



AMERICAN WORKING DOG ASSOCIATION



LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE) CANINE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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Introduction

The American Working Dog Association (AWDA) is dedicated to providing Law Enforcement, Corrections, Search and Rescue, Fire Fighters, Military (retired and active duty), Private Security, Private Detection and Private Working Dog handlers and trainers with realistic standardization of measured performance and knowledge skills serving as a benchmark reflecting National certification standards.

The Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program establishes standards designed to evaluate the canine team (handler and canine) in realistic working scenarios for National certification in law enforcement-based disciplines. The certification standards were developed from the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector (SWGDOG) approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators.

Certification

Upon successful completion of the certification requirements for any AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program evaluation, a certificate will be issued to the canine team (handler and canine) by AWDA for the canine discipline evaluated. **The certification earned will be valid for one (1) year from the evaluation date for all disciplines.** The certificate will contain the official discipline title as it appears in the written standard (i.e., Explosives Detection, Patrol, Master Tracking). The certificate will contain a unique identifying number provided by the certification evaluator validating the certification even without evaluator signature. The number will contain the year of the certification, a three-digit sequential number, evaluator initials and the two-digit state abbreviation of the evaluator's state of residence (e.g., 2022001JDIL would indicate the first certification conducted by John Doe from Illinois in 2022). The certification signifies the canine team holding the certification has met the requirements of an established standard of knowledge and performance skills. The certification only reflects the performance of the canine team evaluated on the day of certification, and is only valid for the canine team tested.

A canine team may test to any certification they meet the prerequisite requirements. If a canine team tests for more than one discipline certification, each is evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form is submitted for each certification and a separate registration/evaluator fee is required for each evaluation.

The evaluations are based on pass/fail performance objectives. The evaluations are conducted by AWDA certified evaluators. Up to three (3) evaluators/apprentice evaluators can be present during a single evaluation. Handlers will be advised of pass/fail results at the end of the entire evaluation in an official debriefing with the evaluators. Debrief will include positive feedback, as well as, constructive criticism. No canine team will be certified until they successfully complete all phases of the evaluation. AWDA will provide a copy of the critique form for the handler's training records. The original critique form, pass or fail, along with the canine registration form is maintained by the evaluator for legal validation purposes. An electronic copy of the canine registration form and critique form, pass or fail, is maintained by the AWDA Secretary as matter of record.

If an evaluation is stopped by the handler or evaluator due to legitimate safety reasons beyond the control of the handler or evaluator, the handler is allowed to retake the entire evaluation. The first attempt will not be counted as a failure. The evaluator determines what constitutes "legitimate safety reasons." As guidance, these could include severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, dangerously high winds, environmental pollution or other hazardous conditions. In most cases, the requesting agency, team or group selects the evaluation area. A handler who chooses not to search or stops the search due to terrain, fatigue, distractions, injury to self or dog, onset of dusk, etc. will result in a failure.

Legal Precedent: Supreme Court of the United States Florida v. Harris, No.11-817. Argued October 31, 012 – Decided February 19, 2013, ruled on K9 reliability and concluded: "...if a bona fide organization has certified a dog after testing his reliability in a controlled setting, a court can presume (subject to any conflicting evidence offered) that the dog's alert provides probable cause to search." The term bona fide has been legally defined as: honest, genuine, actual, authentic, acting without the intention of defrauding. The two accepted means of determining an organization to be bona fide is court recognized and nationally recognized. AWDA certifications, both Law Enforcement and SAR, and AWDA certified dogs have been challenged in Federal and/or State courts several times and have been upheld each time. Additionally, having

certified evaluators in multiple states who have conducted evaluations and certified canine teams in nearly all 50 states, AWDA is considered nationally recognized, and thus a bona fide organization for canine certifications.

AWDA Fees: All fees due before evaluations are conducted. Evaluations are only conducted for regular members of AWDA in good standing. Regular membership fees are the following:

Law Enforcement Single-Purpose Firearms Detection, Narcotics Detection, Patrol, Tracking or Trailing is \$75 USD

Law Enforcement Single-Purpose Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) or Explosives Detection is \$100 USD

Law Enforcement Dual-Purpose Patrol and Narcotics Detection is \$125 USD

Law Enforcement Dual-Purpose Patrol and Explosives Detection is \$150 USD

Tracking or Trailing may be added to Law Enforcement Dual-Purpose Patrol evaluation for an additional \$25 USD

AWDA will not conduct dual-purpose detection evaluations.

Regular membership includes specific discipline evaluation(s) and an AWDA membership card or certificate. Canine certification cards are available for an additional \$10 USD.

Evaluator Compensation: AWDA certified evaluators are not payroll employees. An evaluator fee per evaluation is owed separate from AWDA fees. Evaluators should be compensated by host organization or group anytime they are utilized at any AWDA certification seminar. Compensation should include meals, hotels, travel expenses, and normal fees for time invested (industry standard usually \$100 USD per day). Evaluators negotiate their own compensation.

Reevaluation Policy: A reevaluation is defined as: an additional attempt to successfully complete an evaluation; not just the portion failed. In the event a canine team fails an evaluation that team has a minimum of six (6) months to contact the original evaluator to schedule a reevaluation. In the event the original evaluator is unavailable and a second evaluator is contacted to conduct the reevaluation, a copy of the original paperwork (canine registration, failed score sheet, and any notes) must be provided to the new evaluator. Both evaluators must be aware of the original problems for failure of the original evaluation. Only the evaluator fee is required for a reevaluation. If the reevaluation is successful, the certification is valid for one (1) year from the original failed evaluation date. It is the responsibility of the handler to make arrangements for a reevaluation. If not scheduled within six (6) months, all paperwork and additional registration/evaluator fees must be resubmitted for a new evaluation.

Reevaluation on the same evolution (day or seminar) of the failed evaluation is at the sole discretion of the evaluator. If reevaluating on the same evolution, the scoring sheet for the failed evaluation must include “reevaluate immediately” in the comments section. If in the evaluator’s assessment, the canine team requires additional training prior to reevaluation the scoring sheet for the failed evaluation must include “reevaluate in XXXX or XXXX months” in the comments section.

Cancellation Policy: AWDA will make every effort to complete the evaluation on the day scheduled. It will be at the sole discretion of the evaluator to make the cancellation. Factors that could affect the certification include, but are not limited to, severe weather, extreme heat/cold or sudden illness.

Appeals Process: All decisions by the evaluator are final on the day of testing; however, a handler may file a written appeal of the evaluation results with the AWDA National Administrator within thirty (30) days following the evaluation. A written response to the appeal will be returned to the handler within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal.

Grievance Policy: Any handler who wishes to file a grievance about an evaluator or an evaluation must do so in writing to the AWDA National Administrator within thirty (30) days. A written response to the appeal will be returned to the handler within thirty (30) days of the receipt of grievance.

Equipment Requirements

AWDA encourages handler to wear equipment during evaluations required by handler's respective department or agency. If handler chooses not to wear department or agency required equipment, they should carry, at a minimum, sufficient water for the canine team and any basic survival/safety equipment for the specific discipline, mission and environment, as well as, the health and safety of the canine team.

General Requirements for Certification Evaluation

The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program general requirements for certification were developed from the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector (SWGDOG) approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators. In addition to these general requirements, handlers are expected to have obtained training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills to work as a canine team.

All documentation must be available the date of the certification evaluation, if requested by evaluator for review. Documentation copies may be submitted to evaluator for review prior to evaluation date via postal service or electronic mail; however, the documentation copies submitted may not be returned.

1. Canine must be a minimum of twelve (12) months of age. Exception requests may be submitted to the AWDA National Administrator for consideration.
2. Canine must have proof of current rabies vaccination.
3. Handler must be a member of a Law Enforcement, Emergency Management Agency, or Fire/Rescue organization with a letter of recommendation from an agency head or direct supervisor. Exception requests may be submitted to the AWDA National Administrator for consideration.

General Certification Evaluation Guidelines

The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program general certification guidelines for all certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators. These general certification guidelines are in addition to the discipline specific certification guidelines identified within each respective discipline.

1. Evaluator should maintain a professional demeanor during the evaluation.
2. Evaluator has sole discretion in the administration and conduct of an evaluation to deviate, within reason, from established guidelines due to circumstances beyond their control. Any deviation for one (1) canine team must be afforded to all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar) and documented on the critique form.
3. Evaluator will not take their own evaluation and evaluate other canine teams on the same day.
4. An evaluator taking their own evaluation will have two evaluators present or prior authorization from the AWDA National Administrator for a single evaluator.
5. Evaluator will not be routinely involved in the day-to-day training of the canine team evaluated.
6. Evaluator will not conduct an evaluation of a canine team assigned to the same department or agency without a second evaluator present who is not assigned to the same department or agency.
7. Evaluation will not be conducted in an area normally used for daily or routine training (no less than thirty (30) days since last use of the area) of the canine team.
8. Suspect(s) must not be someone the canine has routinely trained with either tracking/trailing evaluations nor someone who has recently (within thirty (30) days) been used as a training suspect for the canine. The suspect should preferably be someone the canine team has never trained with before.
9. Suspect(s) will not be an evaluator, handler or flanker/support person participating in the evaluation.
10. The canine must be under the control of the handler at all times, capable of heeling, moving through crowds, and remaining non-aggressive to both people and other canines. The canine must not bite or snap at either people or other canines, nor growl at humans. The only

exception is a canine that is attacked or provoked by another canine or human will not be penalized for self-defense.

11. Canine teams will be dismissed from evaluation if an evaluator observes any unprovoked act of aggression by the canine or act of abuse or neglect of the canine by the handler. Canine teams will not be allowed to continue in the event an act of unprovoked aggression is observed during the evaluation.
12. Time shall start upon handler giving canine start command, upon scenting canine or by handler or canine entering search area. Time continues during any breaks the canine team requires.
13. Handler is ultimately responsible for the safety of themselves and their canine. Handler should immediately notify evaluator of any safety issues or concern to determine impact to the evaluation.
14. If an electronic stimulus collar (E-collar) is worn in the working environment, it may be worn during an evaluation, but not used. The device will be in the off position as verified by evaluator(s) and the control device either surrendered to evaluator(s) for the duration of the evaluation or secured in a manner in which its attempted use would be obvious to evaluator(s).
15. Deliberate compromise of an evaluation will not be tolerated. Any communication (in person, by cell phone, two-way pager, text messaging or by any other means) between handlers and department personnel participating in the evaluation, concerning specifics of an area still being evaluated, placement of training aids or any information that could be regarded as compromise prior to the termination (by the evaluator) will constitute a compromise of the evaluation. In the event a handler compromises the evaluation, the handler will not be allowed to continue and may be removed from the evaluation.
16. Each canine team will have separate set ups, when possible.
17. Evaluations may be conducted in either daylight or night hours.
18. Due to the risk of added liability, no observers other than additional evaluator(s) may participate in an evaluation.

