

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 6**

March 2, 2021

**SUBJECT: HIGH RISK K-9 SEARCHES - ESTABLISHED**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Order is to establish Department procedures for high risk K-9 searches, where the person sought poses a continued propensity for violence against a police officer through the use of a firearm, or other deadly weapon. The new procedures will ensure that the appropriate personnel conduct these searches while protecting the safety of officers and the public.

**PROCEDURE:** Department Manual Section 4/214.16, *High Risk K-9 Searches*, has been established and is attached.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order adds Section 4/214.16 to the Department Manual.

**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.

  
MICHEL R. MOORE  
Chief of Police

Attachment

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**DEPARTMENT MANUAL  
VOLUME IV  
Revised by Special Order No. 6 , 2021**

**214.16 HIGH RISK K-9 SEARCHES.** *When K-9 supported efforts to apprehend a person who, through the use of a firearm or other deadly weapon, is suspected of committing a murder of, or assault upon a peace officer, and the continued propensity for violence against law enforcement personnel exists, the K-9 search team shall, whenever possible, be comprised solely of officers from Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT).*

*The on-scene K-9 supervisor shall make immediate notification to the on-duty SWAT Officer in Charge (OIC) lieutenant, or the on-call SWAT OIC lieutenant during off-hours, for advice and direction. Notification on a recommended course of action shall then be made to the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division (Metro), or designee, and the K-9 Platoon OIC.*

**Note:** *Under exigent circumstances (e.g., imminent risk of harm to the public or officers involved in apprehension efforts), a K-9 search team may include officers from Metropolitan Division who are not assigned to SWAT. These cases require the approval of the Metropolitan Division Commanding Officer or designee, with concurrence of the on-scene Incident Commander (IC). Obtaining approval to deviate from a SWAT-only supported K-9 search shall be the responsibility of the on-scene K-9 supervisor providing direct oversight, after consultation with and approval from the IC.*

*Factors to consider in determining a search team's composition may include, but are not limited to the following:*

- *The weapon used has been recovered or discarded by the suspect;*
- *The search is for an outstanding accomplice or associate who did not actually shoot at officers;*
- *Law enforcement personnel were subsequently deemed not to be the actual intended victims;*
- *The suspect fled into a crowded area or occupied building; and/or,*
- *Time is critical to the suspect's immediate apprehension for public safety.*

*Regardless of the composition of a K-9 search team, the K-9 Platoon OIC or designee shall be notified on all K-9 supported searches resulting from or following an Officer Involved Shooting or Assault with a Deadly Weapon with a firearm upon a police officer.*

**Investigating Hot Spots.** *In instances where the immediate investigation of a "hot spot" (identified by Air Support Division as an unidentified heat source) is critical to public safety, or in determining where best to initiate a search, a K-9 search team should be comprised solely of K-9 and/or Metropolitan Division officers. However, the "hot spot" search should be limited in nature to mitigate or address immediate concerns.*

**Note:** *Consistent with barricaded suspect protocols, containment of an area and awaiting the arrival of SWAT personnel shall be evaluated when determining the depth and scope when investigating a "hot spot" or initiating a full-scale search. The potential that the presence or approach by officers could precipitate an adverse reaction by the suspect, regardless if the suspect is contained within a structure, shall be considered.*