

Dog Talk

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

July 2011

Volume 14 / Number 2

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Finding One Another: Courage Beyond Measure

Despite much media coverage immediately during and after 9/11, there is no complete and accurate record of all of the SAR, Veterinarians, therapy and other human-canine teams who served, whether civilian, law enforcement, or military. To remember the valiant efforts and sacrifices that were made at the World Trade Center, Freshkills Landfill, the Pentagon, and in the fields of Pennsylvania, we are gathering together this important historical data so it may be archived and kept in memory for generations to come.

The archived copies of the historic registry may be preserved, inter alia, at

1. The Finding One Another website at www.findingoneanother.org;
2. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City;
3. Library of Congress, Washington, DC;
4. University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Penn Vet Working Dog Center, PA at www.pennvetwdc.org;
5. The 10th anniversary edition of Dog Heroes of September 11th, by Nona Kilgore Bauer, Kennel Club Books/BowTie Press (referenced); and
6. The Photography Exhibit at the Palisades Center Mall, West Nyack, NY (display mid-August through September 30, 2011).

We invite all working dog teams who served – civilian, law enforcement, and military – to please register on the Finding One Another website. We also ask those who served in management roles and as support personnel to please register as well. Go to www.findingoneanother.org, click on SAR/VETS, then "Historic Registry" for the 9/11 Questionnaire.



Dog Talk

REGISTRATION OPEN!

2011 Penn Vet Working Dog Conference "Defining, developing and documenting success in working dogs" September 7-9, 2011 Pearl River, New York

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from an elite panel of experts as well as participate in extensive discussion on how to build the successful working dog. Topics will range from puppy selection to physical conditioning. Speakers include Scott Thomas-TSA Breeding Program, Peggy Gibbon-The Seeing Eye, Scott Chapman-Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Chris Zink-Johns Hopkins Hospital. For a complete list of speakers, a schedule of the event, and to register, visit www.PennVetWDC.org or www.FindingOneAnother.org.

You can also listen to recordings of last year's speakers by visiting the Penn Vet Working Dog Center website.

We hope to see you all there!

Anyone interested in receiving the Penn Vet Working Dog Center quarterly newsletter, please email Kathleen Kelsey at kkelsey@vet.upenn.edu.

New Zealand Earthquake – USAR Dog Newsletter

Check out this link to a special deployment edition of PawPrint- the newsletter of the NZ USAR Search Dog Association

<http://www.usardogs.org.nz/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Pawprint-Earthquake-edition2.pdf>

or link located on the front of the website: www.usardogs.org.nz





SAVE THE DATE

US&R K-9 Workshop
December 2nd and 3rd, 2011



MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

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US&R K-9 Workshop

Join **FEMA/SUSAR K-9 Specialists** at this 2 day action packed seminar specializing in technical rescue and austere environment search techniques. The Conference will be held at the *Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center (GRPSTC)* in Glendale, Arizona.



Conference Contact:

Captain Reeny Shannon
Peoria Fire Department

602.686.4795

maureen.shannon@peoriaaz.gov



*Offered by:
Peoria Arizona Fire*

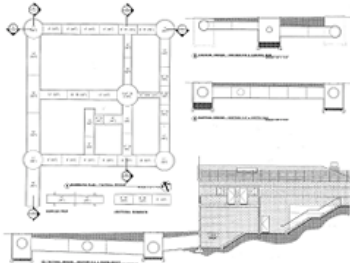
WORKSHOP FOCUS

- Performance elements for the **FEMA/SUSAR** agility test.
- Search and Alert of US&R K-9s in a variety of urban technical rescue environments.
- Helicopter Operations including Hot and Cold Load perfection and flight environment orientation
- Confined Space Search and Rescue methods.
- High Angle Rope K-9 Deployment and Search
- K-9 Search Environment Exposure

WORKSHOP Pre-Reqs

- Open to Federal and State US&R teams
 - Current Health Certificate for Canine
 - Completion of Obedience element (per FSA/Type II)
 - Completion of Aggression element, human and canine (per FSA/Type II)
 - Completion of Bark Alert element (per FSA/Type II)
 - No female dogs in season
-
- **K-9 friendly quality lodging within 1.5 miles of GRPSTC.**
 - **Night Events at Westgate City Center**
 - **Lunch Provided Both Days**





Seminar Instructors

Teresa MacPherson VA-TF1

Jim Ingledue STM, VA-TF2

Deborah Burnett TN-TF1

Over 20,000 sqft of Debris Field

Dynamic Debris Field Environments

Offering a variety of search environments from standard concrete, commercial building, organic and crushed vehicle debris matrices. This state of the art search prop environment offers safe and realistic problems to the K-9 and Handler alike.

