



PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS

Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard

139 25th Street, Port Area

1018 Manila

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**STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE
NUMBER 11 – 17)**

**UTILIZATION OF CGK9 TEAMS AND PRIVATE K9 ENTITIES TO SECURE THE
PORTS AND PREVENT THE TRANSPORT OF CONTRABANDS
THROUGH ALL WATER CONVEYANCES**

I. REFERENCES:

- A. DOTr Department Order Nr 2007-008
- B. Republic Act 9993
- C. CGK9 Handbook
- D. HPCG SOP No 09-10 dated 24 Mar 2010

III. SCOPE:

This SOP applies to all CGK9 Teams under the Operational Control of the Coast Guard Districts and Private K9 Entities operating in public and private ports.

IV. OBJECTIVES:

A. Provide guidelines in the utilization of CGK9 Teams and private K9 entities to ensure the safety of the seagoing public and detect or prevent the transport of contrabands in all water conveyances.

B. Present the peculiarities of K9 works as well as its restrictions during employment.

C. Promote public trust and confidence in the maritime transportation security K9 operatives.

V. PURPOSES:

A. This SOP establishes the authority of the Area Commanders (Coast Guard Districts/Stations/Sub-Stations) to inspect all cargoes and baggage through the utilization of its OPCON CGK9 Teams and supervision of all private K9 entities to ensure that all water conveyances do not transport contrabands.

B. In the exercise of this function, the Philippine Coast Guard is empowered to detect and deter illegal trafficking of explosives substance/component, narcotics and its precursors and derivatives, firearm, ammunition, pyrotechnics and firecrackers to avert accidents, commission of crimes, drug menace, terrorism and other lawless acts in the country through strategic utilization and positioning of CGK9 Teams and available PCG-certified private K9 entities in government and private ports.

VI. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

A. Alert – body movement or change of behavior of the detector dog when an odor/scent has been detected in a search area.

B. Explosives – refers to materials used to make an IED such as but not limited to PE4 or C-4, trinitrotoluene (TNT), ammonium nitrate (fertilizer) and chlorates, fuel oil (ANFO), black powder, powder gel, detonation cord, time fuse, blasting cap and others

C. Explosive Contraband– for the purpose of this Circular, refers to illegally transported firearms, ammunitions, pyrotechnic and firecrackers

D. Explosives Detection Dog (EDD) – specially trained dog to detect presence of explosive scent/odor emanating from a specific area or objective.

E. Explosive Device – also known as Improvised Explosive Device (IED), is a device fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to detonate, destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract

F. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit / Bomb Squad–personnel with special training and equipment who render explosive ordnance safe (i.e. improvised explosive devices, bombs, mines, projectiles and booby traps) and supervise the safe removal thereof

G. EOD Expert – a personnel who is an expert in identifying explosives, acts as a security during operations and conducts recon on the area to ensure the safety of the team before giving the “Go” signal to the handler to commence bomb sweeping.

H. Handler – any persons or individuals who had undergone a formal training of handling any type of working dog used for explosive detection, narcotics detection, cadaver detection, etc.

I. K9 Team – composed of detection dog and handler utilized in the detection of narcotics or explosives substance/devices and other explosive contrabands.

J. Narcotics – term for illegal drugs (e.g. marijuana, cocaine, heroin, opium, methamphetamine, ecstasy and other chemically-designed hallucinogenic) which cannot be legally possessed, sold or transported

K. Narcotics Detection Dog (NDD) – specially trained dog to detect presence of narcotic scent/odor emanating from a specific area or objective.

L. Passive Indication – a kind of alert from an explosive/narcotic detector dog when the source of scent has been located by sitting down or lying flat position near the source of scent/odor.

M. Spotter– a senior/leading K9 personnel who acts as the team leader during operation/mission

VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. The Coast Guard K9 Group provides CGK9 teams to CG Districts requiring the capability of detection dogs in support of the PCG missions and functions. CGK9 Teams are created to assist in the search and detection of concealed narcotics or hidden explosives/explosive devices including explosive contrabands such as firearms, ammunitions, pyrotechnics and firecrackers carried along by the sea-riding public/passengers at every scheduled departure of passenger and cargo vessels in government and private ports.

B. The PCG is empowered to conduct evaluation, certification and inspection of all private K9 entities recognized and contracted by port authorities/private port owners/shipping companies.

