

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

8/5/2024

Item #13: Receive, Review, Approve and Adopt FY24 Annual Military Equipment Use Report and Renew Ordinance No. 2859 N.C.S., which Approved Petaluma Police Department's Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition, and Use Policy 709, (Use Policy) and Policy 613 Pertaining to Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGV) in Compliance with California Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481)

- **Question:** I hope the presentation on military equipment will go into more depth on the uses involving "violent" individuals. Seems an uptick in uses (all less violent than a gun) with police training.
 - **Response:** The presentation will discuss the use of military equipment in situations involving violent individuals, explaining the context. It is important to note that one incident will result in numerous categories of military equipment use, such as a 40mm launcher and a bean bag shotgun. We will explain how these measures serve as less lethal alternatives to firearms and enhance public safety.
- **Question:** Would also like to hear more about drones and robot training and how distributed and how good the heat imaging is. Likely scenarios for use here in Petaluma? Sharing with Fire Dept.?
 - **Response:** The presentation will discuss the how the unmanned aerial systems (drones) and unmanned ground vehicle (robot) will be used, as referenced in Policy 613. Drone thermal imaging does not have the capability to see through walls. Thermal cameras detect heat emitted from objects and surfaces, providing an image based on temperature differences. While they are very effective in detecting heat signatures in open environments or through light cover (such as foliage or thin materials), they cannot penetrate solid barriers like walls, roofs, or other dense structures. The heat signatures are used to locate individuals during search and rescue or tactical operations.

The department will follow adhere to policies 613 and 709 to ensure all military equipment is used in accordance with AB481. If the FD department requests the use of drones or robot, the department will determine if the use is authorized and document the use in the annual military use report.