

# **NASAR**

# **Canine Certification Programs**

**Canine SARTECH III**

**Canine SARTECH II**

**Canine SARTECH I**

**Canine Disaster Responder**

**Canine HRD (Land)**

**Canine HRD (Water)**

**Canine Avalanche Responder**

## INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1997, the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) organized a committee of search dog users and providers to develop a curriculum that could be used to form the basis of a NASAR SAR Dog Certification Program. The program was to be designed to benefit the search and rescue community by identifying a standardized program of measured performance and knowledge skills that would serve as a benchmark for existing search and rescue dog training programs.

To achieve this goal, the committee was structured to represent a wide variety of handler experiences in various SAR working environments and to represent a variety of geographic regions of the United States. A non-dog handler was chosen as the chair of the group to best mediate the differences in opinions that were anticipated to arise during the development of the certificate program.

The committee members were selected through the winter of 1997-1998. It was the committee's initial thought to divide the certification program into three parts. These were Canine SARTECH I, II and III. Canine SARTECH III would be an entry level while Canine SARTECH I would be the most advanced. For practical purposes, it was decided to have the committee concentrate on the III and II levels. It was concluded that these two certifications would be the most used by the searching community and these two levels would best serve the immediate needs of NASAR and the user public.

It was agreed that, to the extent possible, the committee would strive to use existing standards such as the newly developed ASTM standards and the NASAR SAR Dog Guidelines.

NASAR would like to recognize the following people who gave input and spent many hours in the development of the initial Canine SARTECH III and II programs.

**David Bigelow** – Larimer County Search and Rescue, Fort Collins, Colorado

**Mike Bigelow** – Sacramento, California

**Hatch Graham** – Somerset, California

**Michael Gilmore** – Hendrick County Emergency Management SAR Team, Danville, Indiana

**Cheryl Kennedy** – Larimer County Search and Rescue/Colorado/Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado, Ft. Collins, Colorado

**Jim O'Brien** – Training Officer, Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Winnie Pennington** – Search and Rescue Coordinator, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Emergency Services, Richmond, Virginia

**Don Rabe** – Noblesville, Indiana

**Cheryl Rolfe** – Newberry, Florida

**Ed Wolff** – Pompano Beach, Florida

On June 29, 1999, the Board of Directors of the National Association for Search and Rescue unanimously approved this certification program.

## **SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

Canine SARTECH III Certifications are designed to promote entry-level skills in canine search and rescue. Handlers are required to pass a written exam showing knowledge in search strategy and techniques including an understanding of POD, search tactics, use of different types of dogs, effects of weather on canine search and different strategies used in canine search. Handlers must also demonstrate knowledge in canine first aid and are expected to have additional minimum equipment that is above and beyond that required for a SARTECH II certified person. Dogs must demonstrate a level of obedience and non-aggressive behavior toward other SAR resources.

The SARTECH III certifications are designed as an entry level qualification and is based upon the assumption that dogs and handlers will continue their training. (See ASTM F1848 for the different kinds of disciplines acknowledged.)

One of the benefits of a nationally recognized NASAR certification program is acknowledgment that a certified resource should be able to work outside of its local jurisdiction with minimal additional instruction. Since dog handlers often work independently of other SAR resources – that is much like an ICS Task Force – the SARDOG Committee feels it is imperative to have Canine SARTECH's who are knowledgeable in navigation and orienteering, the ICS system, search tactics, lost person behavior, helicopter operations and tracking. The committee concluded that the best way to ensure this was to require that the NASAR Certified Canine handlers be certified as a SARTECH II or higher.

The committee further acknowledges that NASAR does not and will likely never have the resources to determine equivalencies of local training programs to the SARTECH certification programs. Because of this and its inability to identify any other nationally recognized training program that would ensure the SARTECH certification program's level of training, it concluded no local equivalent prerequisites could be substituted for the SARTECH certifications.

The NASAR Canine Examination and Certification Programs have continued to evolve and grow over the years. As the program grows, additional disciplines are being added. The NASAR Canine Certification Programs are also changing to reflect changes in usage and to reflect the NIMS Typing System.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

Upon successful completion of the requirements for any NASAR Canine Certification Program, a certificate or credential will be issued by NASAR for that canine discipline. This certificate or credential does not constitute a license to practice skills identified in this certificate program or to practice the knowledge and performance skills that have been evaluated. The certification does signify that the person and canine partner holding the certification have met the requirements of an established standard of knowledge and performance skills that have been evaluated. The certification does signify that the person and canine partner holding the certificate or credential have met the requirements of an established standard of knowledge and performance skill on the date indicated on the certificate or credential. The certificate or credential is good only for the handler and dog tested.

No electronic or shock collar may be used by any candidate during any certification examination.

No GPS or other electronic tracking device may be used to assist the handler during NASAR Canine Certification Examinations, with the exception of NASAR Canine SARTECH™ I and II Air Scent/Area Search. No Coordinator, Evaluator or Candidate participating in an examination shall act as a “subject” or track layer during said examination.

### **NASAR Canine SARTECH™ III Certification Program**

The NASAR Canine SARTECH™ III Certification Program consists of two (2) separate certification evaluations. These certifications are:

**Canine SARTECH™ III Area Search:** This is a basic examination and certification which meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue-Wilderness Air Scent **Type IV Non-Discriminating** as of 7 April 2006

**Canine SARTECH™ III Trailing:** This is a basic examination and certification which meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Team-Wilderness Tracking/Trailing **Type III** as of 7 April 2006.

A candidate team may test to either or both of the examinations for which they have met the prerequisite requirements. Each examination shall be conducted as a separate test. If a candidate team tests for more than one certification, each shall be evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form shall be completed for each certification tested, and a separate NASAR Certification fee shall be charged for each.

### **PURPOSE**

- I. The Canine SARTECH™ III certification is designed to identify the minimum knowledge skill and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Crew during land search operations for a single, stationary victim located within a small area during daylight hours.
- II. The Canine SARTECH™ III certification defines minimum performance for both Area Search Dogs and Trailing Search Dogs and acknowledges that a Canine SARTECH™ III certification in either of these disciplines will be the prerequisite for higher level NASAR Canine SARTECH™ II search and rescue dog certifications.
- III. The Canine SARTECH™ III certification recognizes the need for further training to acquire the knowledge and experience needed to become a fully competent SAR canine handler in a wide variety of land search operations.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- I. A current nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.
- II. A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.

- III. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II.
- IV. Present proof that their canine has passed an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizenship or nationally recognized equivalent.
- V. Present proof that their canine is a minimum of 12 months of age.
- VI. Proof of completion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

## **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The Canine SARTECH™ III candidate must possess all of the equipment as listed in Attachment I of this certification and must present this equipment for inspection during this evaluation process. Full pack is to be worn by candidate during the field test.

**NO electronic or shock collars by whatever name may be used.**

## **CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

- I. The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for certification as a Canine SARTECH™ III Area Search Dog or a Canine SARTECH™ III Trailing Search Dog.
  - A. Obtain training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills. Such training and experience must be documented preferably in an individual logbook.
  - B. Pass a written test within the limits defined for each knowledge and performance skill with a score of 70%.
  - C. Pass a practical exam within the limits defined for each performance objective.
- II. Certification
  - A. The written portion of the Canine SARTECH™ – Type III test may be waived if a handler has previously certified another dog under the Canine SARTECH™ – Type III certification program and the Certificate has been issued within the previous five (5) years of the new evaluation date.
  - B. This certificate signifies that the holder has met and exceeded the ASTM guidelines outline in the References of this document.

