

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

- 1) Minutes from 17 November 2008 Call**
- 2) 2008 Statistics**
- 3) 2009 Calendar comments**
- 4) Evaluator Roster 2009**
- 5) New Evaluator**
- 6) New Shadow Evaluator**
- 7) Survey 2009**
- 8) TX-TF1 Evaluation**
- 9) Suggested Contingency Planning for System Events**
- 10) Request for Additional TF Evaluator Slot**
- 11) Suggested for Discussion**
- 12) Open Training Weekends**
- 13) Next Call**

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1) Minutes from 17 November 2008 Call**
 - Approved
- 2) 2008 Statistics**
 - 2008 pass rate 73%
 - Pass rate since revised test (Jan 2007 thru Dec 2008) is 70%
 - Based on past 3 years test participation, prediction that approximately 121 teams will need to test in 2009
- 3) 2009 Calendar comments**
 - CSG Meeting is in Fairfax, VA
 - April CP is under discussion

- Conversions of CPs will be discouraged.
- Clarify that a CP is a 2-day format—a mock test the first day, followed by training on the second day for the same teams to focus on problems seen in the mock test. If a test does not fill, the second day will be used for training, but will not be a designated “CP”.

4) Evaluator Roster 2009

- Modified to 8 groups to match calendar
- Will be distributed to TFs upon approval of TFL’s

5) New Evaluator

- Paul Gitlin (NY-TF1), handler - **Approved**

6) New Shadow Evaluator

- Pam Bennett (OH-TF1), handler - **Approved**

7) Survey 2009

- Jen and Debra are working on format and additions/deletions
- After approval of CSG, Teresa will send to Canine Coordinators (cc’ing PMs)
- Debra will again be the collection point
- Needs to be completed by March 1

8) TX-TF1 Evaluation

- 2 out of 6 passed
- All peer reviews were good
- 2nd day of training was very good

9) Suggested Contingency Planning for System Events

- In the event of a last minute emergency, i.e., the cancellation of evaluator(s), every effort should be made to continue the event at no increased cost to the host.
- The Chief Evaluator will coordinate with the hosting TF.
- The CSG Chair is contacted, who will take the lead in resolving the situation with the approval of the Search Working Group Chair and the FEMA Program Office Canine POC.
- In the event the CSG Chair is unavailable, the CSG Vice-Chair is contacted, who may appoint a Regional Rep to take the lead in the resolution, using the chain of command as outlined above.

10) Request for Additional TF Evaluator Slot (Central Div)

- As the system still has a glut of evaluators and 2009 will present even less opportunities, the consensus was to leave the current system in place.

11) Suggested for Discussion

- Parameters for clothes distraction formalized
 - consensus is to leave as is for the present, and continue to track false alerts due to food and/or clothes

- address protocol in next Evaluator telecon

- Limited access verbiage
 - All finds – 3 barks start with handler at start point or at last alert (not walking from point A to point B)
- Allowing a motivational problem before the search on an evaluation
 - Consensus was not to change the CE to allow at this time

12) Open Training Weekends

- Texas had a huge response for Jan '09 and had to turn a number of teams away
- Other TF's that are interested in doing this should start planning now
- Susann will contact interested TF's to determine if they would like to host one and when

CONFERENCE CALL(s)

CSG Call: 27 January @1400 EDT

CSG Meeting: 21-23 April 2009, Fairfax, VA