

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 Washington, D.C.
 20472



FEMA

DATE: 9 October 2010

FOR: Jim Ingledue, Chair
 Search Working Group

FROM: Canine Sub-Group

SUBJECT: Evaluator Telecon Minutes

Please find the attendance and agenda items addressed on the Evaluator conference call held on September 20 and 29, 2010:

MEETING DATE(s)		20 September 2010		Call # 10	
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE					
CSG Members		Y/N		Others	
Teresa MacPherson, Chair		Y		Jen Massey, Scribe	
Darren Bobrosky		Y			
Susann Brown		N			
John Dean		Y			
Mike Marks		Y			
Debra Tosch		Y			
Evaluators		Y/N		Evaluators	Y/N
Jeaneen McKinney		Y		Rose De Luca	Y
Teresa Ortenburger		Y		Lee Dunn	Y
Gary Hay		Y		Rox Dunn	Y
Hilda Wood		Y		Mike Agnew	Y
Pat Kaynaroglu		Y		Linda D'Orsi	Y
Rob Cima		Y		Karen Meadows	Y
Brian Smithey		Y		Mark Dawson	Y
Gail McCarthy		Y		Deresa Teller	Y
Nancy Hachmeister		Y		Randy Gross	Y
Ann Wichmann		Y		Carla Collins	Y
Jackie McCarty		Y		Marc Valentine	Y
Kay Rice		Y		Steve Dolezal	Y
Lynne Engelbert		Y		Pat Grant	Y
Steve Driscoll		Y		Janet Merrill	Y
Pam Bennett		Y		Tom Haus	Y
Athena Robbins		Y		Bob Macaulay	Y
Su Vodrazka		Y		Lee Prentiss	Y
Adam Skiver		Y		Monica Barger	Y

Continued			
Tommy Kelley	Y	Anne McCurdy	Y
Cathy Schiltz	Y	Jen Massey	Y

MEETING DATE(s)		29 September 2010		Call # 10	
MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE					
CSG Members		Y/N		Others	
Teresa MacPherson, Chair		Y		Jen Massey, Scribe	
Darren Bobrosky		Y			
Susann Brown		Y			
John Dean		Y			
Mike Marks		Y			
Debra Tosch		Y			
Evaluators		Y/N		Evaluators	
Deborah Burnett		Y		Ron Sanders	
Kristian Labrada		Y		Tracy McDonald	
Sonja Heritage		Y		Bob Sessions	
Elizabeth Kreitler		Y		Sharon Gattas	
Tony Zintsmaster		Y		Bud Souza	
Paul Gitlin		Y		Lee Turner	
Sharon Grant		Y		Linda Neimeier	
Jeaneen McKinney		Y		Lisa Berry	
Cyndie Fajardo		Y		Lette Birn	
Ron Weckbacher		Y		Nate Bogenschutz	
Rich Grant		Y		John Redd	
Mark Dawson		Y		Garrett Dyer	
Bryan Morgan		Y		Scott Mateyaschuk	
Rex Ianson		Y		Deresa Teller	
Justin Poarch		Y		Steve Swaney	
Garrett Dyer		Y		Bob Deeds	
Russell Tao		Y		Peter Sellas	
John Gilkey		Y		Rory Rehbeck	
Craig Radelman		Y		Sheila McKee	
Julie Noyes		Y		Bill Monahan	
Sally Timms (absent)		N		LaFond Davis (absent)	

AGENDA ITEMS/DISCUSSION

Roll Call

Program Update

- CSSC Annex (to the National US&R Response System Operations Manual) – Program Directive 2010-09
 - Any and all changes must go through the approval process (includes evaluator reqs – must be on a TF, must evaluate once every 2 yrs, must attend the telecons)
 - CSG does not have the power to grant extensions, make exceptions, give waivers
 - Substantive changes
 - FSA evaluators – one evaluator and Canine Coordinator or designee who
 - Must be rostered on a DHS/FEMA Task Force
 - Must have been a Canine Search Specialist or STM for at least three years
 - Must have completed the Canine Search Specialist Training Course
 - SOPs incorporated into document
 - Evaluator compensation defined
 - Host will be requested to outline compensation amount and timelines before asking for confirmation from evaluators
 - No Policies – all are incorporated or dismissed
 - Testing dogs-in-season issue was dropped
 - Vet letter for testing dog over 10 yrs dropped (Program Office advised this was not under our scope, TF issue)
 - Search site size increase did not pass TFLs
 - Site size remains 6K – 15K (the average is 10K)

