

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

November 27, 2012
14.2

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: CANINE PROCEDURES AUDIT (IAID NO. 12-077)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. The Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Canine Procedures Audit.
2. The Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE the attached Executive Summary thereto.

DISCUSSION

Internal Audits and Inspections Division conducted the Canine Procedures Audit to evaluate adherence with related Department directives.

If additional information regarding this inspection is required, please contact Gerald L. Chaleff, Special Assistant for Constitutional Policing, at (213) 486-8730.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Attachment

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

CANINE PROCEDURES AUDIT

(IAID NO. 12-077)



CONDUCTED BY

INTERNAL AUDITS & INSPECTIONS DIVISION

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

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CANINE PROCEDURES AUDIT
Executive Summary
Conducted by Internal Audits and Inspections Division

PURPOSE

In accordance with the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) Audit and Inspection Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012/13, Internal Audits and Inspections Division (IAID) conducted the Canine (K-9) Procedures Audit to evaluate adherence with related Department directives.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

TABLE NO. 1– SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Objective No.	Description of Audit Objectives	Results
1. Search Procedures		
1a	Search Criteria	62/62 (100%)
1b	Search Announcement and Warning	60/60 (100%)
1c	Documentation of Damages	5/5 (100%)
1d	Documentation of Search Areas	Performance Review
2. Supervisory Oversight		
2a	Supervisory Oversight of Search	60/60 (100%)
2b	K-9 Contact Reporting	13/13 (100%)
2c	K-9 Contact Disposition	1/1 (100%)
3. Inspections of Residential Kennels		
3	Inspections of Residential Kennels	UTD ¹
4. Formal Semi-Annual K-9 Evaluations		
4	Formal Semi-Annual K-9 Evaluations	16/16 (100%)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended Metropolitan Division's K-9 Platoon develop a central logging system to comprehensively track and document annual residential kennel inspections.
2. It is recommended Metropolitan Division's K-9 Platoon meet with Legal Affairs Division in order to explore the extent, and feasibility in documenting K-9 searches.

¹ The current method for documenting kennel inspections does not provide a readily available account of specific dates and times the kennels were inspected. For further information, see Objective 3 - Findings.

ACTION TAKEN

The K-9 audit report was presented, and general agreement was obtained from the Director, Office of Special Operations, and the Deputy Chief of Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau. The K-9 audit report was also presented to the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, who expressed general agreement with the audit report.

CANINE PROCEDURES AUDIT
Conducted by
Internal Audits and Inspections Division

PURPOSE

In accordance with the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) Audit and Inspection Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012/13, Internal Audits and Inspections Division (IAID) conducted the Canine (K-9) Procedures Audit to evaluate adherence with related Department directives.

Internal Audits and Inspections Division conducted this audit under the guidance of generally accepted government auditing standards, specifically pertaining to performing the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives. Internal Audits and Inspections Division has determined that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for the findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

PRIOR AUDIT

This is the first K-9 Procedures Audit conducted by IAID. The audit was based on the procedures set forth by the Department, 2011 K-9 Procedures and Guidelines Handbook, Revised August 23, 2011, which is subordinate to the Department Manual.

BACKGROUND

The K-9 Platoon is one of the field Platoons of Metropolitan Division and is deployed at the direction of the commanding officer (CO), Metropolitan Division. The K-9 Platoon is supervised by a Lieutenant II Officer in Charge (OIC), one Sergeant II Assistant OIC, one Sergeant II Chief K-9 Trainer, and three Sergeant II Field Supervisors. The remaining members of the Platoon are K-9 Handlers (Police Officer III) and three Assistant K-9 Trainers (Police Officer III+1).

At the discretion of a K-9 supervisor, K-9 teams may be deployed within the City and remain available for search requests during their regular duty hours. While on-duty and not involved in searches, training, or other directed duties, they should upon supervisory notification, proceed in the general direction of the termination point of a pursuit and, if requested by an involved unit, respond and assist at that location. Available K-9 teams should also respond and assist with emergency calls for service, including "officer needs help" or "back-up" calls.

METHODOLOGY

Internal Audits and Inspections Division obtained a data run that identified all K-9 deployments that occurred from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.¹ This list identified 291 K-9 deployments for the selected time period. Internal Audits and Inspections Division randomly selected a statistically valid sample from the population, yielding 62 K-9 deployments.² This audit included a review of procedures that occurred during K-9 searches, supervisory oversight, notifications, and K-9 evaluations.

¹ The data was obtained from the OIC of Metropolitan Division's K-9 Unit who oversees the Department's K-9 deployments. The OIC retrieved that data from the TEAMS II K-9 Reporting System.