General Performance Objectives

The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program general performance objectives for all certifications were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines and the training/experiences of AWDA certified handlers and evaluators. These general performance objectives are in addition to the discipline specific performance objectives identified within each respective discipline.

1. Handler should maintain a professional demeanor during the evaluation.
2. Handler should recognize and articulate the canine's (change of) behavior during the evaluation and the specific final trained response (active/passive).
3. Handler should demonstrate ability to properly collect, handle, store and dispose of articles and human scent evidence.
4. Handler should demonstrate the ability to plan efficient search techniques and tactics, as well as, understand the principles of odor dispersion and how dispersion is affected by environmental conditions.
5. Handler should demonstrate the ability to work and control the canine when exposed to a variety of different types of locations, noises, odors, people, other animals and environments.
6. Canine should demonstrate adequate agility for law enforcement activities.
7. Canine should demonstrate sufficient obedience through its reaction to handler's commands.
8. Excessive handler errors, as defined by the evaluator, shall result in a failure of the evaluation.

Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection consists of a certification evaluation with five (5) phases to evaluate the canine's ability to recognize the odor, respond to the odor and the handler's ability to recognize this response. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for an Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 8 *Substance Detector Dogs, Explosive Detection*, dated 15 August 2007.

Specific Certification Guidelines and for Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection Evaluation

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection evaluation:

1. Evaluation consists of five (5) phases: Basic Scent Discrimination, Mixed Matrix Scent Discrimination, Sample Location, Open Area, and Vehicles.
2. No pseudo-scent odor sources will be used in the evaluation.
3. The following categories of odor sources may be included in the evaluation: Light – Paint remover, Coleman fuel, and Lacquer thinner; Medium – Gasoline, Lamp oil, and Paint thinner; and Heavy – Diesel fuel, Kerosene, and Fuel oil.
4. A total of five (5) different accelerants will be used for the evaluation consisting of a minimum of one (1) odor source from each category. A different odor source will be used for each evaluation.
5. Test cans interior will be nylon coated and free from any petroleum coatings.
6. Odor sources will be 50% weathered and allowed to age thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
7. Handler will be advised number of odor sources in each phase, but not their locations.
8. Should handler visually locate odor source prior to the canine alert/indication, handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes its final trained response alert (active/passive) on the odor source. Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection Evaluations

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Accelerant (Ignitable Liquid) Detection evaluations:

1. Canine team must successfully locate all five (5) odor sources during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine must make final trained response alert (active/passive) obvious to evaluator(s).
3. Canine should locate all odor sources within three (3) feet, regardless of the height, without disturbing the odor source, barring extenuating environmental conditions deemed relevant by the evaluator.
4. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine will result in a failure of the evaluation.

Evaluation Specifications: This evaluation consists of five (5) phases: Phase I – Basic Scent Discrimination; Phase II – Mixed Matrix Scent Discrimination; Phase III – Sample Location; Phase IV – Open Area; and Phase V – Vehicles. Each phase may include any or all of the following accelerant (ignitable liquid) odor sources:

LIGHT	MEDIUM	HEAVY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint remover • Coleman fuel • Lacquer thinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline • Lamp oil • Paint thinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diesel fuel • Kerosene • Fuel oil

Phases I and II will also include the following distractors burned with a propane torch until partially charred:

- Burned soft wood (i.e., pine, fir)
- Burned High Density Polyethylene (i.e., plastic milk jug)
- Burned Styrofoam (i.e., coffee cup)
- Burned carpet
- Burned carpet underlay
- One plain cotton ball in four (4) non target cans

1. Phase I – Basic Scent Discrimination

- Five (5) cans placed four (4) feet apart will be prepared with approximately one-half (1/2) pint debris of one (1) each of the listed distractors burned with a propane torch until partially charred and a plain cotton ball placed in four (4) of the distractor cans.
- A cotton ball prepared with 5uL (microliters) of 50% weathered accelerant from one (1) of the odor source categories will be placed in the target can without a plain cotton ball aged thirty (30) minutes.
- Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

2. Phase II – Mixed Matrix Scent Discrimination

- Five (5) cans placed four (4) feet apart will be prepared with approximately one-half (1/2) pint debris of a mixed combination of all listed distractors burned with a propane torch until all contents are partially charred and a plain cotton ball placed in four (4) of the distractor cans.
- A cotton ball prepared with 5uL (microliters) of 50% weathered accelerant from one (1) of the odor source categories not previously used will be placed in the target can without a plain cotton ball aged thirty (30) minutes.
- Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

3. Phase III – Sample Location

- Two (2) common one (1) inch x four (4) inch pine boards thirty-six (36) inches in length, will be divided with pencil marks into three (3) sections approximately twelve (12) inches each. The sections will be numbered one (1) through six (6).
- The boards will be placed at least one (1) foot apart and a drop of 5uL (microliters) of 50% weathered accelerant from one of the odor source categories not previously used will be placed near the center of one of the numbered sections of either board and allowed to dry for thirty (30) minutes.
- Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

4. Phase IV – Open Area

- Open area can be indoor or outdoor and should be approximately 500 square feet.
- Ten (10) pieces of previously washed or worn clothing or shoes will be placed in various parts of the area with one (1) drop of 5uL (microliters) of 50% weathered accelerant from one (1) of the odor source categories not previously used placed on one (1) piece of clothing or shoe aged thirty (30) minutes.
- Canine team has fifteen (15) minutes to complete the phase.

5. Phase V – Vehicle

- a. Three (3) to five (5) vehicles of various sizes and models.
- b. A cotton ball prepared with 5uL (microliters) of 50% weathered accelerant from one (1) of the odor source categories not previously used will be concealed in the front interior driver or passenger compartment of one (1) of the vehicles aged thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Canine team has fifteen (15) minutes to complete the phase.

Certification Criteria: Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each phase within allotted time.
2. Canine team must successfully locate all five (5) odor sources.
3. Canine must make an obvious final trained response alert (active/passive) within three (3) feet of odor source.
4. Handler must acknowledge alert.
5. Canine team must not disturb location of odor source through negligence or aggressive behavior.

Explosives Detection

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Explosives Detection consists of a certification evaluation with four (4) phases designed to evaluate the canine's ability to recognize the odor, respond to the odor and the handler's ability to recognize this response. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for an Explosive Detection certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 8 *Substance Detector Dogs, Explosive Detection*, dated 15 August 2007.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Explosives Detection Evaluation

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Explosive Detection evaluation:

1. Evaluation consists of four (4) phases: Vehicles, Building or Residence, Parcels (luggage, envelopes, boxes, etc.) and Open Area.
2. No pseudo-explosive odor sources will be used in the evaluation.
3. The following odor sources must be included in the evaluation: Research Department eXplosive (RDX); Pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN); Trinitrotoluene (TNT); dynamite containing ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN) and nitroglycerin (NG); black powder and/or double based smokeless powder.
4. The following odor sources may be included as recommended odor sources based on canine team's mission specific requirements: Ammonium nitrate; Black powder substitutes; Blasting agents; Cast boosters; Composition B; Emulsions; Nitromethane; Photoflash/fireworks/pyrotechnic powders; Plastic explosives (unmarked and marked with detection agent); Semtex; Single based smokeless powder; Slurries; Tetryl; Composition C-4 (C-4); Flex X (C-6); Commercial dynamite (nitrate and ammonia based); Detonation cord; Sodium chlorate; Potassium chlorate; Water gel; and Homemade explosives (HME) that include chlorate based mixtures (e.g. potassium chlorate); nitrate based mixtures (e.g. ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) nitrate); perchlorate based mixtures (e.g. potassium perchlorate); Urea nitrate; Peroxide based explosives; Hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD); and Triacetone triperoxide (TATP).
5. Odor sources used for the evaluation will be no less than 113.4 grams (1/4 lb). Maximum weight of odor sources used will be determined by the evaluator and based upon mission requirements or associated threats.
6. Odor sources will be concealed in practical locations and allowed to age thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
7. Handler will be advised number of odor sources in each phase, but not their locations.
8. Odor source may be concealed to a maximum height of six (6) feet and a maximum depth of one (1) foot.
9. Natural distractors are normally present and vary depending on area where evaluation is conducted. Placement of distractors (enticement articles such as food, ball, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) in evaluation area is required when no natural distractors are present. Care must be taken not to place artificial distractions in a manner that causes contamination with odor source.
10. Should handler visually locate odor source prior to the canine alert/indication, handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes its final trained response alert (active/passive) on the odor source. Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Explosives Detection Evaluations

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Explosives Detection evaluations:

1. Canine team must successfully locate twelve (12) of thirteen (13) odor sources during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine must make final trained response alert (active/passive) obvious to evaluator(s).
3. Canine should locate all odor sources within six (6) feet, regardless of the height, without disturbing the odor source, barring extenuating environmental conditions deemed relevant by the evaluator.
4. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine result in a failure of the evaluation.
5. Handler may not open cabinet doors, desk drawers, closet doors, etc.

Main chemical classes of explosives, categorized as mandatory and elective

EXPLOSIVE CLASSES	MANDATORY	ELECTIVE ¹
NITRO ALKANES (C-NO ₂)	None	Nitromethane (NM) 2,3-Ddimethyldinitrobutane (DMNB)
NITRO AROMATICS (Ar-NO ₂)	2,5,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT)	Dinitrotoluene (DNT) Picric acid (PA) Tetranitro-N-methylaniline (Tetryl)
NITRATE ESTER (C-O-NO ₂)	Pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN)	Methyl nitrate (MN) Nitroglycerin (NG) Ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN) ² Diethylene glycol dinitrate (DEGN) ² Nitrocellulose (NC) Nitroguanidine (GN)
NITRAMINES (C-N-NO ₂)	Trinitro-triazacyclohexane (cyclonite or RDX)	Methylamine nitrate (MAN) Tetranitro-tetrazacylooctane (Octogen or HMX)
ACID SALTS (NH ⁴⁺ , NO ³⁻)	Ammonium nitrate (AN)	Ammonium perchlorate (AP) Potassium chlorate (PC) Potassium perchlorate (PP) Urea nitrate (UN)
PEROXIDES³ (C-O-O-C)	None	Triacetone triperoxide (TATP) Hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD)

1. Best practice is to select elective explosives from different chemical classes.
2. Highly volatile explosives such as NG and EGDN are prone to contaminate other explosives and should be stored separately (e.g., nylon bag, sealed paint can).
3. Training or testing on explosives from the peroxide family (TATP and HMTD) should only be conducted under the proper supervision of a qualified chemist and trainer following a training or testing objective.

Evaluation Specifications: This evaluation consists of four (4) phases: Phase I – Vehicle; Phase II – Building or Residential; Phase III – Parcels; and Phase IV – Open Area. Each phase may include any or all of the following explosive odor sources:

REQUIRED ODOR SOURCES	RECOMMENDED MISSION ORIENTED ODOR SOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Department eXplosive (RDX) • Pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN) • Trinitrotoluene (TNT) • Dynamite containing ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN) & nitroglycerin (NG) • Black powder and/or double based smokeless powder 	Ammonium nitrate; Black powder substitutes; Blasting agents; Cast boosters; Composition B; Emulsions; Nitromethane; Photoflash / fireworks / pyrotechnic powders; Plastic explosives (unmarked and marked with detection agent); Semtex; Single based smokeless powder; Slurries; Tetryl; Composition C-4; Flex X (C-6); Commercial dynamite (nitrate and ammonia based); Detonation cord; Sodium chlorate; Potassium chlorate; Water gel; Homemade explosives (HME) that include chlorate based mixtures (e.g. potassium chlorate); Nitrate based mixtures (e.g. ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) nitrate); Perchlorate based mixtures (e.g. potassium perchlorate); Urea nitrate; Peroxide based explosives; Hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD); Triacetone triperoxide (TATP).

1. Phase I – Vehicles

- a. Minimum of six (6) vehicles of various sizes and models (two (2) – six (6) vehicles per odor source used).
- b. Four (4) total odor sources, two (2) required odor sources and two (2) other required or recommended odor sources, aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Two (2) odor source concealed on exterior and two (2) odor sources concealed in interior of vehicles.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) concealed on exterior or in interior of vehicles.
- e. Odor sources and distractors may be concealed on same vehicles separated by minimum of six (6) feet with one (1) vehicle absent any hides or distractors.
- f. Canine team has three (3) minutes per vehicle used, minimum eighteen (18) minutes, to complete the Phase.

2. Phase II – Building or Residence

- a. Minimum of four (4) rooms between 200 and 1,200 square feet with furniture or other items.
- b. Four (4) total odor sources, two (2) required odor sources and two (2) other required or recommended odor sources, aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Only one (1) odor source concealed no higher than six (6) feet in a room. Three (3) odor sources may be concealed in different rooms or the same room depending on size and environmental conditions and at least nine (9) feet of each other.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) present in rooms with or without odor sources separated by at least nine (9) feet of each other.
- e. Canine team has three (3) minutes per room used, minimum twelve (12) minutes, to complete the Phase.

3. Phase III – Parcels

- a. Minimum of eighteen (18) parcels, (luggage, envelopes, boxes, etc.), laid out in three (3) rows of six (6) with a minimum distance of three (3) feet from any other parcel.
- b. Three (3) total odor sources, one (1) a required odor source and two (2) other required or recommended odor sources, aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Odor sources must not be concealed in parcels in two of the rows within nine (9) feet of each other. One row absent an odor source.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) concealed in parcels one (1) of which in the row absent an odor source.
- e. Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

4. Phase IV – Open Area

- a. Minimum of 3,000 square foot open area.
- b. One (1) required odor source and one (1) other required or recommended odor sources concealed amongst natural landscape, debris, vegetation or at a maximum depth of one (1) foot aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) present in the open area.
- d. Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

Certification Criteria: Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each phase within allotted time.
2. Canine team must successfully locate all twelve (12) of the thirteen (13) odor sources.
3. Canine must make an obvious final trained response alert (active/passive) within six (6) feet of odor sources.
4. Handler must acknowledge each alert.
5. Canine team must not disturb location of odor sources through negligence or aggressive behavior.
6. Handler must not have opened any cabinet doors, dress drawers, closet doors, etc.

Firearms Detection

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Firearms Detection consists of a certification evaluation with four (4) phases designed to evaluate the canine's ability to recognize the odor, respond to the odor and the handler's ability to recognize this response. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Firearms Detection certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009, SC 8 *Substance Detector Dogs, Explosive Detection*, dated 15 August 2007 and SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Article Search*, dated 15 September 2010.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Firearms Detection Evaluation

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Firearms Detection evaluation:

1. Evaluation consists of four (4) phases: Vehicles, Building or Residence, Parcels (luggage, envelopes, boxes, etc.) and Open Area.
2. No pseudo-scent odor sources will be used in the evaluation.
3. The following odor sources must be included in the evaluation: firearm (discharged within the past hour); smokeless powder; black powder; and black powder substitutes (Pyrodex, Triple Seven or Black Mag3).
4. The following odor sources may be included as recommended odor sources based on canine team's mission specific requirements: spent shell casings (three (3) within close proximity) and gun oil.
5. Smokeless powder, black powder, and black powder substitutes amounts will be between two (2) and six (6) ounces. Gun oil amount will be one (1) teaspoon.
6. Odor sources will be concealed in practical locations and allowed to age thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
7. Handler will be advised number of odor sources in each phase, but not their locations.
8. Odor source may be concealed to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
9. Natural distractors are normally present and vary depending on area where evaluation is conducted. Placement of distractors (enticement articles such as food, ball, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) in evaluation area is required when no natural distractors are present. Care must be taken not to place artificial distractions in a manner that causes contamination with odor source.
10. Should handler visually locate odor source prior to the canine alert/indication, handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes its final trained response (active/passive) alert on the odor source. Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Firearms Detection Evaluations

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Firearms Detection evaluations:

1. Canine team must successfully locate nine (9) of ten (10) odor sources during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine can miss one (1) odor source. Two (2) missed odor sources will result in a failure of the evaluation.
3. Canine must make final trained response alert (active/passive) obvious to evaluator(s).
4. Canine should locate all odor sources within three (3) feet, regardless of the height, without disturbing the odor source, barring extenuating environmental conditions deemed relevant by the evaluator.
5. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine result in a failure of the evaluation.
6. Handler may not open cabinet doors, desk drawers, closet doors, etc.

Evaluation Specifications: This evaluation consists of four (4) phases: Phase I – Vehicles; Phase II – Building or Residence; Phase III – Parcels; and Phase IV – Open Area. Each phase may include any or all of the following firearms odor sources:

REQUIRED ODOR SOURCES	RECOMMENDED MISSION ORIENTED ODOR SOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firearm (discharged within the past hour) • Smokeless powder (Two (2) – six (6) ounces) • Black powder (Two (2) – six (6) ounces) • Black powder substitutes (Pyrodex, Triple Seven or Black Mag3) (Two (2) – six (6) ounces) • Gun oil (one (1) teaspoon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spent shell casings (three (3) within close proximity)

1. Phase I – Vehicles

- a. Minimum of six (6) vehicles of various sizes and models.
- b. Three (3) total odor sources aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. One (1) odor source concealed on exterior and two (2) odor sources concealed in interior of vehicles.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) concealed on exterior or in interior of vehicles.
- e. Odor sources and distractors will be concealed on separate vehicles with one (1) vehicle absent any hides.
- f. Canine team has eighteen (18) minutes to complete the phase.

2. Phase II – Building or Residence

- a. Minimum of four (four) rooms between 200 and 1,200 square feet with furniture or other items.
- b. Three (3) total odor sources aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. One (1) odor source concealed no higher than six (6) feet in a room. Two (2) odor sources may be concealed in different rooms or the same room depending on size and environmental conditions and at least nine (9) feet of each other.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) present in rooms with or without odor sources.
- e. Canine team has (3) minutes per room used to complete the phase.

3. Phase III – Parcels

- a. Minimum of eighteen (18) parcels, (luggage, envelopes, boxes, etc.), laid out in three (3) rows of six (6) with a minimum distance of three (3) feet from any other parcel.
- b. Two (2) total odor sources concealed in parcels in separate rows aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes. Odor sources must not be concealed in parcels within nine (9) feet of each other.
- c. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) concealed in parcels one (1) of which in the row absent an odor source.
- d. Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

4. Phase IV – Open Area

- a. Minimum of 3,000 square foot open area.
- b. Two (2) total odor sources concealed amongst natural landscape, debris, vegetation with one (1) buried approximately four (4) inches and aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) present in the open area.
- d. Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

Certification Criteria: Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each phase within allotted time.
2. Canine team must successfully locate nine (9) of ten (10) odor sources.
3. Canine must make an obvious final trained response alert (active/passive) within three (3) feet of odor sources.
4. Handler must acknowledge each alert.
5. Canine team must not disturb location of odor sources through negligence or aggressive behavior.
6. Handler must not have opened any cabinet doors, dress drawers, closet doors, etc.

Narcotics Detection

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Narcotics Detection consists of a certification evaluation with three (3) phases designed to evaluate the canine's ability to recognize the odor, respond to the odor and the handler's ability to recognize this response. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Narcotics Detection certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 8 *Substance Detector Dogs, Narcotics Section*, dated 15 August 2007.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Narcotics Detection Evaluation

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Explosive Detection evaluation:

1. Evaluation consists of three (3) phases: Vehicles, Building or Residence, and Parcels (luggage, envelopes, boxes, etc.).
2. No pseudo-narcotic odor sources will be used in the evaluation.
3. The following odor sources may be included in the evaluation: Marijuana; Cocaine; Heroin; and Methamphetamines. **NOTE: ANY TEAM WISHING TO CERTIFY IN ANY OTHER NARCOTIC MUST NOTIFY THE HOSTING AGENCY IN WRITING TEN DAYS PRIOR TO EVALUATION.**
4. Only those odor sources canine team has trained with will be included in the evaluation.
5. Odor sources used for evaluation will be between five (5) and one hundred (100) grams.
6. Odor sources will be concealed in practical locations and allowed to age thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.
7. Handler will be advised number of odor sources in each phase, but not their locations.
8. Odor source may be concealed to a maximum height of six (6) feet.
9. Natural distractors are normally present and vary depending on area where evaluation is conducted. Placement of distractors (enticement articles such as food, ball, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) in evaluation area is required when no natural distractors are present. Care must be taken not to place artificial distractions in a manner that causes contamination with odor source.
10. Should handler visually locate odor source prior to the canine alert/indication, handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes its final trained response alert (active/passive) on the odor source. Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Narcotics Detection Evaluation

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Narcotics Detection evaluation:

1. Canine team must successfully locate eight (8) of nine (9) odor sources during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine can miss one (1) odor source. Two (2) missed odor sources will result in a failure of the evaluation.
3. Canine must make final trained response alert (active/passive) obvious to evaluator(s).
4. Canine should locate all odor sources within three (3) feet, regardless of the height, without disturbing the odor source, barring extenuating environmental conditions deemed relevant by the evaluator.
5. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine result in a failure of the evaluation.
6. Handler may not open cabinet doors, desk drawers, closet doors, etc.

Evaluation Specifications: This evaluation consists of three (3) phases: Phase I – Vehicles; Phase II – Building or Residential; and Phase III – Parcels. Each phase may include any or all of the following narcotics odor sources:

COMMON ODOR SOURCES	ADDITIONAL MISSION ORIENTED ODOR SOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marijuana • Cocaine • Heroin • Methamphetamines 	Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA); Xanax; Adderall; Opioids; Opiates; Bath salts; K2 (Spice); Fentanyl; Kratom
<p>NOTE: ANY TEAM WISHING TO CERTIFY IN ANY OTHER NARCOTIC MUST NOTIFY THE HOSTING AGENCY IN WRITING TEN DAYS PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION.</p>	

1. Phase I – Vehicles

- a. Minimum of six (6) vehicles of various sizes and models.
- b. Three (3) total odor sources aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. One (1) odor source concealed on exterior and two (2) odor sources concealed in interior of vehicles.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) concealed on exterior or in interior of vehicles.
- e. Odor sources and distractors will be concealed on separate vehicles with one (1) vehicle absent any hides.
- f. Canine team has eighteen (18) minutes to complete the phase.

2. Phase II – Building or Residence

- a. Minimum of four (four) rooms between 200 and 1,200 square feet with furniture or other items.
- b. Four (4) total odor sources aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. One (1) odor source concealed no higher than six (6) feet in a room. Three (3) odor sources may be concealed in different rooms or the same room depending on size and environmental conditions and at least nine (9) feet of each other.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) present in rooms with or without odor sources.
- e. Canine team has (3) minutes per room used to complete the phase.

3. Phase III – Parcels

- a. Minimum of eighteen (18) parcels (luggage, envelopes, boxes, etc.), laid out in three (3) rows of six (6) with a minimum distance of three (3) feet from any other parcel.
- b. Two (2) total odor sources concealed in parcels in separate rows aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Odor sources must not be concealed in parcels within nine (9) feet of each other.
- d. Two (2) distractors (enticement articles such as food, soiled clothing, empty plastic bags, etc.) concealed in parcels one (1) of which in the row absent an odor source.
- e. Canine team has ten (10) minutes to complete the phase.

Certification Criteria: Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must complete each phase within allotted time.
2. Canine team must successfully locate eight (8) of nine (9) odor sources.
3. Canine must make an obvious final trained response alert (active/passive) within three (3) feet of odor sources.
4. Handler must acknowledge each alert.
5. Canine team must not disturb location of odor sources through negligence or aggressive behavior.
6. Handler must not have opened any cabinet doors, dress drawers, closet doors, etc.

Patrol

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Patrol consists of a certification evaluation with four (4) phases designed to evaluate the canine's ability to demonstrate control while working off lead, locate human scent, recognize the scent, respond to the scent and the handler's ability to recognize this response, as well as, canine's courage and willingness to protect handler. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Patrol certification was developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009, SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs Article Search*, dated 15 September 2010, and SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs Non-Specific Human Scent Wilderness Area Search (Air Scent)*, dated 2 March 2010.

Specific Certification Guidelines and Performance Objectives for Patrol Evaluation

In addition to the general certification guidelines and performance guidelines identified earlier, canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines and performance objectives for Patrol evaluation:

1. Evaluation consists of four (4) phases: Obedience/Control; Evidence Recovery; Building Suspect Search; and Canine Apprehension.
2. Canine teams will be evaluated under the same conditions during the same evolution (day or seminar).
3. Evaluation may be conducted during night or daylight hours.
4. Handler must have and use appropriate illumination devices when appropriate during the evaluation.
5. Canine agility will be evaluated during all phases of the evaluation.

Obedience/Control Phase

1. Location must be large enough to conduct the evaluation such as grass, field, asphalt, concrete, etc.
2. Evaluation phase will be conducted off lead.
3. Canine team will complete a series of the below prescribed exercises at the direction of the evaluator(s) in any order, but the same order for all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar).
 - a. Heel command while moving (neither lagging behind, nor forging ahead of handler) for approximately three hundred (300) paces.
 - b. Two (2) right turns (90-degree directional turn to the right).
 - c. Two (2) left turns (90-degree directional turn to the left).
 - d. Two (2) about turns (180-degree directional turn).
 - e. Two (2) Stop and Sit commands.
 - f. Down or Sit command in motion.
 - g. Two (2) pace changes (one (1) slow and one (1) fast.)
4. Handler will place canine in Down/Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet, turn, and call canine by hand and/or verbal command. Handler will Halt canine at halfway mark by hand and/or verbal command, then call canine to him at direction of evaluator.
5. Handler will place canine in Down/Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet out of sight of canine for one (1) to three (3) minutes at evaluator(s)'s discretion, then return to canine. Canine will not be penalized for movement between Down and Sit as long as it remains in the position Stay command given.
6. No toy, reward, or food may be used during the prescribed exercises, but may be given upon completion.
7. Canine team must demonstrate control during the obedience/control phase before continuing evaluation.

Evidence Recovery Phase

1. Evidence search area will be approximately one half (1/2) acre of woods, weeds, high grass, underbrush etc.
2. Evaluation phase will be conducted off lead.
3. Article will be gun, knife, tool, wallet, bag etc., scented by human breath/hands for approximately one (1) minute.
4. Article will be concealed in a practical location and allowed to age thirty (30) minutes prior to evaluation.

Building Suspect Search Phase

1. Building suspect search enclosed structure must be between fifteen hundred (1,500) and five thousand (5,00) square feet with a minimum of four (4) rooms.
2. Evaluation phase will be conducted off lead.
3. Handler must give a verbal announcement consisting of their authority, request for peaceful surrender and consequences prior to canine deployment and move through the area in a tactical manner.
4. Hidden suspect will be compliant upon discovery and every effort should be made to place or conceal suspect in a manner in which the canine can neither see nor injure them.
5. Should canine team pass suspect during the search it will result in an evaluation failure.

Canine Apprehension Phase

1. Location must be large enough to conduct the evaluation such as grass, field, asphalt, concrete, etc., with adequate concealment for suspect from canine team.
2. Suspect must wear full body protection and be familiar with proper decoy procedures.
3. Evaluation phase may begin on lead during reveal from concealment and suspect escort at handler's discretion.
4. When directed to release canine from a canine apprehension, canine will have five (5) seconds from handler's first verbal command to release to break contact from suspect.
5. Canine team will complete three (3) of the below prescribed exercises at the direction of the evaluator(s) in any order, but the same order for all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar).

- a. **Fleeing Suspect Surrender Recall:** Suspect will step out of concealment at a minimum of one hundred (100) feet away from canine team. Suspect will begin to run at a brisk pace away from canine team. Handler must give a verbal announcement consisting of their authority, request for peaceful surrender and consequences prior to canine deployment. Handler will command canine to apprehend suspect. Suspect will then stop, turn, and surrender with arms in the air. Handler must recall canine without a canine apprehension.

OR

Fleeing Suspect Recall: Suspect will step out of concealment at a minimum of one hundred (100) feet away from canine team. Suspect will begin to run at a brisk pace away from canine team. Handler must give a verbal announcement consisting of their authority, request for peaceful surrender and consequences prior to canine deployment. Handler will command canine to apprehend suspect. Suspect will continue to run at a brisk pace away from canine team. Handler must recall canine approximately halfway between handler and suspect without a canine apprehension.

Any physical contact of canine with suspect during either exercise will result in evaluation failure.

- b. **Fleeing Suspect Canine Apprehension:** Suspect will step out of concealment at a minimum of one hundred (100) feet away from canine team. Suspect will begin to run at a brisk pace away from canine team. Handler must give a verbal announcement consisting of their authority, request for peaceful surrender and consequences prior to canine deployment. Handler will command canine to apprehend suspect. Once evaluator(s) has observed canine apprehension or upon suspect safety signal of free arm raised above head, evaluator will direct handler to command canine to release, then either command Sit, Down, Heel and/or Stay. Handler will approach suspect, handcuff, and escort suspect to evaluator(s). Canine may be on or off lead during the escort, however, handler must maintain physical contact with suspect until reaching evaluator(s).

Canine team will fail this portion of the evaluation if any of the following occurs: canine bites suspect after complying with command to release; canine fails to release within allotted time; handler makes physical contact with canine other than to attach lead; canine bites suspect unprovoked during escort.

- c. **Suspect Field Contact with or without Canine Apprehension:** Handler will approach suspect and command canine Sit or Down Stay. Handler and suspect will then conduct a handshake and conversation for approximately thirty (30) seconds. Suspect may then, at evaluator discretion, assault handler. Canine must protect handler and perform apprehension. No verbal announcement required of handler. Once evaluator(s) has observed canine apprehension or upon suspect safety signal of free arm raised above head, evaluator will direct handler to command canine to release, then either command Sit, Down, Heel and/or Stay. Handler will approach suspect, handcuff, and escort suspect to evaluator(s). Canine may be on or off lead during the escort, however, handler must maintain physical contact with suspect until reaching evaluator(s). If no assault occurs, handler will return to and secure his canine then walk away from suspect.

Canine team will fail this portion of the evaluation if any of the following occurs: canine fails to protect handler and apprehend suspect, canine bites suspect after complying with command to release; canine fails to release within allotted time; handler makes physical contact with canine other than to attach lead; canine bites suspect unprovoked during escort. Once evaluator has given instruction for the release, handler will have total of five (5) seconds to accomplish the release. The five (5) second period will begin after the handler's first verbal command. Any canine that does not release within the specified time will fail the evaluation.

Evaluation Specifications: This evaluation consists of four (4) phases: Phase I – Obedience/Control; Phase II – Evidence Recovery; Phase III – Building Suspect Search; Phase IV – Canine Apprehension.

