



FEMA

DATE: June 8, 2006

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Search Working Group Chair

DATE: June 8, 2006

FROM: Canine Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Minutes: Canine Coordinator Telecon Facilitated by the Canine Subcommittee

Please find the attendance and items addressed at the recent Canine Coordinator conference call:

DATE: June 8, 2006		Call #3
Subcommittee Member	June 8	
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y	
Darren Bobrosky	Y	
Joe Caputo	Y	
John Dean	Y	
Mike Marks	Y	
Cathy Schiltz	Y	
Debra Tosch	Y	
Rory Rehbeck (SWG)	Y	

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1) Roll Call

2) Minutes From Last Call

3) Canine Program Update

- a) Stats: 211 certified teams (147 Type I)
- b) Veterinary Group – www.usarveterinarygroup.org
- c) CSSTs – Tennessee, Los Angeles
- d) K-9 Travel Vest
- e) K-9 PFDs
- f) HRD
- g) Certificates
- h) PDs
- i) Test Announcements
- j) CP – Parameters and Structure
- k) CA March Test – Weak Search Strategy, Search Markings
- l) Appeal Process
- m) New Test Process
- n) Evaluator Groups – 2007
- o) Budget

4) Search Working Group Update

- a) Search Markings – Peel and Stick
- b) Primary/Secondary Terminology

5) Questions/Comments

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1) Roll Call

TF	Canine Coordinator
AZTF-1	John Dean
CA-TF1	Ron Weckbacher
CA-TF2	Bill Monahan
CA-TF3	Shirley Hammond/Pat Grant
CA-TF4	Darren Bobrosky
CA-TF5	Mark Valentine
CA-TF6	Shelia McKee
CA-TF7	Randy Gross
CA-TF8	Steve Swaney
CO-TF1	Roxanne Dunn
FL-TF1	Mike Marks
FL-TF2	Craig Radelman
IN-TF1	Anne McCurdy
MA-TF1	Lee Prentiss
MD-TF1	John Gilkey
MO-TF1	Cathy Schiltz
NE-TF1	Monica Barger
NM-TF1	Mary Berry
NV-TF1	Paul Bailey (absent)
NY-TF1	Joe Caputo
OH-TF1	Athena Robbins (absent)

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TF	Canine Coordinator
PA-TF1	Dan Hartman, Jeff Snyder
TN-TF1	Deborah Burnett (absent)
TX-TF1	Susann Brown
UT-TF1	Jim Winder (absent)
VA-TF1	Sonja Heritage
VA-TF2	Jim Ingledue
WA-TF2	Tony Sirgedas (absent)

2) Minutes From Last Call

Approved

3) Canine Program Update (Teresa)

- a) Stats: 211 certified teams (147 Type I)
- b) Veterinary Group – www.usarveterinarygroup.org. Handler Packs for immediate emergency vet care available as well as decon procedures and canine medical cache items
- c) CSSTs – Tennessee, Los Angeles

Tennessee is FEMA sanctioned but not FEMA sponsored and will be the last basic CSST. Announcement will come out within the next week. Los Angeles in November is the FEMA sponsored class – will include handlers as well as Search Team Managers. Want handlers to at least have passed an FSA to attend. LA class will be very scenario based.

- d) K-9 Travel Vest

Going through the approval process within FEMA. These vests can only be worn on FEMA initiated events – so need to keep task force vest. Contact Teresa if you want to see the vest – she will email.

- e) K-9 PFDs

Phoenix task force tested the vest – new ones have not been distributed to task forces yet.