² The sample size was obtained by utilizing a one-tail test with a 95 percent confidence level and a 4 percent error rate.

K-9 Deployment Reports and corresponding documentation were examined to determine if officers/supervisors adhered to Department policy and procedure during the deployment, and to evaluate the subsequent administrative review process. Additionally, Force Investigation Division (FID) was contacted to reconcile information pertaining to K-9 deployments that involved K-9 contacts (bites).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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4. Formal Semi-Annual K-9 Evaluations		
4	Formal Semi-Annual K-9 Evaluations	16/16 (100%)

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³ The current method for documenting kennel inspections does not provide a readily available account of specific dates and times the kennels were inspected. For further information, see Objective 3 - Findings.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Objective No. 1 – Search Procedures

Objective No. 1a – Search Criteria

Criteria

Los Angeles Police Department 2011 K-9 Procedures and Guidelines Handbook, Section II, K-9 Searches - states, *“The criteria for a K-9 search are as follows:*

- *Searches for felony suspects;*
- *Searches for misdemeanor suspects reasonably believed to be armed with a gun or other deadly weapon;*
- *Search in conjunction with a pre-planned or spontaneous SWAT-related incident;*
- *Search for lost or missing persons;*
- *Search for evidence related to a criminal investigation; or,*
- *Tracking or Trailing any suspect.”*

Audit Procedures

Each of the 62 K-9 Deployment Reports was examined to determine whether the involved K-9 teams conducted the searches according to the stated criteria.

The Department met the standards if the K-9 deployment was appropriate according to Department policy.

Findings

Each (100 percent) of the 62 K-9 deployments met the standards for this objective.

Objective No. 1b – Search Announcement and Warning

Criteria

Los Angeles Police Department 2011 K-9 Procedures and Guidelines Handbook, Section II, Search Announcement and Warning - states, *“At the start of a K-9 search, the K-9 officer directing the search shall give or cause to be given a K-9 announcement and warning that a K-9 will be deployed...The name of the officer broadcasting the search announcement and warning, and the languages used and perimeter officer(s) confirming, shall be recorded on the K-9 Deployment Report.”*

Audit Procedures

Each of the 62 K-9 Deployment Reports was examined to determine whether a search announcement was given prior to conducting a search. Of the 62 Deployment Reports examined, 60 deployments were identified in which a search announcement should have been given.⁴

The Department met the standards if an officer or supervisor gave the K-9 search announcement and warning prior to beginning of the K-9 search.

Findings

Each (100 percent) of the 60 K-9 deployments met the standards for this objective.

Objective No. 1c – Documentation of Damages

Criteria

Metropolitan Divisional Order No. 08-11, K-9 Platoon Operational Responsibilities, dated February 28, 2011 – states, *“In the event private or public property is damaged [sic], due to specific and articulable tactical reasons, or the inability of the search team to find a responsible party to facilitate entry, the K-9 handler shall report the incident to a K-9 supervisor and the incident commander as soon as practicable. The damage shall be noted in the K-9 Officer’s Deployment Report. The on-duty K-9 supervisor shall note the damage, as well as the corrective actions taken in his/her Sergeant’s Daily Report. All locks that were cut to gain access into a location shall be replaced by K-9 personnel. In the event there are no locks available, the incident commander and K-9 supervisor shall be notified immediately and it shall be noted in the K-9 Deployment Report.”*

Audit Procedures

Internal Audits and Inspections Division reviewed the 62 Deployment Reports to determine if damages occurred during a K-9 search, and if so, whether the damages were properly documented. Of the 62 Deployment Reports reviewed, five reports were identified wherein damages occurred.

Findings

Each (100 percent) of the five Deployment Reports met the standards for this objective.

⁴ A K-9 search announcement was not given due to tactical reasons during one deployment. A K-9 search announcement was not given during another deployment because the suspect surrendered prior to the K-9 mobilization.

Objective No. 1d – Documentation of Search Areas

Criteria

During the course of the audit, personnel from Risk Management Division, Claims Unit, were contacted for insight on any risk issues that pertained to K-9 procedures. Personnel from the Claims Unit indicated that when dealing with claims involving K-9s, areas in which the K-9 was utilized to search should be thoroughly documented.

Audit Procedures

A performance review of K-9 Deployment Reports was conducted to determine if the K-9 officer(s) documented the areas searched within the report. The findings are not quantified in Table No. 1 since there is no current Department mandate that requires the areas searched to be included in the K-9 Deployment Report.

