

SWGDOG SC2 - GENERAL GUIDELINES

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2nd Revision

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Statement of Purpose: To provide recommended- best practice general guidelines for training, certification, and documentation pertaining to all canine disciplines. (Discipline specific guidelines are found within the corresponding subcommittee documents.)

1. INITIAL TRAINING

~~1.1. The handler shall be trained by a competent individual or entity using a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives.~~

1.1. The handler training shall be conducted by a competent trainer from an entity that utilizes a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives.

~~1.1.1 The canine shall be trained by a competent individual or entity through using a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives.~~

1.2. The canine training shall be conducted by a competent canine trainer from an entity that utilizes a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives.

~~2.1.2 The handler shall be trained by a competent individual or entity through using a structured curriculum with specific training and learning objectives.~~

1.3. Initial training shall include a level of sufficient obedience training to assure ensure the canine will operate effectively based on mission requirements.

1.4. The canine shall be trained to perform an effective and controlled search.

~~The canine shall be trained to perform an effective and controlled search on and/or off lead.~~

1.5. The initial training of the canine shall include training of a determined specific final response (active or passive alert).

1.6. Initial training shall include exposing the canine team to a variety of locations, expected situations and searches.

1.7. The training shall be structured to meet the typical mission requirements of the canine team's department/organization.

1.8. The canine team's training shall be continued to achieve a level of operational proficiency until certification evaluation.

~~3.1.5 Initial training shall include exposing the canine/handler team to a variety of locations, expected situations, and searches.~~

~~3. The canine shall be trained to perform an effective and controlled search.~~

~~3. The training shall be structured to meet the typical mission requirements of the canine/handler team's department/organization.~~

~~3.1.8 The canine/handler team's training shall be continued to achieve a level of operational proficiency until certification evaluation.~~

~~The training shall be structured to meet the typical mission requirements of the canine/handler team's department/organization.~~

2. ~~2. CANINE/HANDLER TEAM~~ **CANINE TEAM CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENTS**

~~1. Certification for the named canine/handler team shall be valid for one year.~~

~~1.1. Certification does not relieve the canine/handler team from regular maintenance training and following other recommended SWGDOG guidelines.~~

~~2. The certifying officials shall *not* be routinely involved in the day to day training of the canine/handler team being tested.~~

~~3. The canine/handler team shall achieve at least 90% proficiency for successful certification, unless otherwise dictated by the specific discipline.~~

~~4. A mission oriented test environment shall be used.~~

2.1. Assessments are part of certification, maintenance training and proficiency testing.

2.2. Each assessment is the evaluation of a search.

~~5. Certification shall consist of a number of assessments that together form the full test.~~

~~5.1. Each assessment is the evaluation of a search.~~

~~5.2. Aids/targets to be used in the certification process shall not have been used in the day to day training activities of the team being certified.~~

2.3. ~~2.3~~ The canine/handler team canine team shall be assessed in the following ways:

~~6. The certification shall include at least two of the following types of assessments:~~

~~6.1.2.3.1. ~~2.3.1~~ Odor recognition assessment.~~

~~6.1.1.2.3.1.1. ~~2.3.1.1~~ The handler shall be advised of the parameters of the search.~~

~~6.1.2.2.3.1.2.~~ ~~2.3.1.2~~ The handler ~~may~~shall not know the ~~number~~number placement of target objects, ~~but not the placement.~~, ~~but not placement.~~

~~6.1.3.2.3.1.3.~~ ~~2.3.1.3~~ The evaluating official shall know the desired outcome of the ~~—~~ search.

~~6.2.2.3.2.~~ ~~2.3.2~~ Comprehensive assessment (single-blind assessment).

~~6.2.1.2.3.2.1.~~ The handler shall be advised of the parameters of the search, yet shall not know the desired outcome.

~~6.2.2.2.3.2.2.~~ The handler shall not know the number or placement of the ~~target~~ target objects.

~~6.2.3.2.3.2.3.~~ The evaluating official shall know the desired outcome of the search.

~~6.2.4.2.3.2.4.~~ The assessments shall include a ~~negative~~blank search.

~~2.1.1.2.3.3.~~ Double-blind assessment.

~~2.3.3.1.~~ The handler shall be advised of the parameters of the search.

~~2.3.3.2.~~ No participant or observer present at the assessment location(s) shall be aware of the ~~desired outcome~~parameters of the search.

~~2.3.3.2.2.3.3.3.~~ The assessments may include a blank search.

~~7.1.2.4.~~ Each assessment will address the following areas:

~~2.4.1.~~ ~~Demonstration~~Demonstration of -the canine's ability to perform a systematic ~~—Search~~search

~~2.4.2.~~ Demonstration of the handler's control of the canine during the execution of a systematic search. ~~Pattern.~~

~~7.3.2.4.3.~~ Demonstration of the handler's ability to accurately interpret the
~~—~~canine's changes in behaviors associated with odor detection and
~~—~~identification. ~~Animal~~Canine Response~~Alert~~Interpretation

~~2.4.3.2.4.4.~~ Demonstration of the handler's ability to determine whether or
~~—~~ not the canine has made a final response.