- f) HRD

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Looked at the 2000 Standard for NDMS – ARDA is working on adopting this standard. California standard will be looked at also – ARDA will take both standards and put them together.

g) Certificates

Certificates are a year behind. Rory talked to Dean about certificates yesterday and Dean said he hopes that within 30 days they will be able to get back to them. Dean said ok for task forces to generate their own certificates.

h) PDs

Out of 21-day review period for TFL's. After final approval the possible consequence for sending a non-certified dog to a FEMA deployment – Sponsoring Agency reimburses team instead of FEMA. Type II certifications are good until they expire.

i) Test Announcements

Review test announcements – delete any language that says “division will take priority” don't invite evaluators to bring dogs, plan on slots for 21 teams, if needed. Prioritize applications to give everyone an equal opportunity. California test (6/10-6/11) will be 1 day of testing and 1 day of CP.

j) CP – Parameters and Structure

No FSA will be given, but teams must have passed an FSA to apply. Day one—mock test. Day two—stations to include multiple victims, distractions, deep scent, diffuse scent, and drive

k) CA March Test – Weak Search Strategy, Search Markings

l) Appeal Process

Appeal process based on process implemented after April test will be added to the DSCREP.

m) New Test Process

As a result of this appeal, CSC has been requested to remove subjectivity from the test. Discussion includes having an unknown quantity of victims (e.g., 4 – 7) with no false alerts. CSC will be meeting in August to discuss this.

n) Evaluator Groups – 2007

There are too many evaluators in the system to accommodate on the National Rotation Roster. To select evaluators for the groups for 2007 the CSC is discussing having evaluators apply to task force program manager and request to be on the rotation roster. Then it will go up to the Division to decide from the applicants who they will choose – this will last for 2 years. Ones that are not chosen will still be on the alternate list, available for picks and FSAs. This is in the process of being vetted through the TFLs.

o) Budget

Low-ball figure for this year is 20 million

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4) Search Working Group Update (Rory)

Lots of mapping programs, new types of information management – things should speed up. Going to put new search team manager modules into the CSST (e.g., how to use map source, recon operations, documentation with GPS, etc.). CSST is NOT a requirement for Search Team Managers. Per the PD and PTB, they must conduct an FSA, participate in an Evaluation and have an understanding of canine search capabilities and limitations.

a) Search Markings – Peel and Stick

Should be seeing these soon (in time for hurricane season). These are for houses that are still in-tact so do not have to put paint on houses that are not collapsed.

b) Primary/Secondary Terminology

Eliminate the words hasty and grid and using primary and secondary instead.

5) Questions/Comments

Q: (CA-TF2) How did CA-TF2 handle interview process?

Had 75 applicants and only 6 slots. Held a forum for applicants got the pool down to 50, held another forum, conducted interviews was able to narrow it down to 5. Debra will send a copy of CA-TF2's interview sheet to Teresa so it can be put up on disasterdog.org.

Q: (CA-TF4) What is the status of the survey?

Complete. If you would like a copy please send an email to Teresa.

Q: (CA-TF6) Can changes be made to the DSCREP only once a year – it is very confusing for handlers and evaluators when changes are introduced over the course of the year?

Typically changes are made once a year but sometimes it is necessary to make changes between “official” review periods.

Q: (CA-TF6) How is it determined which task forces will host evaluations?

TFL's decide which task forces will host evaluations for the following year. The CSC has requested that when they determine evaluation sites they try to “match seasons” with locations as best they can (e.g., no evaluations in Florida in August). California OES has its own rotation in addition to the FEMA rotation.

Q: (NM-TF1) How do task forces manage liability for handlers when they participate in off-site training?

Per Sonja (VA-TF1) – VA-TF1 handlers must send an email to the task force to let them know when and where they are training (if it is off-site) – only fully rostered members are covered. VA-TF1 handlers are becoming short term employees of Fairfax County to provide them with better coverage.

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Q: (VA-TF1) Does anyone have a good liability waiver to be used to assist in securing off-site training locations?

Please send to Teresa for placement on disasterdog.org

Q: (VA-TF1) Does anyone have any type of promotional packets that can be used to assist in securing off-site training locations (e.g., private land-fills)?

Please send to Teresa for placement on disasterdog.org.

FYI: (NY-TF1) Rubble pile is complete. If you would like to train on the pile contact Joe Caputo. Will notify of future FSAs.

Next Call

December 2006