

# Dog Talk

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

April 2002

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Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via DOG TALK, the underground canine newsletter to Anne Trout at [amccurdy@clarian.org](mailto:amccurdy@clarian.org) or via fax (317) 962-7549.

## FROM THE EDITOR

As we all know, this whole disaster dog thing takes a lot of perseverance. And if we are lucky, we run across an outstanding teammate who inspires us to meet the challenges we face with courage, trust and dignity. Krueger was that teammate. The first certified dog on the Indiana Task Force, this stoic Rottweiler proved you don't have to be a Lab (or a Shepherd) to do this work. You just have to persevere. It is with great sadness that I must include the letter that Gary Hay wrote on March 13, 2002.

To All:

This morning Shelley and I laid Krueger to rest. He had been declining in health and refusing to eat. He started to eat again last week and gave us some hope but again this weekend he would not eat. The spirit was fading and we felt Krueger should pass on with the dignity he deserved. Yes, there is sadness but that is quickly replaced with the great memories. There are few things that change one's life, marriage, children and for us it was Krueger. I look at all the people we call our friends, and the vast majority have been the result of our meeting because of the activities we were involved with Krueger. Our Friends at ECHO, which led to NISAR, which led to IN TF-1, which has led to friends across the nation. I said a special "thank you to Kruegs" for all that he has done for us. It has been an honor and privilege to be his trainee and handler. Oh, I haven't forgot the times that he ran out of the obedience ring (he was just telling me he wasn't ready for that!) and all of those other "great moments." Krueger has passed on, but his spirit lives on with our friendships we have made. He has a prominent place on our property, on the hill by the woods, looking back at the house and the proposed pond site.

Gary Hay

INTF-1

KRUEGER October 31, 1990 - March 13, 2002

Thanks to Tony Zintsmaster for providing a photo of Gary and Krueger at the Atlanta Olympics.

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## FROM THE READERS

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

submitted by Jean Seibert

Unit IV - Safety and Security, page 1, of my USAR Technical Search Specialist manual states, "Search and rescue is one of the most dangerous types of emergency response activities that can be performed. It exposes the team members to many hazards that they have little training and virtually no experience to combat." INTF-1 is just off of the bus with no idea of what we were going encounter. As collapsed Building 7 loomed before us with the refuse from the collapse being sprawled six feet high across the street; it was obvious we had met the enemy. Upon deployment to Building 7, my responsibility was to work with the search cameras behind the K9's in areas where any focused barking would indicate that a live find had been made. The working pair would enter in through a void and allow the collapsed building to swallow them up as fractions of INTF-1 and I stood and watched. It was not a cakewalk for

them. The building next to the one we were working in was on fire and falling into where the handlers and dogs were. On the outside everyone listened for radio communication from the handlers while watching the building fire and falling debris. Although outside forces and gravity had brought this building down to where it was at the time, it appeared to be capable of more compression. Both dogs working Building 7 had shown interest in generally the same area. It was believed to have been a person caught in the collapse who may have been making a final sweep through the area to make sure all personnel were evacuated. Due to the severity of the collapse it would have been a small miracle to have expected a live find. The tangle of steel, wires, insulation and other shattered objects made for an impervious barrier. Both dogs working this area were cross-trained in cadaver and did not give live find alerts. Once the redundancy with a second dog had been performed I was called in to put my equipment to use. Just like the certification testing the handlers stated, "I believe the dog is alerting here." From that I took my cue and tried to find the best possible way into the smaller voids with the equipment and locate the body. I worked for some time in the area the dogs had made an indication of possible human remains, until we were told to leave the area due to its unstable condition.

Having trained with these particular dogs for years has given me a level of insight of what their normal alert and body posturing is when they are working a scent pool. I'd eagerly watch the handler perform their tactical plan with the dog and then watch the dog's response. If the dog gave an indication of recovery where it was sent, there was the mutual trust that the dog would work it out. Other times the dog would be sent away to work areas on their own with the handler expecting the dog to pick up scent and follow on its own volition. The dog is expected to do this.

When my morning shift would arrive to the WTC site the K9's were deployed almost immediately every day to Towers One and Two. Some days the more specialized teams would follow the K9's to the work site. Sometimes I would work behind the K9's and other times I would be assigned to particular sections of the pile with the equipment to ferret out possible voids to search. The rapid pace of work on site kept us moving on to another possible indication the dogs had or left searching on our own part for viable voids. The working dogs were not responding with their usual focused bark indicating live human finds. The dogs that were cross-trained gave their alert used for human remains detection. The dogs not cross-trained continued daily looking for live victims. This disaster went quickly from expecting to rescue live victims to looking for human remains.