Confined Space Search Rescue and Navigation

Underground Confined Space - the underground confined space training prop is designed with five manhole entrances strategically located along 350 feet of underground tunnel. Rescuers are presented with a variety of elevation and space rescue issues during technical rescue training scenarios. The underground maze of tunnels range in size from 63 inches to 24 inches and incorporate elevation changes of several feet as the rescuers travel through the confined space tunnels. Canines and rescue personnel will enter the underground confined space prop through vertical drops

Rope Hoisting and Elevated Building Search Techniques

The five-story training tower is designed to meet a variety of public safety training needs. In addition to a live-fire training room fueled by natural gas, instructors can create realistic building search scenarios as a result of the technically designed interior and exterior walkways, stair cases and stand pipe, the training tower floor layouts can be changed easily to present a variety of access and hose lay management challenges. Vertical rappelling of up to 40 feet will offer a dynamic platform for initiating searches.

Hosted Dinner with Haiti, Japan, Alabama, Missouri. Deployment Presentations

Instructors will share their experiences with the most recent deployments to Haiti, Japan and Alabama.

Regional Training Benefits:

- Weather predictably mild 60 to 85 degree temps.
- Airports, Lodging, Restaurants and Training all in close proximity.
- Nationally recognized Instructors
- Award winning State of the Art Training Center.

Event Information

December 2nd, 3rd, 2011
0800 to 1700 Each Day

**Glendale Regional Public Safety
Training Center**

**11550 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale,
Arizona 85307**

**Participation limited to the first 20
K-9 Search Specialists and their K-9s
as well as Search Team Managers
from Federal and State US&R teams**

- Additional Registration
Information to follow by July 2011.
- Anticipated Conference Costs: \$500



☆☆☆☆ Kudos to.....☆☆☆☆

DOGTALK is pleased to announce that the following Canine Search Teams have recently gained certification (or re-certification) as FEMA US&R Canine Search Specialists.

☆ College Station, TX – March 2011

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Mike Lueck	Sandy	TX-TF1
Katie Breland	Ice	TX-TF1
Bob Deeds	Gracie	TX-TF1
Terri Griffin	Gizzy	TX-TF1
Eric Hanzelka	Elli	CA-TF4
Johnny Subia	Lola	CA-TF4
Susan Vodrazka	Derby	CA-TF5
Chris Holmes	Cazo	VA-TF1
Robin Haberberger	Moses	NE-TF1
Debbie Maez	Coalby	NM-TF1
Mark Lepino	Cyril	NV-TF1
John Redd	Baylee	NV-TF1
Jason Ritz	Jack	NV-TF1



