



CANINE OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENT GUIDELINES

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I. MISSION & ROLE

The mission of the ***Canine*** Unit is to provide line support to Department personnel by providing highly mobile, specially trained, police ***service dogs***. The police ***service dog is primarily utilized as a locating tool***, capable of searching for items or people and apprehending criminal suspects while providing additional safety for the police officer. ***Application of the police service dog as a use of force for protection and safety purposes may be required, depending on the circumstances.***

II. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Canine Unit consists of multiple canine teams that offer a wide range of capabilities. Most canine teams assigned to the Canine Unit are trained in multiple disciplines, also known as police service dogs (ie. Patrol/Drug Dog, Patrol/Explosive Dog, etc.). The remaining canine teams are utilized to perform one discipline (ie. Drug Dog, Missing Persons Dog, etc.)

A. Patrol Dogs

1. Detect, locate, and apprehend offenders who attempt to elude and/or resist arrest.
2. Search buildings and enclosed areas for suspected criminals.
3. Track fleeing criminals, ***offenders*** and escapees, or lost persons who for humanitarian reasons must be located by the police as soon as possible.
4. Establish and maintain perimeter control in situations such as, ***warrant services and barricade/hostage incidents***, etc.
5. Provide a strong psychological deterrent for the criminal element.
6. ***Assist in locating articles and evidence.***

B. Specialty Dogs

1. ***Drug Detection Dogs***– Detect and locate controlled dangerous substances by scent discrimination to include: ***heroin, marijuana, cocaine, MDMA, and methamphetamine.***
2. ***Explosive Detection Dogs***– ***A canine that is trained to detect the odor of explosive materials and compounds*** to include: TNT, black powder, detonation cord, plastic explosives, ***peroxide-based explosives, fired weapons and evidence related to fired weapons***, along with numerous other explosive compounds.

3. Non-Aggressive Search/Track *Dogs (Missing Persons Dog)* – Used to search for critically missing/lost, injured or sick persons.

III. DEPLOYMENT

The Police Service Dog is a vital instrument utilized primarily as a locating tool, with the secondary capability as a use of force. The decision for a canine to be deployed rests solely with the canine handler. If the requesting supervisor insists on a deployment, the canine officer will contact the canine sergeant, SOS lieutenant or his/her designee before deploying the canine.

A. Patrol Dog Deployment

1. *Calls for service which have the potential for the deployment of a patrol canine include, but are not limited to:*
 - a. *Tracking*
 - b. *Building Searches*
 - c. *Area Searches*
 - d. *Article/Evidence Searches*
 - e. *Perimeter Support for Incidents.*
 - f. *Protection of Law Enforcement Personnel*
 - g. *Crowd Control*
 - h. *Humanitarian Searches*
2. *Canines may be used to search, locate and apprehend suspects under the following conditions:*
 - a. *Canine handlers will make a reasonable effort to locate suspects with minimum risk to Police Department employees, citizens and to the suspect.*
 - b. *Prior to the deployment of the canine, the handler must have sufficient information based on sources such as radio transmissions, statements by victims, witnesses and/or officers to establish as conclusive as possible that the suspect was involved in the crime.*
 - c. *The handler will make a reasonable effort to ensure there are no innocent third parties in the area where the canine will be deployed.*
3. *A search may be conducted for suspect(s) who do not pose an immediate threat, lost or missing persons, suicidal persons, suspicious persons, or, when in the opinion of the handler it is in the best interest of the department and/or the community. The following procedures will be followed:*
 - a. *The police service dog will remain on lead.*
 - b. *The police service dog will not be released on a fleeing subject.*
 - c. *Once the subject has been located the police service dog will be kept a safe distance to prevent the police service dog from contacting the subject(s). Officers assisting in the search will take the subject into custody.*
 - d. *When possible, a cover officer will accompany the primary handler during these searches.*
 - e. *If at any time a handler is uncertain about conducting a search under these circumstances a canine unit supervisor will be contacted to discuss the details.*
4. *The responsibility for a canine use of force resides with the canine handler. The use of force will be reviewed by his/her chain of command. All canine bites, with the exception of training incidents or unintentional bites on county personnel, require use of force reporting.*

