Operations Planning and Deconfliction

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE
This policy provides guidelines for planning, deconfliction and execution of high-risk operations.

Additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants is provided in the Warrant Service Policy.

606.1.1 DEFINITIONS
Definitions related to this policy include:

High-risk operations - Operations, including service of search and arrest warrants and sting operations, that are likely to present higher risks than are commonly faced by officers on a daily basis, including suspected fortified locations, reasonable risk of violence or confrontation with multiple persons, or reason to suspect that persons anticipate the operation.

Case agent - Officer or detective responsible for the operation who oversees the overall planning and execution of the plan.

Affected supervisor - The supervisor with overall supervisory authority over the operation and the case agent.

606.2 POLICY
It is the policy of the Irvine Police Department to properly plan and carry out high-risk operations, including participation in a regional deconfliction system, in order to provide coordination, enhance the safety of members and the public, decrease the risk of compromising investigations and prevent duplicating efforts.

606.3 DECONFLICTION
Deconfliction systems are designed to identify persons and locations associated with investigations or law enforcement operations and alert participating agencies when others are planning or conducting operations in close proximity or time or are investigating the same individuals, groups or locations.

The case agent shall ensure the subject of investigation and operations information have been entered in an applicable deconfliction system to determine if there is reported conflicting activity. This should occur as early in the process as practicable. The officer should also enter relevant updated information when it is received.

If any conflict is discovered, the case agent will contact the involved jurisdiction and resolve the potential conflict before proceeding.
606.4   OPERATIONS PLAN
The affected supervisor should ensure that a written operations plan is developed for all high-risk operations. Plans should also be considered for other operations that would benefit from having a formal plan.

The plan should address such issues as:
606.4.1 OPERATIONS PLAN RETENTION
Since the operations plan contains intelligence information and descriptions of law enforcement tactics, it shall not be filed with the report. The operations plan shall be stored separately and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.
(a) It is the responsibility of the case agent to ensure that the Communications Bureau is notified of the time and location of the operation, and to provide a copy of the operation plan prior to officers arriving at the location.

(b) If the radio channel needs to be monitored by the Communications Bureau, the dispatcher assigned to monitor the operation should attend the briefing, if practicable, but at a minimum should receive a copy of the operation plan.

(c) The briefing should include a communications check to ensure that all participants are able to communicate with the available equipment on the designated radio channel.

606.6 OPERATIONAL PLAN THREAT ASSESSMENT PREPARATION

Officers assigned as case agent for any pre-planned operation shall complete a risk assessment form. This form should then be attached to our department's operational plan. When preparing the form, the officer should query all relevant and reasonably available intelligence resources for information about the subject of investigation, others who may be present and the involved location. These sources may include regional intelligence and criminal justice databases, target deconfliction systems, firearm records, commercial databases and property records.

606.7 RISK ASSESSMENT

606.7.1 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Officers will submit the operational plan, including the risk assessment form and other relevant documents (such as copies of search warrants and affidavits and arrest warrants) to their supervisor to review the level of risk and approve the operational plan.

606.7.2 HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS

If the supervisor, after consultation with the involved officer(s), determines that the operation is high risk, the supervisor shall notify the unit manager to coordinate the following:

(a) Determine what resources will be needed at the location, and contact and/or place on standby any of the following appropriate and available resources:

   (a) SWAT
   (b) Additional personnel
   (c) Outside agency assistance
   (d) Special equipment
   (e) Medical personnel
   (f) Persons trained in negotiation
   (g) Additional surveillance
   (h) Canines
606.9 MEDIA ACCESS
No advance information regarding planned operations shall be released without the approval of the Chief of Police. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the News Media Relations Policy.

606.10 OPERATIONS DEBRIEFING
Operations should be debriefed as soon as reasonably practicable. The debriefing should include as many participants as possible. This debrief may be separate from any SWAT debriefing if they participated.