

A-33025/32/MHA/PM/PoliceK9Cell/2024- 306-313

Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Police K9 Cell/PM Division)

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Dated- 20 May' 2025

To,

Directors General: BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, NSG & Assam Rifles.

Subject: General Considerations on Deployment of Various Types of Police Service K9s(PSKs) in Left- wing Extermism (LWE)/Counter Insurgency (CI) grid areas.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the recommendations of 5th MHA's Police K9 Workshop regarding need for advisory on Deployment of Various Types of Police Service K9s(PSKs) in Left- wing Extermism (LWE)/Counter Insurgency (CI) grid areas. In this connection, Kindly find attached advisory recommended by CAPF's Board of Officers and approved by the Competent Authority in MHA .

2. This subject SOP/General guideline has been designed to ensure uniformity and consistency among CAPFs, State/UT Police Forces and other law enforcement agencies.

Encl: a/a



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Copy to : SO(IT), MHA: With the request to upload the subject SOP on the MHA website, soft copy being sent through email.

General Considerations on deployment of various types of Police Service K9s(PSKS) in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)/ Counter Insurgency(CI) grid areas:

1. **Introduction:** Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) poses serious security challenge to the nation. The sheer violence perpetrated by Naxals in LWE infested area claimed thousands of lives, both civilians and of the Security Forces, besides collateral damage to the infrastructure of the nation. The facilitating factors for the Ultra left are rugged terrain, dense forests, easy availability of commercial explosives for making IEDs which are being used against security forces. The forest cover makes IED detection through naked eye very difficult and the Explosive Detector have limitations in maneuverability. Further, guerilla tactics of Naxals gives distinct tactical advantage in the Left-Wing theatre. Coupled with it, the naxals having local foot soldiers in their rank and file forming network of informants and making them elusive. The gaps in the security response system can be reduced with effective deployment of well-trained K9s. The four-legged companions can significantly enhance operational effectiveness by aiding in tracking, IED detection, and apprehension of Naxals. The Document outlines the guidelines for the deployment of K9s in LWE areas and for effective use of Police Service K9 (PSK) by assessing their preparedness before deployment. It also gives broad guidelines to be observed by the Operational Units of concern CAPFs for health and welfare of PSKs in the field.
2. **Objective:** The primary objective of this document is to establish a systematic approach for the deployment of trained dogs to support operations in LWE areas, ensuring the safety of personnel and maximizing operational efficiency by bridging the gaps between the security challenges and response of Security Forces through effective use of PSKs.
3. **Types of PSKs to be trained and deployed for LWE theatre:**
 - a. Explosive Detection Dogs.
 - b. Tracking dogs
 - c. Infantry patrolling Dogs
 - d. Assault Dogs
 - e. Multi-tasking dogs

Generally, the following multi-tasking combinations should be deployed to have role clarity in LWE theatre:

- i. Infantry Patrol(IP) +Explosive Detection(ED) as PEDD(Patrol explosive detection Dogs)
- ii. Tracking+Assault
- iii. Infantry Patrol(IP) + Assault

4. Assessing operational preparedness Before Deployment:

- A. **Selection of Dogs and breeds:** Only specially trained dogs with proficiency in tracking, detection of ambush and detection of IEDs shall be deployed in Left Wing Extremism affected areas. The Belgium Shepherd Malinois (BSM) has shown versatility in adopting to the climate and terrain of LWE theatre. BSM should be the first choice for LWE duties. Apart from BSM, established police dog breeds such as Labrador, German shepherd and Doberman shall also be deployed.
- B. **Health Check-up:** Prior to deployment, all dogs must undergo a thorough health check-up by a Veterinary Cadre Officer to ensure their fitness for operational duties.
- C. **Refresher training for Dogs and Dog Handlers:** Dogs and Dog Handlers must undergo specialized pre-induction training of LWE module along with basic understanding of terrain challenges, operational dynamics, canine potency and simulating responses to various situations in LWE theatre, and maintaining communication with the canine companion.
- D. Before induction of K9 Teams in LWE Theatre following measures should be taken in account:
- a. **Pre-deployment checks**
 - Veterinary check of all K9s
 - Equipment checks
 - Planning for dog rations
 - Logistics and move plan by Air/Railway/ Road(Dog Van)
 - b. **Pre-induction training:** PIT (pre-induction Training) at the place of deployment is must before LWE deployments.
 - Refresher training for all K9s and DHs with Training aids
 - Intelligence on threat perception
 - During the PIT, the role of K9s and operational use of K9s should be included from Day-1
 - DHs should be briefed by Commander about the sensitivity of the deployment, Area/terrain, weather conditions and other inputs.
 - Modus operandi of Anti-National Elements(ANE) must be known to all K9 teams.
 - PIT should include trade specific training of dogs in real-time situations.

