

About

This course is a four-day (32-hour TCOLE credit) K9 Operator. The class will be taught by a K9 SWAT Operator. Students will need to provide their own transportation to and from different training sites in the Gulf Coast Houston Metropolitan area. This course is limited to 12 K9 operator teams to maximize repetitions and allow for sufficient K9 rest and cooling off. SWAT operators without a K9 may also attend.

Prerequisites:

Students must be certified peace officers or active military personnel in good standing with their agency. Students must be able to provide an agency ID on the first day of class. K9 teams must have proof of being actively certified in the discipline of K9 patrol by a nationally recognized third-party organization. A pass/fail K9 handler assessment will be conducted the morning of the first day of class. The assessment will consist of a half mile handler only run followed by manually lifting their respective K9 over a 6-foot fence or wall. The handler then must get themselves over the wall after the dog. The handler will be wearing a full duty belt and ballistic vest. Although walking is not permitted during the half mile run, there is no time limit on the physical assessment. A pass/fail sociability assessment for all K9s will be conducted by the K9 cadre. This is performed by checking the dog's ability to be around others without showing extreme fear or aggression. Due to the nature of the class, instructors will determine if the K9 will be able to continue at an acceptable level during training exposure.

Course Topics

This class will focus on understanding and implementing K9s into SWAT operations, including an overview of K9 team benefits and pitfalls. Progressive tactical K9 training plans will be discussed to give K9 handlers and SWAT personnel a proven program that, when implemented with their teams, will enhance a SWAT team by enabling K9 operations to integrate in the inner perimeter. Different real-world techniques covered will be resolution of barricaded suspect situations, structure clearing, K9 threshold evaluations, less-lethal options, and implementation of K9 into operational planning. In addition, students will receive emergency K9 trauma care training. The class will be hands-on and will require physical exertion and many hours of practical exercises at various venues in the Gulf Coast Houston Metropolitan area.

Required Equipment:

BDU or other similar tactical uniform, tactical boots, PT clothing and running shoes, ballistic helmet, body armor, load bearing vest, ear/eye protection, gas mask, gloves, handgun and riffe. Duty belt with attached dump pouch, nylon leashes (6, 15, and 30 foot), K9 harness, agitation muzzle, gloves, and K9 reward toys. Some bite suits will be on site. It is recommended the student brings any apprehension equipment available to them.



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Instructor

Oscar Gonzalez is a Law Enforcement Detective with the Travis County Sheriff's Office with a background in both the military and law enforcement. Oscar served as a sniper observer for the Special Response Team (SWAT) in the army and served with distinction and achieved the rank of Army Sergeant.

Oscar first began his Law Enforcement Career with the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office, where he worked patrol and served on the SWAT team. In 2008, Oscar began his career with the Travis County Sheriff's Office where he worked patrol before being selected for the K9 Unit. In his role as K9 operator, Oscar collaborated with various law enforcement agencies, including the DEA, FBI, USMS, Secret Service, DPS SWAT (Texas Rangers), and the Austin Police Department SWAT team.

Oscar created a formal Tactical K9 Program to integrate patrol service dogs with SWAT operations, improving the overall effectiveness of the team. The program's success led to Oscar's involvement with the US Marshals Lone Star Fugitive Task Force, where he played a crucial role in apprehending some of Texas's most dangerous fugitives. As a testament to his exceptional contributions, Oscar and his K9 partner were deputized by the United States Marshals Service

Furthermore, Oscar's commitment to professional development led him to develop the Inside the Perimeter K9 Operator's course in 2019. This course has further solidified his reputation as an advanced K9 trainer and handler. In addition to his work with canines, Oscar has also conducted highway interdiction operations and developed a specialized course called "Turn Signals" for street-level officers involved in interdiction efforts. He has also spent time working with the South Texas area Interdiction Team near the Texas border, gaining valuable experience in this specialized area of law enforcement.

When:

Where:

Tuition: The fee for this course is \$500 for each K9 team. SWAT operators without a K9 may also attend for \$150.



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