



VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**ANNUAL MILITARY
EQUIPMENT REPORT
FOR 2024**

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SUMMARY

On June 13, 2023, the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) Board of Trustees unanimously approved Resolution No. 2023-07, adopting the Police Department's Military Equipment Policy and Military Equipment Inventory, as required by California Assembly Bill (AB) 481. Pursuant to AB 481, California Government Code Section 7072(a) was codified, which requires an annual report if the equipment was available for use by the VCCCD Police Department. The Board of Trustees must authorize, based on this report, the continued use of the equipment by the Police Department, in accordance with California Government Code Section 7071(e)(2).

BACKGROUND

AB 481 was signed into law on September 30, 2021, which aimed to reform law enforcement agencies' funding, acquisition, and use of specific types of military equipment defined by California Government Code Section 7070 *et seq.* The bill responded to growing public concerns about the militarization of police forces and the potential for such equipment to escalate conflict in civilian settings. AB 481 required every law enforcement agency to adopt a military equipment use policy by April 30, 2022. AB 481 further required every law enforcement agency to make public an inventory of all applicable military equipment, provide the public a means to submit concerns or complaints related to the military equipment, and prepare an annual report for the military equipment used by the agency detailing the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment as defined by the legislature. AB 481 aims to strike a balance between ensuring public safety and fostering community trust by mandating transparency and public engagement in the decision-making process.

California Government Code Section 7070(c) defines "military equipment" and lists fifteen specific categories that are considered "military equipment." The VCCCD Police Department possesses and uses only two types of equipment that are defined as "military equipment." The categories and specific equipment currently used by the VCCCD Police Department are listed and thoroughly described in the Department's Military Equipment Policy.

On June 14, 2023, the VCCCD Police Department established Department Policy 704, titled *Military Equipment* and which includes the Military Equipment Inventory, after the unanimous approval of Resolution No. 2023-07 by the VCCCD Board of Trustees. As required by law, the policy was made available to the public on the Police Department's website ([VCCCD.edu/police](https://vcccd.edu/police)).

California Government Code Section 7072(a) requires, upon approval of the military equipment use policy, the VCCCD Police Department to submit to the Board of Trustees an annual military equipment report detailing certain required information for each type of military equipment approved for use for as long as the equipment is in use. The report must include, at a minimum, the following information for the preceding calendar year:

- (1) A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use.
- (2) A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment.
- (3) The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response.



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- (4) The total annual cost for each type of military equipment, including acquisition, personnel, training, transportation, maintenance, storage, upgrade, and other ongoing costs, and from what source funds will be providing for the military equipment in the calendar year following submission of the annual military equipment report.
- (5) The quantity possessed for each type of military equipment.
- (6) If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment.

STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL

Government Code Section 7071(e)(1) requires the VCCCD Board of Trustees review Resolution No. 2023-07 and vote on whether to renew, require modifications to, or disapprove renewal of, the resolution. Government Code Section 7071(e)(2) states that the VCCCD Board of Trustees must determine, based on this Annual Military Equipment Report, whether each type of military equipment defined herein has complied with the standards for approval. Pursuant to Government Code Section 7071(d)(1), the VCCCD Board of Trustees shall only reapprove the use of military equipment if it determines all the following:

- (A) The military equipment is necessary because there is no reasonable alternative that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety.
- (B) The proposed military equipment use policy will safeguard the public's welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.
- (C) If purchasing the equipment, the equipment is reasonably cost effective compared to available alternatives that can achieve the same objective of officer and civilian safety.
- (D) Prior military equipment use complied with the VCCCD Police Department's Military Equipment Policy that was in effect at the time, or if prior uses did not comply with the accompanying Military Equipment Policy, corrective action has been taken to remedy nonconforming uses and ensure future compliance.

EQUIPMENT

- A. 7070(c)(10) – Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sections 30510 and 30515 of the California Penal Code.**

The VCCCD Police Department possesses eighteen (18) semi-automatic assault rifles chambered in 5.56mm with approximately 22,020 rounds of .223 caliber ammunition. Two of the Department's police officers have been approved to carry their own patrol rifles on-duty. Rifles are assigned to patrol officers who have received the requisite training and completed the required qualification course. Officers may deploy these rifles when circumstances lead them to reasonably expect



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that using the rifle will aid in addressing a threat with more accuracy and from a greater distance than with a handgun.