Training with the K9's gives me the confidence in our K9 teams. If the dogs were alerting then I believed we had something. I never second-guessed the K9 teams I was working with. If an outsider asked how good our dogs were, I always replied with a confident statement of reassurance that they were in the presence of some of United States' best. On site is not the time to rethink your K9 team's capability. We train hard and are thorough in our training.

I cross train as one of the Technical Search Specialist on our team. I first started working on the Technical Search Team after Wayne Morgan, Search Team Manager, a very qualified and challenging professor of the trade, had recruited me and others from the K9 team who were working non-certified K9's. He showed up to the K9 training with neat toys and gadgets. I love cameras and found the additional equipment to be fascinating with great potential for intended search scenarios. At a later point in time he asked if I would take the class to be given in Fairfax this past summer with Wendy York, another K9 handler from INTF-1. I did and during that week, I had the opportunity to get to know other members of the USAR teams from around the United States. This foreshadows the event I experienced while waiting to be deployed to Tower 1. I was setting up and checking to make sure my Delsar acoustical device was working. Steve Gillespie, NYTF-1 walked up. What a cause for a celebration but time and responsibilities prevented the warranted party. He too was off duty when the towers collapsed. In the short time he had, he recited the list of names of the living I would recognize from the class. I breathed a sigh of relief, I was then given the signal from our TFL and I had to go do my job.

Jean Seibert/INTF-1 Technical Search Specialist/K9 Search Specialist

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## TYPE I TEST IN TURKEY

Submitted by Elaine Sawtell

It was a bumpy ride through the stormy November night as Fred Pitts, his wife Cathy, and I flew to Istanbul. Fred, a FEMA canine handler/evaluator from California; his wife Cathy, with a history of training 300 dogs as a senior trainer for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and I were to meet Pat and Hakan Kaynaroglu and conduct three days of training, followed by a FEMA Type II and Type I test, sponsored by International Emergency Response K9.

The sprawling city came into sight, and I began to relax until the Turkish Air pilot, in broken English, informed us there was, "a little problem." As we pulled up and headed off in the general direction of Afghanistan, I asked myself, "And just WHY am I doing this?" The reason is clear. Turkey is a country criss-crossed by earthquake faults. Our mission as canine handlers and trainers is to do everything we can to help them prepare for the inevitable. In the last few years, the quakes have been moving steadily west along fault lines toward Istanbul, home of 10 million people. In 1999, a quake hit the town of Izmet, just east of Istanbul. 40,000 people died. The days passed quickly and the nights even quicker.

We never got to bed before 2 a.m. and were up at 5:30. There was the usual Turkish political intrigue, crazy traffic, wonderful food, frustrations with the language barrier, and rain...constant rain until we departed 10 days later. There is also the memory of the Turkish people. The firefighter from Ankara who spoke no English but told me through a translator of his sorrow about the events of September 11 and how he longed to respond and help with his dog (now a Type I). The teenage translator, who was a Foreign Exchange student in Boston but was sent home after September 11. Vice President Mustafa Yasar Kelleci, who is putting everything on the line to help his people prepare a lifesaving response to a future disaster, as well as establishing services for the physically handicapped to cope with the problems they face today.

The test victims. As in March, they spent long hours, up to eight hours, buried in metal barrels (a safety factor in case there is a quake), without complaint. Once again I came away with great respect for the skill and commitment of these teams. Two passed the Type I test. The piles were real...two apartment buildings in crowded residential/business areas, knocked down the day before...one factory, the size of a football field. The distractions were real and everywhere: people, human waste, garbage, animals, dead and alive, food, unstable rubble, noise, confusion, added to the language barrier of taking directions from 3 American evaluators. They worked through it. They didn't count victims...they found them, all of them. They took care of their dogs, and their dogs will save lives.

On February 28, a 4.5 quake hit the Marmara Sea just outside of Istanbul. It may be an isolated event or the prelude to something bigger. The job is so big, the time is so short; but the work has begun.

Elaine Sawtell

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Submitted by Fred Pitts

International Emergency Response K9 (ERK9), a non-profit organization is looking for FEMA certified canine teams to place applications on file for possible deployment internationally in response to requests for aid from the government of a disaster struck nation. Our initial focus is Turkey, a nation that lives under the threat of a major earthquake that will cause extreme devastation...again. Teams responding for ERK9 do so as an unpaid volunteer. For further information send an email to [fepitts@interx.net](mailto:fepitts@interx.net).

