



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-23

OPA Draft

2-23 USE OF CANINE (K-9) UNIT

Related SOP's:

1-64 K-9 Unit

2-23-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is for department personnel to utilize the K-9 Unit to search buildings for intruder and/or track wanted subjects. ~~provide guidelines for Department personnel when to requesting the use of a Canine (K-9) Unit to ensure safety for officers and citizens.~~

2-23-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (department) to provide rules for department personnel when requesting the use of a Canine (K-9) Unit to ensure safety for officers and citizens. ~~utilize the K-9 Unit to search buildings for intruders and to track wanted subjects.~~

2-23-3 Definitions

A. Apprehension

For the purposes of this policy a PSD is deployed and plays a clear and well-documented role in apprehending a suspect or individual. In order to play a clear and documented role, a handler must articulate the PSD role, such as being the subject of warnings, following bark commands, performing a search, or the suspect stating that the PSD influenced their decision to submit to arrest.

B. Deployment

Any situation, except an on-leash article search, where a PSD is brought to the scene and is used in an attempt to locate or apprehend a suspect, whether or not a suspect is located or apprehended.

C. Handler

An officer who is certified in the use of a PSD who is assigned to a particular PSD who deploys with that PSD and is responsible for the PSD's 24-7 care.

D. Police Service Dogs (PSD)

A dog assigned to the K-9 Unit after meeting the selection standards and certification requirements as established by the Department's Tactical Section – K-9 Unit.

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E. Search

When a PSD is deployed into a search area or structure, commercial or residential, to look for and find a specific suspect of a specific crime, or is utilized to ensure that the area/structure is clear of any criminal suspect who may be hiding from law enforcement or evading capture.

~~2-23-2~~ 2-23-4 **Rules**

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A. On-Call Status

K-9 Units are on call 24 hours per day via Communications. If no K-9 Unit is on duty, an on-duty area supervisor must give approval before calling out the K-9 Unit.

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B. Operational Control / Conflict of Orders

1. The K-9 Unit Sergeant will assume operational control of any situation requiring the deployment of the Police Service Dogs (PSD). In the absence of the K-9 Sergeant a Tactical Section Supervisor will be contacted.
2. If the K-9 Unit Sergeant is not present and a Handler is requested by another supervisor to deploy ~~their his/her~~ PSD in a manner that the Handler feels is inappropriate, the Handler will inform the supervisor of this and state the reasons for ~~their his/her~~ concern and contact a Tactical Section Supervisor. Ultimate authority to deploy a Police Service Dog shall be at the discretion of the individual K-9 Handler.
3. Under no circumstance will a Handler comply with an order that he/she knows to be illegal or violates the civil rights of any individual, or is in violation of the Use of Force Policy.
4. If the Handler is participating in a full tactical activation the authority to deploy the Police Service Dog resides with the Tactical Commander or his/her designee.
 - a. When the Tactical Section is activated for first amendment assemblies for demonstrations, incidents or events. ~~crowd control situations, civil disturbances, and/or riots~~, K-9 Handlers will not deploy with their police service dogs as a force option. However, this does not preclude K-9 Handlers from being utilized for other tasks at the discretion of the Tactical Commander.

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C. K-9 Unit Searches

1. Building Searches
 - a. The primary duty of the K-9 Unit is to search buildings for intruders.



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b. During the K-9 Unit's normal working hours, a K-9 Unit will be dispatched to all commercial and school silent alarms.

~~b.~~

c. A K-9 ~~officer and PSD-Unit~~ will be utilized to search all commercial buildings and schools where a point of entry is found or the suspect is believed to be in the building.

d. As soon as a point of entry is found, the building will be secured and no one will be allowed to enter the building until ~~the~~ a K-9 ~~officer and PSD~~ has arrived.

e. In the event a commercial business appears secure, the business will be searched by ~~PSD K-9s~~ only after:

- i. It is determined that there is a strong possibility that the alarm is valid.
- ii. It would be impractical to conduct a search by officers due to building design.
- iii. The owner/manager arrives and requests the search, in concurrence with the officer at the scene.
- iv. Approval has been granted by an on-duty area supervisor.

2. Tracking/Area Searches

a. K-9 Units can be utilized to track a subject and search for articles associated with the subject in an area.

b. Officers should remain out of the area to prevent contamination if a K-9 Unit is to be utilized.

c. The K-9 Unit should be called to the scene as quickly as possible while the subject's scent is still fresh.

3. Apprehension of Fleeing or Resisting Subjects

a. K-9 Units can be used to apprehend persons fleeing or resisting arrest, when there is reason to believe that the subject(s) has committed a felony.

b. The decision to utilize the ~~PSD K-9~~ for apprehension will be based on the threat posed by the subject. The age of the subject (i.e. juvenile) will not preclude the use of the ~~PSD K-9~~, but should be considered in evaluating the threat the subject poses.

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