

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, D.C. 20472



FEMA

DATE: 27 December 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 27 December 2007 conference call:

MEETING DATE(s)		27 December 2007	Call # 114
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE			
Member	Y/N	Guest	Y/N
Teresa MacPherson, Chair	Y		
Mike Marks	Y	Jennifer Massey (scribe)	Y
Joe Caputo	Y	Susann Brown (2008 member)	Y
Cathy Schiltz	Y		
John Dean	Y		
Darren Bobrosky	Y		
Debra Tosch	Y		

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- 1) Minutes from 29 November 2007
- 2) Welcome Susann Brown/Thank You Cathy Schiltz
- 3) FL-TF2 Test
- 4) Pass Rates/Attempts 2007/Breed Percentages
- 5) Evaluator Application – Scott Mateyaschuk (NY-TF1), handler
- 6) New Evaluator – Linda D’Orsi (CA-TF8), handler
- 7) FSA-Only Evaluators?
- 8) Screening Process
- 9) Open Training Weekends
- 10) Next Call

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1) Minutes from 29 November 2007 telecon
 - Approved
- 2) Welcome Susann Brown/Thank You Cathy Schiltz
 - Susann Brown was welcomed as the incoming Central Division member and Cathy Schiltz was thanked for her service the past three years.

3) FL-TF2 Test

- There was a high percentage of experienced handlers and/or dogs, resulting in a 93% pass rate. Six out of the 14 testing teams were recerts. Some handlers were experienced, testing with a second dog. Some dogs were operational, testing with a new handler. Only 4 teams were composed of a new dog and new handler. Both very high and very low pass rates should be justified in the After Action report. The peer reviews were all very good (all 5's) from the handlers.
- Discussion as to include in the Lead Evaluators responsibilities to explain (before the test) the rationale behind the set-up of their pile to any evaluators unable to be there for set-up. Though all evaluators are welcome and encouraged to participate in the test set-up, this is not always possible or practical.

4) Pass Rates/Attempts 2007/Breed Percentages

- Currently, there are 201 certified teams (no Type II's) and 173 actual resources (13.9% redundancy)
- The Pass Rate for 2007 was 66%.
 - 2006=63%
 - 2005=58%
 - 2004=54%
 - 2003=49%
- Attempts for 2007 (no passes after 3rd attempt, no 5th attempts at all):
 - 79 total passes
 - 1st attempt—65
 - 2nd attempt—7
 - 3rd attempt—7
 - 4th attempt—0
- Discussion as to a system maximum limit of 4 total attempts per team.
- Breed percentages now included on roster for informational purposes.

5) Evaluator Application – Scott Mateyaschuk (NY-TF1), Handler

- Approved—NY-TF1 has less than 2 evaluators

6) New Evaluator – Linda D’Orsi (CA-TF8), Handler

- Approved—CA-TF8 has less than 2 evaluators

7) FSA-Only Evaluators?

- Discussion which resulted in leaving the evaluator program as-is for now. All evaluators must complete the 4 Shadow experiences.

8) Cross-Training Live/Dead

- The Canine Sub-Group does not recommend cross-training our live-find US&R dogs for both live and human remains. The Canine Sub-Group endorses the training of single-discipline dogs.

9) Screening Process

- Susann is working on a draft for her TF. Should be complete by the end of January. The CSG can review it to see if all or part can be incorporated into our draft.

10) Open Training Weekends

- Suggestion to rename “Open Training Weekends” to “Canine Open House”—this may alleviate funding issues for certain Task Forces, as Training has specific definitions.

[Note: This has since been re-addressed—CSG is acting on a suggestion to make them “Authorized Training Events” and put on the US&R calendar]

11) Next Call

- 24 January 2008 @ 1400 EST

CONFERENCE CALL(s)

CSG Call: 24 January 2008 @ 1400 hours EST

NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING

April 24-25, 2008 in San Diego, California