-07***

Use of controlled equipment, especially equipment that may have analogues used by militaries or quasi-military federal law enforcement, can drive perceptions of a militarized police force that is pre-disposed to the use of force as opposed to thoughtful, deliberate resolutions to incidents using de-escalation and minimizing the use of force. An important procedural mitigation to this type of perception is regularly communicating with the community served, as a way for information to be shared in both directions. This serves to dispel common misconceptions as well as provide valuable perspective for the Department and its employees. OPD uses community outreach, such as social media, community events, and a specific, annual community forum as required by DGO K-07. Additionally, OPD’s overarching controlled equipment policy sets forth processes for inquiries about

### ***Equipment-specific use policy and Police Commission oversight – OMC 9.65***

While most every law enforcement agency is bound by state law (Government Code § 7070 et. seq.), the very nature of police oversight in Oakland provides one of the most powerful procedural mitigations of potentially adverse impacts. For instance, state law requires that most agencies have their controlled equipment use policies approved by their governing body (e.g., City Council, or Board of Supervisors). In the case of OPD, however, there is an additional layer of oversight in the Police Commission, which must review any controlled equipment use policy prior to it being approved by the City Council. This requirement, set forth in Oakland’s municipal code section 9.65, is a procedural mitigation to the possible adverse impacts of the use of this equipment.

### ***Technical safeguards***

While not a specific aspect of the design, MCCs typically cannot reach the same top speed as the commercially available vehicles upon which they are based. Since speed is often a factor in vehicle collisions, this technical limitation of armored vehicles also serves as a de-facto safeguard against high-speed collisions.

Operators for MCCs with gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of over 26,000 lbs. shall attend specific commercial driver training and possess a Class B driver’s license with Air Brake endorsement.

Operators for MCCs with GVWR under 26,000 lbs. shall possess a Class C driver’s license.

### ***Procedural safeguards***

OPD’s Mobile Command Centers policy includes several procedural safeguards. These include prohibitions against utilization of MCCs for routine patrol or crowd control, as well as prohibitions against responding to calls for service, making routine traffic stops), and shall not be used for vehicle pursuits. MCC vehicles shall not be used for surreptitious surveillance. In addition, OPD’s policy requires the approval of a command officer at the rank of Lieutenant or above for impromptu field deployments, and at the rank of Captain or above for pre-planned deployments. When the vehicle is no longer needed, the using Division/Section will ensure the vehicle is delivered to the housing station by trained Police personnel.

## **Alternatives**

### ***De-escalation and alternative strategies***

OPD officers are mandated to use de-escalation strategies and tactics when safe and feasible. These strategies and tactics, which are predicated on de-escalation best practices around communication, containment, positioning, and time/distance/cover, reflect the Department’s commitment to de-escalation over the reliance on force to compel compliance.

However, even during de-escalation strategies and actions, controlled equipment may be used or

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ready to further a safe outcome to the event for the engaged person, the community, and the officers. Generally, a built-in alternative to the actual use of controlled equipment is its use as a tool to provide safety, information, or containment to an incident so that officers can bring the situation under control and hopefully encourage a peaceful outcome. This, in conjunction with other de-escalation or alternative strategies, provides a baseline for OPD officers in the conduct of their duties when using or contemplating the use of this controlled equipment.

It is also instructive to consider the possible adverse costs of not possessing this equipment. For instance, the unavailability of a particular tool may adversely impact the safety of police personnel and the community by limiting de-escalation strategies, exposing personnel to greater risk, or limiting the options available to safely resolve situations.

There are limited alternatives or asset available to accomplish the same goal as the MCV and CRV. The Oakland Police Department considered other vehicles, based on costs, size of vehicle, maneuverability, accessibility to a wider group of operators, and mobility options. Based on the size and complexity of a Mobile Command Center, the annual life-cycle cost is typically 10%-20% of the capital investment. Costs of new Mobile Command Centers similar to the MCV MT-55 have risen.

### **Location**

Mobile Command Centers will typically be used within the areas that OPD has jurisdiction or in areas of the State of California where OPD is specifically conducting operations or investigations. This includes the entirety of the City of Oakland and may include neighboring jurisdictions or other areas within the State.

### **Third Party Dependence**

- ☒ This item does not require third-party actors for operation.
- ☐ This item does require third-part actors for operation:

## **Track Record**

The City of Oakland Mobile Command Center is essential for providing a centralized, mobile hub during emergency situations, large events, or critical incidents. It offers a secure and efficient space for commanders and dispatchers to coordinate responses and facilitates seamless communication and collaboration among multiple agencies. It also serves as a visible symbol of law enforcement presence—helping to deter criminal activity.

In recent years, the City of Oakland Mobile Command Center has proven invaluable across a spectrum of operations—from managing responses to officer-involved shootings to supporting DUI checkpoints, crime-deterrence efforts, and high-profile multi-agency events. By bringing essential technology and personnel together in one location, the Mobile Command Center enhances operational effectiveness, supports rapid decision-making, and improves public safety in dynamic environments.