The Department also possesses one (1) bolt-action rifle, with approximately 240 rounds of .308 caliber ammunition. This rifle is available to patrol officers who have received the requisite training and completed the required qualification course. This rifle is exclusively authorized for use in the event a dangerous animal escapes from The Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College, or in an active assailant incident wherein a standard patrol rifle would be ineffective at stopping the immediate threat.

The following is a breakdown of the equipment defined by § 7070(c)(10), including usage, expenses, and complaints.

- Breakdown:
 - 2 Colt® M4 .223 caliber semi-automatic rifles (personally owned by officers).
 - 13 Bushmaster® E2S 5.56mm semi-automatic rifles and ammunition.
 - 4 FN® M16A2 5.56mm semi-automatic rifles and ammunition.
 - 1 Balimoy® M16A2 5.56mm semi-automatic rifles and ammunition.
 - 1 Remington® 700 .308 caliber bolt-action rifle and ammunition.
- Usage:
 - 1 rifle was deployed in response to a potential threat at Oxnard College on 01/29/2024 but was never pointed at any person.
 - Rifles were never pointed at a potential suspect.
 - Rifles were never discharged at a potential suspect.
- Expenses:
 - In 2024, the VCCCD Police Department did not spend any of its existing budget on ammunition.
 - In 2024, the VCCCD Police Department did not spend any of its existing budget on maintenance or supplies.
 - In 2024, the VCCCD Police Department spent \$5,965.20 of its existing budget on assault rifle training, including personnel and range fees. There were no additional costs associated with additional training for this equipment.
- Complaints and Audits:
 - There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
 - There were no discoveries of inappropriate conduct or violations of policies from any internal audits for this equipment.
- Intent to Obtain Additional Equipment:
 - The VCCCD Police Department currently has no intent to acquire additional equipment under this subsection.



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B. 7070(c)(14) – The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launches, “bean bag,” rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons.

The VCCCD Police Department possesses ten (10) less-lethal shotguns, with approximately 118 rounds of bean bag projectiles. These less-lethal shotguns are assigned to patrol officers who have received the requisite training and completed the required qualification course. Officers may deploy these less-lethal shotguns when the circumstances lead them to reasonably expect that using the less-lethal option will aid in compelling potentially violent suspects to cease dangerous activity and/or comply with an arrest.

The following is a breakdown of the equipment defined by § 7070(c)(14), including usage, expenses, and complaints.

- Breakdown:
 - 10 repurposed Remington® 870 shotguns with less-lethal bean bag projectiles.
- Usage:
 - 1 less-lethal shotgun was deployed to assist an outside law enforcement agency on 08/22/2024 but was never pointed at any person.
 - Less-lethal shotguns were never pointed at a potential suspect.
 - Less-lethal shotguns were never discharged at a potential suspect.
- Expenses:
 - In 2024, the VCCCD Police Department did not spend any of its existing budget on bean bag projectiles.
 - In 2024, the VCCCD Police Department did not spend any of its existing budget on maintenance and supplies.
 - In 2024, the VCCCD Police Department spent \$2,183.43 of its existing budget on less-lethal shotgun training. There were no additional costs associated with additional training for this equipment.
- Complaints & Audits:
 - There were no complaints received regarding the use of this equipment.
 - There were no discoveries of inappropriate conduct or violations of policies from any internal audits for this equipment.
- Intent to Obtain Additional Equipment:
 - The VCCCD Police Department currently has no intent to acquire additional equipment under this subsection.



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C. All other categories (§ 7070(c)(1)-(9) & (11)-(13)).

The VCCCD Police Department does not currently utilize any items defined as “military equipment” pursuant to AB 481 other than those already described in this report.

D. 7070(c)(15) – Any other equipment as determined by a governing body or a state agency to require additional oversight.

The VCCCD Board of Trustees has not identified any additional items requiring oversight.

FISCAL IMPACT

Ongoing maintenance and replacement costs for all the equipment were included in the VCCCD Police Department’s FY23/24 budget. No additional fiscal impact on the Police Department’s general fund is associated.

ALTERNATIVES

Approval by the VCCCD Board of Trustees of this Annual Military Equipment Report is required by AB 481 for the continued use of military equipment by the VCCCD Police Department. The equipment listed in this report and used by the Police Department is necessary for public safety operations and to ensure a safe learning environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. There are no other practical alternatives that can achieve the same community safety objectives. Additionally, the equipment’s use and accompanying policies safeguard the public’s welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties.