



**FOR:** National Urban Search & Rescue Response System  
Task Force Leaders / Program Managers

**FROM:** Mike Tamillow  
US&R Section Chief

**DATE:** 22 January 2007

**RE:** US&R Program Directive 2007-001 — US&R Canine Search Specialist Certification Process (CSSCP)

**ISSUE STATEMENT**

- The Canine Subcommittee was requested to revise the canine evaluation process to remove subjectivity from the scoring of the required skills.
- The current scoring procedure for the Canine Certification Evaluation was subjective, resulting in the same skills being passed and failed by different evaluators.
- The Canine Subcommittee has revised the Canine Search Specialist Certification Process (CSSCP, formerly the DSCREP) to remove subjectivity from the scoring of required skills.

**REQUIRED ACTIONS**

- The attached Canine Search Specialist Certification Process will now be used.
- Upon issuance of this Directive, scheduled Canine Evaluations will conform to this standard.
- A summary of changes is included at the end of this Directive.

**APPROVAL**

Issue is approved for program implementation:

Signed: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Tamillow / US&R Section Chief

\_\_\_\_\_  
22 January 2007  
Date

Implementation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 22 January 2007 \_\_\_\_\_

Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_



**FEMA**

**FOR:** Mike Tamillow  
US&R Section Chief

**FROM:** Tim Gallagher  
Operations Group Chair

**Date:** Jan. 18, 2007

**Subject:** Operations Group Recommendation # K-9 06-03

The following recommendation was brought to the Operations Group for approval. The Operations Group voted unanimously to approve the recommendation and move it forward for approval and implementation.

#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

- The Canine Subcommittee was requested to revise the canine evaluation process to remove subjectivity from the scoring of the required skills.

#### **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

- The current scoring procedure for the Canine Certification Evaluation is subjective, resulting in the same skills being passed and failed by different evaluators. When a grievance was filed by a testing team in March, 2006, the Ops Group and the Training Work Group tasked the CSC to remove subjectivity from the scoring of required skills. The CSC immediately addressed the issue and made revisions to the process for the interim period until the formal revision of the document was completed. The CSC has since revised the Canine Search Specialist Certification Process (CSSCP, formerly the DSCREP) to remove subjectivity from the scoring of required skills. A by-product of this revised process is a streamlining of the procedure, which results in cost-savings to the system.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(s)**

- The Operations Group recommends the approval and adoption of the revised Canine Search Specialist Certification Process (CSSCP).

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A Operations Group Vote
- Summary of significant changes
- Canine Search Specialist Certification Process document

**PROGRAM IMPACTS / DOCUMENTATION CHANGES**

- Distribution of revised document per a Program Directive
- Increase in certified teams via an objective, accurate evaluation process
- Reduction in costs to the system due to decreased number of evaluators needed (-\$47,700) and an increase in number of teams accommodated per test (from 18 to 32)

**ALLIED WORK GROUP COORDINATION REQUIRED**

- Search WG

**TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- Jan. 1, 2007

<b>US&amp;R OPERATIONS GROUP VOTE</b>			
<b>VOTE TAKING DATE(s)</b>	Nov. 1, 2006		
<b>ISSUE</b>	Operations Group Recommendation # K-9 06-03		
Work Group Chair Vote	Y/N	Work Group Chair Vote	Y/N
C&GS	Y	Training	Y
Communications	Y	WMD	Y
IST	Y	Technical S/C	
Legal Issues	Y	Canine S/C	
Logistics	Y	TFL Rep	Y
Medical		East TFL Rep	Y
Public Affairs	Y	Central TFL Rep	Y
Rescue	Y	West TFL Rep	Y
Search	Y	Operations	Y

# Canine Search Specialist Certification Process 2007

Below is a summary of significant changes to the canine Certification Evaluation.

- These changes are necessary for two primary reasons:
  - 1) The necessity to **clearly define required skills** thereby removing subjectivity in the scoring of required skills.
  - 2) The **reduction in federal funding**.
  
- This revision will **maintain quality** in our certification process and will provide an **accurate and equitable assessment** of our canine team resources.
  
- The most notable changes to the test:
  - 1) The **reduction in test piles** from three to two.
  - 2) The **reduction in evaluators** from ten to seven.
  - 3) The **variable victim total** (4 to 6) from the set total of 6.
  - 4) **NO false alerts** as opposed to one false alert formerly allowed.
  - 5) **Food and clothes distractions** must be included in test (formerly not mandated)
  - 6) Canine **must find at least one victim out of the handler's sight** (formerly not mandated)
  
- The CSC has determined that **all of the required skills can be evaluated using two piles** — the full access and limited access piles. The reduction in test piles results in a decrease in the number of evaluators needed for an evaluation—from ten to seven. The loosening of this site requirement also makes it easier for a Task Force to qualify as a test/course host for Canine Evaluations and/or the Canine Search Specialist Training course.