

**MEMORANDUM**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**FEMA**

**DATE:** 17 August 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 Sub-committee conference call:

<b>MEETING DATE(s) &gt;&gt;</b>		8-17-04	Call # 78	
<b>MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE</b>				
Teresa MacPherson		Chair		
<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	
Ann Wichmann	Y			
Fred Pitts	Y			
John Dean	Y			
Mike Marks	Y			
Shirley Hammond	Y			
Bruce Berry (SWG)	N			

## **AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION**

- Minutes
- Ladder vote
- NV dog vote
- Equivalency request (Ann)
- TN test
- Chief Eval app & checklist (Ann)
- AAR standard form (Fred and JD)
- Questions for NDSDF (Shirley)
- Database
- Language for State USAR tests
- Divide up topics for CSST Advanced Course drafts to be presented at Sept meeting
- CSST revision—status of pics?
- Next call

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- Mike Marks spoke about deployment to hurricane Charley. A couple of issues he noted were:
  - Importance of aggression proofing
    - Media is all over the dogs
  - A need for standards for local teams
    - Is equivalency testing a possibility?
      - We can't have the FEMA name on the certificate.
- Minutes
  - Approved
- TFL meeting
  - The TFL's did not hold an official vote on the single certification at this meeting as has been rumored. It was passed at the Ops meeting and given to the TFLs for input. Next it goes to Mike T. for approval.
  - The TFL's like the mentor and the training programs. We need to get those mentor applications in. Teresa will send out a list of names of potential mentors who have not submitted applications. The completed forms need to be faxed to Teresa.
- Ladder vote
  - The sub-committee voted to interpret the ladder element in the current standard as restricted to the up direction. However, the down ladder direction is to be a training element. The possibility of testing the down ladder skill as an element of the single certification evaluation will be discussed.

- NV dog vote
  - After review of the investigative material the sub-committee has voted to disallow this canine from any future participation in the FEMA Canine Program.
  - It was agreed that all reported cases of an attack on a human by a canine will be investigated and decided on a case by case basis. No canine will automatically be dropped from the program without a review of the incident.
- Equivalency request
  - A request to accept an equivalency to the CSST will be sent on to Dean Scott.
- TN test
  - Teresa will send a letter to Susanne saying that the test will not be invalidated. The testimony given to the investigation did not indicate that dogs failed because of the size of the rubble pile.
  - No other action is deemed necessary.
- Chief Eval app & checklist
  - Ann has a good start and will pull it together and submit it to the sub-committee.
- AAR standard form
  - In progress- Fred to pull it together and submit it to the sub-committee.
  - Suggestion to include dog demographics for future statistics.
  - Suggestion that it be formatted into a computer fill-in form.
- Questions for NDSDF
  - Shirley to send the questions accumulated to the NDSDF.
- Database
  - Dan Gordan is working on the Canine database.
- Language for State USAR test certificates to be developed at their request (i.e. FL)
- Mark Dawson – (handler) MA-TF-1 has completed his Type I shadow evaluator experience and has been approved as a Type I evaluator.
- Divide up topics for CSST Advanced Course drafts to be presented at September meeting
  - Everybody should come to the meeting with a draft of their topics. Teresa will send out the list of the we developed at the May face-to-face modules from which the topics will be derived.
- CSST revision—status of pics?
  - Bring to the Face-to-Face.

**NEXT CALL**

- September 2 9:00 AM EDT