

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



FEMA

DATE: 2 July 2004

FOR: Rory Rehbeck, Chair
Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Committee

SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the recent Canine Subcommittee conference call:

MEETING DATE(s) >>		7-02-04	Call # 76	
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE				
Teresa MacPherson		Chair		
Member	Y/N	Member	Y/N	
Fred Pitts	Y			
Ann Wichmann	Y			
John Dean	Y			
John Gilkey	Y			
Mike Marks	Y			
Shirley Hammond	Y			
Dean Scott (Program Office)	N			

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- CSST course – update
- CSST location change.
- CSST Instructors – how many
- Type II Evaluators expired--Tori Kidd (FL1), Jeff Place (CA4), Barbara Altum (UT1), Christa Wendlandt
- Peer review review
- VMAT joint training invitation

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- The revision for current CSST is going to be July 20,21,22 in Lawton OK. Attending will be Dean, Ann, Teresa, and Shirley. This only addresses updating the current course. The entire course will be rewritten in October and all of us will be there.
- The CSST course scheduled for October will be in Fairfax, VA because of the expense of flying the canines into College Station. They would have to fly them into Houston and then shuttle them into College Station. The shuttle allows only one canine per flight, that adds up to a lot of flights.
- The CSST can have either eleven full pay individuals or six instructors and six adjuncts at half pay. We had a discussion about whether half pay is fair for adjunct instructors. Do we want to stay with a ratio of two point one students to one instructor or would it be better to have less instructors and keep the pay up for adjunct instructors?
- We had a discussion about the April test in Colorado and the April CSST in Indiana. The dates coincide. We need to see if we can change the dates of one of the events. Teresa is to email Mike Tamillow with the dilemma.
- Teresa will put out the revised evaluator roster after dropping Tori Kidd (FL1), Jeff Place (CA4), Barbara Altum (UT1), Christa Wendlandt (CA3).
- The Washington evaluation in September has a slight problem – they selected four evaluators, three Type I and one Type II. They also selected all three of their Type II evaluators and can only select two. Dean Scott will straighten it out.
- Are peer reviews worthwhile? We discussed what we have gained from them and decided that we can make them optional. So, they will now be available for anyone who wants to fill one out but not mandatory.
- Concern was expressed over California's agility course. They now have a trailer in the north, a trailer in the south and these contain the only equipment being used for the agility courses. Is this an allowable method? Is there a problem with teams training on the equipment after the test? After some discussion it was decided that the training on the equipment rule pertains to the period a matter of weeks before a team is to test.

The State provides the equipment as a service to the evaluators and they are not required to use it. It is up to the chief evaluator what equipment is actually used.

- 2005 Evaluation Calendar
 - Jan 15-16 TX TF-1
 - Feb 25-27 VA TF-2
 - Mar 18-20 CA TF-4
 - Apr 22-24 CO TF-1
 - May 6-8 VA TF-1
 - June 10-12 CA TF-2
 - Jul 15-17 MO TF-1
 - Aug 26-28 VA TF-1
 - Sep 16-18 CA TF-5
 - Oct 7-9 IN TF-1
 - Nove 4-6 MA TF-1
 - Dec 2-4 CA TF-3

- Fred to complete the application for the Mentor program ASAP.

- A suggestion was made that VMAT could possibly be the veterinary SME for the CSST. It will be considered.

NEXT CALL

- July 30 Noon EDT