Fred Pitts

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Submitted by Hilda Wood

Just Bragging...

Ransom's Moonstone Starr got her third Novice leg with a 4th place and a score of 190.5. She is an 8 month old Labrador and already has her CGC and is in training to be a FEMA search and rescue dog!

Hilda Wood

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#### METHOD OF CANINE SCREENING FOR DISASTER DOGS

Since Sept. 11th many of us that are also members of wilderness SAR teams, have received numerous inquiries from people wanting to donate their dogs as potential SAR candidates. While well meaning, many of these canines simply lack the necessary qualities to make an excellent SAR/Disaster dog. [Click here](#) to read an article which will discuss how to tell if these Canine candidates are "Raising their paws" for SAR Disaster work.

David Brownell.

= The above article is an Adobe Acrobat Reader file. To download Adobe's reader - [click here](#).

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#### **ASK DOGTALK:**

1) What is a cadisaster dog? Shirley Hammond coined the term "cadaster" after Oklahoma City. It is a disaster-trained dog that locates human remains under the rubble, instead of live victims. They are not cross-trained on live human scent.

2) Is FEMA supporting this kind of canine? From Justin Reuter/Search Subcommittee Not currently, but the questions are in discussion at the canine subcommittee level, and suggestions will then be forwarded on to the SWG for evaluation and policy.

3) Does FEMA have Standards for this type of canine, and where do these canines fit into the FEMA program? From Hugh Bouchelle/FEMA US&R Program Specialist No - FEMA does not have established standards or a position on the teams for these dogs except in the live search role.

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#### **TEST INFORMATION**

Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via DOG TALK, the underground canine newsletter to Anne Trout at [amccurdy@clarian.org](mailto:amccurdy@clarian.org) or via fax (317) 962-7549.

April 27-28, 2002, Miami, Florida TYPE II Testing

Lodging at the Ramada Limited located at 7600 N. Kendall Dr. (ten rooms reserved under Miami Dade Fire Rescue USAR) hotel # 305-595-6000. Contact Pat Selts at: [stuntmedx2@aol.com](mailto:stuntmedx2@aol.com) . Fax applications to Pat at 305-595-1698. First come, first serve.

***TENTATIVE TESTING DATES***

May 31 - June 2, 2002 Type II and Type I Testing, Denver, Colorado.

Tentative testing in Denver. Important - attendees should NOT make airline reservations until the test is confirmed!

September 28 - 29, 2002      Beverly, MASS    TYPE II Testing

The fee for our test will be \$75.00 which includes all meals except for Saturday night's dinner. There will be a cookout Friday night as a welcome. (Coffee, bagels, box lunch, fruit, water, etc. available) Transportation will be provided at the site of the test. We have 6 more openings for the test.

Contact Mark Dawson for further information:

Home (203) 629-2557    Work (203) 622-8087    Pager (860) 504-0295

Cell (203) 253-4795    Fax (203) 862-8913    Email: [MWDRescue503@worldnet.att.net](mailto:MWDRescue503@worldnet.att.net)

TENTATIVE in the fall  
Fairfax, Virginia    TYPE II

2002 California Test Schedule:

May 18-19, L.A. City area, deadline for applications is April 8.

August 17-18, San Diego area, deadline for applications is July 8.

November 16-17, Riverside, CA area, deadline for applications is October 7.

Applications, with a \$25 testing fee attached can be sent to: Lynne Engelbert, 19327 Northampton Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070-3330. Checks should be made out to: National Disaster Search Dog Foundation or NDSDF with CSSWG Account indicated on the "memo" line.

CA and re-certifying (CA & out-of-state) teams have priority with out-of-state testing teams welcome to fill remaining slots, if available.

For information on California tests, contact: Lynne Engelbert

FAX (650) 604-7051 or (650) 604-0994

Work - (650) 604-3112

Home - (408) 257-1784

The National Certification List of FEMA Certified Disaster Canine Search Teams is provided by Lynne Engelbert. (Lynne's e-mail: [lengelbert@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:lengelbert@mail.arc.nasa.gov)) It is available on this web page. [To view it - click here.](#)

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## **KUDOS TO.....**

DOGTALK is pleased to announce that the following Canine Search Teams have recently gained certification (or re-certification) as FEMA US&R Type I or Type II Canine Search Specialists:

Sacramento, CA Results - February 2002

Type I Certified:

