

DOG TALK

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

March 2004

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I am an author working for Kennel Club Books, Inc. We are planning to do a book to recognize the brave dogs who worked the 9-11 disaster. To date few of those dogs have been honored in print, and we would like to include as many as possible in this project.

I am trying to reach as many of the handlers as possible. (I am not very computer savvy, so it has been slow going for me.) I've been in touch with only a few people thus far. Can you help me locate or contact other handlers who worked at the WTC, Pentagon or Fresh Kills? I will need their stories and photos of their dogs at work and/or at rest. Handlers can contact me by email at <u>nbauer@marktwain.net</u>. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,

Nona Kilgore Bauer



The National Certification List of FEMA Certified Disaster Canine Search Teams is provided by Lynne Engelbert. (Lynne's e-mail: <u>lengelbert@mail.arc.nasa.gov</u>) <u>See the web page – click here</u>. **PLEASE notify Lynne of any changes in address, status, etc!!!**

REMINDER:

You must use the new (7/1/03) 2-page version of the Application for Evaluation when submitting a test application. The old version will no longer be accepted. Also, be sure both your STM and your TFL sign page two of the form.

QUOTE SAR = the ultimate random reinforced behavior (Tony Zintsmaster/INTF-1)

Pack Your Bags

So, you finally passed that Type II certification and you are actually deployable – congratulations! You are now ready to attempt some **really** challenging assignments. The first one will be putting together that yellow FSS pack. Keep trying, you actually *can* make the straps comfortable if you adjust them enough.

The next trick is deciding "which stuff goes where" when you are packing. Since every team issues a different assortment of packs/bags, there is no standard "FEMA way" to pack. And since extra small BDU's take up less space than extra large ones do, even handlers on the same team will pack differently.

I know many teams issue 2-3 red bags and the yellow bag to be used on deployment, which was FEMA's original plan. (Obviously, nobody from the upper echelon of FEMA had ever tried to carry 2-3 red bags while wearing the yellow pack and walking a dog.) INTF wisely issued large black bags ON WHEELS instead of the 2 red bags. Then we are also given one red bag, which we use as a 3-day bag.

I received the following poem from Annie Schaffer, who is one of Indiana's newly certified handlers:

Deployment Packing by Dr. Seuss

Red fish, blue fish Green eggs and ham Is anyone else As confused as I am?

Sleeping bag, mat Dog food and crate Have it all ready There's no time to wait.

Red pack, yellow pack Duffel and mask Where does it all go? That's all that I ask.

Since Annie knows I am a sucker for poems, that plea for help initiated a one-hour K9 packing session during our last training. Gary Hay was nice enough to bring along all his stuff for everyone to pilfer through. Newly certified handlers were able to see how a seasoned pro expertly packs 10 days of stuff. Gary even brings a cot! (And Blake Wallis vacuum packs one set of clothing per day. Each package is so hard, that they can double as a weapon..)

Also, thanks to Teresa MacPherson for providing the VATF packing guidelines. VA-TF1 provides an extra bag for the dog and put in it the food, toys, meds, leads, collars, muzzle, coat, etc. They also keep the DOD flight letter and health certificate copies taped up inside their helmets.

Thanks to Gary and Teresa for providing this useful information:

