

Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481)



Santa Monica College Police Department Annual Military Equipment Report 2026

**Santa Monica Community College District
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 8, 2026**

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481), effective January 1, 2022, requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval from their governing body—through a resolution and military equipment use policy—before acquiring, funding, or using military equipment. Approval is also required for collaborating with outside agencies on military equipment use or using such equipment in new ways not previously authorized.

For the Santa Monica College Police Department (SMCPD), the governing body is the Santa Monica Community College District Board of Trustees. Agencies that possessed military equipment prior to AB 481's enactment were required to submit a policy for approval no later than May 1, 2022. The Board approved SMCPD's Military Equipment Use Policy 706 in November 2024.

AB 481 requires annual re-approval of the policy and a public report detailing how the equipment was used, associated costs, any complaints or violations, and audit results. This report fulfills that annual requirement.

ANALYSIS

SMCPD possesses equipment classified as "military equipment" under AB 481 and maintains it to enhance the safety of the campus community and its officers. Possession does not imply routine use; deployment is guided by policy, law, training, and situational needs.

AB 481 outlines 15 categories of military equipment, including armored vehicles, specialized firearms, breaching tools, diversion devices, and kinetic energy munitions. SMCPD retains equipment in Categories 9 (specialized firearms), 12 (OC/tear gas munitions), and 14 (kinetic energy munitions). No other categories are in use.

Officers must complete initial and ongoing training and certification before using any military equipment. All use is governed by SMCPD Policy 706 and reflects a commitment to safety, transparency, and accountability.

ANNUAL REPORT

Request for new equipment:

There is no request for new equipment in any category.

Equipment List and Usage:

Category 9 – Specialized firearms and ammunition of less than .50 caliber, including assault weapons as defined in Sections 30510 and 30514 of the Penal Code, excluding standard-issue shotguns and standard-issue shotgun ammunition

Type: Colt Enhanced Patrol Rifle EPR (16") and Winchester Law Enforcement Ammunition

- **Equipment usage:** None
- **Complaints and concerns received:** None
- **Violation(s) of SMCPD Policy 706:** None
 - **Internal audits:** SMCPD audited the listed military equipment and there were no violations of the policy.
 - **Actions taken:** None

Category 12 – Munitions Containing Tear Gas or O.C., Excluding Standard, Service-Issued Hand-Held Pepper Spray

Type: FN Herstal 303 Projectiles (PAVA/OC Powder)

- **Equipment usage:** None
- **Complaints and concerns received:** None
- **Violation(s) of SMCPD Policy 706:** None
 - **Internal audits:** SMCPD audited the listed military equipment and there were no violations of the policy.
 - **Actions taken:** None

Category 14 – Kinetic Energy Weapons and Munitions

Type: FN Herstal 303 Launcher

- **Equipment usage:** None
- **Complaints and concerns received 706:** None
- **Violation(s) of SMCPD Policy 706:** None
 - **Internal audits:** SMCPD audited the listed military equipment and there were no violations of the policy.
 - **Actions taken:** None