Monica Barger & "Zima" (NETF-1)  
Darren Bobrosky & "Dylan" (CA-OES)  
Rob Cima & "Harley" (CA-OES)  
Kim Cooper & "Piper" (Canada)  
Jane David & "Kita" (WATF-1)  
Steve Pendergrass & "Marc" (CA-OES)  
Nancy Perkins & "Jaeger" (CA-OES)  
Peter Sellas & "Madison" (CA-OES)  
John Strickland & "Wally" (CA-OES)  
Debra Tosch & "Abby" (CA-OES)  
Ann Wichmann & "Torie" (COTF-1)

Phoenix, AZ Results - March 2002:

Type II Certified:

Danny Hopper & "Heidi" (TNTF-1)

Type I Certified:

LaFond Davis & "Sunny" (WATF-1)  
Elizabeth Kreitler & "Nero" (VATF-1)  
Teresa MacPherson & "Georgia" (VATF-1)  
Jeaneen McKinney & "Ronin" (NMTF-1)  
Steve Rochford & "Kona" (TXTF-1)  
Diane Whetsel & "Sage" (NMTF-1)  
Hideko Yamaguchi & "Ondo" (VATF-1)

Type II Evaluators

Tori Kidd, handler (FLTF1)  
Elizabeth Kreitler, handler (VATF1)  
Bill Gilbert, STM (PATF1)

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## **UPCOMING SEMINAR:**

no upcoming seminars listed at this time

## **Disaster Seminar Update**

A 3-day K9 Disaster Seminar was held at the Kal-Kan plant in Greenville, Texas (just outside of Dallas)

from March 8th through March 10th, 2002. This seminar was sponsored by DogSpeedOne, Chilport USA, and Working Search Dogs. Over 30 students and their K9 partners from across the United States attended the seminar. They came from Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland and Arkansas. The experience of the students and their K9 partners varied. Some of the students were FEMA-certified handlers, others were search handlers for regional SAR and Wilderness groups, and still others were just entering the SAR and Disaster handling field. All the students were interested in increasing their knowledge of how to deploy safely and effectively in a disaster environment.

The seminar curriculum presented a good balance of classroom and fieldwork. Classroom topics included: Lessons Learned from Domestic and International Deployments, FEMA Canine Readiness Standards, Brownell-Marsolais K9 Screening Instrument, Working the Search Dog in Drive. Fieldwork exercises included: Agility, Directionals, Bark Barrel, Building Search, and Environmental Hazards. The final day of the seminar involved a trip to Big City Concrete in Dallas. There the students and their K9s gained firsthand experience in operating in a dangerous and demanding search environment. Additionally, working in and around the rubble brought home the points taught in the first two days of the seminar. All the students and their K9s made it through the exercises uninjured. Instructors for the seminar were: David Brownell, Scott Earhart, Sonja Heritage and Mark Marsolais. Jan Abbs assisted as safety officer and adjunct instructor. Linda Morgan tirelessly filled in as the primary helper/victim. The instructors were extremely pleased with the caliber of the participating handlers and their K9s. It was a very successful seminar. Plans are in the works for the 2nd Annual K9 Disaster Seminar to be held next year at the same time. Photographs of the seminar can be viewed at: [www.workingsearchdogs.com](http://www.workingsearchdogs.com)

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## **ROTATIONAL SCHEDULE**

Are your bags packed????

"First Out" (after the 3 closest teams..) on the US&R rotational schedule are:

August - INTF-1, MDTF-1 and CATF  
September - MOTF-1, FLTF-2 and CATF  
October - TXTF-1, OHTF-1 and CATF  
November - UTTF-1, NYTF-1 and CATF  
December - AZTF-1, FLTF-1 and CATF

The Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Task Force is currently accepting applications for the position of K-9 Search Specialist. In addition to an application packet, persons wishing to be considered for these open positions MUST live within a reasonable driving distance of Harrisburg, PA and MUST participate in a K-9 Team evaluation on Saturday Sept. 8th, 2001.

The evaluation for which applicants will be tested is the FEMA TYPE II CANINE EVALUATION. The evaluation will be administered through Task Force personnel with FEMA qualified evaluators.

