



AB 481 – Regulated Equipment and Tools

CSU SAN MARCOS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY 706

425 LA MOREEE ROAD, SAN MARCOS, CA. 92078

Background

Dear CSUSM Community,

The CSU San Marcos Police Department (UPD) is committed to transparency, communication and engagement with members of the campus community. In July of 2022, the CSU Board of Trustees approved the system-wide Regulated Tools and Equipment policy as recommended by the Chiefs of Police representing the 23 University Police Departments. This policy was adopted and published as outlined by Assembly Bill 481. As such, it requires every law enforcement agency in the State of California to publish certain information annually regarding specified equipment.

Of the sixteen (16) regulated types of equipment and tools, CSUSM utilizes only two (2) of the tools: PepperBall Launchers and Less-Lethal Bean-Bag Shotguns. Information regarding the use, policy compliance, funding and inventory for the 24/25 Fiscal Year are outlined below:

On September 30, 2021, the Governor of the State of California approved AB-481 requiring law enforcement agencies to publish military equipment use procedure and the annual military equipment report on the Department's website.

Annual Reporting Requirements as per AB 481, Section 7072

(a) A law enforcement agency that receives approval for a military equipment use policy pursuant to Section 7071 shall submit to the governing body an annual military equipment report for each type of military equipment approved by the governing body within one year of approval, and annually thereafter for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The law enforcement agency shall also make each annual military equipment report required by this section publicly available on its internet website for as long as the military equipment is available for use. The annual military equipment report shall, at a minimum, include the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year for each type of military equipment:

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.

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 provided 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.

(b) Within 30 days of submitting and publicly releasing an annual military equipment report pursuant to this section, the law enforcement agency shall hold at least one well-publicized and conveniently located community engagement meeting, at which the general public may discuss and ask questions regarding the annual military equipment report and the law enforcement agency's funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment.

Military Equipment Purpose

CSU San Marcos Police Department has a varied inventory of military equipment; the mere possession of the equipment does not warrant its use for every incident. Although most tools, equipment, and resources listed as military equipment in AB 481 are found in a military environment and may be similar in nature, the application in which the equipment is used is significantly different for public safety and law enforcement.

Critical incidents and life-threatening crimes are often unpredictable and dynamic in nature. A variety of military equipment options can greatly assist department personnel in bringing those incidents to an efficient resolution in a safe manner. When the equipment is utilized, it is used by officers who are trained, professional, and safe in the use of the equipment.

Military Equipment Inventory:

(2) Remington 870 Bean Bag Launchers

- Purpose: Less Lethal (LL) bean bags are utilized through a marked-orange colored easily identifiable less lethal shotgun.
 - The bean bag round is a small led pellet filled munition made of high-density cloth.
 - Outside of yearly training requirements, the Less Lethal bean bag launcher was not used in 2024.
 - There were no new purchases in 24/25 Fiscal Year.
-

(2) PepperBall FTC Launchers

- Purpose: These munitions use a delivery system combines chemical agent exposure with kinetic energy impact to aid in its effectiveness in addressing armed and/or violent individuals or crowds. “Pepper Balls”.
- A non-lethal munitions system that employs paint ball style launchers to fire spherical munitions commonly referred to as “pepper balls” that contain powdered chemical agents such as OC in place of the paint. “Pepper ball” munitions also include glass breaking rounds and marking rounds.
- There were no new purchases in 24/25 Fiscal Year.

The Department did not have any unauthorized use of its military equipment in the 24/25 Fiscal Year. Any and all uses of the equipment were within the scope and purpose of their intended use and met policy requirements.

Additionally, there were no complaints made about the use of military equipment in the 24/25 Fiscal Year.

There were no new purchases of new regulated equipment purchases in the 24/25 Fiscal Year.

When military equipment has reached significantly low levels, or has been exhausted, or the department requires acquisition of any of the items listed, the Department may order equipment as needed in each calendar year by adhering to State and Department rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.

The Costs estimated with military equipment is not a guaranteed expenditure each year. Some annual cycles may require no purchases while others may call for replacing items due to the service life.

Summary of how regulated tools and equipment were used, and the purpose of its use:

- UPD did not have any cases involving the use of the PepperBall launchers or Less-Lethal (LL) Bean bag shotgun.

Summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning regulated tools and equipment:

- UPD has not received any complaints or concerns regarding the use of any of the two tools/equipment possessed.

Results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the regulated tools and equipment policy, and any actions taken in response:

- UPD has received no information about violations associated with the regulated tools and equipment policy.

Annual cost and source of funds for regulated tools and equipment:

- In 2023, a munition purchase for the LL Bean Bag Shotgun was made for a total expenditure of approximately **\$6,250.00**. In 2021, a munition purchase for the PepperBall Launcher was made for a total expenditure of approximately **\$1980.00**. These purchases were expended from the UPD general fund. These figures do not include costs for staffing salaries and/or overtime associated with yearly training. There were no munition/new product expenditures for either the Less Lethal Shot Gun Bean Bag nor the PepperBall during the 24/25 fiscal year.

Planned purchases of additional regulated tools and equipment in 2025/26:

- (2) 40MM Def-Tec Exact Impact Sponge Munition Launchers. The estimated/projected cost is **\$1300.65** each. The Sponge Munitions are estimated at **\$32.45** each.

Community engagement:

As part of our commitment to transparency and open communication, the University Police Department (UPD) will host a campus webinar to discuss information contained within this report during U-Hour at noon on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025 via Zoom <https://csusm.zoom.us/j/83186146403>. The Zoom meeting ID is (831 8614 6403). The webinar is a community engagement event open to all CSUSM students, faculty and staff. No registration is required. Additional information about UPD policies, contact information and other campus services can be accessed by visiting www.csusm.edu/police