## **TEST METHODS**

- I. Canine SARTECH™ III – Area Search Dog

- A. Pass a written examination consisting of at least 100 questions and a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.
- B. Locate a single stationary subject in a pre-defined 40-60 acre area using techniques that are within the limits defined for each performance objective. (Scent article shall be available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the field examination.)

**“OR”**

**II. Canine SARTECH™ III – Trailing Search Dog**

- A. Pass a written examination consisting of at least 100 questions and a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.
- B. Track/Trail and locate a single stationary subject who has traveled between ¼ and ½ mile and while using techniques that are within the limits defined for each performance objective. (Scent article shall be available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the field examination.)

## **KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

**I. Canine Obedience and Agility**

- A. Candidate will be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of working a canine on lead versus off lead.
- B. Candidate canine will be able to demonstrate a non-aggressive behavior towards humans and other canines in the presence of strangers.
  - 1. Canine will be evaluated to ensure that no aggression towards humans or other canines occurs at any time during the field or classroom evaluations.
  - 2. Canine-handler candidates will not be allowed to continue in the event that an act of aggression is observed during the evaluation.
  - 3. Canine-handler candidates will be dismissed from the evaluation site if the coordinator or evaluators observe an act of aggression.
- C. Canine will be able to demonstrate obedience through its reaction to handler commands.

**II. Canine First Aid**

- A. Handler will be able to render first aid to their canine partner

1. The candidate will recognize the normal physiological parameters for and perform primary and secondary medical assessments of the following on a canine:
  - a. Heart rate
  - b. Respiration rate
  - c. Body core temperature
2. The candidate will recognize the signs of heat exhaustion, hypothermia and anaphylactic reaction in a canine.
3. The candidate will know how to use equipment they are required to carry to improvise treatment of a canine.
4. The candidate will know how to improvise a muzzle to control a canine while performing emergency medical treatment to the canine.
5. The candidate will know how to bandage an injured canine leg using equipment carried in the Canine SARTECH™ pack and listed in Attachment I of this certification.

### III. Search Techniques and Tactics

Referenced to SARTECH™ I/CREW LEADER III Standards: Paragraph VII, C-F

- A. The candidate shall be able to describe the following scanning and observation skills/techniques:
  1. Clue awareness
  2. Relevant and irrelevant clues
  3. Scanning versus observing
  4. Scanning ranges
  5. Increasing observation effectiveness
- B. The candidate shall identify the different types of searches, describe their differences and demonstrate the techniques for maximizing the effectiveness of the following:
  1. Hasty searches
    - a. Objectives of hasty searches
    - b. Types of resources used for hasty searches

- c. Hasty search crew formations
    - d. Crew duties and assignments
  - 2. Efficient searches
    - a. Sign cutting (Point Last Seen versus route)
    - b. Wide spaced line searching
  - 3. Thorough searches
  - 4. Confinement tactics
- C. The candidate shall describe binary search strategy and tactics.
- D. The candidate shall define critical spacing and explain how it is used.
- E. The candidate shall describe the role of the search crew in supporting a dog crew and the role of the dog crew in supporting the search crew.
- F. Handler will be able to identify the various classifications of search and rescue dogs through their working modes.
  - 1. Candidate will be able to distinguish between the following kinds of search and rescue dogs:
    - a. Tracking search dog
    - b. Trailing search dog
    - c. Area search dog
    - d. Water search dog
    - e. Human remains detection (HRD) search dog
    - f. Disaster/collapsed structure search dog
    - g. Avalanche search dog
    - h. Evidence/article search dog
  - 2. The candidate will be able to explain the differences between scent discrimination and non-scent discrimination trained dogs.
- G. Handler will be able to recognize and explain different methods of canine search techniques.
  - 1. Candidate will know how to establish a direction of travel.

2. Candidate will know how to establish an assignment perimeter.
3. Candidate will know how to establish a search grid strategy.
4. Candidate will know how to “cut for scent”.
5. Candidate will be able to describe effective search strategy considerations when using SAR dogs in the following types of searching:
  - a. Hasty search
  - b. Efficient searches
  - c. Thorough searches

H. Handler will be able to articulate methods of reporting search results to incident managers.

1. Candidate will be able to estimate Probability of Detection (POD) for canine search techniques.
2. Candidate will be able to articulate the factor's that affect crew POD.
3. Candidates will know how to report alerts.

I. Handler will be able to identify the micro-meteorological factors that influence canine search strategies and search results.

1. Candidate will be able to describe the effects of the following on trailing/tracking and air scenting dogs:
  - a. Wind
  - b. Water
  - c. Temperature
  - d. Convection
  - e. Terrain
  - f. Time of day

#### IV. Search Operations

A. The candidate will be able to describe the proper techniques for gathering and handling scent articles.

- B. The candidate will be able to describe various ways by which search dogs may indicate an alert.
- C. The candidate will be able to describe various ways by which search dogs may indicate a find.
  - 1. Candidates will be able to describe the following indications of a find:
    - a. Return and Refind
    - b. Bringsel (either handler or canine-carried)
    - c. Stay and bark
    - d. Return and lead back on leash
- D. The candidate handler and canine will be able to locate a single stationary subject during daylight hours.
- E. The candidate handler and canine will be able to operate in terrain typical of their primary response area.
- F. The candidate handler and canine will be able to search small areas during daylight hours (or Paragraph G).
  - 1. Canine SARTECH™ III – Area Search Dog
    - a. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using an area of 40-60 acres.
    - b. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of 1.5 hours including breaks.
    - c. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of their search.
  - 2. Canine SARTECH™ III – Trailing Search Dog
    - a. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a trail of ¼ to ½ mile aged a minimum of four (4) hours to a maximum of six (6) hours during daylight hours.
    - b. Subject's trail will have at least two (2) more recent cross-tracks laid by one or two people other than the subject, placed at separate points along the subject's trail.
    - c. Subject's trail will cross at least one road (surfaced or non-surfaced) and will traverse more than one terrain feature (vegetation zones, hills, etc).

- d. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time limit of one (1) hour including breaks.
- e. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel.
- f. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They must stay within 100 meters of the laid track on all legs.)
- g. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of their search.

## REFERENCES

- American Rescue Dog Association, 1991. Search and Rescue Dogs, Training Methods, Howell book House, New York.
- ASTM F1848, 1998. Classification of Search and Rescue dog Crew/Teams, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1847, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Minimum Skills of Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1879, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- Bryson, Sandy, 1984. Search Dog Training. The Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, CA.
- Bulanda, Susan, 1994. READY! The Training of the Search and Rescue Dog, Doral Publishing, Portland, OR.
- Carlson, D.G. and Griffin, X., DVM, 1992. Dog Owners Home Veterinary Handbook, Howell Book House
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- NASAR, 1997. Advanced Search and Rescue, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- NASAR 1997. Search and Rescue Dog (Canine)/Handler Performance Expectation Guidelines, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120.