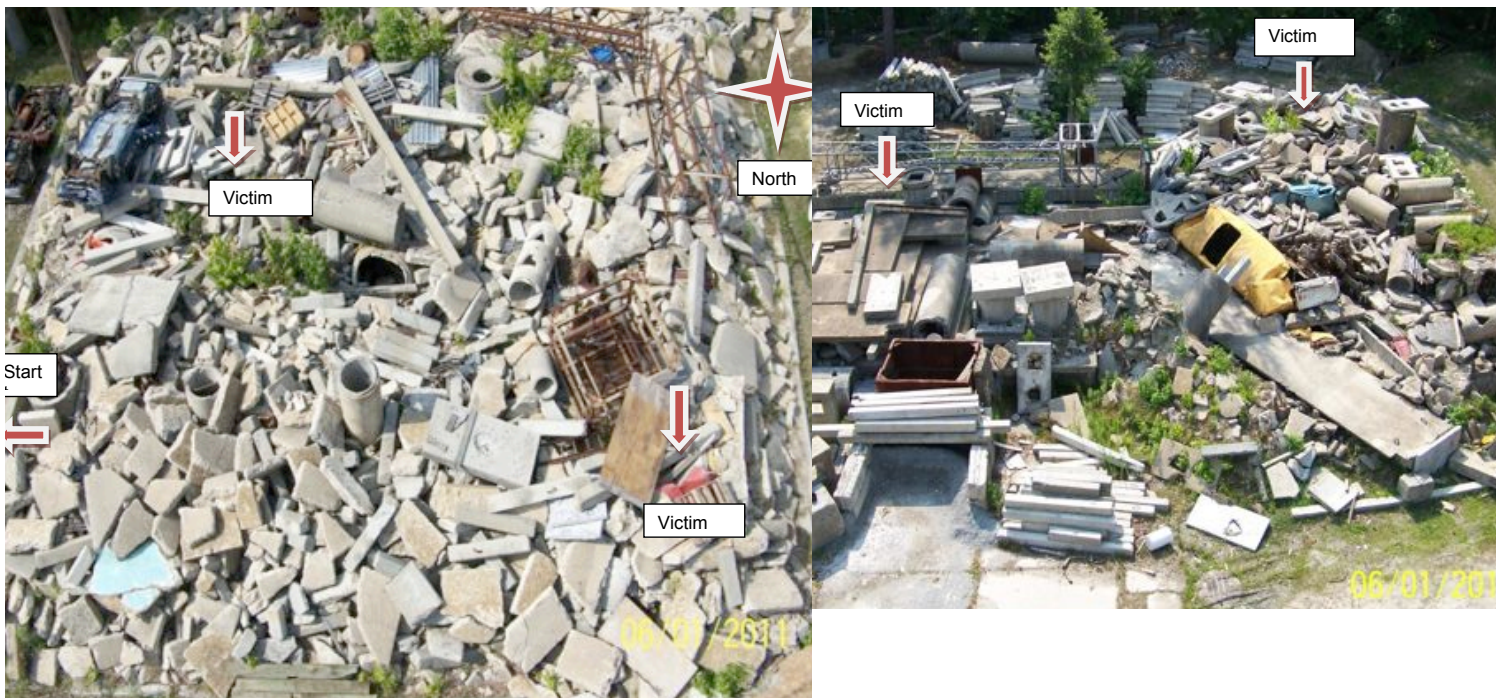
☆ Collierville, TN – April 2011

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Charlie Smith	Buck	TN-TF1
Darrell Wilkerson	Jack	TN-TF1
Jasmine Segura	Cadillac	CA-TF2
Barrett Anderson	Dodger	TN-TF1
Lauren Farr	Tank	TN-TF1
Tara Wolcott	Enzo	VA-TF2
Pam Bennett	Cynder	OH-TF1
Kathleen Kelsey	ChicoDog	MO-TF1
Lee Turner	Max	MO-TF1
Robert Bolvin	Ben	AZ-TF1
Russell Tao	Major	CA-TF5
Samantha Knell	Phoster	MD-TF1
Bob Sessions	Thunder II	PA-TF1
Anne Dottore	ShotgunShooter	IN-TF1
Matt Griffith	Rookie	TN-TF1



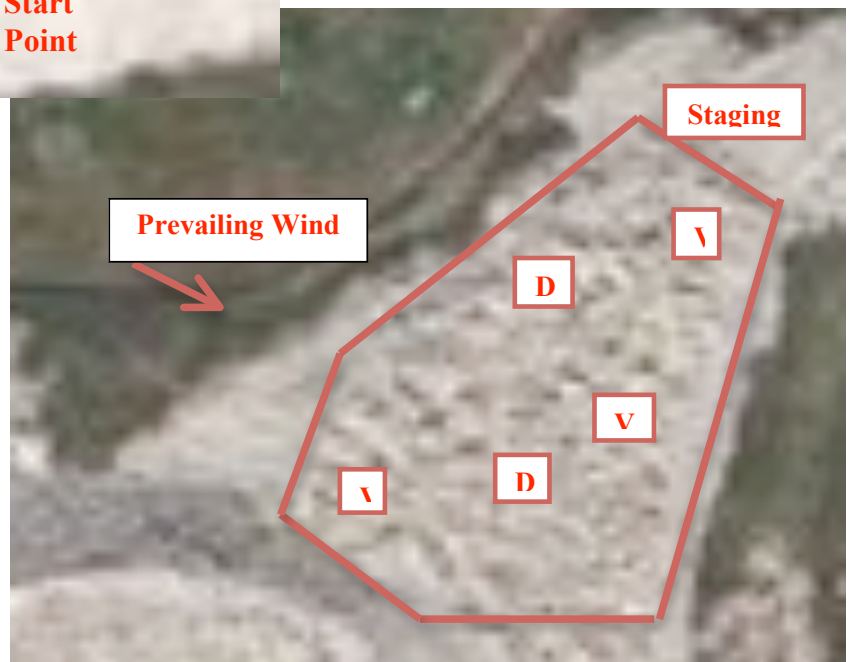
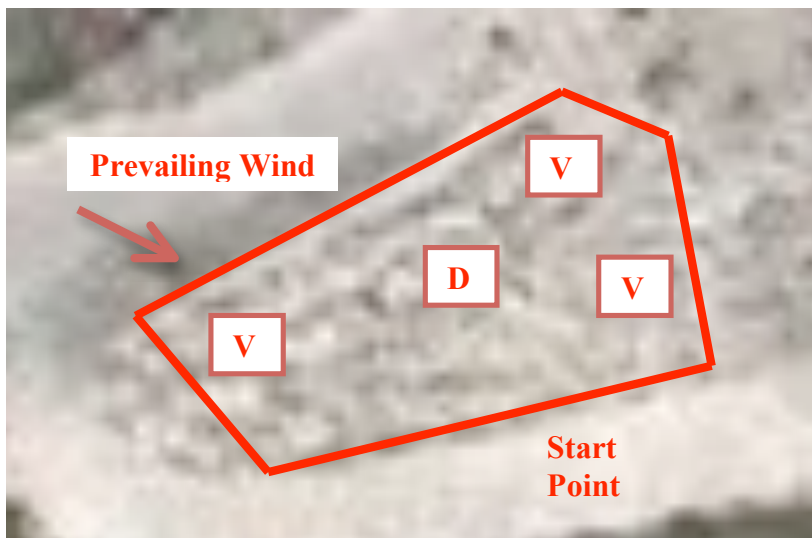
☆ Virginia Beach, VA – May 2011