1. Phase I – Obedience/Control

- a. Location must be large enough to conduct the evaluation such as grass, field, asphalt, concrete, etc.
- b. Evaluation phase will be conducted off lead.
- c. Canine team will complete a series of prescribed exercises at the direction of the evaluator(s) in any order, but the same order for all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar).
 - a. Heel command while moving (neither lagging behind, nor forging ahead of handler) for approximately three hundred (300) paces.
 - b. Two (2) right turns (90-degree directional turn to the right).
 - c. Two (2) left turns (90-degree directional turn to the left).
 - d. Two (2) about turns (180-degree directional turn).
 - e. Two (2) Stop and Sit commands.
 - f. Down or Sit command in motion.
 - g. Two (2) pace changes (one (1) slow and one (1) fast.)
- d. Handler will place canine in Down or Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet, turn, and call canine by hand and/or verbal command. Handler will Halt canine at halfway mark by hand and/or verbal command, then call canine to him at direction of evaluator.
- e. Handler will place canine in Down or Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet out of sight of canine for one (1) to three (3) minutes at evaluator(s)'s discretion, then return to canine. Canine will not be penalized for movement between Down and Sit as long as it remains in the position Stay command given.
- f. No toy, reward, or food may be used during the prescribed exercises, but may be given upon completion.
- g. Canine team must demonstrate control during the obedience/control phase before continuing evaluation.

2. Phase II – Evidence Recovery

- a. Location must be approximately one half (1/2) acre of open woods, weeds, high grass, underbrush etc.
- b. One (1) article (gun, knife, tool, wallet, bag, etc.) scented by human breath/hands for approximately one (1) minute concealed amongst natural landscape, debris, vegetation aged minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
- c. Canine team has (10) minutes to complete the phase and must work off lead.

3. Phase III – Building Suspect Search

- a. Enclosed structure must be between fifteen hundred (1,500) and five thousand (5,00) square feet with a minimum of four (four) rooms.
- b. One (1) suspect hidden fifteen (15) minutes prior to start of search with no other persons in building.
- c. Canine team has fifteen (15) minutes to complete the phase and must work off lead.

4. Phase V – Canine Apprehension

- a. Location must be large enough to conduct the evaluation such as grass, field, asphalt, concrete, etc., with adequate concealment for suspect from canine team.
- b. Evaluation phase may begin on lead during reveal from concealment and suspect escort at handler's discretion.
- c. When directed to release canine from a canine apprehension, canine will have five (5) seconds from handler's first verbal command to release to break contact from suspect.
- d. Canine team will complete three (3) of the below prescribed exercises at the direction of the evaluator(s) in any order, but the same order for all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar).
 - 1) Fleeing Suspect Surrender Recall or Fleeing Suspect Recall
 - 2) Fleeing Suspect Canine Apprehension
 - 3) Suspect Field Contact with or without Canine Apprehension

Certification Criteria: Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must successfully complete the obedience/control phase.
2. Canine team must complete each phase within allotted time.
3. Canine must locate article and make a clear indication of article's location during Evidence recovery phase.
4. Handler must acknowledge indication of article's location during Evidence recovery phase.
5. Handler must give verbal warning prior to canine deployment during Building suspect search phase.
6. Handler must move in a tactical manner during Building suspect search phase.
7. Canine team must not have passed hidden suspect(s) during Building suspect search phase.
8. Canine must make clear indication of hidden suspect's locations during Building suspect search phase.
9. Handler must acknowledge indication of hidden suspect's locations during Building suspect search phase.
10. Canine must release within five (5) seconds upon handler's command during any canine apprehension.
11. Canine must not have shown a fearful reaction during any phase.

Law Enforcement Tracking

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Law Enforcement Tracking consists of a certification evaluation where a canine team locates and follows a specific person's most exact track after the canine has been started on the person's last known position or a scented article associated with that person. The primary goal is for the canine to detect and follow the most exact track to the exclusion of all other tracks, leading to a specific person, location, and/or article associated with that person while locating articles left by this specific person along the most exact track. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Law Enforcement Tracking certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Tracking/Trailing People Based on Last Known Position*, 3 March 2010.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Tracking

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Law Enforcement Tracking evaluations:

1. Evaluation consists of a track between three hundred (300) and five hundred (500) yards consisting of three (3) legs with two (2) turns, either right and/or left. End of track will not be in close proximity to start of track.
2. Track will be aged between thirty (30) minutes and one (1) hour.
3. One (1) cross track will be made at point determined by evaluator(s) and cross tracklayer will remain in evaluation area, but no closer than two hundred (200) yards from subject tracklayer.
4. Three (3) scent articles placed along track by tracklayer may be of wood, plastic, paper, metal or cloth.
5. Handler will be advised of the number and type of scent articles, but not their locations.
6. If handler travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction of the point last seen (PLS), the evaluator may allow one (1) restart to establish correct direction of travel (DOT). A restart is at the sole discretion of handler. If canine team restarts and again travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction, the evaluation will result in a failure.
7. If canine team loses the track, handler will articulate to evaluator(s) last known location of being on track, indicate location on map (if provided), and allowed to return to location in an attempt to relocate track.
8. Should handler visually locate subject tracklayer prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s). Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
9. If obvious to evaluator(s) canine is not tracking, evaluator(s) may stop evaluation, which will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Tracking

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Law Enforcement Tracking:

1. Canine team must successfully locate subject tracklayer and all three (3) scent articles during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine indication of scent articles must be obvious to evaluator(s).
3. Handler must acknowledge canine indication of scent articles, but must not collect or handle in any way.
4. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s).
5. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine will result in a failure of the evaluation.
6. Excessive handler errors, as defined by the evaluator, will result in a failure of the evaluation.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluator will provide canine team a non-contaminated scent article for subject tracklayer.
2. Track must be between three hundred (300) and five hundred (500) yards with two (2) directional change turns.
3. Track must consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) of the following terrain types: Field, Gravel, Leaves, Creek Bed, Dirt, Concrete, Woods, Asphalt and/or High Grass.
4. One (1) cross track made by a decoy tracklayer will intersect track prior to or after subject tracklayer.
5. Decoy tracklayer will remain in evaluation area, but no closer than two hundred (200) yards from subject tracklayer.
6. Three (3) scent articles will be placed along each leg of the track, first article before turn one, second article before turn two and third article before end of track.
7. Track must be aged between thirty (30) minutes and one (1) hour.
8. One (1) stationary subject tracklayer at end of track.
9. Canine team has twenty (20) minutes to complete the evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct direction of travel (DOT) of subject tracklayer.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article(s) IAW department or agency policies and procedures.
3. Canine must make an obvious indication on all three (3) scent articles.
4. Handler must acknowledge indications of all three (3) scent articles, but must not collect or handle in any way.
5. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location.
6. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject tracklayer.
7. Canine team must complete the evaluation within allotted time.

Law Enforcement Master Tracking

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Law Enforcement Master Tracking consists of a certification evaluation where a canine team locates and follows a specific person's track after the canine has been started on the person's last known position or a scented article associated with that person. The primary goal is for the canine to detect and follow the track to the exclusion of all other tracks, leading to a specific person, location, and/or article associated with that person while locating articles left by this specific person along the track. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Law Enforcement Master Tracking certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Tracking/Trailing People Based on Last Known Position*, 3 March 2010.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Law Enforcement Master Tracking

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Law Enforcement Master Tracking evaluations:

1. Evaluation consists of a track between twelve hundred (1,200) and seventeen hundred (1,700) yards consisting of six (6) legs with five (5) turns, either right and/or left. End of track will not be in close proximity to start of track.
2. Track will be aged between ninety (90) minutes and two (2) hours.
3. Six (6) scent articles placed along trail by tracklayer may be of wood, plastic, paper, metal or cloth.
4. Handler will be advised of the number and type of scent articles, but not their locations.
5. If handler travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction of the point last seen (PLS), the evaluator may allow one (1) restart to establish correct direction of travel (DOT). A restart is at the sole discretion of handler. If canine team restarts and again travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction, the evaluation will result in a failure.
6. If canine team loses the track, handler will articulate to evaluator(s) last known location of being on track, indicate location on map (if provided), and allowed to return to location in an attempt to relocate track.
7. Should handler visually locate subject tracklayer prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s). Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
8. If obvious to evaluator(s) canine is not tracking, evaluator(s) may stop evaluation, which will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Law Enforcement Master Tracking

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Law Enforcement Master Tracking:

1. Canine team must successfully locate subject tracklayer and all six (6) scent articles during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine indication of scent articles must be obvious to evaluator(s).
3. Handler must acknowledge canine indication of scent articles, but must not collect or handle in any way.
4. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s).
5. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine will result in a failure of the evaluation.
6. Excessive handler errors, as defined by the evaluator, will result in a failure of the evaluation.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluator will provide canine team a non-contaminated scent article for subject tracklayer.
2. Track must be between twelve hundred (1,200) and seventeen hundred (1,700) yards with five (5) directional change turns.
3. Track must consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) of the following terrain types: Field, Gravel, Leaves, Creek Bed, Dirt, Concrete, Woods, Asphalt and/or High Grass and must include four hundred (400) yards of concrete or asphalt.
4. Three (3) cross tracks made by three (3) different decoy tracklayers will intersect track prior to or after subject tracklayer.
5. Decoy tracklayers will remain in evaluation area, but no closer than fifty (50) yards from subject tracklayer.
6. Six (6) scent articles will be placed along each leg of the track, first article before turn one, second article before turn two and third article before turn three, fourth article before turn four. Fifth article before turn five and the sixth article before the end of track.
7. Track must be aged between ninety (90) minutes and two (2) hours.
8. One (1) stationary subject tracklayer at end of track.
9. Canine team has one (1) hour to complete the evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct direction of travel (DOT) of subject tracklayer.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article(s) IAW department or agency policies and procedures.
3. Canine must make an obvious indication on all six (6) scent articles.
4. Handler must acknowledge indications of all six (6) scent articles, but must not collect or handle in any way.
5. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location.
6. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject tracklayer.
7. Canine team must complete the evaluation within allotted time.