- NASAR, 1992. SARTECH Standards for SAR Personnel, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- Syrotuck, William G., 1972. Scent and the Scenting Dog, Arner Publications, 100 Bouck Street, Rome, NY 13400
- USDA, 1970. Fire Weather – A Guide for the Application of Meteorological Information to Forest Fire Control Operations. USFS Handbook Number 360. National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID 83705. Publication #NF ES-1174
- Unknown, 1980. The K9 Medical Book, Howell book House, MacMillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

## **NASAR Canine SARTECH™ II Certification Programs**

The NASAR Canine SARTECH™ II Certification Program consists of four (4) separate certification evaluations. These certifications are:

**Canine SARTECH™ II Area Search:** This examination and certification meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue-Wilderness Air Scent **Type III Non-Discriminating** as of 7 April 2006.

**Canine SARTECH™ II Scent Discriminating Area Search:** This examination and certification meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Wilderness Air Scent **Type II Scent Discriminating** as of 7 April 2006.

**Canine SARTECH™ II Wilderness Trailing:** This examination and certification meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Team-Wilderness Tracking/Trailing **Type II** as of 7 April 2006.

**Canine SARTECH™ II Urban Trailing:** As of January 2006, NIMS has not published a proposed Urban Tracking/Trailing Typing.

A candidate team may test to any of the examinations for which they have met the prerequisite requirements. Each examination shall be conducted as a separate test. If a candidate team tests for more than one certification, each shall be evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form shall be completed for each certification tested and a separate NASAR Certification fee shall be charged for each.

### **Canine SARTECH™ II Area Search Dog Certifications**

#### **PURPOSE**

- I. The Canine SARTECH™ II certifications are designed to identify the minimum knowledge skills and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Crew during land search operations for single subjects, in areas larger than that tested in Canine SARTECH™ III, during either a scent discriminating or non scent discriminating search.
- II. These testing certifications recognize the need for further training in varied disciplines to acquire the knowledge and experience needed to become a fully competent SAR canine handler in a wide variety of land search operations.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- I. A current nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.

- II. A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.
- III. Present proof that their canine is a minimum of 12 months of age.
- IV. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II.
- V. Canine Handlers should be certified by NASAR as a Canine SARTECH III – Area Search Dog prior to taking this evaluation. (However, they may challenge the Canine SARTECH II one time without having passed the Canine SARTECH III. If they are challenging the II, and fail, they must take and pass the Canine SARTECH III prior to being allowed to attempt the Canine SARTECH II a second time. Their first attempt at the Canine SARTECH III will not require an additional NASAR testing/certification fee if taken within one year of their initial attempt of the Canine SARTECH II. A NASAR testing/certification fee will be charged when they retake the Canine SARTECH II.)
- VI. Present proof that their canine has passed an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizenship or nationally recognized equivalent.
- VII. Proof of completion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

## **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The Canine SARTECH™ II candidate must possess all of the equipment as listed in Attachment I of this certification and must present this equipment for inspection during this evaluation process. Full pack is to be worn by candidate during the field test.

A candidate may choose to utilize a GPS or other electronic tracking device for the Canine SARTECH™ II Area Search Examination. The coordinator or evaluator will provide the candidate with a map depicting their search area, with the boundaries clearly marked or definable. Neither the coordinator nor any evaluator will provide the candidate with UTM or other coordinates. Candidates will have no more than fifteen (15) minutes to prepare their search strategy after being given their map and initial briefing. Any additional time utilized by the candidate counts as part of their search time.

## **CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

- I. The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for certification as a Canine SARTECH™ II – Area Search Dog.
  - A. Obtain training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills. Such training and experience must be documented preferably in an individual logbook.
  - B. Pass a practical exam within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## TEST METHODS

Pass a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

### I. Canine Obedience and Agility

- A. The candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience program prior to the evaluation.
- B. Candidate will be able to describe how they will work their canine on lead and/or off lead and why.
- C. While on lead the candidate will be able to place the dog in a vehicle with other dogs and strangers without the dog displaying aggressive behavior toward the stranger or other dogs.
- D. Candidate canine will be able to demonstrate a non-aggressive behavior towards humans and other canines in the presence of strangers.
  - 1. Canine will be evaluated to ensure that no aggression towards humans or other canines occurs at any time during the field or classroom evaluations.
  - 2. Canine-handler candidates will not be allowed to continue in the event that an act of aggression is observed during the evaluation.
  - 3. Canine-handler candidates will be dismissed from the evaluation site if the coordinator or evaluators observe an act of aggression.
- E. Handler will be able to describe the commands they will use to direct their dog through various activities, including their search problem.
- F. Canine will be able to demonstrate obedience through its reaction to handler commands.
- G. Prior to this evaluation, the candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience evaluation which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test. Examples include, but are not limited to, evaluations conducted by a recognized Association of Pet Dog Trainers or National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors trainers, training clubs or organizations, and/or law enforcement instructors.

### II. Canine First Aid

Handler will be able to render first aid to their canine partner.

### III. Search Techniques and Tactics

- A. The candidate will be able to describe how they would work their canine partner with or without a scent article.
- B. Handler will be able to classify their canine according to one or more of the following kinds of search and rescue dogs:
  - 1. Tracking search dog
  - 2. Trailing search dog
  - 3. Area search dog
  - 4. Water search dog
  - 5. Human remains detection (HRD) search dog
  - 6. Disaster/collapsed structure search dog
  - 7. Avalanche search dog
  - 8. Evidence/article search dog
- C. Handler will be able to describe the micro-meteorological factors that are anticipated, and in the end, did influence their field problem. These will include:
  - 1. Wind
  - 2. Water
  - 3. Temperature
  - 4. Convection
  - 5. Terrain
  - 6. Time of day

#### IV. Search Operations

- A. The candidate will be able to correctly gather and handle scent articles.
- B. Prior to the start of the search problem, the canine handler will be able to correctly describe to the evaluation team the following characteristics of their canine partner's search behavior:
  - 1. Type of alert to be performed by the canine upon entering the scent cone.
  - 2. Type of find/re-find to be performed by the canine upon locating the victim.

3. If the canine will work on lead, off lead or both during the problem.
- C. The candidate handler and canine will be able to search an area with terrain consistent with what the handler normally works during daylight hours.
  - D. The candidate handler and canine will be able to locate their subject during daylight hours.
1. **NON SCENT DISCRIMINATION:**
    - a. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a 60-80 acre area.
    - b. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of 1-½ hours.
  2. **SCENT DISCRIMINATION:**
    - a. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a 60-80 acre area.
    - b. Candidate and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of 1-½ hours.
    - c. The canine will be evaluated in part on its ability to identify the correct subject out of three subjects who will be placed within the search area.
    - d. The subjects shall be spaced not closer than 10 feet or more than 50 feet from each other.

## REFERENCES

- American Rescue Dog Association, 1991. Search and Rescue Dogs, Training Methods, Howell book House, New York.
- ASTM F1848, 1998. Classification of Search and Rescue dog Crew/Teams, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1847, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Minimum Skills of Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1879, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
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- NASAR, 1992. SARTECH Standards for SAR Personnel, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
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- Unknown, 1980. The K9 Medical Book, Howell book House, MacMillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

# Canine SARTECH™ II Trailing Search Dog Certifications

## PURPOSE

- I. The Canine SARTECH™ II trailing certifications are designed to identify the minimum knowledge skill and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Trailing Crew during land search operations in varied terrain.
- II. These testing certifications recognize the need for further training to acquire the knowledge and experience needed to become a fully competent SAR canine handler in a wide variety of land search operations.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- I. A current nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.
- II. A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.
- III. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II.
- IV. Canine Handlers must be certified by NASAR as a Canine SARTECH III – Trailing Search Dog prior to taking this evaluation.
- V. Present proof that their canine has passed an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizenship or nationally recognized equivalent.
- VI. Proof of completion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

## EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Canine SARTECH™ II candidate must possess all of the equipment as listed in Attachment I of this certification and must present this equipment for inspection during this evaluation process. Full pack is to be worn by candidate during the field test.

## CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for certification as a Canine SARTECH™ II –Trailing Search Dog:

- I. Obtain training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills. Such training and experience must be documented preferably in an individual logbook.
- II. Pass a practical exam within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## TEST METHODS

Pass a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

### I. Canine Obedience and Agility

- A. Candidate will be able to describe how they will work their canine on lead and/or off lead and why.
- B. While on lead the candidate will be able to place the dog in a vehicle with other dogs and strangers without the dog displaying aggressive behavior toward the stranger or other dogs.
- C. Candidate canine will be able to demonstrate a non-aggressive behavior towards humans and other canines in the presence of strangers.
  - 1. Canine will be evaluated to ensure that no aggression towards humans or other canines occurs during any time during the field or classroom evaluations.
  - 2. Canine-handler candidates will not be allowed to continue in the event that an act of aggression is observed during the evaluation.
  - 3. Canine-handler candidates will be dismissed from the evaluation site if the coordinator or evaluators observe an act of aggression.
- D. Handler will be able to describe the commands they will use to direct their dog through various activities, including their search problem.
- E. Canine will be able to demonstrate obedience through its reaction to handler commands.
- F. Prior to this evaluation, the candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience evaluation, which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test. Examples include, but not limited to, evaluations conducted by a recognized Association of Pet Dog Trainers or National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors trainers, training clubs or organizations, and/or law enforcement instructors.

### II. Canine First Aid

Handler will be able to render first aid to their canine partner.

### III. Search Techniques and Tactics

- A. The candidate will be able to describe how they would work their canine partner with or without a scent article.
- B. Handler will be able to classify their canine according to one or more of the following kinds of Search and Rescue Dogs.
  - 1. Tracking search dog
  - 2. Trailing search dog
  - 3. Area search dog
  - 4. Water search dog
  - 5. Human remains detection (HRD) search dog
  - 6. Disaster/Collapsed Structure search dog
  - 7. Avalanche search dog
  - 8. Evidence/Article search dog
- C. Handler will be able to describe the micro-meteorological factors that are anticipated, and in the end did, influence their field problem. These will include:
  - 1. Wind
  - 2. Water
  - 3. Temperature
  - 4. Convection
  - 5. Terrain
  - 6. Time of day

#### IV. Search Operations

- A. The candidate will be able to correctly gather and handle scent articles.
- B. Prior to the start of the search problem, the canine handler will be able to correctly describe to the evaluation team the following characteristics of their canine partner's search behavior:
  - 1. Type of alert/indication to be expected from the canine upon entering the scent cone if the trail passes downwind of the subject.
  - 2. Type of alert/indication to be performed by the canine upon locating the correct subject.

3. If the canine will work on lead, off lead or both during the problem.

**C. The Trailing examination will consist of either one of two disciplines:**

**1. Wilderness Trailing:**

- a. The candidate handler and canine will be able to trail in wilderness terrain consistent with what the handler normally works, or the terrain in the testing area, during daylight hours.
- b. The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated using a wilderness trail that is 18-24 hours old, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.
- c. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel
- d. The subject's wilderness trail should wander through varied terrain, including a dirt road or trail and have at least 3 turns. The candidate handler and canine partner will be able to identify the subject's trail from at least two individual trails.
- e. The canine handler and canine will be evaluated up to a maximum time limit of two (2) hours.
- f. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the test.
- g. Candidate handler will be evaluated as to whether they can articulate to the evaluator the dog's indication of the proper subject.
- h. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether or not they identify the proper subject.
- i. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They must stay within 100 meters of the laid track on all legs)
- j. Three (3) subjects, including the proper subject, each spaced ten feet apart, will be present at the conclusion of each problem to allow the dog to indicate the proper subject.

## 2. **Urban Trailing:**

- a. The candidate handler and canine will be able to trail in an urban area consistent with what the handler normally works, or the testing area if different, during daylight hours.
- b. The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated using an urban trail that is 18-24 hours old, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.
- c. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel
- d. The subject's urban trail should include a variety of surfaces such as pavement, grass (field), foot trails, buildings, and sidewalks. It shall include at least 6 turns. Distractions such as dumpsters, large air conditioning units, parked cars and light vehicle and pedestrian traffic should be included in the "urban terrain".
- e. The canine handler and canine will be evaluated up to a maximum time limit of two (2) hours.
- f. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the test.
- g. Candidate handler will be evaluated as to whether they can articulate to the evaluator the dog's indication of the proper subject.
- h. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether or not they identify the proper subject.
- i. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They must stay within 100 meters of the laid track on all legs)
- j. Three (3) subjects, including the proper subject, each spaced ten feet apart, will be present at the conclusion of each problem to allow the dog to indicate the proper subject.

D. Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:

1. A map of the route traveled
2. An assessment of the work the dog did accomplish
3. Relevant Meteorology
4. Estimated POD

## REFERENCES

- American Rescue dog Association, 1991. Search and Rescue Dogs, Training Methods, Howell book House, New York.
- ASTM F1848, 1998. Classification of Search and Rescue dog Crew/Teams, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1847, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Minimum Skills of Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1879, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- Bryson, Sandy, 1984. Search Dog Training. The Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, CA.
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- Carlson, D.G. and Griffin, X., DVM, 1992. Dog Owners Home Veterinary Handbook, Howell Book House
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- NASAR, 1997. Advanced Search and Rescue, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- NASAR 1997. Search and Rescue Dog (Canine)/Handler Performance Expectation Guidelines, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- NASAR, 1992. SARTECH Standards for SAR Personnel, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- Syrotuck, William G., 1972. Scent and the Scenting Dog, Arner Publications, 100 Bouck Street, Rome, NY 13400
- USDA, 1970. Fire Weather – A Guide for the Application of Meteorological Information to Forest Fire Control Operations. USFS Handbook Number 360. National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID 83705. Publication #NF ES-1174
- Unknown, 1980. The K9 Medical Book, Howell book House, MacMillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

## **NASAR Canine SARTECH™ I Certification Programs**

The NASAR Canine SARTECH I Certification Program consists of two (2) separate certification evaluations. These certifications are:

**Canine SARTECH™ I Area Search:** This examination and certification meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue-Wilderness Air Scent **Type I Non-Discriminating** as of 7 April 2006.

**Canine SARTECH™ I Trailing:** This examination and certification meets or exceeds the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Team-Wilderness Tracking/Trailing **Type I** as of 7 April 2006.

A candidate team may test to either of the examinations for which they have met the prerequisite requirements. Each Canine SARTECH I certification consists of two elements. Both must be completed within 24 hours of each other. This is to demonstrate the teams' ability to conduct multiple searches as may be required in an actual search mission.

Each examination shall be conducted as a separate test. If a candidate team tests for more than one certification, each shall be evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form shall be completed for each certification tested, and a separate NASAR Certification fee shall be charged for each.

For certification the candidate must successfully pass both elements of either the Area Search or Trailing Examinations. The elements may be tested in either order, depending upon the needs of the evaluation team.