C. Searches are done through scheduled paneling and sweeping of cargoes and baggage by CGK9 teams and private K9 entities. When a K9 detects the presence of either explosives or narcotics, the K9 dog gives alert that is understood by its handler.

D. In addition to the scheduled paneling/sweeping operations, and response to calls (clearing of suspicious packages, abandoned baggage/vehicle and search to resolve bomb threats) at the port facility/area, CGK9 team performs screening functions for special events and in support to Code 1 and other dignitaries. Explosive Detection Teams shall be available on a 24-hour basis while Narcotic Detection Teams shall be available on a need or on-call basis outside of the scheduled sweeping/paneling.

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E. During holiday season and other major activities where many are using the seaports and other installation, CGK9 Field Operating Units(FOUs) shall maximize its resources to ensure safety of passengers, cargoes and other users of the sea. Due to their specialized capability, the teams may likewise be employed to assist in special operations such as civil disturbance control, disaster search and rescue and as canine sentry in ports.

F. CGK9 FOUs shall coordinate closely with local law enforcement bomb squads, SWAT teams and investigative divisions. Other than the scheduled tours and assignments, CGK9 teams may respond to calls for service that requires use of canine detection operation.

G. CGK9 Team shall also be utilized during shore patrol operation to sniff /detect presence of residues and smudges from illegal drug trafficking and fish blast activities of motorbancas and outrigger bancas beached along the shoreline.

H. The number of CGK9 Teams varies with the volume of cargoes and passengers in certain areas and security assessment where port may be used in transporting drugs and bombing activities. CGK9 Team deployment primarily depends on the survey and trend of maritime security in the country.

I. During peaceful time, the port authority has the primary task in strategizing and securing the port. Likewise, it is the duty of the shipping company to ensure security and safety of passengers and cargoes aboard the ships.

J. Most of the commercial passenger vessels nowadays comply on the use of x-ray machines to check the baggage of their passengers. With this scenario, CGK9 Team while standing nearby or in a patrol vehicle at the port terminal shall operate by "on-call" basis to confirm suspicious baggage or cargoes and may augment and conduct either total or random paneling depending on volume of baggage/cargoes and number of operating K9 teams.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. The Coast Guard K9 Group under the Maritime Security and Law Enforcement Command is mandated to provide trained working dogs and handlers to the Coast Guard Operating Units all throughout the Philippines. After training qualified K9 handlers and detection dogs, all CG Districts shall be provided with appropriate number of CGK9 teams.

B. The Area Commanders shall ensure full cooperation of port authorities, port owners and maritime stakeholders for the implementation of this Memorandum Circular within their respective AOR.

C. The CGK9 FOU shall regulate and control private K9 entities through capability evaluation, issuance of proficiency certification by its designated PCG K9

Evaluation Team and conduct of regular K9 Operational Readiness Exercise in port using different scenarios to ensure their efficiency and reliability in the performance of security tasks in the maritime transportation system, utilities, facilities and infrastructures.

D. Port Facility Authorities shall ensure the compliance of private K9 security entities in their respective AOR set by the PCG and maintain updated inventory and current certifications of employed K9 teams.

E. Private K9 Providers shall subject their K9 teams for quarterly certification and ensure that K9 handlers and working dogs are mentally and physically fit for detection work. Certified K9s shall be implanted with microchip for proper identification and monitoring.

F. Based on intelligence gathering, the Area Commander shall have the discretion over the distribution and as to where the K9 Teams be deployed within its area of responsibility.

G. In times of direct military control, the Area Commander shall direct port authorities and manage the security of the port facility and position each CGK9 Team and private K9 entity in support of the security plan implemented in the port.

H. CGK9-FOU Commanders/POICs may advise their Area Commanders on the best possible ways to conduct port or vessel inspections relative to the K9 Teams capabilities and limitations. They may also recommend the reduction or addition of inspections if the K9 Teams are overloaded with duties or underutilized.

I. Whichever the case maybe, CGK9 FOU Commanders/POICs shall always consider and look after the well-being and physical condition of the detection dogs. Giving reasonable advice to Area Commanders shall not be taken negatively as long as it is conveyed with modesty, tact and an underlying desire to accomplish mission of preventing tragedies, caused by terrorist activities, at sea or even in ports.