Law Enforcement Trailing

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Law Enforcement Trailing consists of a certification evaluation where a canine team locates and follows a specific person's trail after the canine has been started on the person's last known position or a scented article associated with that person. The primary goal is for the canine to detect and follow the trail to the exclusion of all other trails, leading to a specific person, location, and/or article associated with that person. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Law Enforcement Tracking certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Tracking/Trailing People Based on Last Known Position*, 3 March 2010.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Trailing

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Law Enforcement Trailing evaluations:

1. Evaluation consists of a trail between three hundred (300) and five hundred (500) yards consisting of three (3) legs with two turns, either right and/or left. End of trail will not be in close proximity to start of track.
2. Track will be aged between thirty (30) minutes and one (1) hour.
3. If handler travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction of the point last seen (PLS), the evaluator may allow one (1) restart to establish correct direction of travel (DOT). A restart is at the sole discretion of handler. If canine team restarts and again travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction, the evaluation will result in a failure.
4. If canine team loses the trail, handler will articulate to evaluator(s) last known location of being on the trail, indicate location on map (if provided), and allowed to return to location in an attempt to relocate trail.
5. Should handler visually locate subject tracklayer prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s). Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
6. If obvious to evaluator(s) canine is not trailing, evaluator(s) may stop evaluation, which will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Trailing

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Law Enforcement Trailing:

1. Canine team must successfully locate subject tracklayer during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s).
3. on correct subject tracklayer obvious to evaluator(s).
4. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine will result in a failure of the evaluation.
5. Excessive handler errors, as defined by the evaluator, will result in a failure of the evaluation.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluator will provide canine team a non-contaminated scent article for subject tracklayer.
2. Trail must be between three hundred (300) and five hundred (500) yards with two (2) directional change turns.
3. Trail must consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) of the following terrain types: Field, Gravel, Leaves, Creek Bed, Dirt, Concrete, Woods, Asphalt and/or High Grass.
4. Trail must be aged between thirty (30) minutes and one (1) hour.
5. One (1) stationary subject trail layer at end of trail.
6. Canine team has twenty (20) minutes to complete the evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct direction of travel (DOT) of subject tracklayer.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article(s) IAW department or agency policies and procedures.
3. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject tracklayer.
5. Canine team must complete the evaluation within allotted time.

Law Enforcement Master Trailing

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Law Enforcement Master Trailing consists of a certification evaluation where a canine team locates and follows a specific person's trail after the canine has been started on the person's last known position or a scented article associated with that person. The primary goal is for the canine to detect and follow the trail to the exclusion of all other trails, leading to a specific person, location, and/or article associated with that person. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Law Enforcement Master Trailing certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009 and SC 9 *Human Scent Dogs, Tracking/Trailing People Based on Last Known Position*, 3 March 2010.

Specific Certification Guidelines for Master Trailing

In addition to the general certification guidelines identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines for Law Enforcement Master Trailing evaluations:

1. Evaluation consists of a track between twelve hundred (1,200) and seventeen hundred (1,700) yards consisting of six (6) legs with four (4) turns, either right and/or left. End of track will not be in close proximity to start of track.
2. Track will be aged between ninety (90) minutes and two (2) hours.
3. If handler travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction of the point last seen (PLS), the evaluator may allow one (1) restart to establish correct direction of travel (DOT). A restart is at the sole discretion of handler. If canine team restarts and again travels more than three hundred (300) feet (estimated) in the wrong direction, the evaluation will result in a failure.
4. If canine team loses the trail, handler will articulate to evaluator(s) last known location of being on the trail, indicate location on map (if provided), and allowed to return to location in an attempt to relocate trail.
5. Should handler visually locate subject tracklayer prior to the canine alert/indication, the handler will notify evaluator(s). Handler will articulate to evaluator working strategy and canine changes of behavior until canine makes a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s). Handler will not influence canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find as articulated to evaluator(s). If an evaluator observes handler influencing the canine beyond normal working strategies to assist in the find, the evaluation will result in a failure.
6. If obvious to evaluator(s) canine is not trailing, evaluator(s) may stop evaluation, which will result in a failure.

Specific Performance Objectives for Law Enforcement Master Trailing

In addition to the general performance objectives identified earlier, the canine team must demonstrate the following specific performance objectives for Law Enforcement Master Trailing:

1. Canine team must successfully locate subject tracklayer during the evaluation for certification.
2. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location obvious to evaluator(s).
3. A false alert and/or any aggressive response by the canine will result in a failure of the evaluation.
4. Excessive handler errors, as defined by the evaluator, will result in a failure of the evaluation.

Evaluation Specifications:

1. Evaluator will provide canine team a non-contaminated scent article for subject tracklayer.
2. Track must be between twelve hundred (1,200) and seventeen hundred (1,700) yards with four (4) directional change turns.
3. Trail must consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) of the following terrain types: Field, Gravel, Leaves, Creek Bed, Dirt, Concrete, Woods, Asphalt and/or High Grass and must include four hundred (400) yards of concrete or asphalt.
4. Three (3) cross tracks made by three (3) different decoy trail layers will intersect trail prior to or after subject trail.
5. Decoy trail layers will remain in evaluation area, but no closer than fifty (50) yards from subject tracklayer.
6. Trail must be aged between ninety (90) minutes and two (2) hours.
7. One (1) stationary subject tracklayer at end of trail.
8. Canine team has one (1) hour to complete the evaluation.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must determine correct direction of travel (DOT) of subject tracklayer.
2. Handler must properly handle scent article(s) IAW department or agency policies and procedures.
3. Canine must make a clear indication of subject tracklayer's location.
4. Handler must acknowledge the alert and identify correct subject tracklayer.
5. Canine team must complete the evaluation within allotted time.

Personal Protection

Overview: The AWDA Law Enforcement Canine Certification Program for Personal Protection is a non-law enforcement discipline available to private owners and consists of a certification evaluation of a canine's courage and willingness to protect handler. The performance objectives and certification guidelines for a Personal Protection certification were developed from the SWGDOG approved guidelines SC 2 *General Guidelines*, dated 15 September 2009.

Specific Certification Guidelines and Performance Objectives for Personal Protection

In addition to the general certification guidelines and Performance Objectives identified earlier, the canine team must adhere to the following specific certification guidelines and Performance Objectives for Personal Protection evaluation:

1. Evaluation consists of two (2) phases: Obedience/Control and Agitation.
2. Canine teams will be evaluated under the same conditions during the same evolution (day or seminar).
3. Evaluation may be conducted during night or daylight hours.
4. Handler must have and use appropriate illumination devices when appropriate during the evaluation.
5. Canine agility will be evaluated during all phases of the evaluation.

Obedience/Control Phase

1. Location must be large enough to conduct the evaluation such as grass, field, asphalt, concrete, etc.
2. Canine team will complete a series of the below prescribed exercises both on and off lead at the direction of the evaluator(s) in any order, but the same order for all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar).
 - a. Heel command while moving (neither lagging behind, nor forging ahead of handler) for approximately three hundred (300) paces.
 - b. Two (2) right turns (90-degree directional turn to the right).
 - c. Two (2) left turns (90-degree directional turn to the left).
 - d. Two (2) about turns (180-degree directional turn).
 - e. Two (2) Stop and Sit commands.
 - f. Down or Sit command in motion.
 - g. Two (2) pace changes (one (1) slow and one (1) fast.)
3. Handler will place canine in Down/Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet, turn, and call canine by hand and/or verbal command. Handler will Halt canine at halfway mark by hand and/or verbal command, then call canine to him at direction of evaluator.
4. Handler will place canine in Down/Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet out of sight of canine for three (3) to five (5) minutes at evaluator(s)'s discretion, then return to canine. Canine will not be penalized for movement between Down and Sit as long as it remains in the position Stay command given.
5. Handler will walk canine on lead with Heel command weaving through a group of at least four (4) people at a distance of at least four (4) feet with no unprovoked aggression from canine.
6. Handler will place canine in Down/Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet out of sight of canine for three (3) minutes, then return to and secure canine. Canine will not be penalized for movement between Down and Sit as long as it remains in the position Stay command given. At evaluator(s) direction, a designated person will fire two (2) live or blank rounds from a firearm in a safe direction from a maximum distance of one hundred (100) yards from the canine team. Any fearful reaction of canine as determined by evaluator(s) will result in an evaluation failure.
7. No toy, reward, or food may be used during the prescribed exercises, but may be given upon completion.
8. Canine team must demonstrate control during the obedience/control phase before continuing evaluation.

Agitation Phase

1. Two (2) of the following locations will be used for this phase: open field, woods, dim lighted room, slick floors, parking lot, interior stairs, exterior steps or a vehicle.
2. Evaluation will be conducted with canine on lead.
3. Agitator must wear a bite sleeve or full body protection and be familiar with proper decoy procedures.
4. Agitator will aggressively approach handler and canine with verbal and animated movements.
5. Handler will make verbal warning consisting of a request for peaceful resolution and consequences.
6. Agitator will move within the boundary of a six (6) foot lead. Handler will command canine to protect. Once evaluator(s) has observed canine protection or upon suspect safety signal of free arm raised above head, evaluator will direct handler to command canine to release.
7. When directed to release canine, canine will have five (5) seconds from handler's first verbal command to release to break contact from agitator or result in a failure of the evaluation.
8. At evaluator(s) discretion, gun fire, two (2) blank rounds (**no live fire**) from a firearm in a safe direction, can be used at one or both of the locations of this phase by either the agitator or a designated person from a maximum distance of one hundred (100) yards from canine.

Evaluation Specifications: This evaluation consists of two (2) phases: Phase I – Obedience/Control and Phase II – Agitation.

1. Phase I – Obedience/Control

- a. Location must be large enough to conduct the evaluation such as grass, field, asphalt, concrete, etc.
- b. Evaluation phase will be conducted on and off lead.
- c. Canine team will complete a series of prescribed exercises at the direction of the evaluator(s) in any order, but the same order for all canine teams during the same evolution (day or seminar).
 - 1) Heel command while moving (neither lagging behind, nor forging ahead of handler) for approximately three hundred (300) paces.
 - 2) Two (2) right turns (90-degree directional turn to the right).
 - 3) Two (2) left turns (90-degree directional turn to the left).
 - 4) Two (2) about turns (180-degree directional turn).
 - 5) Two (2) Stop and Sit commands.
 - 6) Down or Sit command in motion.
 - 7) Two (2) pace changes (one (1) slow and one (1) fast.)
- d. Handler will place canine in Down or Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet, turn, and call canine by hand and/or verbal command. Handler will Halt canine at halfway mark by hand and/or verbal command, then call canine to him at direction of evaluator.
- e. Handler will place canine in Down or Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet out of sight of canine for one (1) to five (5) minutes at evaluator(s)'s discretion, then return to canine. Canine will not be penalized for movement between Down and Sit as long as it remains in the position Stay command given.
- f. Handler will walk canine on lead with Heel command weaving through a group of at least four (4) people at a distance of at least four (4) feet with no unprovoked aggression from canine.
- g. Handler will place canine in Down/Sit with Stay commands, walk away approximately one hundred (100) feet out of sight of canine for three (3) minutes, then return to and secure canine. Canine will not be penalized for movement between Down and Sit as long as it remains in the position Stay command given. At evaluator(s) direction, a designated person will fire two (2) live or blank rounds from a firearm in a safe direction from a maximum distance of one hundred (100) yards from the canine team. Any fearful reaction of canine as determined by evaluator(s) will result in an evaluation failure.
- h. No toy, reward, or food may be used during the prescribed exercises, but may be given upon completion.
- i. Canine team must demonstrate control during the obedience/control phase before continuing evaluation.

