



## "E" DIVISION CRIMINAL OPERATIONS

### Core Policing

Mailstop 306, 14200 Green Timbers Way  
Surrey, B.C. V3T 6P3

December 12, 2019

Ms. Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner  
Chief Coroner's Office  
Metrotower II  
Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4N2

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CHIEF CORONER

RE: **Kenneth HANNA**  
**Coroner's Inquest into the Death of**  
**BCCS Case File: 2015-0380-0013**

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

As a result of the tragic death of Mr. HANNA, we undertook a review of the related RCMP policy and best practices and wish to respond to the following Coroner's Jury recommendation that was directed to the RCMP in E Division and the Vancouver Police Department:

*Recommendation 2*

*Ensure that adequate negotiation communications equipment is available to all Emergency Response Teams.*

**Response:**

Emergency Response Teams are subject to RCMP National Policy, and Division and District supplements to that policy. The related National policy is as follows:

The operational use of the Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV-1) is a daily use Emergency Response Team (ERT) asset that will be used during critical incidents.

Only members who have successfully completed the TAV-1 Operators Course will operate the TAV-1 in both administrative and operational capacities. (NHQ TOM 2.5.1)

The divisional negotiator coordinator is responsible for the acquisition, maintenance and regular testing of CNT (Crisis Negotiations Team) equipment and specialized clothing. Each CNT will be equipped with a hostage/crisis rescue phone and portable sound system or similar equipment. (NHQ TOM 3.3)

The Lower Mainland District Emergency Response Team (LMD ERT) presently has the following communications equipment:

- Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD); and
- Loudhailer in their Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV).

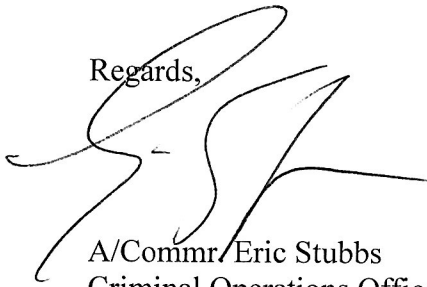
The Lower Mainland District Crisis Negotiation Team (LMD CNT) has four loudhailers and has recently acquired a throw phone that has video capability. This throw phone allows for communication with subjects who do not have access to a phone.

LMD CNT and LMD ERT work closely together and share their equipment, as needed. There can be limitations to obtaining communications equipment, particularly in urgent situations, given where the equipment is stored and where an incident may be unfolding. The LRAD can pose issues during situations where firearms are involved as it is often difficult to find suitable cover, therefore the loudhailer in the TAV is a better option in these situations. Efforts are made to keep equipment up to date and in working order, however there are some situations where equipment is unavailable due to repair or replacement efforts. Further, there are some situations where there is not an option to use any of the available communications equipment as public and officer safety can be compromised, as was the case in the incident involving Mr. HANNA.

There are no division or district supplements to the national policy, however the ERT and CNT teams in BC ensure that their communications equipment is up to date and in line with technology and best practices in this area.

The RCMP is committed to provide the best possible response in emergency situations to ensure public safety. The findings of Courts, Inquiries, and Inquests contribute to our efforts in this regard as there is always room for improvement. Thank you for bringing this recommendation to our attention.

Regards,



A/Commr/Eric Stubbs  
Criminal Operations Officer (CORE Policing)  
"E" Division