

Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff
Bomb Disposal Robots
Annual Surveillance Report: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

1. Description of How the Technology Was Used

The Office of the Sheriff Bomb Squad utilizes Bomb Disposal Robots to complete tasks in hazardous environments unsafe to human life and property. Primarily, the Bomb Disposal Robots are used to confront items believed to contain explosive devices, explosives, hazardous materials, and any other object thought to be dangerous or destructive. Additionally, the Bomb Disposal Robot can be deployed in the event of critical incidents involving a serious threat to life or safety, such as active shooter incidents, barricaded subject incidents, and search and rescue operations. Sheriff’s Bomb Technicians utilized the Bomb Disposal Robots to gather intelligence on a potential explosive device and render it safe from a remote location. Below is a summary of the bomb disposal robot uses during this reporting period.

Bomb Disposal Robot Deployments
7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023

Date	Incident Type	Use Summary
9/5/2022	Explosive Material Mitigation	The Bomb Squad was called to the scene of a man that was attempting to manufacture homemade explosives causing an explosion at his home. The explosion took off the suspect's right hand and caused serious trauma to his lower face. Bomb Technicians deployed bomb disposal robots to extract the explosive material and precursor chemicals from the trailer to facilitate a controlled demolition and render the scene safe.
10/31/2022	Suspected IED Mitigation	The Bomb Squad was called for a suspicious item suspected of being an IED that was abandoned on the side of the roadway. A bomb disposal robot was deployed for remote visual observation of the suspected device from a safe distance. The robot was used to render the scene safe. The item ultimately was made to look like an IED but was not viable.
11/15/2022	Suspected IED Mitigation	The Bomb Squad was called to a Lockheed Martin Facility in Santa Clara for a reported IED in the shipping and receiving room. A bomb robot was deployed for visual observation of the reported IED and manual disassembly of the device. The item was made to look like an IED but was not viable.

2/14/2023	Search for Suspected IED	The Bomb Squad was called to the PG&E power station for a report of someone burying something along the fence-line. The robot was deployed to search along the fence line. Nothing was located.
3/1/2023	High Risk Search Warrant	The Bomb Squad assisted the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) search a residence doing a high-risk warrant service for the District Attorney's Office. A suspect with multiple warrants was barricaded inside a single-family residence and there was information that a firearm was associated. The robot was deployed to search the interior of the residence prior to deploying personnel inside a dangerous situation. The robot searched and made announcements for the suspect to surrender prior to SERT entering the house. The suspect was hiding in the attic and later surrendered to SERT members.

2. Data Sharing with Outside Entities

The Bomb Disposal Robots were deployed during this reporting period; however, no data was shared with outside entities.

3. Community Complaints or Concerns

Any community complaints regarding the use of the Bomb Disposal Robots are routed to the Internal Affairs Lieutenant for tracking and response. There were no community complaints or concerns expressed to the Office of the Sheriff regarding the use of Bomb Disposal Robots during this reporting period.

4. Non-Privileged Internal Audits / Policy Violations

All Office of the Sheriff staff are provided all Surveillance Use Policies via an internal web-based portal requiring annual review and attestation of acknowledgement completion. Unit supervisors are required to monitor and periodically audit the data obtained by and the use of the Bomb Disposal Robots to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Use Policy and other Sheriff's policies. Internal audits were performed during this reporting period and no violations were observed during this reporting period.

5. Effectiveness in Achieving its Identified Purpose

The Bomb Disposal Robots have proven to be an effective tool to mitigate explosive devices and other hazardous materials. Additionally, the Bomb Disposal Robots have been vital in gathering

intelligence in critical incident responses and high-risk operations. The Office of the Sheriff considers this equipment vital and effective in dealing with a variety of hazards due to the fact that it can be operated remotely without placing staff and citizens in harm's way.

6. Public Records Act Requests

The Office of the Sheriff has a process in place to track California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests where designated staff are assigned to receive and respond to each request. The Office of the Sheriff did not receive any California Public Records Act requests for the data from the Bomb Disposal Robots during this reporting period.

7. Annual Costs

The purchase of each of the Bomb Disposal Robots were a one-time purchase before this reporting period. There are no recurring annual costs associated to the operation of the bomb disposal robots, however, a bomb disposal robot occasionally experiences damage requiring repairs outside of the ability of staff and specialized repair costs are incurred.