

SWGDOG SC 9 - HUMAN SCENT DOGS

Non-specific Human Scent Wilderness Area Search

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NON- SPECIFIC HUMAN SCENT WILDERNESS AREA SEARCHES

Non-specific human scent wilderness area searches are used to locate lost people and or fugitives in unpopulated wilderness areas through air scenting by a trained canine/handler team. The goal of this type of search is for the canine/handler team to utilize the wind, by way of air scenting, to search for and detect live people within a defined search area. This differs from other types of searches where the canine follows the target's foot track.

2. CANINE/ HANDLER TEAM CERTIFICATION

- 2.1. Assessment parameters should be appropriate to operational requirements. Non-specific human scent wilderness area search canines can be deployed in a wide variety of circumstances.
- 2.2. Odor recognition assessments will consist of the following characteristics:
 - 2.2.1. A test of the canine/handler team's skills as they relate to:
 - 2.2.1.1. The handler's ability to organize and articulate a logical and systematic search pattern utilizing the wind to the canine's advantage.
 - 2.2.1.2. The handler's ability to perform a systematic search with the canine.
 - 2.2.1.3. The handler's interpretation of the canine's behavior.
 - 2.2.1.4. The canine/handler team's ability to locate all relevant human targets.
 - 2.2.1.5. The canine's ability to perform an effective independent search without continuous handler guidance.
 - 2.2.1.6. The canine's response to a human target.
 - 2.2.1.7. The handler's interpretation of the canine's response.
 - 2.2.1.8. The canine's ability to ignore distractions.
 - 2.2.2. An odor recognition assessment consists of a single search.
 - 2.2.2.1. The assessment shall occur in an environment similar to where the canine usually works in daylight hours. Typically, this is an unpopulated environment where animals and human scented objects may be present.
 - 2.2.2.2. The search area shall be approximately 20,234 m² (5 acres) in size.
 - 2.2.2.3. One target shall walk into the search area in such a way to encourage the use of air scenting. The target shall hide in a stationary position, but not in an enclosed location (i.e., tents, caves, sleeping bags).
 - 2.2.2.4. The target shall not be routinely or recently used as a target to train the canine.

- 2.2.3. For multiple assessments run consecutively, the target position shall be different for each assessment. It is recommended that a new search area is used for each team.
 - 2.2.4. Set time and search time shall be determined by the certifying authority and shall be dependent on the terrain, vegetation cover, and by operational requirements. A typical search time for 20,235 m² (5 acres) would be under 30 minutes.
 - 2.2.5. The assessor shall inform the handler of the search parameters which will include the area to be searched and the number of human targets to be located.
 - 2.2.6. The handler shall decide to work with the canine on or off lead depending on the operational requirements, training, and trained canine response. The handler shall advise the assessor of his or her decision. Should conditions necessitate a change in that decision, the handler shall notify the assessor what prompted the change to his or her original decision.
 - 2.2.7. The handler must disclose the canine's response prior to the start of the assessment.
 - 2.2.8. The handler shall demonstrate a logical, systematic search pattern utilizing the wind to the canine's advantage.
 - 2.2.9. The assessor shall know the location of the target.
 - 2.2.10. The canine must locate and alert on the target independently of specific directions from the handler.
 - 2.2.11. Any false response constitutes a failure.
- 2.3. Comprehensive assessments examine a level of competence based on an average-sized search area. Larger search areas can be tested through proficiency testing. Comprehensive assessments will consist of the following requisites:
- 2.3.1. The objective of this assessment is to test the canine/handler team's skills as they relate to the following:
 - 2.2.3.1. The handler's ability to set up a logical, systematic search pattern utilizing the wind to the canine's advantage.
 - 2.2.3.2. The handler's ability to perform a systematic search with the canine.
 - 2.2.3.3. The handler's interpretation of the canine's behavior.
 - 2.2.3.4. The canine/handler team's ability to locate all relevant human targets.
 - 2.2.3.5. The canine's ability to conduct a search pattern.
 - 2.2.3.6. The canine's response to a human target.
 - 2.2.3.7. The handler's interpretation of the canine's response.
 - 2.2.3.8. The canine's ability to ignore distractions.
 - 2.2.3.9. The handler's ability to conclude the search (no one left to find).
 - 2.3.2. The assessment shall occur in an environment similar to actual search conditions (including day or night). Typically, this is an unpopulated environment where animal and human scented objects may be present.

