

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



FEMA

DATE: June 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Search Working Group
Chair

DATE: 6-21-05

FROM: Canine Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Canine Subcommittee Evaluator Conference Call Minutes

Please find the attendance and items addressed at the two recent Canine Subcommittee evaluators conference call:

| MEETING DATE(s) >> June 1 and 9, 2005 | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Member | June 1st | June 9th |
| Teresa MacPherson | Y | Y |
| John Dean | Y | Y |
| John Gilkey | Y | Y |
| Mike Marks | Y | Y |
| Cathy Schiltz | Y | Y |
| Debra Tosch | Y | Y |
| John Gilkey | Y | Y |
| Bruce Berry (SWG-Moderator) | Y | Y |
| | | |

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EVALUATOR ATTENDANCE

| June 1st | June 9th |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Lee Turner | Jeaneen McKinney |
| Sonja Heritage | Bob Sessions |
| Bob Macaulay | Pat Grant |
| Rex Ianson | Susan Martinez |
| Darren Bobrosky | Nancy Hachmeister |
| Susann Brown | Linda Neimeier |
| Renny Shannon | Elizabeth Kreitler |
| Mike Agnew | Gary Hay |
| Sam Balsam | Lisa Berry |
| Amy Rising | Mark Dawson |
| Bud Souza | Teresa Ortenburger |
| Rose DeLuca | Sharon Gattas |
| Anne McCurdy | Elaine Sawtell |
| Kathy Jo Carlisle | Steve Dolezal |
| Shirley Hammond | Julie Noyes |
| Lynne Engelbert | Lee Prentiss |
| Hilda Wood | Ron Sanders |
| LaFond Davis | Sheila McKee |
| Pat Kaynaroglu | Carla Collins |
| Mary Flood | Jackie McCarty |
| Lee Dunn | Ann Wichmann |

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EVALUATOR ATTENDANCE

| June 1st | June 9th |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Roxanne Dunn | Bob Deeds |
| Lette Birn | Tom Moore |
| Tony Sirgedas | Rory Rehbeck |
| Rob Cima | Jim Seebock |
| Walt Harrison | |
| Sally Timms | |

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

Bruce Berry—moderator

Teresa MacPherson:

Update and overview

Certified teams:
Type II=81
Type I=101
Total=182

Evaluator Quality Assurance:

For the 2006 US&R calendar, the CSC is grouping evaluators into teams. The predetermined groups will consist of a mix of new and experienced, a mix of TFs, and a mix of handler/non-handlers. The host will still have the option of "picks". The groups will be revised annually and the roster will be approved annually through the system.

Evaluators may not test and evaluate in the same weekend.

The Evaluator conference calls will be mandatory to maintain active status.

The AAR will include explicit details of any problems or incidents. The Chief will report individual names (handler and/or evaluator) when outlining events at the tests. A section has been added for input by the hosting TF. The AAR is the sole property of the hosting TF. A copy will be sent the CSC.

Cover Sheets

A cover sheet is posted on DisasterDog.org and DisasterHelp.gov. It lists all of the changes that are made to the DSCREP during the year. These changes will be in effect when posted and will be included in the next annual revisions.

Evaluators

All evaluators with the qualifications to be Leads are encouraged to apply for Lead status in order to increase the pool of Chief Evaluators.

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2006 DSCREP

Beginning 1-1-06, the new single-level certification process will be in effect. The current Type I certification will be the only certification. The current Type II will be conducted on the TF level as an assessment using rostered evaluators chosen by the TF. It will be called the Fundamental Skills Assessment and will not be a certification. After 1-1-06, all Type II certifications will expire upon the team's next recert date, resulting in all Type II certifications expiring as of 1-1-08. The new DSCREP with these procedures will be posted prior to being in effect.

John Dean:

Access/Mapping

Starting with the next Readiness Evaluation (June 11 and 12 in Calif.) we are changing the mapping requirement for Type I tests. The drawing of a map will only be required after completion of the full access pile. After completion of the limited access or the perimeter access piles handlers the handler will be requested to cover search and victim markings. The third search site not requiring a map or markings will be an additional rest period for each team as they rotate through the evaluation.

Type I and Type II evaluations:

Evaluations provide feedback to the respective task force regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their current state of canine search readiness. This information would then translate into a comprehensive plan of action for further Search Team development and improvement. (It is intended that the respective Search Team Managers will be involved in the process.) Obviously a STM or a TFL would not expect the same level of performance from a type II dog as they would from a type I dog. As evaluators we should use this same rationale when conducting Type I and Type II tests. Even though both certifications allow a CSS team to be deployable it is the STM's and TFL's responsibility to utilize their available resources at their discretion.

Dog leaving a victim:

The key to this issue is a FOCUSED BARK ALERT. When the handler hears the canine barking or is advised by an evaluator that the canine is barking (minimum of three barks) and calls an alert the evaluator will instruct the handler to go to the canine. The handler may now at this time verbally praise and encourage the canine. The handler must proceed directly and safely to the area indicated by the canine. The handler must promptly identify the scent source location by the canine's actions.

On the first alert of a basic test or when handler access is an issue during an advanced test and the handler cannot quickly locate the scent source by the canine's actions he or she must immediately leave the area and restart the search. If the canine returns to a focused bark alert there is nothing in the DSCREP that would cause this reengagement to be a failure.

The lack of a focused bark alert indicating live human scent is usually the main issue when a canine leaves the victim. Three barks is the requirement to call an alert, a continued focused bark alert may be necessary for a handler to identify the source when not in close proximity of an alert.

Mike Marks:

Mapping Check-off List:

- Name/Task Force/Date/Time
- North Arrow
- Wind direction
- Basic shape of pile
- Pile split into quadrants a,b,c,d
- Major landmarks on and near pile
- Victim marking and means to identify (distance from perimeter, compass reading, GPS coordinates--GPS permitted, but not required)
- Areas of interest
- Areas covered and not covered
- Hazards
- Search markings

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Cathy Schiltz:

Agility

Stop and turn must be performed on any elevated obstacle and not the support. The stop and turn must be performed in view of all evaluators (i.e., not in tunnel). No tapping on the obstacle to initiate action -- this will be considered preceeding.

D & C

After beginning the course, if dog crosses start line (or is touched by the handler) he must start over. Rationale—the spirit of the exercise is to show control and directability. Handler should be able to prevent dog from crossing the start line. (We don't want to see the dog get to all bases via "go-outs")

Bark Alert/Long down

The site should be distraction free as per the DSCREP

Debra Tosch:

Briefing

The briefing should take place at a meeting the evening before the test. If there is time the morning of the test, the briefing can take place then. The meeting should include the following:

Reading of the rules:

It is not necessary to read the entire rules for everyone but any changes in the DESCREP should be gone over. For those that want, the Chief/Lead evaluator should stay after the meeting and go over all the rules. It is also recommended that a set of rules be handed out to the evaluators, shadows and those testing. Any changes in the DSCREP should be reviewed.

Search Recommendations:

Handlers should be told it is not necessary to give their search recommendations after each find. Giving them once at the start of the search or at end of the search after each pile is just fine.

Mapping is only required on full access piles

Handlers should be given a copy of a sample map showing what is required

Search/Victim markings:

Handlers should be told which pile the search/victim markings will be required. A copy of the directive showing the new markings should be given out until the markings are changed in the DSCREP

Handlers should be given a chance to ask any questions

Debriefing

After the test results are given to the handlers, they should be told that the evaluators are available to answer any questions they may have about the test. Evaluators should know in advance that they will be expected to stay after the test for this purpose. The evaluators should have their forms to refer to when answering questions from the handlers. The format of this period of time can vary but it should be set up in an organized fashion. For example, the evaluators can be standing in the groups they were evaluating in on the piles. They could also be organized by groups leaving at the different times so that the handlers know to go to the early departure evaluators first.

John Gilkey.

Any questions referred to the Subcommittee will be forwarded to Dog Talk with the answers. The Q & A's will also appear in the conference call minutes. Please continue to direct all questions to your Regional Representative.

1) **Can I bring my own map sheets to a test?**

Yes, as long as it is the FEMA approved map sheet or it will need to be transferred to the FEMA approved map sheet.

2) **Where does the total number of floors in a building go and where does the number that you searched go? Do I need to know this for the test?**

You do not need to know this for the test. It would go under the incomplete or the completed search.

3) **Can I use a GPS fore mapping in Type I?**

Yes, but it is not required.

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- 4) **Do I put the TIME IN under the name of our TF in the building marking system X?**
Yes, you do, but it is the search marking system, not building markings.
- 5) **Can my dog wear a coat during the long down if its cold?**
Yes.
- 6) **On the type I limited access pile, if I return to my start point after finding my first victim, may I go back to the first victim location again?**
You can only access the pile if your dog alerts again.

Questions 6-1-05

Q: What is commitment to scent source? How much help can the handler give?

A: **Action:** This will be taken back to the CSC for further discussion.

Q: If a team certified in 2004, when do they recertify?

A: If your recert due date is after December 2004 or if you certified after December 2004, you have a 3 year certification.

Comment: In regards to not allowing a turn in the tunnel: The DSCREP says that the turn can be done on any obstacle.

Action: The CSC will discuss a turn in the crawl. The CSC will change the statement in the DSCREP "Demonstrates stop and turn on any obstacle" to exclude the tunnel and possibly the crawl.

Suggestion: An evaluator course and/or a peer review may help the quality and consistency of the tests.

Action: This will be revisited by the CSC.

Questions 6-9-05

Q: Are we using the FEMA mapping sheet on DisasterDog.org as we have been (the grid sheet)?

A: Yes.

Q: How do we evaluate if victim is located at sites with no mapping?

A: They can inform the evaluators during the debrief.

Q: How long will Type II's be deployable?

A: Until the certification expires. As of 1-1-08 all Type II certifications will have expired.

Q: Will we still need 3 evaluators for the TF Type II tests?

A: **Action:** Direction will be forthcoming

Q: Please go over "leaving scent on Type I".

A: The dog must give a focused bark alert to get the victim. Leaving is not desirable behavior, but is permissible behavior depending upon the circumstance.

Q: Why can't we get more than two weeks notice (sometimes) for evaluating a test?

A: **Action:** The 2006 evaluator list and rotation should be out by September. Many times the hold-up is due to arrangements being finalized for the prior test.

Q: Is there a copy policy on grouping of evaluators? It is hard to travel across the county.

A: The CSC was requested to do this by the Program Office. In an effort for consistency in the Evaluations, the cross-country participation of evaluators is desired. However, the requirements to maintain active status (one test every two years) may be met by evaluating only in one's home state.

Q: [Mapping quadrant] What do we use as a relationship as to where they start?

A: You do not need to reference a starting point, just the quads a,b,c d.

Q: Can we get a list of who to contact for future tests to schedule shadowing?

A: Contact your regional rep or look at the National K9 list and ask a handler from the hosting TF.

Q: On the Type I and II is there a set amount of time before the dog starts barking once it gets scent?

A: There is no set amount of time.

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Q: Is there anything written as to how far can the alert can be from the victims?

A: No. If you are concerned that the dog is not alerting where the scent is, you can wait to see what other dogs do before making your decision. Evaluators can also test the scent movement with puffers and/or smoke bombs afterwards.