5. **Crowd Control** - *Canine* deployment for crowd control or civil disorder can only be authorized by an on-duty sergeant or above (Acting sergeants excluded) and will be conducted with the utmost consideration for the facts at hand and the severity of the incident. Under exigent circumstances and when no supervisor is at the scene, a *canine* handler may use his/her canine for crowd control if he/she deems it necessary. A Special Operations supervisor and district patrol supervisor are to be made aware of the deployment immediately after the event has stabilized and the situation is under control.
6. **Humanitarian Searches** - *Canines* may be deployed to search for lost, injured or sick persons.
 - a. Non-Aggressive Search/Track *Canine* – The department's non-aggressive search/track *-canine* may be deployed to search for lost, injured or sick persons. The non-aggressive search/track *canine* will not be deployed to search for persons facing criminal or traffic charges, regardless of injury or other critical circumstances.
 - b. *During critical situations where a Non-Aggressive Search/Track Canine is not available or not readily available during a time-critical incident, the canine handler can utilize a patrol canine for the purposes of humanitarian searches.*

B. Drug Dog Deployment

Calls for service which have the potential for the deployment of a drug dog include, but are not limited to:

1. *Sniffs of Motor Vehicle*
2. *Drug Interdiction in Public Places*
3. *Sniffs Relative to Search Warrant Executions*
4. *Establish Probable Cause for Search Warrants*
5. *Sniffs for Drug Related Evidence*

C. Explosive Detection Dog Deployment

Calls for service which have the potential for the deployment of an explosive detection dog include, but are not limited to:

1. *Bomb Threats*
2. *Suspicious/Unattended Items*
3. *Pre-Event Sniffs*
4. *VIP Sweeps*
5. *Establish Probable Cause for Search Warrants*
6. *Sniffs for Explosive/Firearms Related Evidence*

D. Evidence/Article Dog Deployment

Dogs trained in the discipline of evidence/article searches can be utilized to locate items where human odor is present. Calls for service which have the potential for the deployment of an evidence/article dog include, but are not limited to:

1. *Weapons-related offense where a firearm was used but not fired.*
2. *Any incident where property has been discarded in an inconspicuous location.*

IV. PATROL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The success of a canine team during deployments is directly affected by the actions of the officers on scene. Adherence to the following guidelines will assist the responding canine team with conducting an effective deployment.

A. Definitions

1. *Last Known Point- a definable point for an outstanding subject corroborated by evidence or information.*
2. *Last Point Seen- a definable point for an outstanding subject was last observed by an officer, witness or victim.*

B. Patrol Dog Deployment

1. *Officers shall gather as much pertinent information as possible prior to the canine team's arrival, making sure to disseminate it to other involved units.*
2. *Officers and supervisors shall set up a perimeter and avoid contaminating the search area.*
3. *When a subject has fled the scene and the pursuing officer loses sight of the subject, the pursuit should be immediately terminated and a perimeter established. The officer involved in the initial pursuit should be able to direct the canine unit to the last known point or last point seen for the subject.*
4. *Officers at the scene shall contain the area to the extent possible to prevent the escape of the subject and maintain perimeter security.*
5. *Officers on scene shall maintain tactical awareness and refrain from entering the search area unless instructed to do so by the canine handler or an on scene supervisor. Any entrance into the search area will be communicated to the canine handler.*
6. *If officers have entered the search area prior to the canine team's arrival, it should be ensured that all officers have exited the area prior to the canine team's search. This contamination should only occur during the most exigent circumstances. Any contamination shall be communicated to the canine handler.*
7. *The requesting officer or on scene supervisor shall ascertain if any hazards (Environmental, Biological, Structural, etc.) are present in the area where the canine team is to search and advise the canine handler prior to deployment.*
8. *Upon arrival of the canine team, the canine handler may assign an officer(s) to act as a cover element for the canine team during search procedures. Any officers utilized in this capacity will adhere to the instructions given by the canine handler.*
9. *Officers shall maintain an awareness of the canine team's location, understanding that interference with the canine team's activities may result in personal injury to the officer or others.*
10. *When a canine team has been requested or is responding to an incident, it is the responsibility of the officer, or a supervisor, handling the incident to cancel the responding canine team(s) if they are no longer needed.*

