

# LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

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October 3, 2025

BPC #25-249

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles, Room 395  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: QUADRUPEL UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE INSPECTION FOR 2024 – 2025.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, the Board APPROVED the Department's report regarding the above-referenced matter.

Accordingly, this report is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rebecca Munoz".

REBECCA MUNOZ  
Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

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**INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

September 24, 2025

1.1

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** QUADRUPEL UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE YEARLY INSPECTION  
REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the Los Angeles Police Department's (Department) Yearly Report, Fiscal Year 2024/2025 on the QuadrupeL Unmanned Ground Vehicle (QUGV).
2. That the Board TRANSMIT to the Los Angeles City Council (Council) the bi-annual report on the QUGV program as directed in the attached motion.

**BACKGROUND**

On November 8, 2022, the Board approved the use of the QUGV. The Department implemented the program, as delineated in Administrative Order No. 6, dated May 30, 2023. As directed in the Administrative Order, Metropolitan Division was required to provide a quarterly report to the Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB) documenting the QUGV field deployments. Later, the Council introduced Motion 2A, dated May 23, 2023, instructing the Department to provide quarterly reports to the Council as well. On September 10, 2024, the Council amended Motion 2A to provide a bi-annual report to the Council. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) of Metropolitan Division was assigned the implementation, management, and deployment of the QUGV. The use of the QUGV was reserved for specific incidents, including high-risk incidents that met SWAT's deployment criteria.

**DISCUSSION**

Special Weapons and Tactics conducted the required evaluation for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in the following areas:<sup>1</sup>

1. Approved deployment of the QUGV.
2. Permissible Uses.

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<sup>1</sup> Quarter 1 (July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024), Quarter 2 (October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024), Quarter 3 (January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025) and Quarter 4 (April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025).

3. Tracking system to capture the approval and deployments of the QUGV.

### **REPORTING**

Quarter 1			
Deployment No.	Date	Deployment Description	Division / Bureau
1	September 2, 2024	Barricaded Armed Burglary Suspects	North Hollywood / Valley Bureau

During Quarter 1, the SWAT team reported one deployment on September 2, 2024.

On September 2, 2024, North Hollywood patrol officers were involved in an Officer Involved-Shooting (OIS). The SWAT team responded to assist with the service of a search warrant at the OIS location to locate any additional suspects.

As stated in the QUGV policy, a deployment shall be approved by the on-scene Incident Commander in concurrence with the Commanding Officer or Designee of CTSOB. Deputy Chief David Kowalski, Commanding Officer, CTSOB, in concurrence with the Incident Commander approved the deployment of the QUGV.

The property had overgrown vegetation and various obstacles in the yard which would have made it difficult for a tracked robot to traverse. The QUGV was utilized to render the yard and several rooms inside the structures safe. The SWAT team, using the QUGV, opened the door which allowed access to the main structure. The QUGV was able to safely transverse a narrow hallway before having technical issues with the "gripper camera," and could not open the additional door inside the structure. The initial assessment from the QUGV provided the team with enough information to enter the property safely utilizing a Department K-9 team. Special Weapons and Tactics completed the search and determined no suspects were inside.

Quarter 2			
Deployment No.	Date	Deployment Description	Division / Bureau
2	December 21, 2024	Armed Barricaded Suspect	Hollywood / West Bureau

During Quarter 2, the SWAT team reported one deployment on December 21, 2024.

The one QUGV deployment involved Hollywood Area patrol officers who responded to the scene of a barricade incident in a third story multi-dwelling apartment complex. The suspect was wanted for assault with a deadly weapon, specifically a sword. The incident was declared an armed barricade and SWAT was notified. Upon SWAT's arrival, a request for the combined deployment of the small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) and the QUGV was initiated. Patrol officers provided information that the suspect's residence had an excessive amount of debris, and the suspect refused to exit from the building.

The Incident Commander approved the deployment of the QUGV, in concurrence with Commander Shannon Paulson, Assistant Commanding Officer, CTSOB.

After the approval of the QUGV, additional evidence was discovered, which indicated the suspect had possibly entered the neighboring unit through a window to the rear of his apartment.

The QUGV was deployed to the neighbor's apartment, where it conducted a search of the residence. A large pile of miscellaneous items in the bedroom closet was discovered and the QUGV's thermal camera was used to scan that area. The thermal system indicated a possible thermal signature underneath the pile of debris. During the search, the suspect emerged and was taken into custody without incident.

Quarter 3			
Deployment No.	Date	Deployment Description	Division / Bureau
3	February 11, 2025	Barricaded Armed Suspect	Harbor / South Bureau
4	March 27, 2025	Barricaded Armed Suspect	77 <sup>th</sup> Street/ South Bureau

During Quarter 3, the SWAT team reported two deployments on February 11, 2025, and March 27, 2025.

On February 11, 2025, Harbor Area patrol officers responded to a radio call of a suspect causing a disturbance while armed with a firearm. The SWAT were tasked with verifying whether the suspect was in the shed.

The shed's surrounding terrain presented several apparent obstacles that would have hindered or stopped the use of traditional tracked robotics. There were also several trees with long branches that would have obstructed drone accessibility. Based on this information, SWAT officers requested the use of the QUGV.

The Incident Commander approved the deployment of the QUGV, in concurrence with Deputy Chief David Kowalski, Commanding Officer, CTSOB.

After approval, the QUGV was launched and searched the exterior area of the shed. A dialogue was established with the suspect, who subsequently exited the shed. The suspect emerged armed with a pistol, which was observed by the officer operating the QUGV. The operator, using the QUGV, maintained visual contact with the suspect until he fled the location. The suspect was subsequently taken into custody. The operator did not record the incident, but his body worn camera was activated and captured the incident, which was then stored into Evidence.com under Incident No. 25021100001660.

On March 27, 2025, 77<sup>th</sup> Street patrol officers, responded to a radio call where it was reported that the suspect was pointing a rifle at numerous pedestrians at the 6600 block of South Figueroa Street. The suspect later barricaded himself in a second-floor unit of an apartment building located at 6429 S. Figueroa Street. Upon SWAT's arrival, the suspect was observed with a firearm through a second story window and an Officer-Involved Shooting occurred.



After the suspect was taken into custody, a sUAS was deployed to assess the interior of the building. The SWAT team observed clothing and other debris on the apartment floor and determined the debris would obstruct the tracks of traditional tracked robots. The use of the QUGV was requested to conduct a thorough search of the pathway for the officers to safely move through the building.

The Incident Commander approved the deployment of the QUGV, in concurrence with Deputy Chief David Kowalski, Commanding Officer, CTSOB.

After receiving approval, the QUGV was deployed, and the area was deemed safe for SWAT officers to complete the search of the location.

**NOTE:** There were no QUGV deployments in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

### **CONCLUSION**

For the Fiscal Year 2024/2025, the QUGV was deployed four times and adhered to all established protocols and procedures. As part of this report, an assessment was conducted of the tracking system utilized by Metropolitan Division for the approval, deployment, and documentation of each QUGV deployment. The system proved to be effective and Metropolitan Division will continue to assess the tracking system for efficiency.

Should you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief David J. Kowalski, Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, at (213) 486-8780.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL  
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF  
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
Approved *September 30, 2025*  
Secretary *Rebecca Munoz*