### **Canine SARTECH™ I Area Search Dog Certification**

#### **PURPOSE**

- I. The Canine SARTECH™ I Area Search certifications are designed to identify the minimum knowledge skill and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Crew during land search operations for multiple victims and in varied light and terrain.
- II. These certifications recognize the need for further training to acquire the knowledge and experience needed to become a fully competent SAR canine handler in a wide variety of land search operations.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- I. A current nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.
- II. A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.

- III. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II.
- IV. Canine Handlers must be certified by NASAR as a Canine SARTECH II – Area Search Dog prior to taking this evaluation.
- V. Present proof that their canine has passed an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizenship or nationally recognized equivalent.
- VI. Proof of completion National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

## **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The Canine SARTECH I candidate must possess all of the equipment as listed in Attachment I of this certification and must present this equipment for inspection during this evaluation process. Full pack is to be worn by candidate during the field test.

A candidate may choose to utilize a GPS or other electronic tracking device. The coordinator or evaluator will provide the candidate with a map depicting their search area, with the boundaries clearly marked or definable. Neither the coordinator nor any evaluator will provide the candidate with UTM or other coordinates. Candidates will have no more than fifteen (15) minutes to prepare their search strategy after being given their map and initial briefing. Any additional time utilized by the candidate counts as part of their search time.

## **CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for certification as a Canine SARTECH™ I Area Search Dog.

- I. Obtain training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills. Such training and experience must be documented preferably in an individual logbook.
- II. Pass a practical exam within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## **TEST METHODS**

Pass a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## **KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

- I. Canine Obedience and Agility
  - A. The candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience program prior to the evaluation.

- B. Candidate will be able to describe how they will work their canine on lead and/or off lead and why.
- C. While on lead the candidate will be able to place the dog in a vehicle with other dogs and strangers without the dog displaying aggressive behavior toward the stranger or other dogs.
- D. Candidate canine will be able to demonstrate a non-aggressive behavior towards humans and other canines in the presence of strangers.
  - 1. Canine will be evaluated to ensure that no aggression towards humans or other canines occurs at any time during the field or classroom evaluations.
  - 2. Canine-handler candidates will not be allowed to continue in the event that an act of aggression is observed during the evaluation.
  - 3. Canine-handler candidates will be dismissed from the evaluation site if the coordinator or evaluators observe an act of aggression.
- E. Handler will be able to describe the commands they will use to direct their dog through various activities, including their search problem.
- F. Canine will be able to demonstrate obedience through its reaction to handler commands.
- G. Prior to this evaluation, the candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience evaluation, which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test. Examples include, but not limited to, evaluations conducted by a recognized Association of Pet Dog Trainers or National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors trainers, training clubs or organizations, and/or law enforcement instructors.

## II. Canine First Aid

Handler will be able to render first aid to their canine partner.

## III. Search Techniques and Tactics

- A. The candidate will be able to describe how they would work their canine partner with or without a scent article.
- B. Handler will be able to classify their canine according to one or more of the following kinds of Search and Rescue Dogs.
  - 1. Tracking search dog
  - 2. Trailing search dog
  - 3. Area search dog

4. Water search dog
5. Human remains detection (HRD) search dog
6. Disaster/Collapsed Structure search dog
7. Avalanche search dog
8. Evidence/Article search dog

IV. Handler will be able to describe the micro-meteorological factors that are anticipated, and in the end, did influence their field problem. These will include:

- A. Wind
- B. Water
- C. Temperature
- D. Convection
- E. Terrain
- F. Time of day

V. Search Operations

- A. The candidate will be able to correctly gather and handle scent articles.
- B. Prior to the start of the search problem, the canine handler will be able to correctly describe to the evaluation team the following characteristics of their canine partner's search behavior:
  1. Type of alert to be performed by the canine upon entering the scent cone.
  2. Type of find/re-find to be performed by the canine upon locating the victim.
  3. If the canine will work on lead, off lead or both during the problem.
- C. The candidate handler and canine will be able to search a moderate area with terrain consistent with what the handler normally works during daylight hours.
- D. The candidate handler and canine will be able to locate at least 2 mobile subjects during daylight hours.
- E. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a 140-160 acre area.
- F. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of four (4) hours.

- G. Uncontaminated subject scent articles will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the examination.
- H. The candidate handler and canine will be able to search an area consistent with that which could be expected in their area or the testing location, during nighttime hours.
- I. The candidate handler and canine will be able to locate a single stationary subject during nighttime hours.
- J. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a nominal 80-90 acre search area.
- K. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated using a maximum time of 2 hours.
- L. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the examination.
- M. Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:
  - 1. Daylight Element:
    - a. Search Method
    - b. Route Traveled
    - c. Alerts
    - d. Relevant Meteorology
    - e. Estimated POD
  - 2. Nighttime Element:
    - a. Search Method
    - b. Route Traveled
    - c. Alerts
    - d. Relevant Meteorology
    - e. Estimated POD

## REFERENCES

- American Rescue Dog Association, 1991. Search and Rescue Dogs, Training Methods, Howell book House, New York.
- ASTM F1848, 1998. Classification of Search and Rescue dog Crew/Teams, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1847, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Minimum Skills of Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1879, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- Bryson, Sandy, 1984. Search Dog Training. The Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, CA.
- Bulanda, Susan, 1994. READY! The Training of the Search and Rescue Dog, Doral Publishing, Portland, OR.
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- NASAR, 1992. SARTECH Standards for SAR Personnel, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- Syrotuck, William G., 1972. Scent and the Scenting Dog, Arner Publications, 100 Bouck Street, Rome, NY 13400
- USDA, 1970. Fire Weather – A Guide for the Application of Meteorological Information to Forest Fire Control Operations. USFS Handbook Number 360. National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID 83705. Publication #NF ES-1174
- Unknown, 1980. The K9 Medical Book, Howell book House, MacMillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

# Canine SARTECH™ I Trailing Search Dog Certification

## PURPOSE

- I. The Canine SARTECH™ I Trailing certifications are designed to identify the minimum knowledge skill and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR Canine Crew during trailing search operations in varied light and terrain.
- II. These standards recognize the need for further training to acquire the knowledge and experience needed to become a fully competent SAR canine handler in a wide variety of land search operations.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- I. A current nationally approved Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.
- II. A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.
- III. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II.
- IV. Canine Handlers must be certified by NASAR as a Canine SARTECH™ II Trailing Search Dog prior to taking this evaluation.
- V. Present proof that their canine has passed an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizenship or nationally recognized equivalent.
- VI. Proof of completion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

## EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Canine SARTECH™ I candidate must possess all of the equipment as listed in Attachment I of this certification and must present this equipment for inspection during this evaluation process. Full pack is to be worn by candidate during the field test.

## CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

- I. The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for certification as a Canine SARTECH™ I –Trailing Search Dog.
- II. Obtain training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills. Such training and experience must be documented preferably in an individual logbook.
- III. Pass a practical exam within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## TEST METHODS

Pass a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.

## KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

### I. Canine Obedience and Agility

- A. Candidate will be able to describe how they will work their canine on lead and/or off lead and why.
- B. While on lead the candidate will be able to place the dog in a vehicle with other dogs and strangers without the dog displaying aggressive behavior toward the stranger or other dogs.
- C. Candidate canine will be able to demonstrate a non-aggressive behavior towards humans and other canines in the presence of strangers.
  - 1. Canine will be evaluated to ensure that no aggression towards humans or other canines occurs during any time during the field or classroom evaluations.
  - 2. Canine-handler candidates will not be allowed to continue in the event that an act of aggression is observed during the evaluation.
  - 3. Canine-handler candidates will be dismissed from the evaluation site if the coordinator or evaluators observe an act of aggression.
- D. Handler will be able to describe the commands they will use to direct their dog through various activities, including their search problem.
- E. Canine will be able to demonstrate obedience through its reaction to handler commands.
- F. Prior to this evaluation, the candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience evaluation, which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test. Examples include, but not limited to, evaluations conducted by a recognized Association of Pet Dog Trainers or National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors trainers, training clubs or organizations, and/or law enforcement instructors.

### II. Canine First Aid

Handler will be able to render first aid to their canine partner.

### III. Search Techniques and Tactics

- A. The candidate will be able to describe how they would work their canine partner with or without a scent article.
- B. Handler will be able to classify their canine according to one or more of the following kinds of Search and Rescue Dogs:
  - 1. Tracking search dog
  - 2. Trailing search dog
  - 3. Area search dog
  - 4. Water search dog
  - 5. Human remains detection (HRD) search dog
  - 6. Disaster/Collapsed Structure search dog
  - 7. Avalanche search dog
  - 8. Evidence/Article search dog
- C. Handler will be able to describe the micro-meteorological factors that are anticipated, and in the end did, influence their field problem. These will include:
  - 1. Wind
  - 2. Water
  - 3. Temperature
  - 4. Convection
  - 5. Terrain
  - 6. Time of day

#### IV. Search Operations

- A. The candidate will be able to correctly gather and handle scent articles.
- B. Prior to the start of the search problem, the canine handler will be able to correctly describe to the evaluation team the following characteristics of their canine partner's search behavior:
  - 1. Type of alert/indication to be expected from the canine upon entering the scent cone if the trail passes downwind of the subject.
  - 2. Type of alert/indication to be performed by the canine upon locating the correct subject.

3. If the canine will work on lead, off lead or both during the problem.

### **C. Field Testing:**

#### **1. Wilderness Element:**

- a. The candidate handler and canine will be able to track/trail in wilderness terrain consistent with what the handler normally works or the terrain in the testing area.
- b. The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated using a wilderness trail that is 24-30 hours old, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.
- c. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel.
- d. The subject's wilderness trail should wander through varied terrain, including a dirt road or trail and have at least 3 turns. The candidate handler and canine partner will be able to identify the subject's trail from at least two individual trails.
- e. The canine handler and canine will be evaluated up to a maximum time limit of 3 hours.
- f. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the test.
- g. Candidate handler will be evaluated as to whether they can articulate to the evaluator the dog's indication of the proper subject.
- h. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether or not they identify the proper subject.
- i. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They may not deviate from the laid track more than 100 meters on any leg.)
- j. Three (3) subjects, including the proper subject, each spaced ten feet apart, will be present at the conclusion of the problem to allow the dog to indicate the proper subject.
- k. Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:
  1. A map of the route traveled
  2. An assessment of the work the dog did accomplish

3. Relevant Meteorology

4. Estimated POD

**2. Urban Element:**

- a. The candidate handler and canine will be able to track/trail in an urban area consistent with what the handler normally works or other terrain consistent with that which could be expected during a real search.
- b. The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated using an urban trail that is 24-30 hours old, 1 to 1.5 miles in length.
- c. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they are able to establish a direction of travel.
- d. The subject's urban trail should include a variety of surfaces such as pavement, grass (field), foot trails, sidewalks and buildings. It should include at least six (6) turns. Distractions such as dumpsters, large air conditioning units, parked cars and light vehicle and pedestrian traffic should be included in the "urban terrain".
- e. The candidate handler and canine will be evaluated up to a maximum time limit of three (3) hours.
- f. An uncontaminated subject scent article will be made available to the handler upon request at the beginning of the test.
- g. Candidate handler will be evaluated as to whether they can articulate to the evaluator the dog's indication of the proper subject.
- h. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether or not they identify the proper subject.
- i. Candidate handler and canine partner will be evaluated as to whether they were able to follow the path taken by the subject, giving consideration to the weather conditions, wind direction and traffic. (They may not deviate from the laid track more than 100 meters on any leg.)
- j. Three (3) subjects, including the proper subject, each spaced ten feet apart will be present at the conclusion of the problem to allow the dog to indicate the proper subject.
- k. Handler will be able to justify and document the search tactics used to complete their search problem. This documentation will include:

1. A map of the route traveled

2. An assessment of the work the dog did accomplish
3. Relevant Meteorology
4. Estimated POD

## REFERENCES

- American Rescue dog Association, 1991. Search and Rescue Dogs, Training Methods, Howell book House, New York.
- ASTM F1848, 1998. Classification of Search and Rescue dog Crew/Teams, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1847, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Minimum Skills of Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
- ASTM F1879, 1998. Guide for Demonstrating Obedience and Agility in Search and Rescue Dogs, ASTM 100 Barr Harbor Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19428
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- NASAR 1997. Search and Rescue Dog (Canine)/Handler Performance Expectation Guidelines, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
- NASAR, 1992. SARTECH Standards for SAR Personnel, National Association for Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 232020, Centreville, VA 20120
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- USDA, 1970. Fire Weather – A Guide for the Application of Meteorological Information to Forest Fire Control Operations. USFS Handbook Number 360. National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID 83705. Publication #NF ES-1174
- Unknown, 1980. The K9 Medical Book, Howell book House, MacMillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

## Attachment I

### Equipment List For Canine SARTECH™ I, II and III

The Canine SARTECH™ candidate must be able to show that they have all of the required equipment as listed below. The equipment that is required to be carried is commonly compiled to form what is referred to as a “24-hour ready pack”. Such a pack holds those items that would allow the carrier to function in a safe, effective and efficient manner as a Canine SARTECH™ during a SAR incident. Some items may be carried on a belt, in pockets, or strapped to the person. This equipment should be carried on all incidents in rural or wilderness areas and is considered the minimum amount. Consult a physician for recommendations about analgesics and other drugs that you may wish to carry in your SAR pack. Other items required, additional water for handler and canine as well as additional food for handler and canine, will allow the team to be effective for up to 72 hours as required for NIMS Typing. The additional food and water must be immediately available in the candidate handler’s vehicle.

