

**MEMORANDUM**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**FEMA**

**DATE:** October 20, 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:

<b>MEETING DATE(s) &gt;&gt;</b>		10-20-05	Call # 91
<b>MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE</b>			
<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y/Y		
Debra Tosch	Y/Y		
John Dean	Y/Y		
Mike Marks	Y/Y		
John Gilkey	Y/Y		
Cathy Schiltz	Y/Y		
Dean Scott (FEMA)	N/Y		
	N/Y		

**AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION**

- Minutes from July 21st conference call
- New Evaluators
- Evaluator Apps accepted
- Mentor Apps
- Certificates
- Second Cache Canine Items
- Evaluator Conference Calls
- New Collars
- New Directives
- August Meetings
- CSC Face to Face
- Ohio Test
- CA-TF5 test status
- IN test-Oct.
- Leftover action items
- Little Giant
- Next Call

**PROPOSED ACTIONS**

1. Minutes from 7-21-05 conference call approved
2. Evaluators
  - New Evaluators approved:
    - Lisa Berry, VA-TF2, Handler
    - Linda Neimeier, VA-TF2, Handler
    - Deborah Burnett, TN-TF1, Handler: Type I only
    - Monica Barger, NE-TF1, Handler
    - Rich Grant, PA-TF1, Handler
  - Lead Evaluators approved:
    - Hilda Wood, FL-TF1, LEAD, Handler
    - Miki Marks, FL-TF1, LEAD, STM
    - John Dean AZ-TF1, LEAD, Handler
  - Evaluator Apps accepted:
    - Janet Merrill, MA-TF1, Handler
    - Gail McCarthy, MA-TF1, Handler
    - Teresa Gajate, FL-TF1, Handler
    - Mike Conners, FL-TF1, Handler
    - Kristian Catapano, FL-TF1, Handler
  - New Mentor:
    - Gary Hay-IN-TF1, Handler

3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cache K9 items:
  - Wire crates (not airline approved), Lifting Harnesses (one size fits all) and PFDs
    - Suggestion made that TF orders these and the harnesses to fit their dogs and so that the handlers can train with them
    - Teresa will find out process for canines having input in 2<sup>nd</sup> cache
      - i. What is being purchased
      - ii. How do we give input
4. Evaluator Conference Calls
  - December 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon EST
  - December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm EST
    - These calls are mandatory
    - Calls will be 1 1/2 hours long
5. Canine Coordinator Conference call
  - November 30
  - 2:00pm EST
6. August meetings TFL, Ops, SWG)
  - USAR 2006 calendar
    - Program Office proposed having TF level courses included along with FEMA sponsored courses conducted by Eagle Systems
      - TF will get \$50,000 to put on course
      - CSST in March (TN)—TF level and October (LA County) FEMA sponsored
7. CSC face to face
  - January 7,8,9
  - Fairfax, VA
8. OH test (August)
  - 6 out of 9 Type IIs passed
  - 0 out of 2 Type Is passed
9. CA-TF5 test
  - Rescheduled to October 30<sup>th</sup>
10. IN test (October)
  - 38 dogs tested, 27 passed
  - 21 out of 29 Type IIs passed
  - 6 out of 9 Type Is passed
11. Leftover action items
  - Suitable crate for Type III mission
    - More portable
    - Debra will get model # of plastic Nylabone crate to Teresa
12. Little Giant
  - Reference # is RF-0131.00
13. Each working group is being asked to help cut costs due to budget cuts
  - Subcommittee's proposed cuts
    - FEMA sponsors 6 tests per year & 3 Cert Preps (one per Region is cut)  
(A Cert Prep can be converted to a test if number of applicants justify)
14. John Dean will correlate AAR information for future stats.

**Q & A's in conjunction with minutes from telecon 10-20-05**

**Q: How does the payment for the post mission vet check work? The directive doesn't specify—**

A: The Directive states "Post-mission medical screening for any US&R canine deployed to and operated in the Louisiana or Mississippi operational areas is a fully reimbursable cost related to the deployment." This means a Task Force can pay the costs related to these screenings, and then claim reimbursement for them in their Hurricane Katrina reimbursement claim.

**Q: Will the Premier Collar being sold on disasterdog.org be allowed at FEMA canine evaluations?**

A: No—its considered a training collar as it can give a correction

**Q: When will certificates be issued?**

A: All past due certificates thru June 05 have been issued. They were hand-delivered to the TFLs at the August meeting In NV. Any requests for missing (or corrected) certificates need to go through the Task Force.

**Q: Will Type I's need to pass an FSA to test and recert?**

A: Yes, beginning 1-1-06, the FSA will be the qualifying pre-test for certification. It's only once every three years and it will keep us training the basics. Due to manpower and site shortages, a Type I pretest is still not required, but certainly encouraged. An FSA is suggested to be good for six months, but a Task Force can require one at any time.

**Q: Does the FSA score sheet need to accompany the application for certification?**

A: No, just check the box on the app, as we do now for a pretest.

**Q: After 1-1-06, if you fail a recert, will you lose your certification?**

A: Yes, until you pass your recert.

**Q: If I take a Type II before the end of the year and fail, do I lose my Type I status (which is still good for a year). And if I pass the Type II, am I dually certified—keeping my Type II for a year if I fail my Type I recert?**

A: Whenever you test, you are determining your status at that time—if you test early and fail, you lose your certification. If you take a Type II and fail, you lose everything and would have to start over. It's not justifiable to retain an advanced status if the first step to that point can't be passed.)

Next Conference call November 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon EST