5. Deployment considerations:

The field operation formations should take following factors into consideration before deployment of the K9 teams:

- a. **Risk Assessment:** Potential threats to the troops from Left Wing Extremists viz. prevalence of IEDs use, ambushes, threats to the infrastructure, disruption of communication network, stealth attacks using guerrilla tactics, other forms of collateral damages and destructions need to be listed out for proper role assignment to the K9 teams as force multipliers in the security response system. Before deployment, a comprehensive risk assessment of the operational area shall be conducted to identify potential threats and hazards.
- b. **Tactical Planning:** Deployment of dogs shall be integrated into the overall tactical planning. The K9 role should be known to all the troops before commencement of operations. It brings ops clarity about the role of K9 team simulated tactical exercises should be carried out at regular intervals at operational bases and Sub-Unit locations. Tactical planning includes terrain analysis, factoring prevailing weather considerations, duration of operation, time of commencement and termination of operations, logistics and administrative arrangements, evacuation plans to meet operational objectives.
- c. **Coordination:** Close coordination should be maintained between dog handlers and troops and Bomb Detection & Disposal squads (BDDS) involved in the operations. The Commanders must share intelligence inputs with K9 teams at regular intervals. This will give insights about the Naxal modus operandi and facilitates calibration of K9 operational responses.
- d. **Role Allocation:** Clear roles and responsibilities shall be assigned to dog handlers based on the type of operation that is being carried out and likely scenarios that may emerge. This will ensure optimal utilization of canine capabilities in tracking, search, and detection.
- e. **Communication:** Effective communication channels must be established between handlers, team members, and command centers to relay real-time information and coordinated actions. Even while in the combat situation and exchanges of fire the K9 elements can be used for carrying out assault and to eject Naxals firing from well defended positions.
- f. **Safety Measures:** Adequate safety measures shall be implemented to protect both dogs and handlers from potential threats, including provision of protective gear and medical/Veterinary support. The precautions should be taken against heatstroke (**caused by the body overheating**), dehydration (loss of water and body fluids), snake bites, anti-handling mechanisms of IEDs, wild life attack, washing away in the swift moving streams and rivulets etc.

g. **Miscellaneous considerations before K9 Deployment in LWE Theatre:**

- i. Don't deploy those DHs in tactical situations who have not worked/ trained with the Dog.
- ii. DHs shouldn't be ordered to work with another dog without prior familiarization and bonding:
- iii. Operational and Patrol deployment briefings must be clear to all DHs.
- iv. Deployment criteria and parameters for the K9 Squad must be established in advance at the briefing by Company Commander.
- v. Discuss the potential threats where the Police K9 may or may not be used.
- vi. Battle inoculation of K9s must be ensured during training. Additionally, K9s should be regularly exposed to the sounds and effects of bombardment to help them remain calm during an ambush.
- vii. For the regular training of K9s, the explosive materials which are generally used by the Naxals are mostly locally made; must be used and be available to the Dog Handlers.
- viii. The capabilities and limitations of the K9 Squad must always be kept in mind during operation planning.
- ix. Dog handlers should be trained on how to tactically react if the K9 gives positive indication and how to deal with the situation in real time operations.
- x. Dog handlers must be properly trained to face high stress situation like firing from Naxals, ambushes and other operational contingencies so that the K9 can be used as situation demands.
- xi. Simulate chaos and confusion in training/ refresher training with the K9 and DH, so they will react appropriately in a challenging situation.
- xii. Veterinary team may be kept in readiness at base camp for immediate support of ailing K9.
- xiii. Medical emergency evacuation plan should be tactically analysed.
- xiv. Deployment pattern should be such as Grid deployment or Overlapping of K9 Anti- Sabotage Check(ASC) Teams.

6. **Tasking of K9s Team for LWE theatre/Area:**

- A. **Detection of Explosives:** Specially trained explosive detection dogs shall be deployed to detect IEDs and with the help of Bomb Detection and Disposal (BDD) squads must neutralize explosive devices planted by extremists.
- B. **Ambush detections:** The Infantry Patrol K9 teams must lead the troops from the forefront in all operations to give indication about impending ambush, suspected hideouts and other lurking dangers like IEDs.

C. **Tracking**: As the situation warrants, the K9 teams shall be utilized for tracking the movement of extremists based on scent trails, footprints, or other traces.