Findings

Two Deployment Reports were not tested because the suspects surrendered prior to K-9 mobilization. Fifty percent of the K-9 Deployment Reports that were reviewed had documentation on the areas searched. The extent of documentation pertaining to specificity of areas searched may vary greatly dependent upon the type of search being conducted. Although Legal Affairs Division expressed a concern with respect to the thoroughness in documenting searches, Metropolitan Division expressed a consideration with the feasibility of such documentation, especially when the area searched is extensive, such as neighborhood blocks (See Recommendation No. 2).

Objective No. 2 – Supervisory Oversight

Objective No. 2a – Supervisory Oversight of Search

Criteria

Los Angeles Police Department 2011 K-9 Procedures and Guidelines Handbook, Section II, K-9 Supervisory Responsibilities - states, "...K-9 supervisors are responsible to:

- Respond to search requests involving an officer-involved shooting, ADW on a police officer, and all significant or newsworthy events involving a K-9 deployment;
- Respond to searches involving suspects armed with a firearm or a deadly weapon;
- Respond to, evaluate, investigate and document incidents of K-9 contacts on the appropriate reports; and,
- Ensure search announcements are documented [as outlined in the K-9 Procedures and Guidelines Handbook]."

Audit Procedures

Internal Audits and Inspections Division examined the 62 K-9 Deployment Reports to determine whether a K-9 supervisor responded to the search.

Findings

Of the 62 Deployment Reports reviewed, IAID determined that 60 required a K-9 supervisor to respond. One K-9 deployment indicated the suspect surrendered to patrol officers after the K-9 search announcement and prior to the K-9 supervisor's arrival. The other K-9 deployment indicated the suspect surrendered to patrol officers prior to K-9 mobilization.

Each (100 percent) of the 60 K-9 deployments met the standards for this objective.

Objective No. 2b – K-9 Contact Reporting

Criteria

Los Angeles Police Department 2011 K-9 Procedures and Guidelines Handbook, Section III, K-9 Related Injury Reporting - states, "*Metropolitan Division's K-9 Platoon sergeants are responsible for the investigation and reporting of any incident which results in an injury to any person caused by a K-9 deployment... The K-9 contact related injury investigation is reported on a K-9 Contact Report.*"

Audit Procedures

In order to obtain a more comprehensive evaluation of K-9 contacts, the entire population of 291 K-9 deployments was queried for the audited time period.⁵ A total of 18 K-9 reported contacts were identified. Of the 18 Contact Reports, five were excluded from the review process. Four of the five K-9 Contact Reports were at the bureau level awaiting review at the time of this audit, while the fifth K-9 Contact Report was being investigated by FID. Therefore, IAID personnel were able to only test the remaining 13 K-9 Contact Reports that were available at the K-9 office. Additionally, a review of the K-9 Contact Report approval process was performed.

The Department met the standards if the K-9 Contact Reports were initiated as a result of the K-9 contact and appropriate approvals were conducted.

Findings

Each (100 percent) of the 13 K-9 contacts met the standards for this objective.⁶

⁵ Only four K-9 contacts were identified during the initial sample of K-9 Deployment Reports.

⁶ The approval process includes the K-9 Supervisor reporting, the K-9 Platoon OIC, the Metropolitan Division CO, and the Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau CO.

Objective No. 2c – K-9 Contact Disposition

Criteria

Department Manual Section 794.10 – Force Investigation Division, Professional Standards Bureau - states, “*FID is responsible for investigating all aspects of CUOF incidents and any other investigation at the direction of the Chief of Police (COP)...an incident in which a member of the public has contact with a Department canine and hospitalization is required. Under Department policy, a canine contact is not a use of force but has been included in this category to satisfy the provisions of the Consent Decree...*”

