

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 17-03

November 8, 2017

TO: Metropolitan Division Personnel

FROM: Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division

SUBJECT: K-9 PLATOON OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES - LONG LINE DEPLOYMENTS

PURPOSE: This Order addresses the K-9 Platoon's operational responsibilities during long line deployments. All K-9 Platoon and Metropolitan Division personnel, as appropriate, are responsible for adherence to the guidelines specified in this Order.

DEFINITION: A K-9 long line deployment (herein "after referred to as "directed deployment") is one of the many tools available to an incident commander during the resolution of a barricaded suspect incident. In this scenario, the canine is fitted with a harness. A long line (50 foot) is attached to the harness. The harness and long line act as a controlling device, by the person in control of the long line, of the canine. Trained K-9 personnel control the long line while preventing the forward movement of the canine and the suspect who may be attempting to flee back into an unsecured location. This tactic can be utilized when a suspect who may be armed exits his barricaded position and is in an optimal environment for the canine to be deployed. For example: A suspect has been ordered out of a structure and has left the threshold area, be it a door or building opening. The K-9 handler and the associated team will determine *when* to effect the directed deployment of the canine, to stop the suspect from making entry back into an unsecured location.

NOTE: While the decision of *when* to engage in a directed deployment is left up to the K-9 handler and the long line operator, the decision to employ such a tactic is that of the on-scene incident commander (IC).

PROCEDURE: Upon arrival at the scene of a barricaded suspect situation where employment of a directed deployment may become necessary, the K-9 handler shall meet with the on-scene IC and brief him/her on the aspects and availability of the K-9 directed deployment as an available tactic. The K-9 handler shall seek prior approval from the IC to utilize the directed deployment tactic as a tool, if necessary, to resolve the incident. If necessary, the on-scene Metropolitan Division command officer and/or the on-scene Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB) staff officer will work with the IC to resolve any issues of concern. It is imperative that K-9 personnel operate the long line consistent with their training.

The decision as to whether to allow the canine to complete its contact with the suspect shall be guided by the actions of the suspect. Among other tactical factors, the handler must take the following into account:

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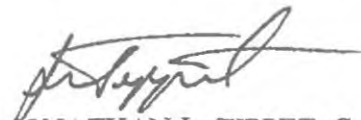
- The distance the canine must cover;
- Any obstacles that may inhibit the directed deployment;
- The apparent strength and stature of the suspect;
- And whether or not the K-9 has a secure hold of the suspect.

Prior to employing a directed deployment, the K-9 handler and associated team must be fully briefed on the particular incident at hand. Factors to be considered and discussed prior to the directed deployment should include, but not limited to:

- History of the suspect (what is he wanted for, was he armed);
- Mental state of the suspect;
- Complete description of the suspect (physical stature);
- Is the suspect alone - can that be verified;
- Is the perimeter set (outer and inner) and do perimeter personnel understand what the role of the canine is during a directed deployment;
- A complete overview of the environment (this may require scouting operation); and
- Is the use of a canine viable for deployment (distance from threshold, obstacles and background)

Once approval has been acquired from the IC and the decision has been made to effect a directed deployment, all involved personnel, including personnel assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics, must be briefed either in person or via radio on the decided plan. A designated cover officer as well as dedicated less lethal equipped (beanbag or 40 mm) officer shall be assigned to the directed deployment team. Once the directed deployment has been effected, discipline of the team is imperative. The K-9 handler and the associated arrest team must move quickly and safely to close the distance and to control the suspect. At no time shall the K-9 handler and or the K-9 long line operator allow the canine to make entry into a location unless the decision was already made to do so as part of the tactical plan. Allowing a canine, whether attached to a long line or not, into a location that has not been secured could force personnel to make premature entry into a location, thereby placing themselves and the K-9 in danger. Additionally, this situation could quickly escalate into an event that may unnecessarily result in a use of force. Either scenario can be avoided with proper use and control of the long line.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection is required in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



Jonathan L. TIPPET, Captain
Commanding Officer
Metropolitan Division

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