



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Investigations Division

TITLE: Guidelines for Officer Involved Shooting Detective Call-Out		NO: B-200	
APPROVED: Commander Raul Murillo			
EFFECTIVE: 05/15/2008	REVIEWED: 03/24/2023	REVISED: 12/18/2019	UPDATED: 03/24/2023

POLICY

DPPM G-300 establishes protocol for the Investigation of Firearms Discharges. The policy dictates that all incidents involving the use of deadly force or any discharge of a firearm by a member of this department will be investigated. Unless the incident falls under the Range responsibilities the Investigations Division will be responsible for the investigation of the incident. In addition to Officer Involved Shootings, unintentional discharge incidents will be investigated on a case-by-case basis to be determined by the Investigations Division Commander or designee. In order to ensure the thoroughness and completeness of these types of investigations, the following Directives are established.

DIRECTIVE A Deadly Force Investigations

Upon notification of an Officer Involved Shooting investigation, the Investigations Division Commander will direct an Investigations Division Sergeant to initiate an investigation. The assigned Investigations Sergeant will activate Detectives and an additional Investigations Supervisor; additional Detectives may be called as needed to respond to the incident. A minimum of two (2) Crime Scene Technicians will be dispatched.

The Investigations Sergeant will direct any additional resources they feel may be necessary to complete the investigation, such as the District Attorney's Crime Lab personnel.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office Investigations Lieutenant will be notified of the incident.

DIRECTIVE B Departmental Notifications

Due to the nature of these incidents, several notifications are required. The Communications Center is tasked with the notifications; however, the Investigations Division Commander will ensure the notifications have been made to the Sheriff, Chief Deputies, affected Division Commanders and subsequently the Rangemaster and Sheriff's Civil Litigation Coordinator.

Upon arrival at the scene, and assessing the need, the Investigations Division Commander, or designee, may direct the Sheriff's Civil Litigation Coordinator and/or the Rangemaster to respond. The Sheriff's Civil Litigation Coordinator will evaluate liability issues and communicate with the Investigations Division Commander, or designee. The Rangemaster will evaluate training issues. Neither will actively participate in the investigation unless approved by the Investigations Division Commander, or his designee.

DIRECTIVE C Media Notifications

The Investigations Division Commander or designee will ensure the media has been notified. The Investigations Division Commander, or his designee, will be the PIO and all inquiries for information will be directed to the Investigations Division Commander, or designee. The only person authorized to give out information will be the Investigations Division Commander or his designee. The exception will be the Coroner's normal business of releasing the name of a deceased individual.

DIRECTIVE D Scene Control

The integrity and thoroughness of the investigation is paramount. Once Detectives are on scene, they will be in charge of the investigation and the crime scene. Only authorized personnel will be permitted to enter the crime scene. Personnel with ancillary duties, not directly involved in the investigation, will seek permission from the Investigations Division Sergeant to enter the scene. When permission is granted, those personnel will be escorted while inside the crime scene.

Only those with a need directly related to the investigation will interview the involved officers. This will primarily be the Detectives assigned to the investigation.

DIRECTIVE E Interview of Witnesses

In accordance with KCSO DPPM Section J-3600, Body Worn Cameras policy, Detectives conducting interviews with Officer Involved Shooting witnesses shall activate their Body Worn Cameras during the witness interview. If a citizen witness needs to be transported to a station for further interview, consent should be obtained and shall be recorded on BWC.

DIRECTIVE F Investigations of allied agency Officer Involved Shootings

The Sheriff's Office has undertaken the responsibility of completing investigations for officer involved shootings for multiple allied county and non-county agencies/departments within the county. Each agency/department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sheriff's Office outlining such investigations. Investigations shall abide by the current MOU with the respective agency/department.