



Apache Junction Police Department Memorandum



Date: April 18, 2019
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Thomas E. Kelly, Chief of Police
Through: R. Joel Stern, City Attorney
Subject: Agreement with Honor Healthcare for Tactical Paramedic

This is brought before you after numerous months of research, training, testing and certifications. Back a few years ago, dedicated fire district paramedics were previously assigned to our SWAT Team to act as a safe guard for our officers should a critical incident occur. That dedicated opportunity ended and it was realized we needed to figure out a way to replace this critical need. With this in mind, we sought the certification of at least one department personnel to become Arizona and nationally certified. With this, it is required that a medical facility (hospital) sponsor or support the licensee. (Detective Chad Southwick had been a licensed paramedic in Michigan since 1996 and a SWAT operator. The paramedic role is a collateral duty) That primary role as the team tactical paramedic is to take care of team members, secondary is the treatment of any injury to victims, bystanders and suspects. A tactical paramedic is not a legal requirement for SWAT teams however it is within the industry standard. The deployment of tactical paramedics on the SWAT team reduce liability and most importantly provide critical care in hot zones, during critical incidents. The SWAT paramedic will be an asset as fire district paramedics currently will not enter hot or warm zones to provide care. Once life threats are stabilized the casualty (patient) will be turned over to fire district paramedics for further care and transport. The tactical paramedic is the critical link in the chain of survival, during a traumatic injury event.

Here is where Honor Health comes in: All paramedics working in the field are required to be covered by a medical director, at a particular hospital, much like all police officers are required to be certified by AZPOST. The medical director for Honor Health is Dr. Stites, while not the closest hospital, he was chosen as he covers all the DPS and MCSO paramedics, who are most related to our needs. DPS paramedics guided us during this process and they were more than helpful by connecting us with Honor Health and Dr. Stites. We have spoken to him several times and he is more than willing to assist due to our officer's training, experience and licensure levels.

The medical director or (base hospital) assumes liability for the identified provider (paramedic) as long he is acting within the base hospitals policy and protocols. The medical director also is responsible for the officer's training to ensure proficiency standards are met. If we do not meet the annual training requirements and credits for licensure they have the authority to deactivate us at any time. There are no additional costs or liabilities to the city beyond what it assumed when we had a fire district

paramedic assigned.

Detective Southwick has been training with Honor Health and Dr. Stites over the last year while obtaining Arizona and National Certification, which was a difficult process to obtain. Honor Health staff have been great to work with and they understand the importance of this program.