

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



FEMA

DATE: 21 June 2006

FOR: Rory Rehbeck, Chair
Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Committee

SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Committee Telecon Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the 21 June 2006 Canine Sub-committee conference call:

MEETING DATE(s)		06/21/2006	Call # 99
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE			
Member	Y/N	Guest	Y/N
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y		
Mike Marks	Y	Bruce Berry (SWG)	Y
Joe Caputo	Y	Jen Massey	Y
Cathy Schiltz (Absent)	N		
John Dean	Y		
Darren Bobrosky	Y		
Debra Tosch	Y		

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- 1) Minutes from 18 May 2006 Conference Call
- 2) Dog bite incident
- 3) New Evaluator – Sonja Heritage (VA-TF1), Handler
- 4) HRD – CA Standard?
- 5) August Meeting
- 6) CA Test Review
- 7) Evaluations - Revisions
- 8) Evaluators – Selection Process for 2007
- 9) Evaluator Conference Calls
- 10) Next Call

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1) **Minutes from 18 May 2006 Conference Call**
 - Approved
- 2) **Dog Bite Incident**
 - CSC was briefed about a dog bite incident which has been locally resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.
- 3) **New Lead Evaluator – Sonja Heritage (VA-TF1), Handler**
 - Approved
- 4) **HRD – CA Standard?**
 - CA personell will contact Jennifer (ARDA) regarding the HRD test they have recently developed. ARDA plans to incorporate the CA standard which has “type I” search sites.
- 5) **August Face to Face Meeting**

- Awaiting the memo from the program office to TFs, so that travel arrangements can be made. Should be soon. The meeting will be in Denver, CO on August 11, 12 and 13 (1/2 day). Travel day – August 10.

6) CA Test Review

- 4 out of 10 passed. 4 rotations on first day. This test was very difficult in regards to handler skills. Second day held a CP. The CP went really well and the feedback was all positive. The fourth test rotation had only one team. A team who wanted to use it as a mock test was permitted to join that rotation, knowing it wouldn't count if she passed. This is an opportunity that could be offered in the future if the rotations are short.

7) Evaluations - Revisions

- Discussed test calendar for 2007. Preliminary numbers indicate the need for 2 tests the first quarter, and one in each of the following quarters for a total of 6 tests.
- Discussion as to putting emphasis on training. The CSC plans to recommend that tests and CPs are alternated—no two tests in a row.
- Discussion as to reducing the number of evaluators at evaluations (e.g., 2 per pile instead of 3). Consensus as to 3 on limited access, 2 on other 2 piles and a roving chief for a total of 8.
- Discussion as to removing subjectivity by inserting definitions or deleting the style points.
- Discussion as to emphasizing the set-up by the Evaluators—a proper set-up should test all of the behaviors we need to see tested, eliminating the need for subjective check-off boxes.
- No changes to the FSA
- Consensus to remove the interview from the test. Give the scenario in the briefing before the test.
- Consensus to review search markings at the briefing before the test, but still require handler do search markings on one pile.
- Consensus to remove items covered in the FSA (ie, directibility, agility) from the score sheets and add the ground rules—they will be spelled out so that evaluator can mark which one was incomplete, if applicable.
- Discussion as to defining “eliciting” (suggestion to allow **no** false alerts)
- Discussion as to the defining 3 barks—ie how much time in between

8) Evaluators – Selection Process for 2007

- Proposed criteria to be eligible for the 2007 National Rotation Roster
 - Have to make 100% of the Evaluator Conference Calls for the previous year or have notified the CSC with acceptable excuse – if you miss one call you have to have attended the other.

- Must be current and in good standing.
- Instructor by next 2 year term.

9) Evaluator Conference Call

- We will further discuss the test revisions for the evaluator calls coming up.

10) Next Call—July 6th noon EDT

CONFERENCE CALL(s)

CSC Call: 6 July 2006 1200 EDT

Evaluator Conference Call: 11 July 2006 1200 EDT

Evaluator Conference Call: 13 July 2006 2000 EDT

NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING

August 11-13, Denver, CO