- 2.3.3. The assessment area shall be between 0.16 km² – 0.24 km² (40-60 acres) in size unless the certifying agency specifies a search area more appropriate to the regional terrain.
 - 2.3.4. One to three targets shall walk into the search area in such a way as to encourage the use of air scenting. The targets may hide in a stationary position, in an enclosed location (i.e., tents, caves, sleeping bags) or may be moving as specified by the assessing agency, but shall not deliberately evade.
 - 2.3.5. The targets shall not be routinely or recently used to train the canine.
 - 2.3.6. The target positions shall be unique for each assessment. It is recommended that a new search area be used for each team.
 - 2.3.7. Set time and search time shall be determined by the certifying agency and shall be dependent on the terrain, vegetation cover, and by operational requirements. Typical search times for 0.16 km²- 0.24 km² (40 - 60 acres) would not exceed two hours including rest periods.
 - 2.3.8. The handler shall be provided with a map of the search area, but not the number of human targets to be located.
 - 2.3.9. The handler shall decide to work with the canine on or off lead depending on the operational requirements, training, and trained canine response and shall advise the assessor of their decision. Should conditions necessitate a change in that decision, the handler shall notify the assessor regarding the reasons for the change.
 - 2.3.10. The handler must articulate the canine's response to the assessor prior to the start of the assessment.
 - 2.3.11. The assessor(s) shall know the location of the target(s).
 - 2.3.12. The handler shall demonstrate a logical, systematic search pattern utilizing the wind to the canine's advantage.
 - 2.3.13. If there are multiple targets, the handler shall restart at a location of their choosing to ensure efficient coverage of the search area.
 - 2.3.14. Once a target has been located, the certifying agency shall specify whether the target stays in place or leaves the area.
 - 2.3.15. The canine must locate and should perform its trained final response on the target independently of specific directions from the handler.
 - 2.3.16. Any false indication or non-find constitutes a failure.
 - 2.3.17. The team must locate all targets.
 - 2.3.18. The handler must be able to determine when there are no targets left to find.
 - 2.3.19. At the conclusion of the search the handler shall document the following on the map provided: the area covered, and the number and position of all targets found.
- 2.4. Double-blind assessments demonstrate the proficiency of the canine/handler team in an operational setting.
 - 2.4.1. A double blind assessment shall consist of a single search.
 - 2.4.2. The assessment shall occur in an environment similar to where and when the canine usually works. Typically, this is an unpopulated environment where animal and human scented objects may be present.
 - 2.4.3. The search area size shall depend on operational requirements.

- 2.4.4. The targets may hide in a stationary location, an observed location (i.e., tent, cave, sleeping bag), or may be moving, but shall not deliberately evade.
- 2.4.5. The target position(s) shall be unique for each assessment.
- 2.4.6. Set time and search time shall be determined by the certifying agency and shall be dependent on the terrain, vegetation cover, and by operational requirements.
- 2.4.7. The handler shall be provided with a map of the search area, but not the
- 2.4.8. Number of human targets to be located.
- 2.4.9. Neither the canine/handler, the assessor if used, nor any individual present
- 2.4.10. Shall know the correct outcome of any portion of assessment.
- 2.4.11. The handler shall decide to work with the canine on or off lead depending
- 2.4.12. On the operational requirements, training, and trained canine response and shall advise the assessor of his or her decision. Should conditions necessitate a change in that decision, the handler shall notify the assessor what prompted the change to his or her original decision.
- 2.4.13. The handler shall start at a location of their choosing.
- 2.4.14. If there are multiple targets, the handler shall restart at a location of their
- 2.4.15. Choosing to ensure total coverage of the search area.
- 2.4.16. The canine must locate and should perform its trained final response on the target independently of specific directions from the handler.
- 2.4.17. Any false indication or non-find constitutes a failure.
- 2.4.18. The team must locate all target(s).
- 2.4.19. The handler must be able to determine when there are no targets left to find.
- 2.4.20. At the conclusion of the search the handler shall document the following on the provided map: the area covered, and the number and position of targets found.
- 2.4.21. The assessor shall compare the documented search results with the parameters of the search at the conclusion of the assessment.