Handler	Canine	Task Force
John Dean	Tug	AZ-TF1
Lori Tocke	Sarge	VA-TF2
Steve Driscoll	Blaze	FL-TF1
Lee Prentiss	Koda	MA-TF1
Janet Merrill	Chai	MA-TF1
Joyce Bowden	Kali	MA-TF1
Lybbi Kienzle	Marley	FL-TF2
Mark Moore	Ali	FL-TF2
Susan Thomas	Grace	FL-TF2
Mike Berry	Pierce	MD-TF1
Tony D'Ambrosia	Max	IN-TF1
David Kimbler	Cruise	OH-TF1
Monica Barger	Zamb	NE-TF1
Deborah Burnett	Buster	TN-TF1
Andrew Pitcher	Chief	NE-TF1
Charlie Smith	Desi	TN-TF1
Brent Frain	Gardez	MD-TF1
Sharon Grant	Xaros	MD-TF1
Linda Neimeier	Yoda	VA-TF2



☆ Irvine, CA - June 2011

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Eric Darling	Ben	CA-TF5
Davis Doty	Jester	CA-TF5
Aide Barbat	Sarge	CA-TF8
Luciaq Raalyea	Cruzer	CA-TF6
Crystal Cockroft	Dart	CA-TF6
Megan Kazda	Bridger	TX-TF1
Michael Zukowski	Patches	CO-TF1
Darren Dobrosky	Ranger	CA-TF4
Bryan Morgan	Baylee	NV-TF1
Justin Evans	Nash	NV-TF1
Tom Carney	Gypsy	CA-TF3



Operational Report

On Monday June 6th I received a call from Barnstable Fire Dept informing me they had a series of tunnels, some partially collapsed that they believed a man may be buried in. They requested I respond with my Human Remains Detection Dog to assist the Plymouth County Technical Rescue team.

Our Shift Commander approved the mutual aid request and I responded to Cape Cod with K-9 Pike.

When I arrived I was informed that they were looking for a 29 year old male who had been missing for several days. His vehicle was located by the roadside and bystanders reported seeing him digging an elaborate tunnel system in the woods.

Jon Talin and K-9 Pee Wee also of MA-TF1 had already searched the area in hopes that the man may still be alive.

As I approached the area I was amazed at the site of the tunnel system. There was a large main chamber approximately 8 feet by 10 feet about 7 feet deep. There were four tunnels that ran off of the main chamber between 15 to 25 feet long. These were all dug in the side of a sandy hillside. Some of the tunnels had small rooms built off of them.

The Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad was on scene attempting to search the tunnels with their robots but kept hitting collapsed sections.



I entered the main chamber with K-9 Pike using ladders and sent him into the tunnels. He searched three of the tunnels with no interest. We then exited the chamber with the intent of searching one of the two tunnel entrances on the other side. I had Pike do a quick search of



