



PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS

Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

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**STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE
NUMBER 13 – 17)**

**COAST GUARD PROTOCOL ON
EXPLOSIVES AND NARCOTICS DETECTION OPERATIONS**

1. AUTHORITY:

- a. Republic Act 9993 (PCG Law of 2009) and its IRR
- b. HPCG Circular Nr 04-10 dated 24 March 2010 (Mission, Function, and Organization of Coast Guard K9)

2. REFERENCES:

- a. PCG Maritime Security and Law Enforcement Manual s. 2011
- b. Protocol for Explosives Related Incidents Investigation
- c. PNP Manual on Anti-Illegal Drugs Operation and Investigation

3. PURPOSE:

This SOP prescribes the policies and procedures during K9 Operations on port and vessel.

4. SCOPE:

This SOP shall cover all the duties and responsibilities of the concerned PCG personnel.

5. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

a. **Abandoned baggage/vehicle**– refers to the abandoned item (baggage or vehicle) which constitute a danger when they are found by port personnel/ ship crew and receive a great deal of attention

b. **Alert/Indication** – which means that the EDD have sniffed an explosive substance and alerts the handler through sitting.

c. **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit** – personnel with special training and equipment who render explosive ordnance safe (such as improvised explosive devices, bombs, mines, projectiles and booby traps) and supervise the safe removal thereof

d. **Explosive Detection Dog (EDD)** – a dog trained to detect the presence of explosive device/components/contraband

e. **Explosive Components** – 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), Semtex, black powder, detonating cord, blasting cap and others

f. **Explosive Contraband** – for the purpose of this SOP, refers to illegally transported firearms, ammunitions, pyrotechnic, and firecrackers

g. **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

h. **Hot item** – for the purpose of this SOP, refers to baggage/package/vehicle suspected to contain explosives or narcotics after alert/indication from detection dog

i. **Narcotics Detection Dog (NDD)** – a dog trained to detect the presence of narcotic substance or illegal drugs

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

k. **Pre-Departure Inspection (PDI) Team** - personnel from CG Station/ Sub-station who conducts pre-departure inspection on vessels

l. **Render Safe Procedure (RSP)** - the application of special explosive ordnance disposal procedures, methods and tools to provide the interruption of functions or separation of essential components of unexploded ordnance (including improvised explosive devices) to prevent an unacceptable detonation

m. **Spotter** – K9 organic personnel who acts as the team leader being the most senior member of the team

6. **POLICIES:**

a. Provide a systematic guide in the performance of day to day duty of K9 handler and organic personnel assigned in the area during routine paneling, abandoned baggage and bomb threat call on port and vessel.

b. Ensure the role and proper delineation of tasks of K9 Team and organic personnel in the field during positive alert/indication for explosives and narcotics detection on port and vessel.

7. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

a. Coast Guard K9 Team

i. Detection of explosive contraband or illegal substance through Explosives Detection Dog (EDD) and Narcotics Detection Dog (NDD), respectively

ii. Inform the PDI Team of the probable presence of explosive contraband or illegal substance

iii. Cordon the Area.

iv. Assist in crowd control.

b. Pre-Departure Inspection Team

i. Inform the Master/Representative of the vessel of the probable presence of explosive contraband or illegal substance.

ii. Inform the Station/Sub-Station Commander of the probable presence of explosive contraband or narcotic substance.

iii. Facilitate visual inspection of the suspected baggage/item in the presence of the owner, Master/Representative of the ship and/ or Ship Security Officer/Representative.

iv. Apprehend/arrest the owner/passenger in possession of explosive contraband or illegal substance in plain view.

c. Station/ Sub-Station Commander

i. Dispatch OPCON EOD Unit when available. In the absence of OPCON EOD Unit, request for EOD Unit from AFP or PNP.

ii. In case of indication for narcotics, to coordinate/request for the availability of PDEA/AIDSOTF Team.

iii. Investigate and file corresponding charges on the suspected passenger/owner in possession of illegal contraband or illegal substance and coordinate with police authority for proper disposition.

d. PCG Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit

i. Activate the procedures on the Inter-Agency Primer on Protocol for Explosives Related Incidents Investigation and/or PCG MARSLEN Manual.

8. **PROCEDURES:**

A. Routine Paneling on Vessel Prior Departure

During routine (random/complete) paneling in terminal or on vessel prior departure, the CGK9 Team will both employ its Explosives Detection Dog (EDD) and Narcotics Detection Dog (NDD) to search for concealed explosives and narcotics, respectively.

When detection dog exhibits alert for explosives or narcotics during routine paneling, the following procedures shall be observed:

1. The handler immediately ceases searching and the Spotter will notify the PDI Team who shall in turn coordinate with the Master of the Ship about the alert or the probable presence of explosives or narcotics.

2. The PDI Team shall inform the Station/Sub-Station Commander who will in turn contact and coordinate with the nearest EOD Unit or Drug Enforcement Agency.

3. The Master/Representative of the Ship shall locate the owner/claimant of the suspected baggage through the PA System.

4. In the presence of the owner of the suspected baggage, the Master/Representative of the Ship, the PDI Team and/or CGK9 Spotter shall gather pertinent information about the suspected baggage.

5. The PDI Team and CGK9 Spotter shall seek permission from the owner to open the baggage/item himself/herself and show the content for identification/verification.

