



Special Unit Canine Unit

NOTE: This job analysis was prepared as a supplement to the general Port of Seattle Police Officer job analysis, and highlights and reflects changes/differences from the information contained in the general Port of Seattle Police Officer job analysis.

Job Description, Essential Functions, Tasks and Skills:

The Port of Seattle Canine Unit teams (Officer/Handler and dog teams) are recognized for their ability to detect explosive devices and deter crime. The teams of the Canine Unit play a key role in keeping air travel safe at Sea-Tac Airport.

An Officer/Handler and the dog are together constantly. The dogs live with their Officer partners, and become part of the family.

Canine Officers will perform the following typical tasks:

- Assist in the formulations of operational plans prior to a search.
- Respond to search requested areas or items.
- Provide care, safety and maintenance for assigned canine.
- Patrol, with a canine, assigned areas.
- Provide canine assistance for mutual aid.
- Respond with specialized Units (e.g., Bomb Unit) to conduct search activities.
- Record daily activities into CWS or KATS.
- Assist with various high profile events such as Super Bowl, dignitary details, presidential inaugurations, the Olympics, March Madness, New Year's celebrations, Torch Light Parade, etc.
- Participate in Unit training. Ensure constant training for assigned canine in aircraft (wide and narrow body), concourse, air freight, vehicles, luggage, people, and air wakes.
- Acquire, maintain, secure, inventory, and dispose of special training compounds (e.g., for narcotic or bomb training).



An Officer's personal judgment and the ability to read changes in the partner dog's mood and mannerisms are critical in the success of the Canine Unit team. Many of the cues given by the dog are subtle and the Officer's ability to read the dog is essential.



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Canine Officer Specific Machinery, Tools, Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment:

- Explosive detection dogs.
- Essential working dog equipment.
- Take home vehicle.

Canine Officer Specific Education/Training:

- Teams are either trained at Lackland Air Force Base or undergo a 10 week in-house training course.
- Teams are required to certify annually.
- The teams train almost daily on detection and dog obedience training.
- Teams are required to acclimate their assigned dog to their working/living areas.



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PHYSICAL DEMANDS

NOTE: The physical demands of a Police Officer position vary greatly and are hard to predict due to the need to respond to unique situations and circumstances.

Frequency Definitions:

N/A: Not Applicable

S: Seldom (1-10% of the time)

O: Occasional (10-30% of the time)

F: Frequent (30%-70% of the time)

C: Constant (Over 70% of the time)

WNL: Within Normal Limits (talking, hearing, etc.)

	Frequency	Comments
Lifting (over 50 pounds)	S	Increased due to the potential need for Officers to lift their dogs when they are injured, or to prevent injuries when climbing air stairs. Officers are also responsible for lifting bags of dog food and other equipment.
Pushing/Pulling (25 to 75 pounds)	F	Increased due to the need for Officers to restrain a dog on a leash, and potentially pull apart dogs that are fighting. Air scent teams rely on the dogs to pull/trail when on odor, which can be abrupt.
Bending at Waist	F	Officers spend a significant amount of time bending over and interacting with the dogs.
Driving	O	Reduced due to the time Officers spend working and training with their dogs. Officers are issued a take home vehicle and utilize this vehicle to transport dogs to and from home, to training sites, or call-out locations.
Foot Controls	O	Reduced due to reduced driving.
Writing	O	Increased due to the notes taken by Officers of their training time and utilization events. Additionally, Officers may take patrol calls, which require paperwork, including issuing citations.
Normal Job Site Hazards	C	Working with dogs, Officers must be constantly aware of the dog and the surrounding environment. Officers may walk backwards when conducting search and trip over unseen items. It is possible the dogs may encounter toys or other play items in their working area and want to lunge or play with these items. Officers must be aware of this and be ready to intervene. Most importantly, an Officer may encounter potentially explosive devices.