~~Handler shall accurately interpret the canine's changes in behaviors associated~~
~~with odor detection and identification.~~

~~7.3.2.~~ ~~Handler shall indicate when the canine has made a final response.~~

~~2.4.5.~~ ~~2.4.4.1~~ ~~Handler shall indicate when the canine has made a final response.~~ In
a double blind assessment it may not be possible to include all of the
handler and canine assessment areas listed above.

~~7.4.1.~~ ~~The canine/handler team shall locate the source of the target odor or interpret the absence of~~
~~the target odor.~~

~~8.~~ ~~A canine/handler team which fails to complete the certification process shall~~
~~complete a corrective action plan before making another attempt to certify.~~

~~9.~~ ~~Any competent individual or entity may enhance the recommended SWGDOG~~
~~guidelines in order to make the requirements more stringent.~~

3. CANINE/HANDLER TEAM CANINE TEAM CERTIFICATION

- 3.1. Certification for the named ~~canine/handler team~~ canine team shall be valid for one year.
- 3.1.1. Certification does not relieve the ~~canine/handler team~~ canine team from regular maintenance training, periodic proficiency assessments, and following other ~~recommended~~ SWGDOG guidelines.
- 3.1.2. The certifying official(s) shall not be routinely involved in the day to day training of the canine team being evaluated.
- 3.1.3. Specific assessment criteria are articulated by discipline.
- 3.1.4. Handler errors, when excessive, may result in failure of the team.
- 3.1.5. A mission-oriented test environment shall be used.
- 3.2. Certification shall consist of a number of assessments that together form the full test.
- 3.2.1. Each assessment is the evaluation of a search.
- 3.2.2. ~~Aids and or targets used in the certification process should not have been used in the day to day training activities of the team being certified.~~ Aids and/or targets used in the day to day training activities of the team being certified should not be used in the certification process.
- 3.2.3. The certification shall be comprised of a comprehensive assessment together with either an odor recognition assessment or a double-blind assessment, or both.
- 3.3. A ~~canine/handler team~~ canine team that ~~which~~ fails to complete the certification process shall complete a corrective action plan before making another attempt to certify.

~~Any competent individual or entity may enhance the recommended SWGDOG guidelines in order to make the requirements more stringent.~~

4. MAINTENANCE TRAINING

- 4.1.1. The ~~canine/handler team~~ canine team shall conduct regular objective-oriented training sufficient to maintain- and enhance operational proficiency. Maintenance training shall include the following:
- 4.1.1 ~~Enhancing the proficiency level of the team.~~
- 4.1.1. Correcting identified deficiencies or ~~weak areas~~ operational concerns.
- 4.1.2. A variety of search locations and sizes; and -environmental conditions. ~~and size of search area.~~
- 4.1.3. ~~A~~ Varied duration of search times.
- 4.1.4. Varied ~~and~~ times of day/night.
- 4.1.5. A variety of blank searches ~~areas.~~

- 4.1.6. A variety of distractions in the search area.
- 4.1.7. A variety of set times.
- 4.1.8. A variety of target odors, amounts, number of targets, and different sources of targets where applicable.
- 4.1.9. A variety of methods of concealment.

4.1.4.2. ~~Routine~~ Training conducted solely by the handler to maintain the canine's proficiency is acceptable, but ~~shall~~ should be periodically combined with supervised training. ~~on a regular basis~~

4.2.1. Supervised training, by a qualified trainer/instructor, ~~is~~ is recommended conducted by a qualified trainer/instructor other than the handler, in order to monitor and improve performance, identify and correct training deficiencies, and perform proficiency assessments. (refer to SC-1) ~~is considered a best practice.~~

4.2.4.3. ~~A canine/handler team~~ canine team shall ~~conduct~~ complete a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of training per month to maintain and improve the proficiency level of the team.

4.3.4.4. The canine team shall undergo periodic proficiency assessments as outlined in section 2 of the Canine Team Assessments. These assessments should include a variety of odor recognition assessments, comprehensive assessments and/or double-blind assessments.

5. DOCUMENTATION

~~4.5.1.~~ The handler/department/organization shall ~~keep document regular maintenance in~~ training, certification, proficiency assessments, ~~and~~ ~~proficiency assessment,~~ discipline-related deployment data, seizure, and ~~/or~~ deployment/utilization records (notice that if we leave 'or' they can choose to keep only 1 set of records...that is not what was intended...this same issue pertains later on, also, and I have noted it by removing the 'or'). Note that this does not require them to keep proficiency assessment records, as specified by the second 5.1.1. below. This is NOT what we intended. Also, renumbering is needed.