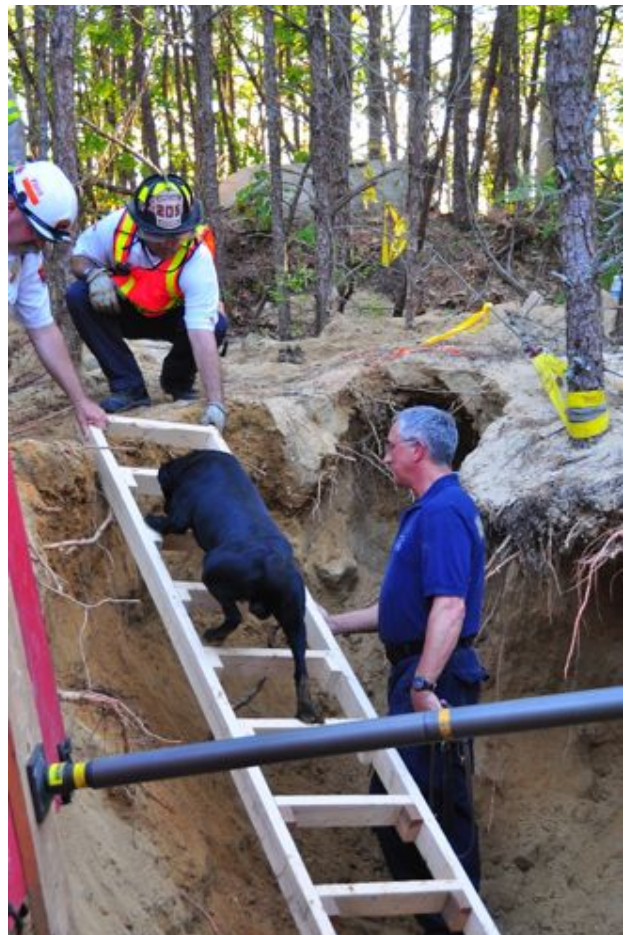
the surface which he did covering the area but then began searching around a large boulder about the size of a small car. He worked around the boulder and focused on one side of it and began whining as he does when he has detected odor but can not pinpoint where it is coming from. He then gave some weak barks at one corner of the rock. I took a probe and pushed it into the sand where he had alerted and after pushing through about a foot of soil it appeared to enter a hollow area. I suggested they try to punch a hole through with a pike pole and get a search cam in, which they did. The operator of the camera said it looked like a large chamber under the boulder. They then dug a larger hole in an attempt to see into the chamber. As they dug the hole the area around the boulder continued to collapse in so they were not able to get in far enough to see. I sent K-9 Pike back to the search around the boulder and he stuck his head in the hole and began a strong Focused bark indication in the hole.

The IC asked if that meant that the body was there. I informed him that the dog is trained to indicate the odor of human remains, and that the body should be either in the chamber or nearby in one of the tunnels connected to the chamber. Since the tunnels were sealed due to several collapsed sections, odor would now be coming out the hole they made.

They continued to dig, shoring up the boulder with airbags and cables. Once the boulder was stabilized the search camera operator was able to get closer and work the camera deeper inside the chamber. He then said he could see both of the victims feet and the silhouette of his face. They attempted to dig deeper under the tunnel but it again began to collapse. As it was 11pm it was decided to stop operations for the night and bring an excavator up in the morning and attempt to move the boulder. I secured K-9 Pike and returned to my station.

The next day I received a call from the Massachusetts State Police Trooper on scene who informed me that they had cut a path and brought the excavator up to move the boulder. They dug the area and were not able to locate the body. I suggested they back the excavator up and dig following the tunnel that exited the chamber. They dug back approximately 8-10 feet and the body was located.

This was an unusual and difficult search. The possibility of further collapse while the dog was in a tunnel was very possible. Also being buried 6 feet in sand does not allow for much odor to escape. The dog did a good job narrowing down the search area and excluding the other tunnels.



Bob St Martin, FEMA TF MA-TF1, SUSAR TF RI-TF1.



In memory of...Austin

11-08-1997 to 07-06-2011

It's with a heavy heart and great sadness that I send this out. Today I lost my Best Friend, Partner and Family Member. Austin is gone and so is a large part of my heart. Austin lived a very full life and I feel that I have as well because of him. I am a much better person and I am truly blessed for having him in my life for the many years we had together. Yet I find myself selfishly not able to let him go. Words can't even come close to explaining what Austin has meant to me and my family. I miss you so much already Buddy. As I stare at the many reminders I have of him, nothing will ever compare to the smile on his face, the sound of his bark, bounce in his steps and wag of his tail that he would always greet me with. Anyone that was blessed enough to have known Austin knows exactly what I mean. Austin was truly a gentle soul in every sense of the word. During his working years, Austin was the best Urban Search and Rescue Partner in the world, devoted and loyal to his work with every beat of heart. He sure made things look easy. And all for the love of his toy. It has been a true honor to have been his handler for the years that we have had together. No doubt he was the brains of the operation, making us look good as a team, despite my efforts. No more pain Bud. Until we meet again. Rest Well Brother.

Rich Grant



Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via **DOGTALK**, the underground canine newsletter to Anne McCurdy: amccurdy@iuhealth.org