Application packets can be obtained through the Task Force Office at the following address:

Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Task Force  
c/o FEMA  
PO Box 3321  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3321

Attn.: Program Manager  
Or via the Internet at: [mpeterson@state.pa.us](mailto:mpeterson@state.pa.us)

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

PHILADELPHIA - When the World Trade Center and sections of the Pentagon came crashing down Sept. 11, the rubble left for rescuers was laden with asbestos, diesel fuel, PCBs and countless other toxins. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have now begun a three-year study of the search-and-rescue mission's effects on rescue dogs and their handlers. Comprised of veterinary researchers and psychologists, the team will focus on the physical and psychological toll, possibly sounding an early alert on ailments to watch for among those who have toiled to clear the wreckage. "Few dogs at the World Trade Center and Pentagon suffered acute injuries, but during the next three years we expect them to serve as our sentinels on long-term consequences," said lead researcher Cynthia M. Otto, associate professor of critical care in Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine. "We may see health effects that will follow in humans 10 or 20 years from now." Because the canine teams put in an average seven to 10 days at sites thick with potentially carcinogenic chemicals, Otto's team will pay particular attention to the incidence of cancer. Melissa Hunt, associate director of clinical training in Penn's Department of Psychology, will lead the associated study of dog handlers. Patterns of depression or post-traumatic stress disorder among this small group of personnel, Hunt said, would likely be replicated among the thousands of others who have combed the ruins of the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Otto's study involves more than 200 search dogs and handlers from across the U.S. Some were part of trained rescue teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, while others arrived unannounced in New York and at the Pentagon as part of the nationwide outpouring of support. The FEMA dogs will undergo intensive, periodic examinations by their local veterinarians. Dogs brought in by private individuals will be assessed through surveys of their handlers. The questionnaires will focus on behavioral disorders, such as aggression or fearfulness that may have been induced by long hours of work without adequate play or the reward of finding live victims. Support for the study comes from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, the American Kennel Club, Ralston Purina Co., Veterinary Pet Insurance Co. and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. The study also includes researchers at Michigan State University and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. Otto is still seeking rescue dogs that worked at either the World Trade Center or Pentagon to participate in the study. The study also needs control dogs for comparison data. The control dog is one who was not at either disaster site, but is similarly trained and or certified. Handlers of such dogs can contact either Dr. Otto at [cmotto@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:cmotto@vet.upenn.edu) or Amanda Downend at [adownend@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:adownend@vet.upenn.edu).

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While the dogs are resting, go to: <http://catf3.usar.org/training/k9packaging/index.html> or click here to see the WTC from above.

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## **FEMA K9 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

First of all, a round of applause to welcome Shirley Hammond, newly appointed West Coast Rep. replacing Sharon Gattas in Region A. She is a welcome asset to the Subcommittee, bringing our total to five. I hear that the other proposed East Coast Rep is all tied up with red tape. That happens out here



in the East. But I am assured that one day in the near future the tape will be unraveled and we will have our sixth member. Meanwhile, Region C, its still just moi for now.

Secondly, a hand for our new Type II Evaluators--Tori Kidd, handler (FLTF1), Elizabeth Kreidler, handler (VATF1), Bill Gilbert, STM (PATF1). Kudos to them for successfully completing the Shadow Process--a feat in itself.

This being a dynamic process, we keep trying to improve it as issues arise. The program has never had so many new evaluators in such a short period of time. It was not possible to foresee all the potential glitches. And I'm sure we haven't seen them all. We now have standardized forms for the Mentors to use for the candidate reviews, so that everyone is being judged by the same criteria.

We ask that when a TFL or STM endorses an application for a Shadow Candidate, that there is consideration as to the candidate's qualification for the position. We are trusting the judgment of those sponsoring the candidate, that the candidate is capable of doing the job and will be an asset to the program.

Recently, there have been requests to shadow Type I evaluations before completing the Type II process. While we understand that Type I's are hard to come by, it is clearly stated that the candidate must be a rostered Type II evaluator (among other prerequisites) before beginning the Type I shadow process. This will stand as written (for now).

And now that we have such a large pool of evaluators, the need for a tracking system has become apparent. All of you should have received a form to complete, giving your evaluator history. To be acknowledged as a current evaluator, you need to keep this info updated and make sure that Lynne Englebert receives it.

Lastly, a heads-up - It is not official yet, but there is a big push for a Task Force requirement of CERTIFIED TEAMS ONLY going out the door on deployments. There are now only three Task Forces without certified teams out of the twenty-eight, so this is well within the realm of possibility. These numbers are pretty impressive given that the canine element is pretty self-sufficient in its training and testing. Thanks to everyone who has brought the concept of deployment of certified teams only closer to a reality.

Now for some easy Q's and A's--

Q: In the Type II Shadow Process, does the pretest have to be done after the 2 shadow experiences?

A: No, the above may be completed in any order.

Q: How many tests can be held at a given time?

A: The sponsoring agency will declare in advance the type of test (segmented or not) and the number of tests to be to be administered within the given timeframe.

As always, we appreciate your input. Keep it coming.

4-4-02

Teresa MacPherson,  
Secretary, Canine Subcommittee

FEMA Canine Sub-Committee