

# Dog Talk

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

December 2009

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## Training Opportunity: Texas

On-line registration for our FEMA Training Weekend January 30-31, 2010 hosted by TX-TF1 at Disaster City, College Station, TX will start at 0800 (Central) on Wednesday, December 16th.

The fee is \$25 and that covers lunch for both days. Go to <http://teex.org> and click on REGISTER at the top of the page, then input the following:

Class Number: UR TNG13S 6

Or select 'Course Catalog' then 'Urban Search and Rescue' then 'Canine Search' then 'TNG13S'

We have limited enrollment to 35 handlers with canines to ensure all get plenty of opportunities to work. Once the available slots are filled, you won't be able to register. If we get cancellations after that, I'll send an email to let you know. In addition, continue to check periodically to see if slots have opened up. Please coordinate with your handlers so that we limit each Task Force to 4 handler/canine teams!!!

You may register all 4 handlers during one session. The information you will need from them:

- Last 4 digits of Social security number or TEEX ID number (if they have previously registered for TEEX courses)
- Address
- Payment method and card number (payment on one credit card is for all students when registration is completed)

Note that once the course is full you will not be able to access the registration information again so you should print out the course information screen after registration is complete.

*Continued on next page*

Please adhere to the following requests:

- The weekend is open to FEMA US&R personnel only.
- If you are registering WITHOUT a canine (and we encourage STM's and handlers without dogs to attend) please DO NOT register on-line.

Email Rebecca Mills at [rebecca.mills@teexmail.tamu.edu](mailto:rebecca.mills@teexmail.tamu.edu) and she will take care of your registration.

If you have any difficulty registering, please contact:

Rebecca Mills  
TEEX US&R  
Task Force Business Coordinator I  
Phone: 979-458-0857

- Limit each Task Force to 4 handler/canine teams. There is no limit for handlers or STM's without canines.
- Only 1 dog per handler.
- Dogs in heat may not attend.
- If you have to cancel, please contact Rebecca so that she may open your slot to someone else.

Task Force's Cooperative Agreement Statements of Work specifically states that the training of canines is an allowable cost. Collaboration of TF members is also encouraged in the Statement of Work. This event will have many evaluators and instructors attending and they will be available to assist others in their groups when asked. The types of training opportunities at this event will prepare canine teams for certification and deployments.

There are several airport options to travel to College Station. You can fly into Easterwood Field in College Station from Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) or Houston (IAH). There are smaller, commuter planes. You can also fly into Austin (AUS), DFW or Houston, rent a vehicle and drive to College Station (2 hrs from Houston, Austin and 3 hrs from DFW).

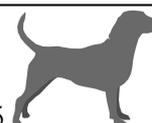
We have reserved a block of rooms at the Courtyard Marriott. The room block expires January 8th.

Courtyard Marriott  
3939 Hwy 6 S  
College Station, TX 77845  
979-695-8111  
Group code is USAR  
Room rate is \$93/night plus taxes.  
Deadline to reserve is January 8, 2010

If you have any questions about the weekend, please email me or call at 979-458-0857. Due to this on-line process, I cannot hold slots for anyone so it's truly first-come, first-served.

See you in Texas in January! We are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

Susann Brown  
Lead Instructor  
TEEX Urban Search and Rescue





# COLORADO TASK FORCE 1

## Urban Search & Rescue

### Training Opportunity: Colorado

CO-TF1 are holding their annual training weekend in Denver, Colorado, will be May 22 & 23, 2010. Registration should be sent to [rdunn@westmetrofire.org](mailto:rdunn@westmetrofire.org). We are limiting registration to 40 canine teams from other FEMA task forces. Approximately 10 canine teams from CO-TF1 will attend for a total number of participants of 50. Priority is given to FEMA teams, but State Teams are allowed to attend. Entries will be taken on a first come/first serve basis for two canine teams per request - until the 40 spots are filled. If you have more than two teams that want to attend, please prioritize your list of attendees, and number 3 and so on will be placed on a waiting list. I will notify CC's right away of his/her first two entries' acceptance. After March 2nd, I will notify the CC's of the waiting list teams that openings are available.

Like TX, Search Team Managers and handlers without canines are more than welcome to attend and do not need to register.

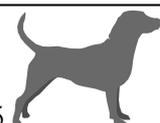
We do not block out rooms for this event, instead we encourage people to shop the rates on Tower Road (near the airport) for the best room rates as there are many hotels in the area. I have not checked which ones accept search dogs. The Quality Inn (formerly Red Roof Inn) has been the most historically used by the Task Force. 6890 Tower Road , Denver, CO, US, 80249 | Phone: (303) 371-5300. Or <http://www.qualityinn.com> The rubble pile is 15 minutes from the hotel by car. The hotel area has restaurants within walking distance. The airport is DIA (Denver International). Teams should plan on bringing their own vehicle and/or hard sided kennel. Driving from station to station is best because the training site is large. We do not provide kennels. There is no meeting before the Event, but an e-mail regarding lunch arrangements and other pertinent logistical information will be provided prior to the Event to the attendees through their Canine Coordinator.

Sorry, we don't have the man power to offer an FSA surrounding or during this weekend because we put all our efforts into making this a fabulous training. If one or more of our handlers volunteers to host an additional day of training on the Monday following this Event an e-mail to the registrants will be sent via their Canine Coordinator, but at this time there is nothing planned. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me.



**Check this out.....**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGODurRfVv4&sns=em>



# Indiana Canine Search Specialist...

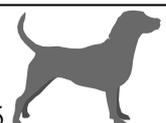
IN-TF1 has an open position for a Canine Search Specialist.

