



Police Vehicle Use of Force

Brief Overview

This note covering [law enforcement use of force](#) was created from the [Kern County Sheriff says it was his deputy that ran over suspected killer in Porterville - YouTube](#) YouTube video. It outlines the incident summary, tactical vehicle deployment, Rook vs BearCat performance, and inter-county coordination.

Key Points

- A concise recap of the Porterville shooting and deputy response.
 - Comparison of the Rook tactical vehicle and BearCat armored carrier.
 - Key tactical considerations such as suspect ambush tactics and vehicle vulnerability.
 - The role of multi-agency cooperation in high-risk incidents.
-



Use of Force Overview

Use of Force – The protocols and tactics employed by law enforcement when confronting armed or dangerous suspects, including deployment of specialized vehicles and weapons.



Incident Summary

- **Deputy Randy Hopper** (Tulare County) was shot and killed in the line of duty.
- **Kern County SWAT** was called in to assist with:
 - **Rook** tactical vehicle
 - **BearCat** armored vehicle
- **Suspect behavior:**
 1. Moved around the interior of the residence.
 2. Exited through a back window.
 3. Positioned to ambush deputies, possibly awaiting ground troops.
 4. Fired a **high-powered rifle** at approaching officers.



Deployment Details

- **Rook** deployment:
 - Arrived on scene and was **shot several times**.
 - Ultimately **ran over the suspect**, resulting in the suspect's death.

- **BearCat** deployment:
 - Contained deputies inside the armored cabin.
 - While approaching the back of the house, it **sustained four rounds** to the driver's side windshield.
 - Also **shot several times** before the suspect was neutralized.

Vehicle Comparison Table

Feature	Rook	BearCat
Purpose	Tactical response vehicle	Armored personnel carrier
Crew Capacity	Driver + up to 2 deputies	Driver + multiple deputies (exact number not specified)
Armament Protection	Light-to-moderate ballistic shielding	Heavy ballistic shielding (windshield resistant to small arms)
Damage Sustained	Shot multiple times; used to run over suspect	Four rounds to driver's side windshield; shot multiple times
Outcome	Successfully ran over suspect, ending threat	Survived engagement; deputies remained protected inside

Key Terms & Definitions

Rook – A specialized tactical vehicle used by law enforcement for rapid response and limited protection against small arms fire.

BearCat – An armored vehicle designed to protect officers from high-powered weapons; commonly equipped with ballistic glass and reinforced hull.

High-Powered Rifle – A firearm capable of delivering lethal force at extended ranges, often used by suspects to challenge police units.

Critical Points for Review

- **Coordination** between counties (Tulare & Kern) is essential for rapid deployment of specialized assets.
- **Vehicle vulnerability**: Even heavily armored vehicles like the BearCat can sustain multiple hits; understanding their limits is crucial.
- **Tactical positioning**: Suspects may attempt to ambush at exit points; officers must maintain situational awareness when approaching structures.
- **Use of force** culminated in lethal action when the suspect posed an imminent threat; the Rook's maneuver to run over the suspect was decisive.