**Every item on this list must be present for the candidate to pass this evaluation. There will be no exceptions.**

#### **PERSONAL medications as required**

- Ten Acetaminophen, ibuprofen or aspirin tablets
- Four Antacid tablets
- Ten Antihistamine doses such as 25 mg Benadryl
- Six Antiseptic cleansing pads
- One Antiseptic ointment
- Six Band aids, various sizes
- One Candle, long burning
- Two Cotton swabs, non-sterile
- One Duct tape, 5-10 feet
- One Eye wash bottle (Normal Saline)
- One Eye protection
- Ten Imodium tablets or equivalent
- One Insect repellent
- Three Leaf bags, large
- Eight Matches in waterproof container
- One Moleskin
- One Muzzle or other item to improvise one
- One Plastic bag, zip-locked, quart size for kit
- One Change for two phone calls
- Four Pair of medical exam gloves
- One Razor blade, single edge
- Two Roller gauze bandages
- Two Rolls of 2 inch “Vet” wrap
- Four Safety pins, large
- One Scissors, multipurpose
- One Space type blanket or space type sleeping bag

- ❑ One Splinter forceps, tweezers
- ❑ Four Sterile dressings (4x4 gauze pads)
- ❑ One Super glue (bottle, tube)
- ❑ Two Towelette, clean
- ❑ One Whistle
- ❑ Six Water purification tabs in sealed container or commercially approved purification device
- ❑ Two Water containers, at least liter size, will be carried by the handler. A total of five gallons will be available for the handler and canine. (72 hours per NIMS Typing)
- ❑ One Instant cold or heat packs (based on environment)
- ❑ Four Bags, various sizes, zip locked
- ❑ One Bandana, hanker chief
- ❑ One 6 foot canine lead
- ❑ One Cap or other headgear
- ❑ Two Carabineers, locking gate
- ❑ One Clothes bag, waterproof
- ❑ One Clothing adequate for climate and environment
- ❑ One Clothing, extra set, suitable for climate and environment
- ❑ Two Socks, extra pairs
- ❑ One Compass, orienteering
- ❑ One Flagging tape, roll
- ❑ One Flashlight or lantern
- ❑ One Flashlight extra, extra batteries and bulb (Extra bulb not required for high intensity LED lights.)
- ❑ One Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate
- ❑ One Pair gloves, even in summer
- ❑ One Grid reader, 1/24000 scale
- ❑ One Food, Canine, one days supply in sealed bag or can, carried in pack. Total amount available sufficient to last 72 hours per NIMS Typing.
- ❑ One Food, Handler, 3700 calories minimum in pack. Total 9000 calories available. (72 hours per NIMS Typing)
- ❑ Two ICS 214 Forms
- ❑ One Knife, multi-purpose
- ❑ One Lip balm with sunscreen
- ❑ One Measuring device, 18-inch minimum
- ❑ One Metal cup or pot, 8 oz minimum
- ❑ One Nylon twine or small rope, 50 feet
- ❑ One Pack, 1800 cubic inches (minimum)
- ❑ One Pad and pencil
- ❑ Two Prussik slings (suitable for 9mm to 11mm)
- ❑ One Rainwear, durable
- ❑ One SAR personal identification
- ❑ One Shelter material, 8x10 plastic or coated nylon
- ❑ One Sunscreen lotion, SPF 15 or higher
- ❑ One Package tissue paper or baby wipes (recommended)
- ❑ One Tracking stick, minimum 42 inches long
- ❑ One Accurate method of telling time (watch)
- ❑ One Webbing, 1 inch tubular, 15 to 20 feet
- ❑ One Wire, 5-10 feet woven steel

- ❑ Eight Wire ties, plastic self-locking

#### OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED

- ❑ One Foam pad
- ❑ One Gaiters, pair
- ❑ One Goggles, clear
- ❑ One Canine harness with optional bell or light
- ❑ One Rain cover, pack
- ❑ One Sunglasses, 97% UV protection
- ❑ One Trail snack in addition to primary food

## NASAR Canine Disaster Responder Certification Programs

The NASAR Canine Disaster Responder Certification Program consists of three (3) separate certification evaluations. These certifications are:

- **Canine Disaster Responder:** This is a live find examination and certification which meets the proposed criteria of **NIMS** Canine Search and Rescue Team-Disaster Response **Type III and IV** dependant upon the candidates' team or task force affiliation as of 7 April 2006.
- **Canine Disaster Responder (Human Remains Detection):** This is a Human Remains Detection examination and certification with a material source of 15-30 grams. This examination meets the proposed criteria of **NIMS** Canine Search and Rescue Team Land Cadaver Air Scent **Type II** as of 7 April 2006.
- **Canine Disaster Responder (Human Remains Detection-Forensic):** This is a Human Remains Detection examination and certification with a material source of 5-14 grams. This examination meets the proposed criteria of **NIMS** Canine Search and Rescue Land Cadaver Air Scent **Type I** as of 7 April 2006.

A candidate team may test to any or all of the examinations for which they have met the prerequisite requirements. Each examination shall be conducted as a separate test. If a candidate team tests for more than one certification, each shall be evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form shall be completed for each certification tested and a separate NASAR Certification fee shall be charged for each.

In the effort to facilitate communication and education within the Canine SAR community, the FEMA Canine Search Specialist Training Course (CSST course) can be found in its entirety on [www.disasterdog.org](http://www.disasterdog.org). NASAR members may request the course to be delivered by FEMA rostered Instructors. Please contact Teresa MacPherson at [TMac786@aol.com](mailto:TMac786@aol.com) if you would like the CSST course delivered by FEMA rostered Instructors.

**It is strongly recommended that all handlers that do, or may, respond to a disaster or collapsed structure incident avail themselves of the CSST training.**

## **Pre-requisites for ALL Disaster Responder Examinations**

The handler must show proof of completion of the following courses or programs.

1. Canine must be a minimum of 12 months of age.
2. NFPA 472/CFR 291910.120 Part Q – Hazardous Materials – Awareness Level Course.
3. Incident Command System (ICS)/Incident Management System (IMS) course NIMS ICS-200, modules 1-6 or higher-level course.
4. IS-700 NIMS Integration. (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)
5. A current nationally approved CPR certification.
6. American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.
7. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II (SAR Tech I preferred).
8. Present proof that their canine has passed an AKC Canine Good Citizenship or equivalent.
9. The handler must have completed a Bloodborne Pathogens training course that meets or exceeds 29CFR1910. This course must have been taught by a person who meets the requirements as shown in 29CFR1910.

The handler must also provide the following PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for testing.

1. Helmet – must meet or exceed ANSI Z89.1 standards.
2. Headlamp – must carry extra batteries and bulb in pack.
3. Boots – safety toe (steel sole inserts preferred).
4. Eyewear – goggles or safety glasses.
5. Respirator, particulate filters- (optional).
6. Long sleeve shirt.
7. Full leg pants
8. Backpack or fanny pack – minimum includes hand-held flashlight, eyewash, two liters of drinking water and basic first aid equipment for handler and canine.
9. Knee-guards/pads; elbow pads optional.
10. Leather gloves or gloves of equivalent protection.

The Canine Disaster First Responder must show proof of skills and abilities in the following areas:

1. The ability to differentiate between a man-made and natural disaster.
2. Awareness of the hazardous situations associated with man-made and natural disasters.
3. Able to recognize canine alerts for the subject/material and point out alerts to the evaluator.
4. Able to perform as a safety observer for other canine teams/hazard identification.
5. Able to demonstrate knowledge of the signs that canine partner is tiring and becoming dehydrated.
6. Able to demonstrate knowledge of what CISD stands for and why it is an important part of any disaster search.
7. Able to demonstrate knowledge of micrometeorology and scent movement in the rubble pile.
8. Able to demonstrate knowledge of the difference between day/night operations and difference in scent movement for each.

9. Able to demonstrate knowledge of how the Canine Disaster First Responder integrates into the overall disaster SAR efforts.
10. Able to accurately identify the search area assigned with proper labels for streets or natural boundaries.
11. Able to correctly identify and decode FEMA US&R Markings.
12. The ability to be raised in a variety of conditions using an OSHA approved lifting device.
13. The canine must be able to work off lead and demonstrate general directional control.
14. Ability to commit to the canine alert and mark the alert location then determine most likely location of victim based on scent movement in the area.
15. Handler must demonstrate canine inspection after the search and anytime during the search if conditions warrant such actions.

