

BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE ISSUED: March 1, 2000

GENERAL ORDER P-33

SUBJECT: **COMPUTER VOICE STRESS EXAMINATIONS***

PURPOSE

- 1 - The purpose of this General Order is to provide guidelines for the use of **the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer*** as an investigative tool.

POLICY

- 2 - All Berkeley Police Department **Computer Voice Stress Examinations*** shall be conducted in accordance with regulations contained in the California Administrative Code, Business and Professions Code and Government Code.

BASIC USE OF THE CVS ANALYZER*

- 3 - The **Computer Voice Stress Analyzer*** is an excellent aid to law enforcement investigations; however, it should never be considered as a substitute or shortcut to an investigation.
 - (a) The final result of a **Computer Voice Stress Examination*** will be based, in great measure, upon the thoroughness of the investigation prior to having a subject take the examination.
 - (b) In criminal investigations, examinations may be conducted upon:
 - (1) Suspects
 - (2) Victims
 - (3) Witnesses

PROCEDURES

- 4 - Requests are made to the **Computer Voice Stress*** Examiner verbally or in writing. Requests must be accompanied by sufficient data for evaluation of the subject. The decision to do an examination is based on the nature of the investigation and the characteristics of the person to be examined.
- 5 - Examinations will only be conducted in criminal cases where prosecution is the intended result of the investigation and not civil litigation.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

- 6 - In keeping with the California Peace Officers' Bill of Rights, **Computer Voice Stress*** examinations will not be offered nor given to sworn members of the Department.

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BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS FOR POLICE APPLICANTS

- 7 - During the Background Investigation process, a Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) test shall be administered to each Patrol Officer candidate. CVSA tests shall only be administered by specially trained CVSA operators employed by the Berkeley Police Department. CVSA tests shall be based on information provided by the applicant and discovered during the background investigation, including the Personal History Statement, Drug Use Questionnaire, and Pre-Investigative Questionnaire.**

At the conclusion of the test, the operator shall prepare a memorandum addressed to the Personnel and Training Sergeant outlining the results of the test. This memorandum shall include whether or not deception was indicated, and if so in what area. Any additional admissions or information developed during the interview shall be documented in the memorandum.

The results of the CVSA test shall not be the sole determinant of any candidate's suitability for employment with the Berkeley Police Department.*

References: CALEA Standards
Administrative Division Procedural Manual, Chapter 4*
California Business and Professions Code, Sections 475, 480, 481, 490,
9302-9304, 9307, 9313, 9317, and 9318
California Government Code, Sections 3300-3311; also known as The
Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act