

**MEMORANDUM**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, D.C. 20472



**FEMA**

**DATE:** 28 July 2010

**FOR:** Jim Ingledue, 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 28 July 2010 conference call:

<b>DATE</b>		28 July 2010	Call # 133
<b>MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE</b>			
<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Guest</b>	<b>Y/N</b>
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y	Jim Ingledue (SWG)	N
Darren Bobrosky	Y	Jennifer Massey (scribe)	Y
Susann Brown	N		
John Dean	Y		
Mike Marks	Y		
Debra Tosch	Y		

**AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION**

- 1) Minutes from May Face-to-Face**
- 2) Tests**
- 3) Evaluators**
- 4) CSSC Annex**
- 5) WG meetings**
- 6) Mentor Apps**
- 7) Haiti Video**
- 8) Canine Coordinator Call**
- 9) Evaluator Calls**
- 10) Five year US&R Strategic Training Plan**
- 11) Other discussion**
- 12) Next Call**

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

### **1) Minutes from May Face-to-Face**

- Previously approved by email, distributed and posted

### **2) Tests**

- 2009 Pass rate was 74%.
- 2010 YTD pass rate is 72%.
- May CE
  - MA-TF1 hosted
  - 27 participants/22 certifications=81% Pass Rate
  - 12 recerts
- June CE
  - TN-T1 hosted
  - 18 participants/12 certifications=67% Pass Rate
  - 2 recerts
- Two tests remaining for 2010
  - Oct – WA-TF1 (Darren is POC for apps)
  - Nov – NY-TF1 (Teresa is POC for apps)
  - Dec – CA-TF3 is a CP (Darren is POC for apps)

### **3) Evaluators**

- Expiration dates
  - 13 evaluators will expire at the end of Dec, if they don't evaluate before end of year
  - Per Program Directive 2010-09 (The CSSC Annex, fka CSSCP), the requirements to maintain status are:
    - Evaluate at least one FSA and one CE/CP every two years
    - Attend twice yearly Evaluator Conference Calls
    - Subject to twice yearly review and approval of Program Managers
  - The CSG cannot waive or amend these requirements without going through the established approval process (approx 2 yrs for this document)
  - The CSG consensus is to have shadow-evaluations count towards the evaluation requirement
    - Not in conflict with the CSSC Annex
    - Meets the intent of the requirement
    - Expense to TF or the shadow (host not responsible to compensate shadows)
  - Suggest that all evaluators accept evaluations only once a year to allow more opportunities for others

#### **4) CSSC Annex (formerly the CSSCP)**

- Program Directive 2010-09 establishes the **Canine Search Specialist Certification Annex to the National US&R Response System Operations Manual**
- One document which incorporates the test SOPs
- No Policy document – all policies are incorporated or eliminated
- Significant changes
  - FSA evaluators - Two rostered Evaluators OR one rostered Evaluator and the Canine Coordinator, or his/her designee who meets the designee requirements
  - Evaluator compensation – clarified and the ceiling raised from \$300/dy to \$500/dy. (Effective immediately, but the three TFs who accepted the CE's/CP for the last half of 2010, did so based on the old amounts)
- Reminder - Peer Reviews to be submitted with the AAR.

#### **5) WG meetings**

- Hosted by MA-TF1, June, Boston
- CSG recs approved by SWG and will be submitted at the Oct Ops Group meeting
  - K9 Transport
  - Pre-mission vet exam

#### **6) Mentor Apps – approved**

- PJ Parker, FL-TF1
- Scott Mullin, FL-TF1

#### **7) Haiti Video**

- Debra has collected Q & A's from all TFs and compiled into a video
  - The video is over 2 hours long and the file size is too large to post on disasterdog.
  - Debra and Darren will check into providing a copy of the video to every certified handler on the roster.

#### **8) Canine Coordinator Call**

- 8 September @ 1400 EDT
- Agenda to be distributed

#### **9) Evaluator Calls**

- Evaluators must attend one to maintain status
  - 20 September @ 1200 EDT
  - 29 September @ 1500 EDT
- Agenda to be distributed

**10) Five year US&R Strategic Training Plan**

- Top level goals and objectives submitted to FEMA Program Office
  - Three-deep (12) in certified canine teams per TF
  - CSST course revision to accommodate the higher skill level of handlers and canines

**11) Other discussion**

- Vet support
  - On deployment
  - General care under DHS umbrella
- CE's
  - Difficult to predict future test schedules
  - Difficult to make evaluator groups

**12) Next call**

- 20 September @1130 EDT

**CONFERENCE CALL(s)**

**CSG Call:** 20 September @1130 EDT

**Canine Coordinator Call:** 8 September @ 1400 EDT

**Evaluator Calls:** 20 September @ 1200 EDT and 29 September @ 1500 EDT