CE/CP status 2011

- Numbers given to TFLs, Ops Group and PO to support 9 tests, 2 CPs
- Waiting for the budget amount
- Directly impacts evaluator situation
- Number of events and number of evaluators under discussion. (TFLs, SACs, PO)
 - If not enough events, then evaluator roster will need to be reduced
 - TFLs will discuss how to do this
 - Evaluator Groups made when we know the results

Evaluator status

- Groups and Alternate Pool ordered by date-last-evaluated
- Expiring evaluators given opportunities in the next three events
 - Chief and host will determine how to schedule them in the rotation – must maintain the balance in the pile cadre
 - Good idea to keep the Leads consistent on each pile – don't rotate them out
 - No expense to host or financial impact on other evaluators
- Expiration "year" vs 24 months
 - Evaluators must evaluate once during a two yer calendar period
- Reserve Pool for expired evaluators
 - Retain title and able to conduct TF-level evals
 - Do not yet know how "active" status will be regained
 - This is in the conceptual stage and is not approved - goal is for current evaluators to remain active and a reserve pool will not be needed

Eliciting/False Alerts

- Since Jan 2007:
 - One case of eliciting that passed in 2007, none since then
 - Sixteen cases of false alerts that failed teams who otherwise would have passed
 - Out of the 455 teams tested, this is 3%
 - Not supporting dogs missing victims, but allowing for changes in scenting conditions, as well as aligning with the industry standard of detector dogs, which does not require 100%
 - Will continue to track and monitor

Food on FSA

- CSG consensus is NO
- Attracts and contaminates for following dogs
 - Suggestion to have food dog go last this wouldn't work – would have to allow for the possible scenario of an all-food dog FSA

DisasterDog

- Current Evaluator materials posted

Questions & Answers

- **Is there a check-list for CP?**
 - Yes, included in the SOPs now incorporated in the CSSC Annex
- **There is no way an evaluator will expire due to lack of opportunity?**

- The expiring evaluators (eleven) have been given opportunities to substitute-evaluate any of the 3 remaining opportunities this year.
- We expect that for next year, we will either have enough CEs/CPs to accommodate the current cadre or the cadre will be reduced
- **Will the Substitute Evaluator be added to the pile or rotate in?**
 - Rotate in, to maintain 3 evaluators per pile.
- **Who is funding the extra evaluator?**
 - The only criteria is that it cannot financially impact the host or the other evaluators
- **Has anyone asked FEMA if grant funds could be used to support the substitute evaluators?**
 - We don't know how the TFs are funding their substitute-evaluators, but its possible that they have requested this from the PO
- **Are the TFs of the expiring evaluator informed about this?**
 - The Canine Coordinators, Task Force Reps/Training Managers, Hosts and Chief Evaluators have been informed. The substitute Evaluator should coordinate with his TF. The Chief Evaluators will advise the substitute evaluator as to when he/she will evaluate in the rotation.
- **Outlook for next year – how many tests do we need to accommodate the current evaluator roster?**
 - We need 9 tests to accommodate the certified canine program (recerts and new teams). We have submitted numbers to support 9 tests and additional CPs. If this is met, the current cadre will be accomodated. Based on past experience, even if we get only 9 events for each of the next two years, there should be enough opportunities to maintain the current evaluator cadre.
- **Who decides if a female in season can test?**
 - The discussion should be between the handler, his/her sponsoring TF, the host TF and the Chief Evaluator. Every effort should be made not to impact the test or other dogs during the event
- **Is the CSSC Directive available online?**
 - Yes, the CSSC Annex on DisasterDog and HSIN and has been distributed to all Task Forces and the Canine Coordinators.