

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE

16.2

December 22, 2014

TO: Concerned Commanding Officers

FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: EXPANDED USE OF BOMB DETECTION CANINES AT BOMB THREAT CALLS - PILOT PROGRAM - OPERATIONS-WEST BUREAU

Effective immediately, a pilot program will commence in Operations-West Bureau (OWB). The purpose of the pilot program is to expand the circumstances where an Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) may be used at the scene of a bomb threat call. This pilot program will continue until further notice. Current Department policy restricts the use of EDCs to certain types of bomb threat calls and locations. In addition, current policy also mandates that Bomb Squad personnel have to accompany EDC teams during searches. As a result, patrol personnel have not been able to fully take advantage of this important resource and have been completing the walkthrough of bomb threat locations without an EDC present. An EDC is a reliable tool to detect explosive odor and is superior to a visual walkthrough of a bomb threat location by patrol personnel alone.

Incident commanders responding to a bomb threat call in OWB may now request an EDC response when they intend to deploy police officers on a walkthrough at a bomb threat incident consistent with this pilot program. In such cases, a supervisor assigned to the Bomb Detection Canine Section, Emergency Services Division (ESD), shall be contacted. The Bomb Detection Canine supervisor will determine if a canine is available to deploy, if the canine team will deploy to the call alone, or if the canine team will be deployed with the Bomb Squad. Normally, a canine will be deployed without the Bomb Squad for non-specific threats that do not involve government buildings, a key resource, or critical infrastructure locations. An EDC will respond Code 2 to the call location if no Bomb Squad response is necessary. An EDC shall not be used to clear suspicious items that are encountered. In such situations, the search will be halted and Bomb Squad personnel summoned to the location. In addition, the search will be halted and Bomb Squad personnel summoned to assist the EDCs anytime information becomes available that would warrant their response.

This program and expanded use of the EDCs does not apply to preplanned special events. Commanding officers anticipating the need for EDCs at these types of events should continue to contact the Commanding Officer, ESD, as part of the event planning process. This expanded use of EDCs is not expected to adversely impact current Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) deployment restrictions (80/20 rule) for TSA program canine teams. For this initial pilot program only non-TSA program canine teams will be used.

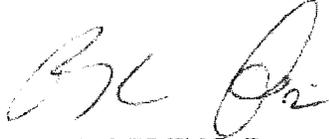
All Commanding Officers

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A supervisor from the Bomb Detection Canine Section can be reached anytime via Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division at (213) 484-6700 or through ESD during normal business hours at (323) 342-4267.

If there are any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Lieutenant Raymond Garvin, Acting Commanding Officer, ESD, at (213) 342- 4200.



MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

APPROVED:



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