~~1.1. Records shall contain discipline-related specifics.~~

~~1.2. Records shall be standardized within the department/organization.~~

~~1.3. Deployment/utilization/seizure information shall be separated from training and testing information.~~

~~1.4. Supervisory review is recommended.~~

~~1.5. Digital format is recommended to facilitate compiling and analyzing data.~~

5.1.1. Training and Proficiency assessments records and training records may be combined or maintained separately ~~documents.~~

5.1.2. Discipline-related deployment records ~~Deployment/utilization and /seizure (these are separated out above) documentation~~ shall be maintained

~~separately~~ from training, ~~proficiency assessment, and certification and proficiency assessment certification documentation~~ records.

5.1.3. Training and discipline-related records should be standardized within the department/organization.

~~2. Reliability of the canine/handler team shall be based upon the results of certification and proficiency assessments.~~

~~2.1. Training records do not necessarily reflect reliability.~~

~~5.2. The record formats should be standardized within the department/organization~~ Training records ~~and records~~ may include, but are not be limited to, ~~to~~ the following data:

5.2.1. Name of handler and canine.

5.2.2. Name(s) of individual(s) conducting/assisting training.

5.2.3. Time and date training took place ~~of training~~.

5.2.4. Location and environmental conditions ~~of training~~.

5.2.5. Training design (non-blind, single-blind or double-blind).

5.2.6. Description and number of target(s).

5.2.7. Location of target(s).

5.2.8. Set time.

5.2.9. Size of search area.

5.2.10. Length of ~~training~~ session.

5.2.11. Search results.

5.2.12. Deficiencies and corrective measures implemented ~~during training regimen~~

5.2.13. Other information required by department/organization.

~~5.1.5.3.~~ Certification records shall be maintained by the certifying authority and the handler, and include the following information:

5.3.1. Name of canine and handler.

5.3.2. Date team certified.

5.3.3. Certification authority, i.e., agency, professional organization, and/or individual(s).

5.3.4. The standard or guideline under which the ~~canine/handler team~~ canine team is certified.

5.3.5. Name of individual(s) awarding certification.

5.3.6. Search area types included in certification assessment.

5.3.7. Type and amount of materials included in certification assessment.

5.3.8. Location of certification.

~~Name of canine and handler.~~

5.3. Proficiency assessment records ~~kept~~ maintained by the handler/, department, ~~and, or/~~ organization (the order these are used elsewhere in this doc) and/or department may include, but are not be limited to, the following data (note — here the and/or allows different groups to keep different types of records — not to dispense with them):

5.4.1. Name of handler and canine.

- 5.4.2. Name(s) of individual(s) conducting assessment.
- 5.4.3. Time and date assessment took place ~~of assessment.~~
- 5.4.4. Location and environmental conditions ~~of assessment.~~
- 5.4.5. Assessment design (single-blind or double-blind).
- 5.4.6. Description and number of target(s).
- 5.4.7. Location of target(s).
- 5.4.8. Set time.
- 5.4.9. Size of search area.
- 5.4.10. Proficiency assessment results.
- 5.4.11. Other information required by department/organization.

~~— Certification records shall be kept by the certifying authority and (the authority should absolutely keep them...as should the handler, but if anyone is allowed not to keep them it should be the handler...the and, or doesn't allow for this so 'and' is better) d/or the handler and include the following information:~~

- ~~— Date team certified.~~
- ~~— Certification authority i.e., agency, professional organization, and/or individual(s).~~
- ~~— The standard or guideline to which the canine/handler team is certified.~~
- ~~— Name of individual(s) awarding certification.~~
- ~~— Search area types included in certification assessment.~~
- ~~— Type and amount of materials included in certification assessment.~~
- ~~— Location of certification.~~
- ~~— Name of canine and handler.~~

5.5. Supervisory review of all records is recommended.

5.6. Digital format is recommended to facilitate compiling and analyzing data.

5.7. Records may be discoverable in court proceedings and may become evidence of the canine team's reliability. Record retention shall be determined by department/organization guidelines.

~~2.2.5.8.~~ Training records are necessary to illustrate the type and amount of training that the team has experienced before and after certification.

~~2.3.5.9.~~ Confirmed operational outcomes can be used as a factor in determining ~~to determine~~ capability.

~~2.4.5.10.~~ Unconfirmed operational outcomes shall not be used as a factor to in ~~determining~~ ing capability in that they do not correctly evaluate a ~~canine/handler team~~ canine team's performance proficiency (i.e., residual odor can be present or concealment may preclude discovery).

~~3.1.5.11.~~ Training Aid Records

5.11.1. Training aids shall be clearly labeled in a manner to support accountability.

5.11.2. Appropriate records shall be maintained by the handler/department/organization.

5.12. Veterinary Records

5.12.1. Veterinary records shall be maintained in a ~~Medical~~5.12.1 Each animal dog shall undergo an annual veterinary examination. ~~Medical~~ manner such as they are accessible to the handler/department/organization.

5.12.2. Vaccinations required by state or local law should be documented in the veterinary record of the canine~~dog~~.

~~4.1.~~