Required for handler: Good team-player, motivated, able to be at Indianapolis airport within THREE hours of notification, willing to train every other Saturday (for the rest of your life), tolerates attending all required FEMA ICS/NIMS, Haz Mat, etc. and is not afraid of Pit Bulls (or Mals).

Required for canines: Willing, motivated worker, good agility and rubble skills, non-dog aggressive with basic foundation training in all FEMA FSA requirements.

Weather permitting – a try-out is scheduled for Saturday, January 23 at 0900. Location TBA. Please email Anne McCurdy at [Amccurdy@clarian.org](mailto:Amccurdy@clarian.org) if you are interested

## Photos from Missouri CP- Nov 2009

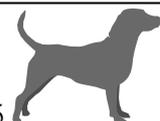


# ☆☆☆☆ Kudos to..... ☆☆☆☆

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

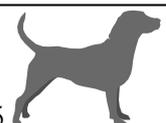
## ☆☆ Virginia Beach, VA - Oct 2009 ☆☆

Handler	Canine	Task Force
Elizabeth Kreitler	Racker	VA-TF1
William Perazzo	Atlas	NY-TF1
Teresa Christian	Shad	VA-TF2
Paul Gitlin	Jax	NY-TF1
Chris Bonomo	Hunter	NY-TF1
Kim Lark	Boot	NM-TF1
Sue McManus	Ty	TN-TF1
Rick Hutcheson	Rex	TN-TF1
Julie Padelford	Lilly-Belle	FL-TF2
Lee Culley	Brutus	UT-TF1
Konnie Hein	Hero	MA-TF1
Brian Smithey	Chief	FL-TF2
John Thomas	Jack	CA-TF6
Athena Robbins	Frietag	CA-TF1
Julie Noyes	Zeus	CO-TF1
Jackie McCarty	Quinn	IN-TF1
Jim Boggeri	Nino	CA-TF4
Roger Picard	Party Girl	FL-TF2
Marci Larson	Grizzly	MD-TF1
Linda Taconelli	Joe	CA-TF2
Lynne Engelbert	Sweep	CA-TF3
Jim McHenry	Scout	PA-TF1



**NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM  
2010 ROTATION MODEL – 30 November 2009**

IST	REGION	1st Rotation	2nd Rotation	3rd Rotation	4th Rotation	5th Rotation	6th Rotation	7th Rotation	8th Rotation	9th Rotation
<b>JAN</b>	W	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2
	C	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1
	E	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2
<b>FEB</b>	W	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7
	C	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1
	E	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1
<b>MAR</b>	W	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5
	C	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1
	E	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1
<b>APR</b>	W	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4
	C	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1
	E	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1
<b>MAY</b>	W	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1
	C	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1
	E	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1
<b>JUN</b>	W	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8
	C	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1
	E	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2
<b>JUL</b>	W	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3
	C	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1
	E	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1
<b>AUG</b>	W	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1
	C	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1
	E	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1
<b>SEP</b>	W	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6
	C	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1
	E	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1
<b>OCT</b>	W	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2
	C	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1
	E	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2
<b>NOV</b>	W	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7
	C	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1
	E	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1
<b>DEC</b>	W	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5
	C	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1
	E	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1
<b>JAN</b>	W	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4
	C	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1
	E	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1





**Cody z Federatov "K9 Bacco"  
May 27, 2000 - October 22, 2009**

Balanced in his drives, nothing ever threatened Bacco and he loved going to new places and to meeting new people. Bacco was a kind, loving dog, calm around the house and biddable to the whispered command. In short, Bacco had great heart and, with his intense drives, high intelligence, supreme confidence and tremendous work ethic and loyalty, Bacco had been my perfect search partner.

A fellow canine handler wrote to me that Bacco was one of those "special" dogs and that she considered herself "fortunate to have had the opportunity to see and know his greatness....he certainly defined in my mind what a dog should be." Another canine handler wrote that Bacco was "handsome, brave, and oozing with confidence" and how impressed she was with his movement on the rubble, that it was just "power and confidence in motion."

As recently as March 2008, Bacco aced his FEMA Advanced Level 1 Disaster Readiness Re-Certification Test held in Ohio where he soared over a seven-foot wide void from almost a stand-still. That Re-Cert was a great performance of an independent and focused search dog and Bacco remained in USAR training up until his adrenal gland operation the first of this month.

Several years back, Bacco and I were flying out of the Washington-Dulles Airport en route to some official rubble dog training. I was in my FEMA uniform and Bacco was wearing his search vest. As we were waiting for our flight, an elderly Buddhist Monk walked up to us and asked permission to touch Bacco. As he softly cupped Bacco's head and looked into his eyes, the Monk said to me that the spirit in Bacco was very, very, very old, and that the Monk, himself, drew sustenance from touching a dog with such "spiritual royalty." The Monk then blessed Bacco and quietly walked away. I don't know much about Buddhism .....but I have never, ever forgotten that moment and was evermore honored to be Bacco's partner in life. And, I believe many many other people have also seen the strength of Bacco's soul and that is why so many people all over the country have loved Bacco.

I thank each of you that helped me with Bacco over the years and who loved him as I did. And I hope you all derived sustenance from Bacco as I did. Certainly, Bacco gave all he had to everything and to everyone with whom he came in contact.

Gail McCarthy



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: [amccurdy@clarian.org](mailto:amccurdy@clarian.org)