D. **Naka Duties/Check point(CP) Operations**:

Checkpoint operations allow the K9 unit to control the area of operation by

- Denying freedom of movement to ANEs
- Establishing safe areas
- Contributing to unit and civilian security

Broadly, there are Two types checkpoints :

(i) **Deliberate CP(Check Point)**

(ii) **Hasty CP (Check Point)**

(i) **Deliberate CP:**

Actions taken at checkpoints includes:

- a. Moving occupants to safe locations
- b. Opening vehicle hoods, doors, trunks, and internal compartments and rolling down windows
- c. Ensuring that handlers attempt to use the downwind (moving in the direction in which the wind is blowing) flank to conduct searches
- d. Ensuring that handlers establish off-leash K9 systematic searches
- e. Human body search to be performed on leashed K9
- f. During human body search, if there is a positive indication, the individual is isolated to prevent accidental or deliberate detonation.

(ii) **Hasty CP:**

The standoff that is provided in a hasty checkpoint is based on the K9 team's ability to stop and control the vehicle from a distance. Teams should be used in the following manner:

- a. K9 teams should conduct an initial sweep/clearing of hasty checkpoint areas before setup.
- b. Vehicles in turning/deceleration zones can be temporarily halted from a distance. Off-leash K9s can be used to conduct initial screens on vehicles waiting to be searched.
- c. Handlers should attempt to use the downwind flank to search vehicles.
- d. All sensitivity be shown during K9's deployment for human body search.
- e. On positive indication by K9, the individual should be isolated to prevent accidental or deliberate detonation.

E. **Area Domination Patrol(ADP)/Road Opening Party(ROP)/Road searching Operation(RSO)/IED Detection/ Route- Clearance:**

Route clearance K9 teams are used to: -

- i. Detect IEDs
- ii. Clear natural or man-made obstacles
- iii. Detect or Spoil ambushes

K9s can sanitise the suspected patrol area by three methods viz. Box method, verge method and Target sweep method

- **Box method:** Handlers should send the K9 to the other side of the road through gesture commands to clear the area. The K9 should be within the range of communication to clear the target area. In carrying out such search the area has to be divided into imaginary boxes.
- **Verge method:** Handlers initially sends K9 forward on one side of the road to clear the foreground and recall back on the same side. Then the Handlers sends the K9 on the opposite side of the road and clears the foreground on that side. This forms a cleared verge. The middle of the road can also be searched in this manner if traffic permits.
- **Target sweep method:-** Target sweep is generally focused on a specific target of interest (bridge, abandoned vehicle, intersection, previous IED location). The execution of a target sweep is similar to a route search/clearance, but is different in the following ways:
 - i. Handlers move K9s to the designated target
 - ii. K9 teams rely on inputs to conduct sweeps for possible individual or daisy-chained IEDs
 - iii. Ensure multiple K9 are used for limited area for sweeps to better work/rest cycles.

F. **Cordon And Search Operations (CASO):**

Sometimes Cordon and Search Operations (CASO) are also launched in LWE suspected villages.

- The cordon-and-search mission involves isolating a predetermined populated area by cordoning it off and systematically searching for suspects, weapons, communication equipment, supplies, and explosives.
- The unit that conducts a CASO will be organized into four groups.
 - a. Security element
 - b. Inner cordon element
 - c. Search element (K9 teams will be deployed in tandem).
 - d. Reserve element

K9 unit participating in search Operations in conjunction with a Raid in the Village House/Hut/ Residence

Sequence of K9 team deployment: -

- **K9 team 1** positions at the front of the formation to search the route up to and at the entry point to detect explosives.
- A breaching team enters the building/residence with **K9 team 2**.
- **K9 team 3** conduct on-leash man searches
- **K9 teams 1 & 2**, search hallways, hut verandas and rooms to sweep for people
- Ensure rules of engagement (ROE).
- The unit continues to clear buildings and establish security positions when off-leash K9s return to handlers.

G. **Camp Security:** Trained dogs play a vital role in enhancing the security of camps located in Naxal-affected areas in India. The high levels of K9 alertness and wide range of K9 alertness and wide range of capabilities will come handy when Naxals launch stealth attacks to breach security of the camp. The K9s not only complement and enhance the vigilance but can be used to launch attack on the intruders with due warning to neutralise the suspects/intruders/trespasser. Trained dogs can patrol the camp's perimeter, ensuring that no unauthorized personnel can enter. They can be stationed at strategic points within the camp to monitor activity and deter any threats. The presence of dogs can deter potential attackers and reduce the risk of infiltration and overrunning of the camp by Naxals.

