

**MEMORANDUM**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20472



**FEMA**

**DATE:** 29 January 2007

**FOR:** Rory Rehbeck, Chair  
Search Working Group

**FROM:** Canine Sub-Group

**SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Group Telecon Minutes**

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the Canine Sub-Group 29 January 2007 conference call:

| <b>MEETING DATE(s)</b>         |            | 29 January 2007          | Call # 104 |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE</b> |            |                          |            |
| <b>Member</b>                  | <b>Y/N</b> | <b>Guest</b>             | <b>Y/N</b> |
| Teresa MacPherson, Chair       | Y          | Rory Rehbeck (SWG)       | N          |
| Mike Marks                     | Y          | Jennifer Massey (scribe) | N          |
| Joe Caputo                     | Y          |                          |            |
| Cathy Schiltz                  | Y          |                          |            |
| John Dean                      | Y          |                          |            |
| Darren Bobrosky                | Y          |                          |            |
| Debra Tosch                    | Y          |                          |            |
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### **AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION**

- 1) Minutes From 12 December 2006 Conference Call
- 2) Central TFL Meeting Report
- 3) SWG Meeting Report
- 4) Training Wish List For K-9 2008
- 5) Operations Group Meeting Report
- 6) TFL Meeting Report
- 7) Evaluator Calls
- 8) Excess Property
- 9) CA-TF6 CE Report
- 10) VA-TF2 CP
- 11) Site Requirements
- 12) K9 Liability Insurance
- 13) Mentor Applications
- 14) New Evaluators
- 15) Next Call

### **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- 1) Minutes From 12 December 2006 Conference Call
  - Accepted
- 2) Central TFL Meeting Report
  - Sanctioned courses
    - The Central TFs who hosted sanctioned courses are willing to do so again
  - Open Training Reqs
    - The Central TFs who have hosted open training weekends are not sold on the idea of having them regulated.
- 3) SWG Meeting Report
  - Definitions

- New definitions for Primary (detection), Secondary (location--low, moderate, high coverage)
- OH Course
  - Will be developed and delivered by in-system instructors as a Search Team Manager and Planning course
- USNG
  - Recommendation approved and will be adopted
- 2008 training with K-9 (CSST, workshops)
  - Consensus of SWG was to keep STMs incorporated into the CSST
  - Request 3 day scenario based workshops to include canine, tech search and STMs

#### **4) Training Wish List For K-9 2008**

- 12 test slots
- CPs & FSA preps
- 2 CSSTs
- Workshops with STMs/Tech Search
- Evaluator Workshop
- New Videos

#### **5) Operations Group Meeting Report**

- CSC now CSG
  - Name changed to Canine Sub-Group
  - Chair will now be a member of CSG and a canine SME of SWG
- Vet IST rec
  - Much discussion. Permanent position not accepted at this time.
- HR rec
  - Much discussion. The recommendation was tabled until the Advisory Committee meets and considers overall changes to the Mission Statement, including but not limited to, Recovery operations.

#### **6) TFL Meeting Report**

- Advisory Committee
  - To be operational early Spring

#### **7) Evaluator Calls**

- Roles and Responsibilities

- Evaluator Travel (CA-TF6 test)
  - Addressed problem with evaluators not being timely in making their travel arrangements and adding unnecessary costs
- Topics
  - Telecon protocol--Teresa
  - Roles and Responsibilities—Debra
  - Summary of Rules—Joe
  - Refind on Limited Access Pile—Darren
  - FSA issues –Cathy
  - Training Wish list for 2008—JD
  - CP structure—Mike

#### **8) Excess Property**

- CSG is tasked with providing a national guideline for screening canines to be used when disposing of a TF canine if canine does not work out
- Proposed use of Brownell-Marsolais revised screening, ie—shortened version

#### **9) CA-TF6 CE Report**

- 69% Pass Rate, no issues, ran smoothly
- Concerns from CA evaluators—can't fail a team for eliciting alert and/or lack of commitment to scent source
  - One team would have been failed by the evaluators under the old system for lack of commitment to scent source

#### **10) VA-TF2 CP**

- Will look at number of apps for the NY CE. If warranted, we will consider converting the VA-TF2 CP into a CE.

#### **11) Site Requirements**

- Needs to be addressed and submitted by June meetings
- Student/Instructor ratio
- ID dedicated sites
- Currency timeline - to recert instructors
- CE update - how frequent, how many days (web-based hrs? 8?)

#### **12) K-9 Liability Insurance**

- Canines injured at training
- TF reimbursement for loss of TF-owned canines

- Members or tools?

**13) Mentor Applications**

- Sylvia Arango, FL-TF2—accepted
- Joe Caputo, NY-TF1—accepted

**14) New Evaluators**

- Gail McCarthy, MA-TF1, Handler—accepted

**15) Next Call**

- Feb 23, 2007, noon EST

**CONFERENCE CALL(s)**

**CSG Call:** Feb 23 noon EST

**Canine Coordinator:** 2 March 1200 EST

**Evaluator Call for March Test:** TBD

**Evaluator Calls:** 1 February 1200 EDT, 5 February 2030 EDT

**NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING**

TBD