MEMORANDUM



DATE: 6 August 2009

FOR: Rory Rehbeck, Chair

Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Group

SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Group Telecon Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the Canine Sub-Group 6 August 2009 conference call:

MEETING DATE(s)	6 August	2009	Call # 130	
ME	MBERSHIP / A	ATTENDANCE		
			1	
Member	Y/N	Guest	Y/N	
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y	Rory Rehbeck (SWG)	Υ	
Darren Bobrosky	Y	Jennifer Massey (scribe	e) Y	
Susann Brown	Y			
John Dean	Y			
Mike Marks	N			
Debra Tosch	Y			

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Budget
- 3) VA-TF2 October CE
- 4) Recommendations
- 5) Next Call

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1) Minutes from July telecon previously approved via email and distributed
- 2) Budget options for discussion

CSG was requested to review the canine testing process as to efficiency and look for costsaving measures:

- Evaluators
 - Reduce from 3 to 2 evaluators on one or both piles
 - Consensus was not to recommend this action.
 - 3 evaluators are needed on each pile for both safety (handler and canine) as well as to properly evaluate the team.
 - Utilize evaluators by Region
 - Consensus was not to recommend this action
 - Cost-savings not significant enough to risk loss of consistency in national testing
- Three day test
 - Reduce number of tests, but increase time-frame to 3 days
 - Consensus was not to recommend this action.
 - CSG supports keeping the 2-day format.

3) VA-TF2 October CE application acceptance process

CSG is conferring with Program Office as to prioritzing the applications, as there are more than the test can support. CSG suggests the following order to accommodate the system as a whole:

- Task Force need for certified teams
- Recert due dates
- Offer leftover slots to all TFs equitably
 - 10 TFs had no apps or did not respond

4) Recommendations status

- FSA evaluators (revised to require one rostered evaluator and Canine Cordinator or designee)
 - Rec passed by SWG, forwarded to Ops and is in the pipeline for approval
- Dogs in season prohibited from testing
 - No means to enforce it
 - All agree to table
- Raising pile size to 10K minimum
 - All agree to table for now due to initial push-back in light of budget climate
- 10+ year old dogs testing require a vet health report
 - Program Office advised this is a TF issue and not one for the CSG to monitor
 - No need for a rec, All are in agreement to remove from the Policy doc

5) Next Call

• 3 September @1400 EDT (later amended to Sept 18)

CONFERENCE CALL(s)

CSG Call: 18 September @1400 EDT