

**MEMORANDUM**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



**FEMA**

**DATE:** 18 May 2006

**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 18 May 2006 Canine Sub-committee conference call:

<b>MEETING DATE(s)</b>		05/18/2006	Call # 98
<b>MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE</b>			
<b>Member</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Guest</b>	<b>Y/N</b>
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y	Rory Rehbeck (SWG)	Y
Mike Marks	Y	Jen Massey (scribe)	Y
Joe Caputo	Y		
Cathy Schiltz	Y		
John Dean	Y		
Darren Bobrosky	Y		
Debra Tosch	Y		

**AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION**

- 1) Minutes from 25 April 2006 Conference Call
- 2) MA Test
- 3) Dogs in Heat Testing (revisited)
- 4) New Evaluators  
Zaraith Perez, FL-TF2, Handler  
Brian Smithey, FL-TF2, Handler  
Craig Radelman, FL-TF2, STM  
Roseann De Luca, PA-TF1, Handler
- 5) HRD Update (CA Standard?)
- 6) DMORT Update
- 7) K-9 Coordinator Conference Call
- 8) US&R Veterinary Group
- 9) K9 PFDs Update
- 10) Face to Face Meeting (Direction for 2007 and out years)
- 11) Evaluator Conference Call Dates
- 12) Next Call

**PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- 1) **Minutes from 25 April 2006 Conference Call**
  - Approved
- 2) **MA Test**
  - “Commitment to scent source” was removed from score sheets.

- Evaluators called “Complete/Incomplete” on their separate piles, in lieu of the entire cadre discussing and deciding at the end of the test.
- CSC Reps will forward the AAR to Canine Coordinators. The nature of the AAR has changed in that it is now more public, which keeps system members informed.
- Any problems with particular test participants should be forwarded from the Chief Evaluator to the CSC chair. The Chair will then contact the appropriate Program Managers, if necessary.

**3) Dogs in Heat Testing (revisited)**

- All in agreement that dogs in heat (or close to it) should not be allowed to test.

**4) New Evaluators—all approved**

- Zarith Perez, FL-TF2, Handler
- Brian Smithey, FL-TF2, Handler
- Craig Radelman, FL-TF2, STM
- Roseann De Luca, PA-TF1, Handler
- Total count for evaluator’s now 77, 16 in progress.
- Consensus to make an exception for any Task Force who has less than 2 evaluators, to submit applications for Shadow Evaluators. All TFs should have the opportunity to have 2 Evaluators. Joe Caputo, NY-TF1, STM and Anthony Favara, NY-TF1, STM were both approved to begin the Shadow Process.

**5) HRD Update (CA Standard?)**

- ARDA is in the process of updating/approving the 2000 NDMS HRD standard.
- California is in the process of adopting a standard – it is still a “work in progress”. This standard is more of a “Type I” format as opposed to what ARDA is working on. Discussed merging the two into one complete test.

**6) DMORT Update**

- The WMD team is assembling a dedicated search and recovery function.

**7) K-9 Coordinator Conference Call—(open forum) topics to include:**

- System update—test process, announcements, application procedure, parameters and structure for CP, evaluators, appeal process
- TF Questionnaires
- SME instructor apps
- SOPs for handlers training away from home
- Vet Group update
- Hasty vs. primary terminology

- New marking system (peel and stick)
- Search strategy, marking, mapping (evaluations)

**8) US&R Veterinary Group**

- Handler emergency medical pack may be viewed and purchased on the website [usarveterinarygroup.org](http://usarveterinarygroup.org).

**9) K9 PFDs Update**

- The new ones have not yet been ordered—FEMA checking into it.

**10) Face to Face Meeting (Direction for 2007 and out years)**

CSC discussed the need to revise the test to remove the subjectivity and various ways to do this. Emphasis to be on training, i.e. CPs and CSSTs, in-house mentoring. Also discussed ways to improve the process as a whole.

**11) Evaluator Conference Calls Dates**

- July 11, 2006 @ 1200 EDT and July 13, 2006 @ 2000 EDT

**12) Next Call**

‡ June 21, 2006, Noon, EST

**UPCOMING CONFERENCE CALL(S)**

**CSC Call:** 21 June 2006 1200 EDT

**Canine Coordinator Call:** 8 June 2006 1400 EDT

**Evaluator Conference Call:** 11 July 2006 1200 EDT

**Evaluator Conference Call:** 13 July 2006 2000 EDT

**NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING**

August 2006, San Diego, CA(?)