

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, D.C. 20472



FEMA

DATE: 21 June 2007

FOR: Rory Rehbeck, Chair
Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Group

SUBJECT: Canine Sub-Group Telecon Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the Canine Sub-Group 21 June 2007 conference call:

MEETING DATE(s)		21 June 2007	Call # 109
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE			
Member	Y/N	Guest	Y/N
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y	Rory Rehbeck (SWG)	N
Mike Marks	Y	Jennifer Massey (scribe)	Y
Joe Caputo	Y		
Cathy Schiltz	Y		
John Dean	Y		
Darren Bobrosky	N		
Debra Tosch	Y		

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- 1) Minutes From 24 May 2007 Conference Call
- 2) June CA-TF2 Certification Evaluation
- 3) Suggestion from Evaluator
- 4) Search Working Group Meeting
- 5) 2008 K-9 Needs
- 6) Animal Rescue Video
- 7) Face-to-Face Meeting
- 8) Next Call

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1) Minutes From 24 May 2007 Conference Call
 - Approved
- 2) June CA-TF2 Certification Evaluation

Test went very well - the only "issues" were minor organizational items. CE was conducted on day one and a CP was conducted on day two. Clean pass/fails. There were no issues with the teams that did not pass the CE. There were 7 dogs at the CP and it went well. It was suggested that we incorporate into SOPs, a post-evaluation conference call with the evaluators, sub-group and canine coordinators. This will be added to the agenda for the face-to-face.

- 3) Suggestion from Evaluator

On Limited Access site—give the handler the 5 foot area away from the victim, so as to ensure victim's safety, i.e., the handler won't be standing on top of the victim.

CSG discussed, but decided to leave the parameters as written. The victim's safety must be ensured, the hole must be safe, even if someone is standing on top of him.

This led to a discussion of victims in general—using children, etc. There are no set parameters. Different TFs have different rules, according to their local regulations. We will keep tabs on this issue and bring it up to the Canine Coordinators.

4) Search Working Group Meeting

- Most of the meeting spent on the search definitions. The definitions are being revised in conjunction with input from other agencies, i.e. Coast Guard, etc. with the intent of getting everyone in SAR on the same terminology page. Teresa will forward to the rest of the group when they are close to being finalized.
- Medical specialist training video that Lori Gordon created was enthusiastically accepted by the MWG.
- Recon robot—demo of a low flying robot that “sees”, “hears” and can monitor hazmat over collapsed structures and voids

5) 2008 K-9 Needs

- Two calendars will be proposed to fit possible high/low funding.

Questions from Ops--

- Instructor cadre – should there be a rotation?
 - Mirror the evaluator rotation process
- Locations of course deliveries – should there be a rotation?
 - Yes, but with emphasis on meeting site requirements
- Course support requirements?
 - Yes
- Need for safety officers at courses?
 - Yes

6) Animal Rescue Video

- The video is in the final editing stages – it should be complete by tomorrow.

7) Face-to-Face Meeting

Any additional agenda items for the face-to-face meeting should be sent to Teresa.

8) Next Call

- 18 July 2007 @ 1400 hours EST

CONFERENCE CALL(s)

CSG Call: 18 July 2007 @ 1400 hours EST

NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING

August 24-26, 2007 in Miami, Florida