

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 17

September 15, 2015

SUBJECT: CANINE (K-9) PLATOON – RENAMED AND REVISED; AND, GUIDELINES FOR K-9 SEARCHES – FIELD NOTEBOOK DIVIDER, FORM 18.42.00 – REVISED

PURPOSE: On December 1, 2014, Gang and Narcotics Division (GND) assumed tracking/trailing bloodhound responsibilities for the search of suspects and critical missing persons. This Order renames and revises Department Manual Section 4/212.70, *Canine (K-9) Platoon*, so that requests for tracking/trailing bloodhounds shall be made through Communications Division, or by telephonically contacting Gang and Narcotics Division. This Order also revises the Guidelines for K-9 Searches – Field Notebook Divider, Form 18.42.00, to reflect the revised procedures.

For additional information, please refer to the Chief of Detective Notice, *Deployment of Gang and Narcotics Division K9 Bloodhound Program Protocols*, dated May 12, 2015.

PROCEDURE:

- I. **CANINE (K-9) PLATOON – RENAMED AND REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/212.70, *Canine (K-9) Platoon*, has been revised and renamed *Metropolitan Division Canine Platoon*. Attached is the revised Manual Section with the revisions indicated in italics.
- II. **GUIDELINES FOR K-9 SEARCHES – FIELD NOTEBOOK DIVIDER, FORM 18.42.00 – REVISED.** Attached is the revised Guidelines for K-9 Searches – Field Notebook Divider, with the revisions indicated in italics.

FORM AVAILABILITY: The revised Guidelines for K-9 Searches – Field Notebook Divider is available in E-Forms on the Department’s Local Area Network. A copy of the revised form is attached for immediate use and duplication.

AMENDMENT: This Order amends Section 4/212.70 of the Department Manual. The Organization and Functions of the LAPD applicable to GND responsibilities has been updated, and is accessible on the Department’s LAN.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION “D”

**DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
Revised by Special Order No. 17, 2015**

212.70 METROPOLITAN DIVISION CANINE PLATOON. The services of the *Metropolitan Division Canine (Metro K-9) Platoon* are available on a “24-hour-a-day” basis. When Department personnel determine there is a need for the services of the *Metro K-9 Platoon*, requests shall be made through Communications Division or by telephonically contacting Metropolitan Division.

Note: Gang and Narcotics Division is responsible for tracking/trailing bloodhounds. Requests for tracking/trailing bloodhounds shall be made through Communications Division, or by telephonically contacting Gang and Narcotics Division during regular business between 0800 and 2200 hours. Off-hour call-outs should be made to Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response (RACR) Division between 2201 and 0759 hours.

GUIDELINES FOR K-9 SEARCHES

GUIDELINES FOR K-9 SEARCHES

These guidelines are to provide field personnel with the basic information concerning Metropolitan Division K-9 Platoon. The timely start of a K-9 search can be critical to successfully locating a suspect. Pertinent information is needed to determine how the search teams will be deployed.

The incident commander requesting a K-9 search team must provide the following information to K-9 personnel prior to their response:

- *Type of crime(s).*
- *Number of outstanding suspect(s).*
- *Weapon(s) involved.*
- *Were there shots fired at officers; at victims?*
- *Was this an officer-involved shooting?*
- *Location of command post.*
- *Major cross streets.*
- *Perimeter size; number of blocks, type of area and building description, if necessary.*
- *Air unit on scene.*

Upon arrival of K-9 personnel, a situation assessment and search plan will be developed and coordinated with the incident commander. Prior to the initiation of a search, a patrol supervisor or a K-9 supervisor **shall** be present. All searches shall be approved by a K-9 supervisor trained in K-9 policies and procedures.

K-9 SEARCH CRITERIA

- Search for felony suspect(s);
- Search for misdemeanor suspects reasonably believed to be armed with a *firearm* or other deadly weapon;
- Search in conjunction with a pre-planned or spontaneous SWAT-related incident; or,
- Search for evidence related to a criminal investigation.

The factors to consider when determining whether the above criteria are met include, but are not limited to:

- *Crime(s) involved;*
- *Whether there is reason to believe the suspect is armed;*
- *Weapons or access to weapons;*
- *Threat level assessment and public safety issues;*
- *Age of suspect; and,*
- *Search environment (residential, apartment building, field, industrial area).*

Note: *Gang and Narcotics Division is responsible for tracking/trailing bloodhounds. Requests for tracking/trailing bloodhounds shall be made through Communications Division, or by telephonically contacting Gang and Narcotics Division during regular business hours between 0800 and 2200 hours. Off-hours call-outs should be made to Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response (RACR) Division between 2201 and 0759 hours.*

OFF-HOUR K-9 CALL-OUT PROCEDURES

All search requests during off-hours shall be made to Metropolitan Division desk personnel at (213)833-3715. An on-call K-9 supervisor will be contacted and will determine if on-call K-9 personnel will be deployed to the incident. The K-9 supervisor will evaluate each request based upon the totality of the circumstances of the incident. *Off-hour call-outs should be made to RACR Division between 0001 and 0600 hours. Metropolitan Division desk personnel shall be contacted at (213) 833-3715 for any K-9 requests between 0600 hours to midnight.*

SEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT

At the start of a K-9 search, the K-9 officer directing the search **shall** give or cause to be given a K-9 announcement and warning that a K-9 will be deployed.

When exigent or unique circumstances make the announcement and warning unreasonable or impractical, the K-9 supervisor may, with concurrence from the incident commander, authorize the K-9 search without the announcement.

The following Search Announcement and Warning is required

"This is the Los Angeles Police Department; we are searching for a suspect and are preparing to use a police dog. For your safety, please go inside your home or business and stay inside until we have completed our search.

To the person or persons who are hiding from the police. Make your location known to us immediately. Put down all weapons, come out with your hands raised, and follow directions. If you do not, a police dog will be used to find you. When the dog finds you, do not move or you may be bitten.

You have one minute to surrender."

GUIDELINES FOR K-9 SEARCHES

When there is a reasonable belief that the suspect may not be fluent in English, or the residential area (community) may be fluent in another language and time reasonably allows, efforts should be made to deliver the announcement and warning in both English and the appropriate language.

Spanish:

"Este es el Departamento de Policía de los Ángeles, buscamos a un sospechoso y estamos preparados para enviar a un perro policía. Por su seguridad, por favor entre a su casa o negocio y permanezca dentro hasta que nosotros hayamos concluido con nuestra búsqueda. A la persona o las personas que se esconden de la policía. Háganos saber donde se encuentra inmediatamente. Coloque todas sus armas en el piso, salga con las manos arriba y siga nuestras instrucciones. Si no lo hace, usaremos a un perro policía para que lo encuentre. Cuando el perro lo haya encontrado no se mueva *por que el perro podría morderlo*.

Usted tiene un minuto para rendirse."