MEMORANDUM   U.S. Department of Homeland Security

FEMA

DATE: July 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) >>	7-21-05		Call # 90	
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			
Tony Sirgedas (SWG)	N/Y			
Rory Rehbeck (SWG)	N/Y			

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- Minutes from June 21st conference call
- Minutes from Evaluator calls
- Evaluator Apps accepted
- Mentor Apps
- August TFL meeting--Teresa
- Ladder update--JD
- 2006 test schedule & evaluator groups
- MO Cert Prep--Cathy, Teresa, JG, Mike
- Hurricane Dennis (semi) deployment--Mike, Cathy
- Q & A's from handlers
- AAR and FEMA Code of Conduct

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Minutes from 6-21-05 conference call approved
- Minutes from Evaluator Calls approved
- New Evaluators approved:
    - Carla Collins, TX-TF1, Handler (approved 6/24/05)
    - Ron Weckbacher, CA-TF1, Handler (approved 6/30/05)
- Evaluator Apps accepted:
    - Brian Smithey, FL-TF2, Handler
    - Sharon Grant, MD-TF1, Handler
    - Zaraith Perez, FL-TF2, Handler
    - Richard Grant, PA-TF1, Handler
    - Elena de Lopez, FL-TF1, Handler
    - Steve Driscoll, FL-TF1, Handler
- Lead Evaluators approved:
    - Darren Bobrosky, CA-TF4, LEAD, Handler
    - Lee Turner, MO-TF1, LEAD, STM
    - John Dean AZ-TF1, LEAD, Handler
- Chief Evaluator Apps accepted (to go into pool which we will recognize when there are enough apps)
    - Ann Wichmann, CO-TF1, Chief, Handler
    - Gary Hay, IN-TF1, Chief, Handler
- Mentor Applications accepted:
    - Gary Hay-IN-TF1, Handler
- TFL meeting items to be presented in August
    1. Statistics--
        - Current--106 Type I's and 75 Type 2's
        - In Aug of 03 there were 54 Type I's and 84 Type II's
        - First time that Type I's outnumber the Type 2's—shows that Type 2 teams are progressing to Type 1
        - Discussed current numbers on TFs – most are flush, a few are tight, but have teams coming up

2. Single-level certification effective 1/1/06
3. Suggest that each TF should have one person in charge of managing Canine Program (Canine Coordinator) Hands-on Manager of the Canine Program (STM or his/her designee)
   o Duties should include:
     ▪ Screening of Canines and Handlers
     ▪ Continual assessment of the k9 element's needs and progress
       (Handlers agree to start new dog when current one is 5 yrs)
       (Handlers agree to replace wash-outs, based on input from K9 Coordinator)
     ▪ Tracking and enforcing attendance requirements
     ▪ Enforcing full K9 Team Trainings—no splinter groups
     ▪ Overseeing maintenance of Training Log books
     ▪ Knowing resources intimately (including what teams have experience other than disaster, ie, wilderness, HRD, water, etc)
     ▪ Ability to provide input as to deployment of k9 teams—who goes, how they are paired up (based on rotation? Or nature of deployment? Other qualifications?)
     ▪ Providing Annual k9 Budget & out years
     ▪ Providing Annual K9 accomplishments
     ▪ Coordinating PR events, PIO
     ▪ Giving input as to sponsoring evaluators and testing teams
     ▪ Attending twice yearly conference calls
     ▪ Acting as QA at evaluations
4. Improvements made to Evaluator Program
   o Current Evaluator Rosters will be distributed at each TFL meeting for approval
   o Evaluators cannot test and evaluate in the same Evaluation event
   o Host gets 3 picks, plus Chief, thus having a lot of input in the Evaluation cadre
   o AAR revised to include a section for input from the hosting TF (IC)
   o Evaluators have been put into teams for consistency
   o Evaluator workshops per Central TFL recommendation (?)
5. 2006 Evaluation Process
   o 9 evaluators, plus Roving Chief
   o Two evaluators for FSA
   o Ladder—standardized (Lil Giant as specified in cache)
   o Suggest Use of host's canine coordinator as QA person
   o Provide data and utilize data provided to Accountabiilty WG to identfiy problems with the evaluation and/or evaluators
6. Listing of evaluators per TF—no TF should have a problem conducting FSA's, all have enough evaluators or close access to them.

- Ladder in FSA agility element
  o Little Giant ladder in the TF Cache will be the standard for the tests
- Cert Preps
  o Discussion of TFs to host them—need to spread them out

- Debra and Rory will check with California putting on a cert prep through next State Working Group Meeting
- Possibly do a seminar/workshop and mimic IronDog (CP or advanced CSST?)
- Teresa and Rory will run by TWG
- Either need to pass a pretest or use CP as pretest to attend CP

SWG Chair   Canine Sub-committee
Sub-committee Meeting Minutes   21 July 2005
Page Four

- **MO cert prep**
  - Weather was hot
  - All felt it went well—good feedback
  - Small number of dogs so they each got a lot of attention
  - For future CPs, cap at 6 (?) per level would be good so handlers get quality attention
  - host TF has more responsibility—need competent victims as they become trainers in the CP
  - Handlers got immediate feedback from the evaluators
- **Hurricane Dennis (semi) deployment**
  - MO went as a Type III
  - Giant crates are not effective for a Type III deployment since they are packing up and moving around a lot
  - CSC will consider recommending a more portable crate
  - Discussion of FL state teams deployment
- **Q and A's from handlers:**
  - **Q:** Does the CSC plan on doing anything regarding the breed specific legislation?
    A: Not at this time
  - **Q:** On the long down the DSCREP says you may signal the dog on your return? Does this mean a hand signal or verbal? How many? How loud?
    A: Hand signals only—Evaluators should say this in the briefing. "Signal" means non-verbal, as in motion or gesture. The DSCREP does not state that verbal cues will be cause for failure, but it should be made clear that we don't want handlers yelling at their dogs as they return. Just as the release should be quiet. Will put "hand signal" in DSCREP for next revision
  - **Q:** Agility--can the teeter-totter or barrel/plank be considered one of the mandatory?
    A: Yes.
- Test briefings:
  - Let handlers know that names will be mentioned in the AAR and the TFL's will be notified of any breach of the Code of Conduct.
  - The Code of Conduct is in the DSCREP and is expected to be followed—should be handed out at evaluations

Next Conference call August 31 at 12:00pm EST