Indiana Task Force – 1

	Out the	24 Hour	3 Day	10 Day	1	Total
Equipment Type	Door	Yellow	Red	Black		Remarks
Uniforms			+	+		Out the door is what you would
BDU Blouse	1	0	0	1	2	have day of deployment.
BDU Field Jacket	1	0	0	0	1	
BDU Field Jacket Liner	1	0	0	0	1	
BDU Pants	1	1	3	5	10	-
Boots; Steel Toe	1	0	1	0	2	-
Sweat Shirt	-	0	1	1	2	-
T-Shirt; Long Sleeve	1	1	3	5	10	+
T-Shirt; Short Sleeve	· ·	0	0	3	3	-
Cap, Baseball Style	1	0	0	0	1	-
	· · ·				·	
Luggage/Travel Gear						
Yellow Pack	1	0	0	0	1	
Red Duffle Bag	1	0	0	0	1	
Black Bag	1	0	0	0	1	+
Personal Protective Equipment	<u> </u>	+	+		<u>+</u>	
Air Purifying Respirator	<u> </u>	1	0	0	1	<u> </u>
Air Purifying Respirator; Spare Filters	<u> </u>	1	0	0	1	<u>+</u>
Ear Plugs	1	1	0	0	2	<u> </u>
Gloves, EMS; Non-Latex	<u> </u>	2	0	0	2	
Gloves, Work; Leather	1	1	0	1	3	
Helmet	1	0	0	0	1	+
Helmet Light		1	0	0	1	+
Leatherman Tool	1	0	0	0	1	+
Pad Set; Elbow & Knee	1	0	0	0	1	+
Rain Jacket		1	0	0	1	Issued to activated members
Rain Jacket Liner		1	0	0	1	Issued to activated members
Rain Pants		1	0	0	1	Issued to activated members
Rain Pants Liner		1	0	0	1	Issued to activated members
Safety Glasses	1	0	0	0	1	
Cap, Wool Cold Weather	-	1	0	0	1	-
Administrative Field Operations Guide	1	0	0	0	1	
	I					W and to bring your own
Sleeping Bag		0	0	1	1	You will need to bring your own
Sleeping Pad		0	1	0	1	You will need to bring your own
Task Force Identification	1	0	0	0	1	
Water, Bottled Style		4	0	0	4	Issued upon activation, as needed
Meals Ready to Eat	+	1	0	0	1	Issued upon activation, as neede
K-9 Supplies						
Food (# of days)	—	3	5	5	13	
Puff Bottle	1	1	0	0	2	T
1st Aid(salt, etc.)	<u> </u>	1	0	0	1	
Flexi Lead		0	1	0	1	

Personal Stuff					Thes	se are Minimum Recommendations	
Flashlight		2	0	0	2		
Spare batteries for Flashlight		0	1	0	1		
Scissors; EMS Style Heavy Duty		1	0	0	1		
	1	0	0	0	1		
Sunglasses							
Money	1	0	0	0	1		
Lotion; Hand		0	1	0	1		
Lotion; Sunscreen		0	1	0	1		
Chap Stick		1	0	0	1		
Toilet Paper		1	0	0	1		
Eye Glasses	2	0	0	0	2		
Medications: 14 day supply		0	0	0	0	Must have 14 day supply on hand at time of deployment	
Insect Repellant		1	0	0	1		
Socks	1	1	3	5	10		
Gym Shorts		0	0	2	2		
Wash Cloth		0	1	0	1		
Towel		0	1	0	1		
Soap; Body		0	1	0	1		
Shampoo		0	1	0	1		
Toothpaste		0	1	0	1		
Tooth Brush		0	1	0	1		
Comb or Hair Brush		0	1	0	1		
Tennis Shoes		0	0	1	1		
Bandanas		0	1	2	3		
Underwear	1	1	3	5	10		
Not Required but a good idea to have	These are Minimum Recommendations						
Trash Bag		1	0	0	1		
Ziploc Bag		15	0	20	35		
Winter Gloves		0	0	1	1		
Water Purification Tablets		0	0	1	1		
Duct Tape		0	0	1	1		
Safety Pins		0	0	1	1		
Clothes Pins		0	0	1	1		
Snacks or dry food	3	3	0	0	6		
Matches/Candle/Lighter	0	1	0	0	1		
Note Pad/Pencil/Pen	1	1	0	0	2		
Sharpie Marker	•	1	0	0	1		
Metal Camping Cup		0	1	0	1		
Knife; Swiss Army Style	1	0	0	0	1		
Plastic Service Wear: Knife, Fork, & Spoo		0	1	0	1		
	11			U	1		
Salt/Pepper/Sugar		0	0	1	1		
Compass		1	0	0	1		
Whistle		1	0	0	1		
Wire Cutters		0	1	0	1		



FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE SECTION



MEMORANDUM

28 March 2003

SUBJECT: Personal Equipment Packing Guidelines

The personal equipment taken by a Task Force member during a deployment must be functional for the mission, allow the member to care for his or her personal needs, and be packaged to ensure the member does not become a burden upon either the affected area, or other Task Force members. The issued Red Gear Bag is to be utilized to carry this necessary equipment. The issued Yellow Gear Bag is to be utilized by members to carry necessities required to sustain that member for 24 hours. This bag will be kept by the deployed member at all times while on mission. Packing of these bags should be done to minimize space for maximum effect and remain within the 65 pound weight limit mandated by current federal partner requirements.

The following guidelines have been established to assist each member in meeting the personal equipment requirement for deployment. Each member is reminded that personal equipment found to be too light or too heavy during inspection at the Point of Assembly could impact that member's Activation status. Marked discrepancies will prevent the selected member from deploying.