C. Drug Dog Detection Deployment

1. *When the potential need for a drug dog arises during an incident, a request for the canine team should be made as soon as practical. By doing so, the canine team is able to arrive on scene in a timely manner.*
2. *It is the requesting officer's responsibility to follow all appropriate guidelines as stated in the most current Departmental Index Codes.*
3. *The requesting officer or on scene supervisor shall ascertain if any hazards (Environmental, Biological, Structural, etc.) are present in the area where the canine team is to search and advise the canine handler prior to deployment.*
4. *If an officer(s) accompanies the canine team during the search, the officer(s) will follow all directions given by the canine handler relating to the search.*
5. *When a canine team has been requested or is responding to an incident, it is the responsibility of the officer, or a supervisor, handling the incident to cancel the responding canine team(s) if they are no longer needed.*

D. Explosive Dog Detection Deployment

1. *When the potential need for an explosive detection dog arises during an incident, a request for the canine team should be made as soon as practical.*

2. *It is the requesting officer's responsibility to follow all appropriate guidelines as stated in the most current Departmental Index Codes.*
3. *The requesting officer or on scene supervisor shall brief the canine handler and provide pertinent information. Such information may include:*
 - a. *When and how the bomb threat was received or the item located.*
 - b. *A detonation timeline, if given*
 - c. *Location of suspected device(s)*
 - d. *Any information provided by a suspect(s), to include the type of device and motive for placement*
 - e. *Past history of bomb threats or related activities.*
 - f. *Locations of first responders.*
4. *The requesting officer or on scene supervisor should attempt to ascertain if any hazards (Environmental, Biological, Structural, etc.) are present in the area where the canine team is to search and advise the canine handler prior to deployment.*
5. *If an officer(s) accompanies the canine team during the search, the officer(s) will follow all directions given by the canine handler relating to the search.*
6. *When a canine team has been requested or is responding to an incident, it is the responsibility of the officer, or a supervisor, handling the incident to cancel the responding canine team(s) if they are no longer needed.*

E. Article Dog Detection Deployment

1. *When the potential need for an article detection dog arises during an incident, a request for the canine team should be made as soon as practical.*
2. *The requesting officer or on scene supervisor should attempt to ascertain if any hazards (Environmental, Biological, Structural, etc.) are present in the area where the canine team is to search and advised the canine handler prior to deployment.*
3. *If an officer(s) accompanies the canine team during the search, the officer(s) will follow all directions given by the canine handler relating to the search.*
4. *When a canine team has been requested or is responding to an incident, it is the responsibility of the officer, or a supervisor, handling the incident to cancel the responding canine team(s) if they are no longer needed.*

V. REQUEST FOR ALLIED AGENCY K-9 SUPPORT

- A. *In an effort to provide essential canine coverage, the Canine Unit has the ability to deploy departmental canine teams 24 hours a day/7 days a week. When departmental canine teams are not available, the Special Operations Section works in partnership with allied agencies to ensure quick response times for operational needs. Requests for allied agency canine teams should be made through the working canine teams. This can be achieved by requesting the working canine team on Channel 5. If there is not a working canine team, requests for allied agency canine teams should be made through the on-call canine team or the Canine Unit Supervisor.*
- B. *When a canine team has been requested or is responding to an incident, it is the responsibility of the officer, or a supervisor, handling the incident to cancel the responding canine team(s) if they are no longer needed.*

VI. CANINE TEAM RESTRICTIONS

- A. *The Canine Unit's primary role is to respond to calls requiring canine deployment. Canine handlers will not routinely investigate motor vehicle accidents or handle calls for service that require investigation.*
- B. *Canine handlers will not transport prisoners in the Personal Patrol Vehicle (PPV) when the Police Service Dog is kenneled in the vehicle.*
- C. *Canine teams will not be deployed to search for other animals.*

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VII. PROPONENT UNIT: Special Operations Division.

VIII. CANCELLATION: This directive cancels Index Code 1661, dated 05-24-11.