2. Phase II – Agitation

- a. Two (2) of the following locations will be used for this phase: open field, woods, dim lighted room, parking lot, interior stairs, exterior steps or a vehicle.
- b. Evaluation will be conducted with canine on lead.
- c. Agitator must wear a bite sleeve or full body protection and be familiar with proper decoy procedures.
- d. Agitator will aggressively approach handler and canine with verbal and animated movements.
- e. Handler will make verbal warning consisting of a request for peaceful resolution and consequences.
- f. Agitator will move within the boundary of a six (6) foot lead. Handler will command canine to protect. Once evaluator(s) has observed canine protection or upon suspect safety signal of free arm raised above head, evaluator will direct handler to command canine to release.
- g. When directed to release canine, canine will have five (5) seconds from handler's first verbal command to release to break contact from agitator or result in a failure of the evaluation.
- h. At evaluator(s) discretion, gun fire, two (2) blank rounds (**no live fire**) from a firearm in a safe direction, can be used at one or both of the locations of this phase by either the agitator or a designated person from a maximum distance of one hundred (100) yards from canine.

Certification Criteria:

Canine team must complete general and discipline specific performance objectives within the general and discipline certification guidelines; specifically:

1. Canine team must successfully complete the obedience/control phase.
2. Handler must give verbal warning prior to canine deployment during agitation phase.
3. Canine must release within five (5) seconds upon handler's command during agitation phase.
4. Canine must not have shown a fearful reaction to gunfire.

K-9 Search and Seizure Case Law

SOURCE: caselaw4cops.net

[United States v. Race](#), 529 F.2d 12 (5th Cir. 1976)-The indication of drugs after a sniff from a well-trained drug detection police dog is sufficient to establish probable cause.

[United States v. Place](#), 462 US 696 (1983)-The court determined that the sniffing of personal items of a person in a public place by a dog for the purpose of finding contraband was not a "search" under the Fourth Amendment.

[United States v. Thomas](#), 757 F.2d 1359 (2nd Cir 1985)-The use of a canine to detect odors emanating from an apartment while at a lawful place outside the apartment is still a search requiring probable cause and a warrant. The court emphasized that a person has a higher expectation of privacy in his dwelling than in objects transported through public places (vehicles, baggage, boxes, etc).

[State v. Boyce](#), 723 P.2d 28 (Wash. App. 1986)-The use of a canine to sniff a person or the objects carried by that person is, "...offensive at best and harrowing at worst to the innocent sniffer," and requires a reasonable suspicion (see case footnote).

[Robinette v. Barnes](#), 854 F.2d 909, 912 (6th Cir. 1988)-Held: The use of a properly trained police dog to apprehend a felony suspect does not carry with it a 'substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily harm'.

[United States v. Lovell](#), 849 F.2d. 910 (5 Cir.)(1988)-Lovell's luggage was entrusted to a third-party common carrier. The luggage was momentarily removed from the conveyer belt to be sniffed by a drug dog. The court ruled that the removal of the bags from the conveyer belt was "insufficient to constitute a meaningful interference" with Lovell's possessory interest in his bags. The court also stated that Lovell's expectation of privacy did not extend to the airspace surrounding his luggage. The sniffing of the air by a drug dog was not a search.

[Matthews v. Jones](#), 35 F.3d 1046, 1051 (6th Cir. 1994)-The court found that there was no excessive force where the record was clear that the officer warned plaintiff, a fleeing misdemeanant, several times before releasing the police dog to apprehend him.

[Merrett v. Moore](#), 58 F.3d 1547 (11 Cir. 1995)-Canines can be used to sniff vehicles at a license and registration check roadblock as long as their use does not unreasonably delay the motorists.

[United States v Guzman](#), 75 F. 3d 1090 (6th Cir. 1996)-If a dog shows only interest, but does not alert, this does not constitute probable cause. The handler's awareness in the interest can be used in conjunction with the totality of other facts to establish probable cause.

[United States v Kennedy](#), 131 F. 3d 1371 (10th Cir. 1997)-A warrant is not rendered invalid because the dog handler did not keep accurate training records or train the dog on a regular basis. The dog was certified in detecting drugs and had a reliability rate of 70-80%. This was sufficient to establish probable cause.

[U.S. v. Anchondo](#), 156 F.3d. 1043 (10th Cir. 1998)-A search incident to arrest can occur before the actual arrest takes place. The search and the arrest must be contemporaneous to each other. The court further stated that an officer can search a person if a canine alerts on the vehicle the person occupied, but no drugs were found in the vehicle. If the probability of drugs diminishes in the vehicle, then it increases for drugs being on the person.

[Vathekan v. Prince George's County](#), 154 F.3d 173 (4th Cir. 1998), the Fourth Circuit reversed a summary judgment ruling in favor of a police officer who deployed a police dog without a verbal warning.

[Vera Cruz v. City of Escondido](#), 139 F.3d 659, 663 (9th Cir. 1998)-The use of a trained police dog in biting a suspect to assist in arrest is not deadly force as applied under [Tennessee v. Garner](#). The use of the dog is not limited to circumstances where the suspect has to be an imminent life threat to others.

[United States v Owens](#), 167 F. 3d 739 (1st Cir. 1999)-Even if a dog failed to pass two previous certifications, it was certified at the time of the sniff and the handler and training supervisor testified to its reliability. The dog was sufficiently reliable to support a finding of probable cause.

[City of Indianapolis v. Edmond](#), 531 US 32 (2000)-It is unconstitutional to set up a checkpoint to detect evidence of ordinary criminal wrongdoing. In this case, the officers were looking for drugs. The officers used canines to sniff vehicles stopped at the roadblock.

[Kuha v. City of Minnetonka](#), 328 F.3d 427 (8th Circuit 2003)-The court held that releasing the dog without warning the man was objectively unreasonable. Warning him would not have put the officers at any increased risk. The court indicated that giving the warning is a constitutional requirement and only under unusual circumstances the officer can forego the warning.

[Miller v. Clark County](#) (9th Cir. Aug. 21, 2003)-The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal held that the use of a police dog to bite and hold a potentially dangerous fleeing felon for up to a minute, until the situation is insured to be safe, does not violate the Fourth Amendment. In this case, the suspect was hiding in a wooded area. The officer announced that the dog would be released if he did not reveal himself. The dog was released, found the suspect, and bit and held him. It took the officer approx. one minute to get to the suspect and call the dog off.

[US v. Mohr](#), 318 F.3d 613 (4th Cir, 2003)-Stephanie Mohr, a Prince George's County, Maryland police officer, assisted in the capture of possible burglars. Her assistance was requested by Sgt Bonn of the Takoma Park, Maryland Police Department. The burglars were caught on the roof of a business. They were contacted and ordered to climb down. They were surrounded by several officers. The suspects fully cooperated with the police and had their hands in the air. Ofc Anthony Delozier was with Ofc Mohr. He asked Sgt Bonn, "Sarge, can the dog get a bite?" He said, "yes". Mohr then released the dog to bite one of the suspects while he was standing with his hands in the air. The suspects made no movement to justify the attack. Mohr was tried and convicted in federal court for acting under the color of law to willfully deprive suspect Mendez of his right to be free from the use of unreasonable force. She was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

[US v. Outlaw](#), 319 F. 3d 701 (5th Cir. 2003)-"It is undisputed that this drug-detecting team successfully completed all standard training procedures for border patrol drug-detecting teams and that this canine was certified to detect a variety of narcotics, including marijuana and its derivatives, cocaine and its derivatives, heroin and its derivatives and methamphetamine. That the suitcase the canine alerted to later turned out to contain PCP, a drug the dog was not trained to detect, simply does not vitiate the agent's reasonable suspicion under these facts."

[United States v Ramirez](#), 342 F. 3d 1210 (10th Cir. 2003)-An investigation into the contents of a package does not have to cease just because a K-9 failed to alert on it.

[US v. Jackson](#), 390 F.3d 393 (5th Cir. 2004)-Narcotics officers boarded a bus after it stopped at the terminal. The officers obtained a consent to search from the driver. They then informed the passengers that a police dog will be searching the bus. The passengers were informed that they could either remain on the bus or depart. All the passengers exited the bus. The dog hit on a seat indicating that a passenger was carrying the drugs. They saw Jackson as he exited the bus. He acted very suspicious. They located Jackson after the dog sniffed the bus for drugs and they started a consensual encounter with him. They developed reasonable suspicion and pat searched Jackson. They found a belt around his waist full of cocaine. The court held: "As we have said, at its inception, [officer] Dunn's encounter with Jackson was justified because it was consensual. Indeed, even absent Jackson's consent, the fact that Dunn was aware of the dog alert and that one of the passengers was likely carrying drugs on his person, coupled with Jackson's nervous and erratic behavior (including what Dunn regarded as his unusually erect posture), would be sufficient to premise a reasonable and particularized suspicion that Jackson was the drug courier."

[Illinois v. Caballes](#), 000 U.S. 03-923 (2005)-A drug dog can be used to sniff a vehicle for contraband on any traffic stop, if:

- The vehicle is lawfully stopped.
- The sniff occurs within the duration of time necessary to reasonably conduct the stop. (If the K9 officer makes the stop and also conducts the sniff, the extra time will probably violate this requirement.)

The officer is not required to have any facts of a drug violation prior to the sniff occurring.

[United States v Sanchez](#), 417 F. 3d 971 (8th Cir. 2005)-The police were justified in delaying a traffic stop for 45 minutes to run computer checks after it was suspected the passenger gave a fake ID. The officers acted diligently to minimize the detention period by employing the least intrusive means of detention and investigation. A drug dog alerted to the trunk and a large quantity of marijuana was found.

[US v. Mendoza](#), 05-4299 (10th Cir. 2006)-Trooper Bowles observed two vehicles traveling on a Utah highway. He observed that one of the vehicles had a Minnesota tag and the other one an Arizona tag. Both vehicles appeared to be traveling together. Suspecting that the vehicles might be involved in auto theft or drug trafficking the trooper turned around and followed the vehicles. The trooper stopped Mendoza on traffic after he failed to stop for a stop sign. The trooper smelled air freshener coming from the vehicle. Mendoza also gave inconsistent stories about where was traveling to and the route he was taking, who owned the vehicle, and when it was actually purchased. The trooper observed that Mendoza was very nervous. The trooper believed he had reasonable suspicion to detain Mendoza. The trooper called for a drug dog to come to the scene to check the vehicle for drugs. The drug dog arrived approx. 40 minutes later and searched the vehicle. The dog alerted on the gas tank. The gas tank was packed with methamphetamine. The court ruled that Trooper Bowles had reasonable suspicion to detain Mendoza. The court also ruled that waiting 40 minutes for the drug dog to arrive was reasonable.