H. **Assault Task:** Assault dogs or K9 units, have recognized to be invaluable assets in India's fight against Anti National elements. These dogs are trained to search for presence of suspect in various operational scenarios and launch an attack at the instance of K9 Handler's command or on conceiving imminent threat. Dogs, with their superior sense of smell, can detect human scent and locate hidden Naxal camps, bunders, or hideouts, even in dense forests or rugged terrains. These dogs can track fleeing Naxal cadres through dense forests and challenging terrains, making it easier for security forces to apprehend them. In case of an attack, dogs can be deployed to neutralize threats and protect personnel.

I. **Action taken by K9 Teams in the course of Bomb threat Response:**

- i. K9 team is best to detect IED and give positive response
- ii. BDDS team is on standby (readiness for duty), when the unit is alerted of a bomb threat.
- iii. Coordination with local BDDS units should be made before operations.
- iv. ED/ PEDD K9 teams should only be used to detect the presence of explosives.

- v. At no time the K9 handlers will touch, open, or disturb possible suspected explosive devices as it may have anti- handling mechanism
- vi. Electric device switches should not be touched until a thorough search has been conducted.
- vii. IEDs can be triggered to explode by motion, sound, heat, or remote device or any ambient mechanisms. Safe distance should be maintained once K9 has given indication of IED presence.
- viii. If K9 indicates the presence of explosives,
 - K9 handlers and spotters mark the location and leave the area for taking safe cover.
 - BDDS personnel will initiate measures for RSP (Render Safe Procedure) to remove or to destroy it in situ as per BDDS SOP.
 - K9 teams may continue the search until another suspected explosive is found or until the area is cleared by BDDS personnel.
 - In circumstances where explosive devices are expected or suspected to be detonated, K9 handlers remain cognisant of the estimated time frame necessary to evacuate facilities and areas as they track the elapsed time.

J. **Night Operation:**

The general planning considerations for night operation for K9 deployment are :-

- i. Limit distractions by keeping K9s on-leash.
- ii. Night vision devices for K9 handlers (if available).
- iii. Dog must be trained to stay calm and quiet during operations.
- iv. The distance and control of off-leash K9s will be reduced depending on distractions, training, and the handler's ability to interpret K9s responses.

7. **Deployment procedures of K9 Unit**

- a. **Tactical Deployment:** Deploy K9 units in accordance with the operational plan, considering factors such as terrain features, weather conditions, and the presence of potential threats.
- b. **Search Patterns:** Conduct systematic search patterns, such as grid pattern, line pattern, Hybrid approach and overlapping pattern to cover the designated area thoroughly and maximize the chances of detection.
 - (i) **Grid pattern:**
 - i. Method: Divides the area into a grid or squares.
 - ii. Procedure: Dogs search each square systematically, row by row or column by column.
 - iii. Benefits: Efficient coverage, reduces missed areas.
 - iv. Challenges: Time-consuming, requires precise grid layout.

(ii) Line pattern:

- i. Method: Dogs follow a predetermined path or line.
- ii. Procedure: Dogs search along the line, stopping at designated points.
- iii. Benefits: Quick coverage, ideal for large areas.
- iv. Challenges: May miss hidden or concealed targets.

(iii) Hybrid Approach :

- i. Combines grid and line searches.
- ii. Dogs search grid squares systematically, then follow lines between squares.
- iii. Enhances coverage and detection accuracy.

(iv) Overlapping Pattern:

- i. Method: The search area is divided into overlapping zones.
 - ii. Procedure: Teams systematically search their assigned zones, but they also overlap into adjacent zones.
 - iii. Benefits: This overlapping approach ensures that no area is missed, as multiple dogs cover the same ground from different angles. Larger areas may benefit from overlapping patterns, while smaller areas can be effectively covered with grid patterns.
- c. **K9 Control:** Maintain control over K9s at all times using verbal commands, hand signals, or electronic collars to ensure they remain focused on their tasks and do not stray from the designated search area.
- d. **Safety Measures:** Implement safety measures to protect K9s and handlers from potential threats, by providing protective gear, maintaining situational awareness, and maintaining a safe distance from suspicious objects or areas.
- e. **Establishment of Base:** Set up a secure base camp in the operational area equipped with facilities for K9 units including kennels, water and food supplies.
- f. **Continuous Assessment:** Continuously assess K9 performance and behavior during the operation, making necessary adjustments to optimize effectiveness and mitigate risks.