J. CGK9 FOU Commanders/POICs, with permission from their Area Commanders, are encouraged to pay courtesy call to friendly units (i.e. AFP, PNP) within their AOR and coordinate if they can provide assistance (e.g. EOD unit/bomb squad, availability of explosives and narcotics substance for refreshing K9s) when needed. Such type of mutual relationship does not only help the CGK9 FOU in accomplishing its mission, but it may also save the Unit in dire situations.

IX. OPERATION:

A. At any CGK9 Team dispatch, if possible, Area Commanders shall provide customized air-conditioned service vehicle for the CGK9 Team's mobility from the holding kennel area to the port terminal/facility and vice versa. In ports where terminals are not equipped with air-conditioning, the service vehicle shall serve as holding/resting place for detector dogs. In this way, a K9 is able to preserve its best state and believed to be more effective as detector canine when actual operation arises.

B. CGK9 Teams shall identify the area of responsibility to which they will operate to avoid overlapping with other private K9 services and related security equipment employed in the port facility.

C. A K9 handler must have unencumbered control over the detection support effort and complete access to the area to be sniffed.

D. The standard for employment is approximately 5 hours per day with 30 minutes to 1-hour rest period after sniffing a specified location or baggage for about 15 to 30 minutes depending on ambient conditions.

E. The conduct of routine paneling either by total or random search, depending on volume of baggage/cargoes and number of operating K9 Teams is done starting four (4) hours prior ETD of vessels leaving the port.

F. In the case of routine paneling, random search is employed but in the case of sanitizing the area for possible bomb in connection with VIPs visit, imminent threat, enemy diversionary tactics, spillover and other related situation, every possible area will be searched diligently.

G. If, during the course of routine inspection, a detection dog alerts, the dog's actions may be sufficient to establish probable cause to justify the opening of cargoes/baggage suspected of contrabands (professional judgment) limited only to narcotics, firearm, ammunition, pyrotechnics and firecrackers in the presence of the owner and witness.

H. Generally, explosive detection searching shall be conducted after the area has been cleared of people. The search should be concentrated on suspicious containers or objects, general public areas, or open areas. Once a device is found or an alert is made on an object, the appropriate explosive detection personnel (EOD) will be summoned to handle the situation.

H. If situation permits, K9 Teams shall be used alternately to allow other detection dogs to rest. A high K9 Team performance is maintained if a canine is utilized only when likely its capability is required.

X. RESTRICTIONS:

A. The handler performs the sole task of working with his dog and shall not take part in any other activities unless directed by direct superior.

B. Detection dogs shall only be used in their capacity as drugs, explosives, patrol and search and rescue dogs.

C. K9 Team and Spotter shall operate in sight with one another. No one is allowed to work alone.

D. Handlers will not help in uncovering or moving any item that has been identified to have potential value as evidence. The owner or authorized person in the presence of a witness may do so on in the case of a discovered narcotic or explosive contrabands.

E. The explosive detection dog handler will not attempt to disarm any device found or move any explosive material to another location. EOD expert is tasked to handle bomb disposal.

F. Handlers shall not set up or maintain a chain of custody for any evidence or other material planned for use in civilian courts. The seize evidence, in any way that help in the apprehension or arrest of persons shall be turned over to proper authority. The handler may testify in civil court to explain the training received, past success rates of the detection dog, events leading to employment in the particular detection support, and the results of the detection.

G. For safety measure, a detection dog shall only either be a narcotics detection dog or explosives detection dog.

H. For human rights consideration, narcotics detection dog shall not be used to search people suspected of possessing narcotics.

I. Handlers shall not engage in the execution of a warrant/arrest, or take part in any other law enforcement activity connected with the operation/mission.

J. Handlers are advised to never abandon the service vehicle when in port; it may be used to hide bomb and the likes.

K. Detection dogs will not be used for breeding, participation in shows, field trials, exhibitions or other demonstrations, or for off-duty employment unless authorized by the Commander, CGK9 Group and/or Higher Headquarters.

L. Handlers are not permitted to train their dogs in methods, techniques, or activities contrary to the accepted method used by the CGK9 Group.

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XI. RESCISSION CLAUSE:

All PCG previous publication not in conformity with this SOP are hereby rescinded.

XII. EFFECTIVITY:

This SOP shall take effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF COMMODORE GARCIA:

OFFICIAL:


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