



FEMA

MEMORANDUM

**FOR: Search Working Group
Chair**

DATE: 17July08

FROM: Canine Sub-Group

SUBJECT: Minutes: Canine Coordinator Telecon Facilitated by the Canine Sub-Group

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

DATE: July 17, 2008 Call #6	
Sub-Group Member	Attendance
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y
John Dean	Y
Susann Brown	N
Mike Marks	Y
Darren Bobrosky	N
Debra Tosch	Y
Darren Bobrosky	Y
Rory Rehbeck, SWG	N
Jen Massey, Scribe	Y

COORDINATOR ATTENDANCE

TF	Canine Coordinator
AZTF-1	John Dean
CATF-1	Deresa Teller (absent)
CATF-2	Bill Monahan (absent)
CATF-3	Chantal Rose
CATF-4	Darren Bobrosky (absent)
CATF-5	Marc Valentine
CATF-6	Sheila McKee
CATF-7	Randy Gross
CATF-8	Steve Swaney
COTF-1	Rox Dunn (absent)
FLTF-1	Mike Marks
FLTF-2	Craig Radelman
INTF-1	Anne McCurdy
MATF-1	Lee Prentiss
MDTF-1	John Gilkey
MOTF-1	Cathy Schiltz (absent)
NETF-1	Steve Dolezal (absent)
NMTF-1	Lette Birn
NVTF-1	Bryan Morgan
NYTF-1	Scott Mateyaschuk
OHTF-1	Ricky Hutcheson

COORDINATOR ATTENDANCE

TF	Canine Coordinator
PATF-1	Jeff Snyder (absent)
TNTF-1	Deborah Burnett
TXTF-1	Susann Brown (absent)
UTTF-1	Justin Poarch
VATF-1	Sonja Heritage
VATF-2	Jim Ingledue
WATF-2	Cyndie Fajardo

1. Roll Call

2. Program Update

- Statistics
 - 221 certified teams
 - 189 actual resources
 - 14.5% redundancy
 - 201/173 Jan 08
 - Now tracking attrition
- Pass Rates (thru June)
 - 82% Pass Rate YTD (5 tests)
 - 15.5 teams average per test YTD (5 tests)
 - 72% Pass Rate since new test implemented (Jan 07—June 08)
 - 76% CP Pass Rate YTD
 - 91% Recert Pass Rate YTD
- CSSCP updated
 - Effective July 1, 2008
 - Certs expire 3 yrs from date
 - If early recert is failed, removed from roster until recert is passed
- 2009 K9 needs (draft calendar done based on the input from CCs)
 - Tests—155 teams need to test in 2009
 - Includes 25% cushion for re-tests
 - At 17+ teams per test, need 9 tests (and 3 CPs)
 - CCs requested to notify CSG if their numbers change
 - CSST
 - Handlers—63 need the course
 - STMs—42 need the course (Now required for STMs)
 - Draft calendar has one CSST in April

- Contractor will select the host
- K9 Recs:
 - 08-01 Screening of canines purchased with Federal funds
 - 08-02 Annual K9 exam guidelines
 - not mandatory but will provide a mechanism for the use of CA funds
 - Both recs were approved at the Ops meeting and in the queue for a Program Directive.
 - In the interim, the screening process and exam guidelines will be posted on DisasterDog.org for use
- New application/announcement process
 - Reflected in SOPs—will distribute to test hosts
 - Updated application forms (signatures)
 - Training Coordinator/PM, CC, Applicant
- Procurement/Disposition of Canines
 - Legal Issues working on it—looking for federal guidelines used by other federal agencies
 - Sale of canines that have been supported by TFs is problematic
- PTBs now PTLs
 - Due to Task Books possibly being used as a criteria for deployment, they have been re-named for the time being—Position Training Logs
 - The CSS PTL reflects the PD, but can be used as a training tool, ie check off's for a pre-test prior to certification
- CC approval for FSA participation
 - Handlers must notify and get approval from their TF Canine Coordinator before attending an FSA
- Phasing in increased pile size to 10K–15K
 - Since the implementation of the new testing process, the CSG has become aware that the minimum square footage of the piles is not always enough to accommodate 4 victims, thereby eliminating that option in certain circumstances.
 - CSG proposes increasing the minimum pile size to 10,000 sq ft.
 - CC's were asked if this would effect their ability to host K9 events
 - OK with it: FL1, FL2, IN, NV, TN
 - OK, but will need more notice than the current 6 months: WA
 - Not sure: CA3, VA2
 - In process of creating sites and will use increased specs: NY, VA

3. New Handler Guidelines

- Preliminary training?
 - When does someone become a task force member on various teams?
- Timelines?
 - Training timeline/milestones?
- Tiers of membership?
 - Different levels of membership on a Task Force?
- How much/at what point is there support?
 - What type of support?
- John will email these questions out to the canine coordinators for input.

4. Unit 10 CSST – Canine Search Strategy and Tactics

- Explains how the CSS fits into the big picture
- Available on DisasterDog.org

- Suggestion to incorporate into handler orientation and/or review
- This should be reviewed at the Task Force Level
- 5. Fit-for-duty guidelines for canines**
 - Working with US&R Vet Group and Auburn University to put together a fitness assessment and fitness program
- 6. Open Training Weekends 2009**
 - The hosting Task Forces will attach the Collaborative Training clause from the Statement of Work to the announcements for the events. This language will provide the mechanism needed to be able to fund handlers to attend these weekends.
 - Proposed hosts for 2009
 - Texas (January/February)
 - Nevada (March)
 - Colorado (September)
 - Florida (November)
- 7. Canine Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities**
 - Discussed changes—posted on DisasterDog.org
- 8. Task Force Canine Survey 2009**
 - Email Debra suggestions to be included
- 9. Contingency Plans for CE/CP's**
 - For unexpected weather (or any other safety issue), the IC will make the final determination, with input from the Chief Evaluator, as to modifying or canceling the event.
- 10. Transporting Canines by Air**
 - CSG has addressed and composed guidelines
 - Will be posted on DisasterDog.org

Questions:

- Lee Prentis, MA-TF1 – Will October MA CP be converted to a CE?
 - CP's are converted to CE's based on system needs. Canine Coordinators will need to provide the numbers to support the conversion. This needs to be completed in time to submit to the Program Office for approval.
- Bryan Morgan, NV-TF1 – Are there any fitness requirements for handlers?
 - Justin Porch, UT-TF1 – Have implemented a fitness requirement that works for UT-TF1. Will forward.