



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Tactical Units – January 1 to December 31, 2020
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board
Report Date: 2021-03-15

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board receives this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Service is in compliance with Board By-law 242-2000 – Tactical Units.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board in respect to Tactical Units.
- The Tactical Unit role remains the responsibility of the Emergency Task Unit.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-law #242-2000, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board each year in respect to Tactical Units and must include the following:

- a summary of the procedures as required by this by-law;*
- the status of Service compliance with the said procedures;*
- confirmation of the development and maintenance of the manual on tactical unit services;*
- a summary of the circumstances in which the tactical unit has been deployed;
and*
- confirmation that Members are trained in accordance with Section 5.3.*

The following is a detailed response to the above noted requirements:

- a) *a summary of the procedures relating to Tactical Units as required by this By-law;*

The Tactical Unit role remains the responsibility of the Emergency Task Unit and the written procedures are set out in General Order 089.07 Emergency Task Unit. As required, the written procedures include:

- i. The circumstances in which a tactical unit will be deployed, including the process for obtaining the services of the tactical unit and reporting relationships.
- ii. The tactical unit can undertake containment, the apprehension of an armed barricaded person, an explosive force entry if it uses the services of a police explosive entry technician.

- b) *the status of service compliance with the said procedures:*

The Service is in compliance with Board By-law 242-2000. Niagara's Tactical training is accredited by the Ministry of the Solicitor General as required under Regulation 3/99 of the Police Services Act for Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services. Current accreditation is valid until July 31, 2021

- c) *confirmation of the development and maintenance of the manual on Tactical Unit services:*

The General Order, along with written standard operating procedures and the Tactical Response Team's Course Training Standards, fulfill the obligation of a written manual that is available to each team member. Written copies of the procedures are presented to team members as they receive training. A central copy of updated procedures is available to all members. The Tactical Response Team's Course Training Standards are reviewed on an ongoing basis and have been accredited by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

- d) *a summary of the circumstances in which the tactical unit has been deployed:*

The services of the Emergency Task Unit were utilized on 186 occasions in 2020, representing a slight increase from 2019 and a substantial increase in comparison to 2018.

Tactical Unit Calls:

Year	2020	2019	2018
No. of Calls	186	182	146

This total also includes non-tactical operations for which the Emergency Task Unit is responsible including VIP security, community demonstrations, search and rescue operations involving vulnerable persons and calls relating to persons in crisis. In addition, Emergency Task Unit members responded to tactical calls that did not require the entire Tactical Unit and were handled by an Immediate Response Team (typically made up of four on-duty members of the Emergency Task Unit).

Summary of major circumstances in which the tactical unit was deployed in 2020:

- 36 High-Risk Arrests
- 29 High-Risk Warrants
- 28 Ground Searches – Missing Persons and Evidence
- 38 Armed and/or Barricaded Persons
- 10 High-Risk Canine Tracks
- 6 V.I.P. Details

e) *confirmation that Members are trained in accordance with Section 5.3:*

All members of the Emergency Task Unit are trained within the guidelines of Provincial Adequacy Standards.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This report is for information purposes and has no immediate strategic priorities.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-law 242-2000 – Tactical Units

Other Pertinent Reports

115.2020 – Annual Report – Tactical Units – January 1 to December 31, 2019.

This report was prepared by Constable Brent Austen, Emergency Task Unit, in consultation with Inspector Joe Garvey, Emergency Services, and reviewed by Superintendent Brian Ash, Emergency & Investigative Services and recommended by Brett Flynn, Deputy Chief of Police, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M. #5835
Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable