

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



FEMA

DATE: June 21, 2005

FOR: Rory Rehbeck, Chair
Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Committee

SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the recent Canine Sub-committee conference call:

MEETING DATE(s) >>		6-21-05	Call # 89	
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE				
Teresa MacPherson		Chair		
Member	Y/N	Member	Y/N	
Debra Tosch	Y/Y			
John Dean	Y/Y			
Mike Marks	Y/Y			
John Gilkey	Y/Y			
Cathy Schiltz	Y/Y			
Bruce Berry (SWG)	N/Y			
Tony Sirgedas (SWG)	N/Y			

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- Minutes from May 26th conference call
- Minutes from June Evaluator Call
- Review of Evaluator Calls—Teresa
- Mentor App—Julie Noyes
- Shadow Progress Chart—added pre-test (Lette?)
- New Evaluators
- Shadow Parameters for SOPs—Mike
- CA test—Debra
- New PFD's—JD
- MO cert prep-status—Cathy
- Q & A's from handlers
- New budget for 2006 tests
- New ideas for tests/evaluators
- TFL meeting
- Evaluator groups
- FSA-how will it count for Evaluators

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Minutes from 5-26-05 conference call approved
- Debra will send Teresa what she has and Teresa will fill in the blanks
 - Discussion per evaluator calls:
 - Discussion: The CSC will proceed down the course that we have outlined with the new evaluator controls vs a major revision of the DSCREP. This should help maintain consistency amongst evaluators.
- Mentor Applications:
 - Julie Noyes-CO-TF1
- Shadow Progress Chart
 - Tracy McDonald-TN-TF1, Type I handler approved to begin evaluator process
- New Evaluators
 - Jennifer Little-VA-TF1, Handler
- Shadow SOPs-
 - No more than two at a time on rubble
 - Rotate on rubble
 - Written test (needs updating)
 - Review DSCREP at the beginning
 - Debrief afterwards with them
 - Review their comments
 - Need a Shadow Mentor job description(?)
 - Can we require this to be a position every time?
- The PFD that was recommended by the CSC is:
 - C.F.D." #2140L manufactured by NRS--Northwest River Supplies

- Questions from Handlers:
 - “Do you have to do the stop/turn on the obstacle on the first attempt?
 - No, they are independent of each other. You can stop and turn on any obstacle at any time. You can even fail the obstacle and pass the stop/turn
 - “Why at some tests are handlers not allowed to reward until the rubble in Type II?
 - There are no toys allowed in the test area. The chief will designate where you can designate your dog in between the elements. The setup of the test will determine this.
- MO cert prep—ready to go.
- 2006 evaluation Budget:
 - Number of test days should be reduced with elimination of Type 2 testing.
- 2006 Test schedule to be determined in August
 - specified months will be the cert preps
- Discussion: number of evaluators per site with roving Chief and a QA rep from CSC/SWG at each test?
 - [Secretary’s note: Subsequent discussion resulted in keeping the nine evaluators, plus a roving Chief. CSC/SWG QA may be cost prohibitive]
- Two evaluators for the FSA
- Discussion: Tighten up agility?
- Agility—wobbly surface
 - Suggestion: Take four saw horses that are 3 feet high. Place a 4' x 8' sheet of plywood on top of the saw horses and you can pile on different debris items not to exceed 2' in height.
- Discussion: ladder-do we make the ladder a flat rung?
 - If standardizing ladder, make it the ladder in the cache
 - 8' little giant ladder (Cathy will get a description to CSC)
 - Put in next revision, if the test of it has good results
- Discussion: Emergency Stop
 - Will revisit at the next DSCREP revision
- Discussion: Redoing obedience skills
 - Will revisit at the next DSCREP revision
- Evaluator Groups: To be determined
- Single Certification Evaluators
 - One FSA evaluation every two years
 - One Type I evaluation every two years

Next call:
 July 21
 Noon, EDT