

# Soledad Police Department

## AB 481 Annual Report 2025-2026

### Annual Report

AB 481 requires the Police Department to provide the City Council and the public with a report outlining how the military equipment possessed and/or acquired by the City during the previous year was used in order to ensure the police department is adhering to its policy and the City ordinance concerning military equipment. This is the first year that the Department has listed its drones, acquired in 2022 and 2026, as military equipment. See New Sections 3 and 4 and Note at end of report, all marked with \*.

#### 1. M16A2 Commando 5.56 patrol carbine rifles

- A. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use. **These weapons may be deployed in circumstances in which an officer can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. (E.g., where an officer anticipates an armed encounter, need for long range fire, where an officer believes a suspect may be wearing body armor). Use of the ammunition for these weapons requires special training by POST certified trainers.**
- B. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment. **None.**
- C. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response. **None.**
- D. 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 year following submission of the annual military equipment report. **Minimal maintenance and training costs, paid for out of Police Department Budget.**
- E. The quantity possessed of each type of military equipment. **Thirteen.**
- F. If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment. **None.**

#### 2. Ammunition for M16A2 Commando 5.56 patrol carbine rifles

- A. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use. **Used for target practice only.**
- B. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment. **None.**
- C. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response. **None.**
- D. 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 year following submission of the annual military equipment report. **No cost for this reporting period.**
- E. The quantity possessed of each type of military equipment. **7,559 +/- rounds.**

- F. If the law enforcement agency intends to acquire additional military equipment in the next year, the quantity sought for each type of military equipment. **None.**
3. **\*Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) (aka “drones”)**. The Soledad Police Department operates one Skydio X2 UAS. The UAS is an unmanned, remotely powered and piloted aerial system that can sustain direct flight, designed for gathering information via photograph, recording or other means. The UAS is equipped with a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) and optical zoom lenses.
- A. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use. **The Soledad Police Department uses the UAS for law enforcement operations to preserve and enhance public safety. The UAS can be deployed when an overhead view would assist officers or incident commanders with planning and responding to situations such as:**
- a. **Public safety and life preservation missions including, but not limited to, barricaded suspects, hostage situations, active shooters, apprehension of armed and dangerous fleeing suspects, and during the execution of search warrants.**
  - b. **Major traffic collision investigations.**
  - c. **Natural disaster management or disaster response and recovery.**
  - d. **Mass casualty events.**
  - e. **Search for lost or missing persons or rescue events.**
  - f. **Suspected explosive devices.**
  - g. **Post-incident crime scene preservation and documentation.**
  - h. **Pursuant to a search warrant.**
  - i. **Anytime a UAS would enhance public safety and improve operational safety.**
  - j. **Anti-UAV operations when a person is operating a UAV in a manner which impedes emergency personnel who, in the course of their duties, are coping with an emergency (refer to Penal Code 402(a)(2)).**
  - k. **Training missions.**
  - l. **Mutual aid support or training missions in support of Soledad CALFIRE when the underlying mission meets the uses outlined in policy. Unmanned aerial systems used by the Soledad Police Department are used in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.**
  - m. **Special Events.**
- In Fiscal Year 2025/2026 the drone has a total of 13 flights, one of which was for training.**
- B. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment. **None.**
- C. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response. **None.**
- D. 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 year following submission of the annual military equipment report. **There have been two pilots who have been sent to UAV certification training, which had a total one-time**

**cost of \$350. This was done in order for both pilots to be in compliance to fly both department owned UAV(s).**

E. The quantity possessed of each type of military equipment. **One.**

4. **\*Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) (aka “drones”)**. The Soledad Police Department operates one DJI Avata 2 FPV UAS. This UAS is an unmanned, remotely powered and piloted aerial system that can sustain direct flight, designed for gathering information via photograph, recording or other means. The Avata 2 UAS is a smaller drone that is flown remotely in FPV (First-Person View) mode. FPV is where the pilot wears FPV goggles that receive a live, real-time video feed transmitted directly from the drone's onboard camera.
- A. A summary of how the military equipment was used and the purpose of its use. **The Soledad Police Department uses this UAS for law enforcement operations to preserve and enhance public safety. The UAS is compact enough to be flown inside buildings and can be used to visually clear the interior of a building prior to sending in police personnel. The UAS can be deployed when an overhead view would assist officers or incident commanders with planning and responding to situations such as:**
- a. **Public safety and life preservation missions including, but not limited to, barricaded suspects, hostage situations, active shooters, apprehension of armed and dangerous fleeing suspects, and during the execution of search warrants.**
  - b. **Major traffic collision investigations.**
  - c. **Natural disaster management or disaster response and recovery.**
  - d. **Mass casualty events.**
  - e. **Search for lost or missing persons or rescue events.**
  - f. **Suspected explosive devices.**
  - g. **Post-incident crime scene preservation and documentation.**
  - h. **Pursuant to a search warrant.**
  - i. **Anytime a UAS would enhance public safety and improve operational safety.**
  - j. **Anti-UAV operations when a person is operating a UAV in a manner which impedes emergency personnel who, in the course of their duties, are coping with an emergency (refer to Penal Code 402(a)(2)).**
  - k. **Training missions.**
  - l. **Mutual aid support or training missions in support of Soledad CALFIRE Department when the underlying mission meets the uses outlined in policy. Unmanned aerial systems used by the Soledad Police Department are used in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.**
  - m. **Special Events.**  
**The Avata 2 has not been deployed since its acquisition.**
- B. A summary of any complaints or concerns received concerning the military equipment. **None.**
- C. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the military equipment use policy, and any actions taken in response. **None.**
- D. 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 year

following submission of the annual military equipment report. **This UAV had total one-time cost of \$1,459.04.**

E. The quantity possessed of each type of military equipment. **One.**

\* This equipment was purchased and used by the Police Department without compliance with Soledad Police Department Policy Manual Policy 709-Military Equipment due to a misunderstanding concerning the applicability of said policy to the involved equipment. The City is disclosing non-compliance in accordance with law, and describing the use of the equipment, unmanned aerial systems (drones), for the sake of transparency. Further use of the equipment is currently prohibited until the Department has achieved compliance with those portions of the City's policy that require council approval for the acquisition and use of military equipment.