6. If the presence of explosive contraband or narcotics is positively identified, the PDI Team shall hold the passenger take position for imminent arrest while stating the Miranda Doctrine prior to the conduct of actual apprehension procedures with proper documentation (e.g. video recording, photographs) and invite the passenger with the suspected baggage to the Station/Sub-station for investigation prior to filing of case or turning over to police authority or drug enforcement agency. Video recording of the item must be continuous and uninterrupted until the arrival of police or drug enforcement agents to conduct inventory of the items, proper disposition and custody.

7. If the passenger refuses or reluctant to open his/her baggage/item, in case of alert for narcotics, this warrants probable cause on the part of the PDI/ CGK9 Team to suspect the presence of narcotics and shall follow procedure provided for in Para 8A.6.

8. If the passenger is reluctant to open his/her baggage, in case of alert for explosive contraband, the PDI Team shall state the Miranda Doctrine and explain thoroughly the impending consequences of not complying or cooperating with direct order from authorities (e.g. undue delay of vessel departure and imminent arrest). In spite warning, yet the passenger still refuses, he will be arrested and brought to the Station/Sub-Station for further investigation and custody.

9. If no passenger shows up after 15 minutes, in case of indication for explosives, the baggage shall be treated as hot item. In this scenario, the following procedures shall be observed simultaneously:

ii. CGK9 Team shall conduct safety measure procedures (clear, cordon the area and crowd control) while waiting for the EOD Unit.

iii. The PDI Team, through the CG Station/ Sub-station will coordinate for the availability of EOD Unit.

iv. The PDI Team shall advice the Master of the ship to declare disembarkation/ evacuation of passengers and bring them to safe area.

v. Upon arrival, EOD Team shall conduct further assessment and RSP as appropriate.

vi. In the presence of explosive components after RSP, the EOD Unit in the presence of PDI Team and Ship representative will conduct inventory of the items prior to being turned-over to EOD Unit for custody.

vii. If no explosive substance/component is found after RSP, EOD Team in the presence of PDI Team and Ship representative will conduct inventory of the items prior to being turned-over to the Master of the Ship.

10. If no passenger shows up after 15 minutes, in case of indication for narcotics, the baggage is considered as hot item and shall be opened by the PDI/CGK9 Team in the presence of the Master/ Representative of the Ship. If baggage is found positive for narcotics, said baggage shall be brought to nearest PCG installation for investigation and documentation. Uninterrupted video recording shall be observed from the time the baggage is opened, while being carried going to the Station/Sub-Station until the arrival of drug enforcement agency for inventory and proper custody. However, if the baggage is found negative for narcotics, same baggage is returned to the Master/ Representative of the Ship after inventory of the contents/items.

B. Routine Vehicle Search and Port Facility Paneling

1. In case of positive indication for explosives/ narcotics during routine vehicle search and port facility paneling within the port premises, CGK9 Team shall alert the Station/Sub-station Commander and Port Security Officer/Port Manager for proper coordination, investigation and disposition. It shall follow appropriate procedures provided for in para 8.A depending on the situation or whichever is applicable for the scenario.

C. Unattended Baggage/Abandoned Vehicle or Bomb Threat Call within Seaport Complex or On Vessel Prior Departure

1. Whether the bomb threat is phoned in, received by mail or delivery, or presents itself in the form of a package, suitcase, or unclaimed item that does not seem familiar, maritime security should have procedures in place regarding its response. Facility bomb threat response plans have been developed to guide response from local law enforcement, direct emergency staging, manage evacuation and perimeter control, conduct searches, and make the decision to re-occupy. Typically, bomb threat response plans use:

- i) Notification procedures and checklists for handling telephone threats;
- ii) Evaluation criteria for making decisions regarding whether to evacuate passenger and administrative facilities; and
- iii) Basic guidelines for deciding when to call local law enforcement (police, K9 units, bomb squad)

2. During bomb threat scenario, CGK9 FOU shall coordinate closely with local law enforcement bomb squads, AFP/PNP K9, and other

investigative divisions. Such that when responding to incidents, CGK9 teams are generally sent as an assisting unit and rarely dispatched as a primary unit. In every case, personnel should consider the safety of the evacuation site and the possibility of secondary devices aimed at emergency responders.

3. The CGK9 Team shall without delay respond and deploy EDD Team relative to the request of Port Authority/Port Owner in cases of bomb threat call or unattended baggage/vehicle as directed by the OPCON Commander and operates in tandem with the organic personnel of CG Station/Sub-Station.

4. Generally, after the area has been cleared of people, CGK9 teams are used to search areas or vessel against which a bomb threat has been made to determine the legitimacy of the threat. The search should be concentrated on containers or objects that do not appear to belong or have been reported and cannot be cleared, general public areas, and other facilities.

5. The local bomb squad is only called to come in when the explosive detector K9 has positively discovered a package or other item. Once a device is found or suspected, indicated by an alert, the EOD Unit on standby will be summoned to handle the situation.


6. In the presence of explosive components after RSP, the EOD Unit together with PCG personnel, Port Representative or Ship Representative shall conduct inventory and turn over the components to Police EOD for disposition and proper custody. However, in the absence of explosive components after RSP, the EOD Team in the presence of PCG personnel and Port or Ship Representative shall conduct inventory of the items prior to being turned over to the Port Facility Lost and Found Section or the Master/Representative of the Ship.

9. **RESCISSION:** All previous publications not in conformity with this SOP are hereby rescinded.

10. **EFFECTIVITY:** This SOP shall take effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF COMMODORE GARCIA:

OFFICIAL:


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