[US v. Suitt](#), 08-2688 (8th Cir. 2009)-The officer issued Suitt a warning on a traffic stop and released him. He then continued to ask Suitt questions about his travel. The questions were evasive and incomplete. He was acting nervous. The officer had his canine sniff the exterior of Suitt's vehicle and found 32 bales of marijuana. The sniff occurred 3 minutes after the end of the traffic stop. The questions were not drug interdiction related, but traffic related. The officer had reasonable suspicion. The extension was *de minimis* (minimal) and did not violate the 4th Amendment.

[US v. Ludwig](#), No. 10-8009 (10th Cir, 2011)-The certification of a police canine is sufficient to establish reliability for a canine to sniff for drugs. Ludwig argued that the canine had 58% reliability in finding drugs. The Court would not quantify probable cause. The dog's credentials provide a bright-line rule for the officer to rely on.

[US v. Kitchell](#), No. 09-6206 (10th Cir. 2011)-Potential currency contamination does not undermine the significance of a positive dog alert in indicating a fair probability of the presence of contraband, and thus probable cause to search.

[US v. Sharp](#), 10-6127 (6th Cir. 2012)-A canine sniff of the exterior of a vehicle is not a search under the Fourth Amendment, but if the canine enters the vehicle to sniff, it is a search. In this case, the canine was sniffing the exterior of the vehicle. Without prompting from the handler, the canine jumped into the vehicle through an open window. It alerted on a shaving kit where methamphetamine and marijuana were found. Sharp tried to get the evidence suppressed because the canine entered and search his vehicle unlawfully. Held: "The canine's jump and subsequent sniff inside the vehicle was not a search in violation of the Fourth Amendment because the jump was instinctive and not the product of police encouragement."

[Florida v. Harris](#), No. 11-817, 568 US ___ (2013)-Officer Wheatley had his drug detection dog sniff Harris's truck. The dog alerted and ingredients for making methamphetamine were found. Harris was arrested. Harris appealed. The Florida State Supreme Court held that, "The State must in every case present an exhaustive set of records, including a log of the dog's performance in the field, to establish the dog's reliability." The State "must have comprehensive documentation of the dog's prior hits and misses in the field, and holding that absent field records will preclude a finding of probable cause no matter how much other proof the State offers." The US Supreme Court reversed the Florida Court. It held that:

- The Florida Court erred in requiring the use of the dog's field performance records. These records are unreliable because the records will not show failures to alert when drugs are present and show alerts as false alerts when drugs are not found, but were recently in the area sniffed.
- The training and certification setting is the more reliable way to determine the dog's reliability.
- The standard for determining probable cause is to use a practical and common-sense standard of considering the totality of the circumstances, not the use of rigid rules, bright-line tests, and mechanistic inquiries.

[Florida v. Jardines](#), No. 11-564 (2013)-The Court held that taking a K-9 onto the porch of the defendant's home to sniff for drugs inside is a search and requires consent or a search warrant. The officer entered into the curtilage for evidence gathering purposes in violation of the defendant's Constitutionally protected 4th Amendment rights. See [US v. Thomas](#).

[US v. Salgado](#), NO. 13-2480 (8th Cir. 2014)-A Trooper stopped to assist Salgado whose vehicle was broken down on the side of the road. The Trooper developed reasonable suspicion to detain Salgado and call for a drug dog. The Trooper tried to find a close K-9, but could not. He called out another Trooper with a K-9, but he was 45 miles away. It took an hour for him to arrive. The court said the wait was reasonable under the circumstances.

[Rodriguez v. US](#), 13-9972 (SCOTUS 2015)-The Court ruled that a traffic stop, absent reasonable suspicion or consent, cannot be extended even for a few minutes after the conclusion of a traffic stop in order to conduct a K-9 sniff of the vehicle. In this case the driver was stopped and issued a warning. He was then asked for permission to remain so the officer can conduct a K-9 sniff. The driver refused. The officer detained the driver anyway until another officer arrived. The officer conducted the K-9 sniff approx. 8 minutes after the stop was concluded. Drugs were found in the vehicle after the K-9 alerted. The driver was arrested. The Court held that the detention beyond the length of the traffic stop was an unreasonable seizure in violation of the Constitution.

[US v. Pina](#), No. 15-13542 (11th Cir. 2016)-A trooper contacted a passenger bus driver at a truck stop and asked permission to do a drug dog sniff of his bus. He got the permission and his dog alerted to drugs being on board. He removed the baggage and ran the dog around it. The dog alerted on Pina's baggage. The trooper search it and found two large sealed metal cans of peppers. He opened one and found cocaine in it. Pina was arrested. The court held that the search of the bus and all the baggage falls under the automobile search warrant exception. The search of Pina's baggage and opening the can without a warrant was lawful.

[US v. Whitaker](#), Nos. 14-3290 and 14-3506 (7th Cir. 2016)-The officer went to an apartment complex where the apartments share a locked common hallway. The officer obtained consent to search the hallway with a drug dog. The dog alerted on Whitaker's apartment door. The officer obtained a search warrant and found drugs and a gun in the apartment. Whitaker was arrested.

The Court held: The use of a dog was the same as using a super-sensitive instrument described in [Kyllo v. US](#). The use of the dog was a search of not just the hall, but of Whitaker's apartment. The Supreme Court held in the [Florida v. Jardines](#) case that an officer could not enter the curtilage of a home to perform a dog sniff of the front door. The apartment hallway is not curtilage, but a person still has an expectation of privacy from warrantless dog sniffs at his apartment door. The sniff was an unreasonable search in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

[Brown v. Battle Creek Police Department](#), No. 16-1575 (6th Cir. 2016)-The court held: A police officer's use of deadly force against a dog while executing a warrant to search a home for illegal drug activity is reasonable under the Fourth Amendment when, given the totality of the circumstances and viewed from the perspective of an objectively reasonable officer, the dog poses an imminent threat to the officer's safety.

[US v. Berry](#), No. 15-30196 (5th Cir. 2016)-The DEA investigated Berry for heroin trafficking. Berry drove to Houston, picked up a load of heroin and was driving back to New Orleans. The DEA briefed the Louisiana State Police troopers on Berry. The troopers set up and waited for him. He was stopped by Trooper St. Romain, who also had a drug dog. The trooper completed the traffic stop and asked for consent to search Berry's vehicle, but was refused. Trooper St. Romain used his dog to sniff Berry's vehicle. The dog alerted on several locations on the vehicle and the vehicle was searched. The truck bed was searched for about 45 minutes. No drugs were found. The dog was deployed to sniff the interior of the vehicle. The dog alerted on a speaker box. 2.5 pounds of heroin was found inside. Berry tried to get the evidence suppressed. He claimed that the stop was impermissibly extended to conduct the sniff. He also claimed that the 45-minute fruitless search of the truck bed caused the probable cause for the search to dissipate. The court held that Berry gave information to the Trooper that was inconsistent with the information given during the DEA briefing. Berry was nervous, his hands were shaking, and would not make eye contact. There was sufficient information to establish reasonable suspicion to extend the traffic stop. The court further held that probable cause does not dissipate with time. The redeployment of the dog was also permissible.

[Colorado v. McKnight](#), 16CA0050 (Colorado Court of Appeals 2017)-When a dog is trained to only detect contraband, which is unlawful to possess, a sniff of a car is not a search. When a dog is trained to detect both a legal substance under Colorado law (marijuana) and contraband, the sniff becomes a search because a person has a legitimate expectation of privacy in the possession of marijuana. The Court held that reasonable suspicion of criminal activity is required before a dog trained to detect marijuana can be used to sniff a vehicle.

[Montanez v. Parker](#), 15-15211 (11th Cir. 2017)-Montanez was riding his bicycle at night without lights in Orlando, Fl. Ofc Parker, a K-9 officer, was with another officer. They were in uniform. As Montanez approached. Parker ordered him to stop. Montanez did not comply and tried to ride around the officers. Parker grabbed Montanez and pulled him off the bicycle. Parker was holding his dog by the harness at the time. Parker fell on top of Montanez. The dog perceived that Parker was being attacked and bit Montanez. Montanez was arrested. He later sued for false arrest, unreasonable seizure, and excessive force under the Fourth Amendment, as well as deprivation of liberty without due process under the Fifth Amendment. The court held that the stop and arrest were lawful. The use of force to remove Montanez from the bicycle was reasonable. Finally, the dog bite was not due to an intentional act by Parker so the excessive force claim was denied.

[Escobar v. Montee](#), 895 F. 3d 387 (5th Cir. 2018)-Escobar assaulted his wife. He later fled into his neighborhood to avoid police at his house. The police were told that Escobar was armed with a knife. His mother told the police that they would have to kill Escobar because he will not go down without a fight. A K-9 was used to track Escobar down. He was located. The K-9 officer decided not to give Escobar a warning before throwing the K-9 over the fence. The K-9 officer followed the K-9 over the fence. Escobar had a knife. The K-9 bit him. Escobar dropped the knife in surrender, but the knife was within a couple of feet of him. The K-9 continued to bite Escobar for about a minute before the officers fully subdued and handcuffed him. Escobar sued under a 1983 action claiming his rights were violated. He was not given a warning before the K-9 bit him and the K-9 officer allowed the K-9 to continue biting after Escobar surrendered and was not resisting. The lower court dismissed the initial bite claim, but denied the K-9 officer qualified immunity for the continued bite. The case was appealed to the 5th Circuit Court. The Court held that with the information provided to the officer, it was reasonable to believe that Escobar's surrender was not genuine. The officer's actions were proper and he was entitled to qualified immunity.

[Zuress v. Newark](#), No. 19-3945 (6th Cir. 2020)-Zuress was actively resisting arrest and was bitten by a police dog. The dog continued to bite for 24 seconds after she was subdued. She sued claiming excessive use of force. The Court held that the deployment of the dog was justified and that the continued bite for 24 seconds was not an excessive use of force. The fact of the case was that for the 24 seconds the officer was trying to get the dog to release the bite. While the officer was working to get the dog to release his bite, the continued bite was not a "means intentionally applied." Therefore, the continued bite was not a Fourth Amendment violation.