A Task Force member should maintain his/her personal equipment in a constant state of readiness. Along with the packaging, each member should keep separate the following items for use when deployed:

- 1 set TF/FEMA/NDMS ID Badges \$250.00 Currency
- 1 ea. Immunization Record
- 1 ea. US Passport
- 4 ea. US Passport copies (Helmet, Yellow Bag, Red Bag, Person) 30 day supply of personal prescribed medications
- 1 ea. Spare pair of prescription eyeglasses

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT PACKING

At the Point of Assembly, additional personal equipment may be issued the member, including: Extreme Cold Weather Gear Pack (ECWCS) Other Miscellaneous Items (radio, MREs, water, rain gear, etc.)

RED GEAR BAG:

+ Large Zippered Compartment:

CONSTANT:

- 3 pr BDU Trouser
- 3 ea Long Sleeve BDU Shirt
- 2 pr Long Underwear
- 4 ea. Grey S/S T-shirts
- 4 ea Grey Mock Turtle shirts
- 10 pr Boot Socks
- 10 pr Underwear
- 1 pr Shorts
- 1 pr Sweat Pants (optional)

- 1 ea Sweat Shirt (optional)
- 1 ea Toiletry Kit
- 1 pr Flip-Flops or sandals
- 1 ea Bath Towel
- 1 ea Camp Pillow

+ <u>Small Zippered Compartment:</u>

1 pr Pro Boots

1 pr Running shoes (optional - may choose to pack in large compartment)

+ Zippered Compartment over Large Compartment

- 1 ea Job Shirt
- 1 ea Poly Ground Cover Spare federal partner Velcro patches and miscellaneous items

YELLOW GEAR BAG:

+ Fanny Pack:

- 1 rl Duct Tape
- 1 pr Leather Work Gloves
- 1 set Metal Camp Style Knife, Fork, and Spoon
- 1 pr Socks with Foot Powder
- 2 ea. Bandannas
- 1 ea APR Half Mask for Twin Canisters
- 1 set Waterproof Matches, Sun block (SPF 15), and Lip-Gloss (SPD 15), Band-Aids, Foam Hand Cleaner, Insect Repellent, Tooth Brush with Paste, Vicks Vap-O-Rub, and Mosquito Netting.

+ Large Compartment:

- 1 pr BDU pants
- 1 ea Gray S/S T-shirt (Underwear, t-shirt, socks, in Ziploc bag)
- 1 ea Swim Suit or shorts
- 1 ea Poncho
- 1 pr Knee Pads
- 1 pr Elbow Pads
- 1 pr Goggles
- 1 ea Hand Towel

+ Zippered Compartment:

- 1 ea FEMA FOG Manual
- 1 ea OFDA FOG Manual
- 1 ea Flash Light with Spare Batteries
- 1 ea Leatherman Tool
- 1 ea Latex Glove Pouch
- 1 ea Hearing Protection

+ Side Pouch:

- 1 pr Leather Work Gloves
- 1 pr Cotton Work Gloves
 - + Side Pouch:

Issued Portable Radio

Issued "Flash Gear" is to be rolled and strapped to the outside of the Yellow Bag.



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 II Canine Search Specialists:

Memphis, TN Results – January 2004

Type I Certified: Marti Vanada & Polly (IN-TF1), Jeaneen McKinney & Ronin (NM-TF1), Robert Milner III & Buzz (TN-TF1) and Bonnie Schriner & Delta (CO-TF1)

Type II Certified: Ed Apple & Rain (TN-TF1), Mark Bogush & Morley (FL-TF2), Deborah Burnett & Keno (TN-TF1), Robert Chandler & Shady (TN-TF1), Carla Collins & Caley (TX-TF1), Steve Driscoll & Blaze (FL-TF1), Jeremy Leming & Grief (IN-TF1), Robert Milner & Jake (TN-TF1), Robert Milner & Zeke (TN-TF1), Andrea Schaffer & Sasha (IN-TF1), Charley Smith & Desi (TN-TF1), Annie Spurlock & Sophie (TX-TF1) and Pamela Zachritz & Daisy (IN-TF1)

Virginia Beach, VA Results – February 2004

Type II Certified: Denise Corliss & Bretagne (TX-TF1), Robert Deeds & Kinsey (TX-TF1), Sylvia Arango & Abby (FL-TF2), Lybbi Kienzle & Josh (FL-TF2), Scottie Emerson & Bob (VA-TF2), Athena Robins & Gator (OH-TF1), Lori Tocke & Sprite (VA-TF2), and Karen Meadows & Ace (VA-TF2)

