

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE
15.2

June 18, 2015

TO: All Concerned Commanding Officers

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

SUBJECT: EXPANDED USE OF BOMB DETECTION CANINES ON ALL BOMB
THREAT CALLS

Effective immediately, an Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) may be used at the scene of any bomb threat call. Prior Department policy restricted the use of EDCs to certain types of bomb threat calls and locations. In addition, the prior policy mandated that Bomb Squad personnel had to accompany EDC teams during searches. As a result, patrol personnel were not able to fully take advantage of this important resource and were 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 location by patrol personnel alone.


Incident Commanders responding to a bomb threat call may now request an EDC when they intend to complete a walkthrough of a location subject to a bomb threat incident. 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 3 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. A search will also 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 pre-planned 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 because only non-TSA program canines (City dogs), when on-duty, will be used for non-specific bomb threats not requiring a joint EDC and Bomb Squad response. The non-TSA program EDCs are generally on-duty 1000-2000 hours Monday through Friday.


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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) 342-4200.

If there are any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Captain Rolando Solano, Commanding Officer, ESD, at (213) 342-4267.


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

APPROVED:


SEAN W. MALINOWSKI, Commander
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