MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

FEMA

DATE: 28 March 2006

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 28 March 2006 Canine Sub-committee conference call:

MEETING DATE(s)	03/28/2006		Call # 95
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE			
Member	**Y/N**	**Guest**	**Y/N**
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y	Rory Rehbeck (SWG)	Y
Mike Marks	Y		Y
Joe Caputo	N		
Cathy Schiltz	Y		
John Dean	Y		
Darren Bobrosky	Y		
Debra Tosch	Y		

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

1) Minutes

2) TN CSST

3) Disaster<u>search v. disasterdog</u>

4) K9 roster

5) Canine TF questionnaire

6) Out of system HRD cert

7) Videos

8) Lead Evaluator

9) New Evaluators

10) Evaluators bringing dogs

11) K9 Decon list & packs

12) Confined Space—PD

13) Parameters for applicants for tests and CPs

14) Review of CA test

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1) **Minutes**
   - ? Approved

2) **TN CSST**
   - ? The format of the Oct CA CSST is dependent upon whether the TN course will be offered. Teresa will contact TN.

3) **Disaster<u>search v. disasterdog</u>**
   - ? The name cannot be changed

4) **K9 roster**
   - ? The roster will be maintained by the Subcommittee and forwarded to the Canine Coordinators by the Division Reps after each Certification Evaluation.

5) Canine TF questionnaire
   ?   Almost completed and ready for distribution**.**

6) Out of system HRD cert
   ?   ARDA has agreed to update the Disaster Cadaver-Dog Standards written for
NDMS and Beta-tested in Fairfax in March, 2000. ARDA will then make it available to all
canine handlers. The CSC will review the revision and upon CSC approval, will acknowledge
the standard as a suggested guideline for certification of disaster HRD dog teams. This is
subsequent to the many requests for a guideline for HRD training and certification. **The CSC
is not promoting HRD training and/or testing and FEMA grant funds may not be used for
either.**

7) Videos
   ?   Debra has set up a site for videos to be reviewed by the CSC for posting on the
website. Any videos accepted by the CSC will be posted on the website for use. Examples
are videos for Task Force Education concerning the canine resource and videos directed to
the new canine handler.

8) Lead Evaluator App—Elizabeth Kreitler VA-TF1 handler
   ?   Approved

9) New Evaluators—Jackie McCarty IN-TF1 handler, Bud Souza CA-TF4, handler
   ?   Approved

10) Evaluators bringing dogs
   ?   Subsequent to many complaints, the following parameters have been decided upon
for Evaluators bringing dogs with them to CEs/CPs: they must arrange their own
transportation and lodging, realizing that some TFs have no mechanism for reimbursement. It
cannot impact the CE/CP in any way. This is in lieu of mandating that evaluators cannot bring
dogs, ever. If there are more complaints, the issue may be re-visited.

11) K9 Decon list & packs
   ?   The Vet Group has submitted them for approval by the CSC for forwarding for
inclusion in the Cache

12) Confined Space—PD
   ?   The Rescue WG has submitted a recommendation which was approved by Ops to
have canine (among others) be required to take operations level training as opposed to
awareness (which is the current requirement). As an alternative, a suggestion was made to
add pertinent skill sets to the CSST. (How would we grandfather those already checked off for
the CSST?). Tabled until the RWG rec becomes a directive or not.

13) Parameters for applicants for tests and CPs
   ?   For an interim procedure—we will follow the same process as the CSST. Each TF
will have the opportunity to submit two applications for a CE/CP. They may submit one more
as a stand-by. Once all of the TFs have had their opportunities, the stand-by's will be
accepted, in order of receipt.

? The announcement should come out at least 60 days prior to the event. At 90 days out, the Division Rep will give the TF a "reminder".

? Discussion as to one central point for all applications for all tests (CSC?). To be discussed further.

? Structure for CP: (No FSA—must have completed FSA prior)

Day one—mock test (run just like the test, but evaluator won't allow "mistakes" to be made by handler.

Day two—training based on day one performances

14) Review of CA test

? Discussion of importance of documentation by evaluators, especially when failing a team. Needs to be supporting evidence. Point addressed that cover sheet doesn't allow for performance on different piles. Need to address poor search stragey and poor knowledge of search markings at next canine coordinator call.

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

Canine Coordinator Call: May 30th, 2006 1400 EDT
CSC call: April 25, 2006 at noon EST

NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING

January 2007, San Diego, CA