Canine Subcommittee Update

The intentions were good, I'm sure. But we all know what road is paved with good intentions. While it wasn't exactly hellish, the new member selection process was a bit disjointed. It was the first time the new process was implemented system-wide in a very big operation. In keeping with a good checks and balances procedure, there are many layers through which information must travel. There were a few (maybe several, ok—many) bumps in this road of Canine member selection and the process was restarted a couple of times in order to keep it clean. The Subcommittee, including myself, is not a part of the process of its member selection, so I do not know all of the details. I do know that problems were encountered in other Work Groups, we were not the only one. One problem was the fact that OHTF1 seemed to be in the Central Region according to some people and in the East according to others. The final result is that Ohio is in the East, so we have amended the website to reflect this fact. The intentions were good, the mistakes were innocent, but the result was confusion and generated many rumors in the canine world. I'm sure that lessons learned will prevail next time. The upper layers don't want to go through that again, either!

Without further ado, we welcome our new members— Fred Pitts—West John Dean—Central John Gilkey—East Mike Marks—East And we again thank Bruce Speer and Anne McCurdy for jobs well done.

It's time for the Evaluator Conference Calls again. Please make sure that you have signed up for this important continuing education opportunity. If, for some reason you did not receive the email, notify me immediately. Topics to be addressed include: Evaluator funding, rotation roster, "Chief" Evaluator position, new rule for Type I shadows, comments, Type I cover sheet, applications, marking and mapping, losing interest/refinds, hole construction, test SOPs, human aggression test, agility obstacles, test dogs and the definition of a BARK. If you have a question you would like addressed, please email it to your Regional Representative or me. It will be kept anonymous.

Congrats to Jeaneen McKinney, handler (NMTF1), Cathy Schiltz, handler (MOTF1) and Rex Ianson STM (CATF3) who are all approved to begin the Type I Shadow Evaluator process. Thanks Rex, We do love that kind of involvement by the STMs. ©

A note concerning extensions—there is an automatic 3 month grace period extended beyond the due date for recertification for both Type I and II. A Type I team needs to request an extension before their due date in order NOT to be dropped from the roster if they do not re-cert at the end of the 3 month grace period. No longer can a Type I team simply "drop" to Type II (and remain deployable) by not re-certifying Type I. It is not necessary for a Type II team to request an extension beyond the 3 month cushion.

Some test stats—the evaluation pass rate has increased to 53%. There are 150 certified teams currently rostered. Evaluations will continue on a monthly basis in 2005.

Q & A's

Q: Is there a policy for sharing resources (dog-swapping)?

A: There is no National policy. FEMA is allowing the sharing of resources provided it is worked out between the pertinent TFLs. (not between STMs or handlers)

Q: Is the pretest part of the testing procedure?

- A: No, therefore the 18 month minimum age requirement does not apply to the pretest assessment.
- Q: Do the applications need both signatures?
- A: Yes, the TFL and STM must sign and info must be complete and legible and on the NEW forms.

Canine Subcommittee Reps:

Teresa MacPherson (tmac786@aol.com)

Interim Chair (I was vice chair under Bruce, thus am acting interim chair upon the replacement of Bruce)

Canine Subcommittee Update Continued:

West Region A Shirley Hammond (<u>shirham@concentric.net</u>) Fred Pitts (<u>fepitts@earthlink.net</u>)

Central Region B Ann Wichmann (<u>awlogan@mindspring.com</u>) John Dean (<u>azsearchdogs@aol.com</u>)

East Region C John Gilkey (<u>srch_dog@pa.net</u>) Mike Marks (<u>mjm58@aol.com</u>)

And Anne and Bruce are in their happy places, but still available, too. $\textcircled{\sc o}$

Teresa MacPherson 3-11-04

An Outgoing Message from Bruce Speer

Goodbye and thanks to all for your support.

I am not going away, but I am just stepping aside so others can take what we have started and move forward with the intensity that comes with being new to the job. The committee has come a long way in the last 5 years. We have come through a lot of hard and trying situations.

I have been honored to serve with some of the finest handlers, and no doubt some of the best people this country has to offer. Each one of the committee members brought all of their experience and all of the their passion to the table. They fought hard, but always knew when to compromise.

A last word.

I have heard from a number of you about the good and the bad. But the strongest message that I received was the acknowledgment of the hard work and the time each you put in to make the U.S. disaster search dogs some of the best in the world.

Thanks for all of the hard work and give your four legged partners a kiss on the nose from me.

Thanks,

Bruce Speer WATF-1

Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via **DOGTALK**, the underground canine newsletter to Anne McCurdy: <u>Atrout@clarian.org</u>