



Canine Tactical Operations & Consulting

SWAT & K-9's Interacting During Deployment School

CAIne Tactical School

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brad Smith from the West Covina Police Department in Southern California. I was a K-9 handler for 20 years and a SWAT dog handler for 18 years. Besides my normal duties at West Covina I am National K9 Chairman for N.T.O.A, and S.M.E. on K9 SWAT deployment for California Association of Tactical Officer.

I am also the owner of Canine Tactical Operations and Consulting, which represents law enforcement agencies throughout the United States in K9 litigation. I also teach a K9 SWAT and Patrol K9 Tactical School called S.K.I.D.D.S. and CATS.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to meet the owner of K9 Unlimited, David Pappalardo, at one of my K9 SWAT schools. Dave volunteered to be a decoy at my class.

During a training exercises the dogs are sometimes out of sight from the handler while searching for the suspect. This leaves the decoy as the only person who can make the dog do what we want him to do.

As I watched Dave work the dog I was very pleased with the skills he had. Dave was able to read the dog very quickly and anticipate what the dog was going to do. This allowed Dave to properly work the dog and get the desired results we are looking for. This permitted the dog to go away from the exercise more confident and knowing how to handle the situation.

Dave was a valuable asset to my training. I was very impressed with his ability, skill and stamina. Dave interacted very well with the officers during the breaks and training exercises. Dave provided valuable insight to the handlers on how their dog worked and how to improve their dogs. Dave's enthusiasm, dedication and devotion was exceptional.

Since then Dave has decoyed at more of my east coast K9 SWAT schools. Dave brought out some of the dogs he has trained to show departments that were looking to purchase new dogs in the near future. The dogs I saw were obedience, friendly, well trained and had lots of drive.

On behalf of my Canine Tactical Operations I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to David Pappalardo of K9 Unlimited for his service to the law enforcement K9 community.

Brad Smith

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