8. Deployment of K9 Teams Based on Zone Severity

Based on the intensity of conflicts the recommendations are as under:

a. **Highly Affected Zones:**

- i) Deployment- Two K9 units per company(Company Operation Base) shall be deployed to manage the high operational intensity and environmental challenges effectively.
- ii) Rotation & Recuperation- Increased K9 count ensures effective rotation, allowing rest and recuperation. This approach enhances both canine and handler endurance, resulting in optimal operational efficiency.

b. **Moderately Affected Zones:**

- i. Deployment- Two K9 units per company shall be positioned as a precautionary measure, given the potential for escalation due to geographic proximity to highly affected areas.
- ii. Rotation Requirements- Moderate rotation of K9s in these zones helps balance operational demands and prevents overburdening, ensuring consistent performance.

c. Marginally Affected Zone:

- i. Deployment- One K9 unit per company or 1 Dog for Area of Responsibility(AOR) of 2 adjacent Company Operation Base(COBs) shall be deployed, given the lower operational intensity. Minimal rotation is required, which reduces stress on K9s.
- ii. Support Measures- Refresher training, rehabilitation centers, and regular veterinary care are advised to maintain K9 readiness. Two additional K9s should be available at Unit HQ for contingency deployment. The contingencies could be health related or heat-cycle related in case of female K9s.

d. Additional Endorsements:

- i. **Age-Based Rotation-** It is advised to rotate the K9s aged between 5-6 years or those with specific health considerations from highly to moderately and to marginally affected or soft areas, optimizing operational efficiency and resource management.
- ii. **Standardized Support-** To maximize effectiveness, all CAPFs should adhere the instructions related to the standardization in manpower, equipment, vehicles and veterinary care facilities.
- iii. For better area domination/search operation, a pair of dogs shall be used for operational duties in LWE area either pair of ED dogs or with tracker/Infantry Patrol.
- iv. The Area of Responsibility(AOR) assigned to K9s must not be changed frequently, as they require time to familiarize themselves with new environment.

9. Administrative and logistic support for K9 teams:

- i. Medicine and first aid kit should be provided according to the nature of operations. In case of Anaphylaxis in Dogs due to Bee and Wasp stings in Jungle area, apart from the treatment protocol of anaphylaxis, ensure to carry medicine like Injection Adrenaline(Epinephrine) @ 0.01 mg/kg body weight for 30kg dog with initial dose of 0.3mg Intramuscularly(IM) or Subcutaneously(S/C) should administer as an emergency drug to treat the anaphylactic shock. A list of life saving drugs be prepared based on the

advise of either the Vet. Officers of concerned Forces or the local Civil Vet officers.

- ii. Adequate dry ration should be carried based on the duration of operations.
- iii. Body cooling equipment should be carried out to keep temperature under control and to sustain its sniffing capabilities.
- iv. The handlers must carry soft cotton cloth/towel which can be used for keeping the olfactory system moist for effective detection of IEDs and ambushes.
- v. Shock proof K9 boots should be carried to prevent death or injuries due to electrocution as the situation demands.
- vi. In the operation plan, nearest Vet. Hospital contact number and other details should be provided for meeting the medical contingencies and to execute proper evacuation plan.
- vii. Specially equipped ambulance, motor bikes with kennel may be deputed in need of evacuating the K9s in medical contingencies
- viii. Motion stabilizing Light weight camera may be strapped on K9 with remote video monitor panels during special operations based on specific intelligence inputs.
- ix. To maintain operational efficacy of the K9 teams proper rest and recuperation be given during the course of operations.
- x. K9 handlers must carry light weight weapons, so that, the weight burden of carrying other logistics be reduced

10. Limitations of K9s, a Handler and Commander should be aware of:

- i. Wind speed and direction.
- ii. Terrain of the area of operation duty.
- iii. Distraction:
 - a. Stray Female dog in heat as distractor for male K9s in the Operations.
 - b. Female K9 in estrous.
 - c. Environmental scent prickles.
- iv. Weather and climate of the area of deployment.
- v. Health related stressors.
- vi. Airtight packing of IEDs.
- vii. Lack of on the job training.
- viii. Insufficient rest and recuperation during op duties.
- ix. Handlers mistakes like improper assessment of K9 behaviour and communication.

- x. Physical, social and mental wellbeing of the dog handlers in the field.

11. How to overcome limitations:

- i. Regular on the job training and evaluation, with due emphasis on reorientingm/ conditioning of target odors.
- ii. Regular refresher training as per the findings and analysis of modus operandi of Naxals and IED compositions.
- iii. No extra duties should be assigned to handlers other than K9 related.
- iv. Regular counselling of handlers by the commanders to keep them motivated.