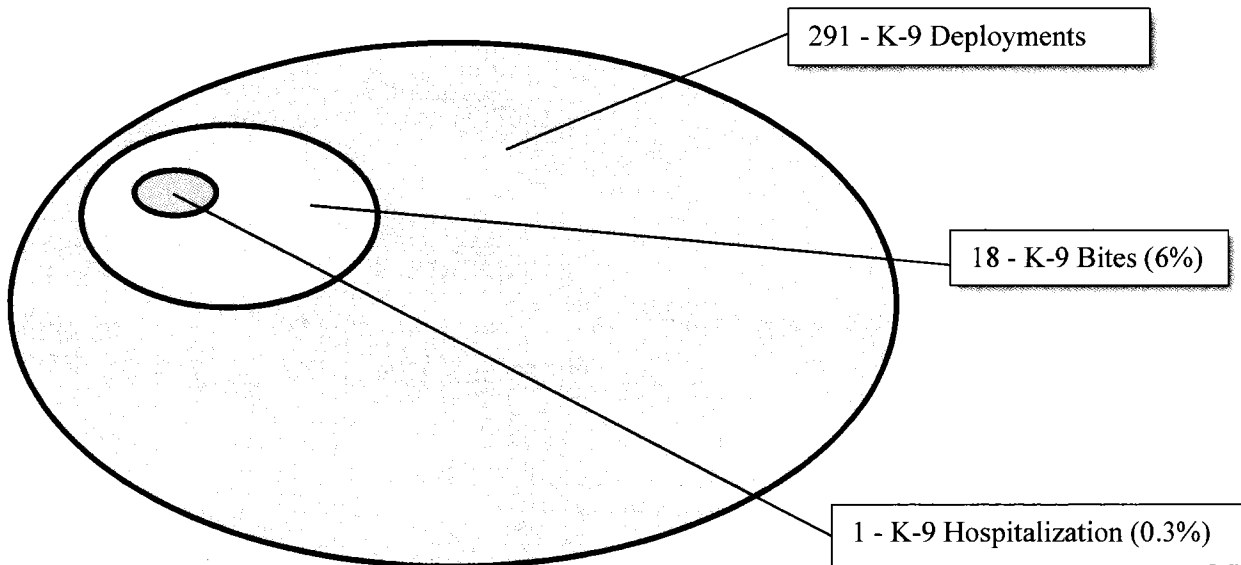
Audit Procedures

As indicated in Objective No. 2(b), of the 291 K-9 deployments, 18 resulted in K-9 contacts. Of the 18 K-9 contacts, one resulted in hospitalization of the suspect, and required notification to FID.

Findings

The one (100 percent) K-9 contact met the standards for this objective.

Figure No. 1 – Total K-9 Deployments and Contacts



Objective No. 3 – Inspections of Residential Kennels

Los Angeles Police Department Metropolitan Division K-9 Officer's Guidebook – Section I, Inspection of Residential Kennels – states, *“Inspections of residential kennels will be conducted on an annual basis...The Department's kennel at each K-9 officer's residence shall be inspected by a K-9 supervisor for the following:*

- *Proper maintenance and sanitation;*
- *Dog house;*
- *Available cover for the K-9 in case of inclement weather; and,*
- *Security of kennel and security of officer's yard where kennel is maintained.*

Impromptu inspections may be conducted to ensure that appropriate housing is maintained. Each inspection shall be recorded via the involved K-9 supervisor's log and approved by the K-9 Platoon OIC.”

Audit Procedures

Work papers within the K-9 office were requested to determine whether kennel inspections were being conducted.

Findings

Kennel inspections are completed by K-9 supervisors when time permits. The current method for inspecting kennels is documented in the K-9 supervisor's log. Therefore, the current method in documenting kennel inspections does not provide for a readily available account of specific dates and times the kennels were inspected. Moreover, the fact that a specific record for each K-9's kennel inspection is not maintained makes it difficult to determine when a particular K-9's kennel should be inspected on an annual basis.

Objective No. 4 – Formal Semi-Annual K-9 Evaluations

Criteria

Los Angeles Police Department Metropolitan Division K-9 Officer's Guidebook, Section II, K-9 Handler Evaluation – states, *“...each K-9 team shall complete a semi-annual certification evaluation. The evaluation shall be conducted by the K-9 Platoon Chief Trainer, Assistant Trainers and the K-9 Platoon OIC. The evaluation shall be documented on the periodic evaluation form.”*

Audit Procedures

Internal Audits and Inspections Division visited the Metropolitan Division K-9 office and reviewed all Service K-9 books to determine if basic training evaluations were conducted as mandated by Department policy.⁷ There were 16 service dogs identified by IAID personnel.

⁷ For the purposes of this inspection, “Service K-9” refers to suspect search dogs; this excludes any “gun,” “bomb,” or “hound” dogs.

Findings

Each (100 percent) of the 16 K-9 service dogs received and passed their respective training requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended Metropolitan Division's K-9 Platoon develop a central logging system to comprehensively track and document annual residential kennel inspections.
2. It is recommended Metropolitan Division's K-9 Platoon meet with Legal Affairs Division in order to explore the extent, and feasibility in documenting K-9 searches.

ACTION TAKEN

The K-9 audit report was presented, and general agreement was obtained from the Director, Office of Special Operations, and the Deputy Chief of Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau. The K-9 audit report was also presented to the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, who expressed general agreement with the audit report.