### Written Exam:

Candidate must take and pass the Canine Disaster Responder Written Exam prior to proceeding to the field portions of the examination. Minimum passing score is 70%.

The written exam will be 100 multiple-choice questions. This material can be obtained from FEMA USAR on-line sources, on-line canine search specialist training, NASAR Canine Workbook, and other references. However, there shall be no requirement that any candidate take any specific course other than those required as prerequisites. If a candidate passes the written test and fails one or more of the practical examinations, the written will be valid for a period of one (1) year. If they take and pass the written and certify to either the Canine Disaster Responder or the Canine Disaster Responder HRD examination, they will not be required to retake the written if they take the other certification at a later date.

Equipment Check/Pack Station: The candidate must possess or have immediately available, i.e. in their vehicle, all equipment as listed in the equipment list. This must be verified prior to field-testing.

Practical Examinations: All testing shall be conducted during daylight hours. A candidate may test to the Canine Disaster Responder, the Canine Disaster Responder HRD, the Canine Disaster Responder HRD Forensic, or a combination of these three certification examinations. If they take multiple examinations they must complete separate registrations and submit fees for each.

Lift Test: The canine and handler shall be lifted in a device that meets OSHA requirements for personnel lifting. The dogs must be safely tethered to the lifting device using an appropriate harness that ensures the dog's safety if the dog should attempt to leave the device. If a mechanical lifting device is not available, a rope lifting system may be utilized. If a rope lifting system is utilized, it shall be constructed by qualified personnel; utilize a pre-sewn lifting harness; be capable of lifting both the handler and canine at the same time; be safe to utilize as determined by the testing coordinator. The lift shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet above ground level.

If a candidate passes the written and lift test but fails the field station, they are not required to repeat the lift test if they re-test the field station within one (1) year.

1. During this test, the handler must wear all PPE with the exception of the respirator mask.

2. All possible safety measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the handler and canine including a safety briefing.
3. If at any time the canine attempts to climb out of or jump from the lifting device, the test will be immediately terminated and the handler and canine will be returned to the ground immediately.
4. For safety purposes, the handler and canine shall only board and disembark the lift device at ground level.
5. The team will be lifted to a height of at least ten (10) feet off the ground and then returned to ground level.
6. This is a pass/fail evaluation. Each team will be allowed two (2) attempts.
7. This must be passed prior to proceeding to the rubble pile search test.

### Rubble Site Test:

#### General:

- The rubble testing area shall be between 3,500 to 5,000 square feet.
- If the rubble pile provided is larger than required, the search area may be reduced and marked using flagging or area security tape.
- With the exception of the ground accessible edges, the rubble pile shall have an average height of between six (6) and ten (10) feet.
- The pile shall otherwise be consistent with a potential man made or natural disaster collapse. The site may be a construction material dumpsite, highway construction dumpsite, quarry, or constructed training site. There will be no known hazardous materials within or on the pile.
- Care must be exercised to ensure the safety of all involved in the examination (especially the buried subjects).
- There shall be radio contact at all times with the buried subjects. (Earpieces are preferred.)
- All subjects will be placed so as to be inaccessible and invisible to the canine and handler.
- All subjects shall be briefed to be non-responsive to the canine or handler.
- All subjects or targets shall be placed no less than twenty (20) minutes prior to the beginning of testing.
- If the subject(s) must be placed by walking the surface of the pile, then one or more other people will walk the surface after the subject(s) are placed.
- There will be a person (does not need to be an evaluator but must be judged competent for the task by the coordinator) assigned as safety observer. They will maintain radio contact with the subjects and the field teams during the evaluation.
- The handler may reward their canine upon an alert. However, if the reward is given on the rubble pile, it may not cause the dog to run, jump or engage in any activity which may lead to destabilization of an already unstable environment.
- If a handler removes their canine from the rubble pile for any purpose during their search, that time is counted as part of their search time.

#### Testing:

1. There will be five (5) minutes allowed for the briefing and an additional thirty (30) minutes for the search phase. Checking their canine after the search does not count as part of their time. (Refer to evaluator's instructions.)
2. There will be no minimum time limit for this evaluation.

3. There will be two (2) subjects buried in the test area. In the case of an HRD test, there shall be two (2) targets placed within thirty-six (36) inches of the surface. Each target shall contain between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) grams of material. In the case of HRD-Forensic test, there shall be two (2) targets placed within twelve (12) inches of the surface. Each target shall contain between five (5) and fourteen (14) grams of material. Refer to HRD protocols for all HRD testing.
4. The canine must work without any encumbrances which, in the evaluators' opinion, would endanger the canine, handler or other searchers in the given environment.
5. The handler will brief the evaluator on their search strategy based upon conditions and the urgency of the search.
6. An area of approximately forty percent (40%) of the total will be clearly marked and inaccessible to the handler during their search phase. The handler must be able to direct their canine through this area with only verbal or hand signals. If the canine alerts in this area, the handler must be able to clearly indicate where the alert was from the handler's side of the barrier tape. They must then determine where the subject is based on the canine alert. They will then be permitted to enter this area to place a flag marking the location of the subject(s).
7. No distractions will be purposefully placed within the search area.
8. If the same site is to be used for both Live and HRD within twenty-four (24) hours of each other, the live find testing must be completed prior to placing HRD targets. If the same site is to be used for HRD and HRD-Forensic testing within twenty-four (24) hours, the HRD-Forensic testing must be completed first. The evaluator must know where any previous HRD targets had been placed during the previous 24 hours. If a dog alerts on one of these locations due to residual dead scent, the alert shall be counted as valid.
9. Handler must be able to verbalize that the canine is alerting and where (at the time of the alert).
10. The handler/canine team must locate, mark, and verbalize the location of all subjects/targets in the rubble prior to leaving the rubble pile.
11. The handler must make simulated radio calls as they would during an actual search (beginning, finds, ending).
12. The handler must perform a physical check of canine partner immediately upon leaving the search area or upon arrival at simulated command post. The location where the physical check will be conducted shall be briefed prior to the search.
13. The handler will debrief the evaluator as to their findings.

### **PASS/FAIL:**

#### **Handler Skills:**

1. The handler must wear all required PPE at all times while conducting their search or while on the pile.
2. The handler must develop the appropriate strategy (SAFE).
3. The handler must be able to recognize and articulate the dog's alerts.
4. The handler must not call any false alerts.
5. The handler must be able to safely negotiate the rubble pile during searching and marking.
6. The handler must properly mark the dog's alerts.

#### **Canine Skills:**

1. The dog must stay focused on the search.
2. The dog must locate and alert/indicate each of the subjects/targets hidden within the rubble pile. The alert must be consistent with the location of each subject/target.
3. The canine must be under control of the handler at all times. The canine must not leave the rubble pile except upon direction of the handler. Walking the immediate edge of the pile to check for scent shall not constitute leaving the pile.
4. The dog must not give any false alerts.
5. The dog must be able to negotiate the rubble pile safely.

#### Team Skills:

1. The entire area must be searched within the allotted time limit.
2. Both subjects/targets must be located within the time limit.
3. Dog must demonstrate obedience/directability through its reaction to handler commands.

#### **HRD PROTOCOLS**

1. Cadaver material will be referred to as substance and the substance contained within an appropriate container shall constitute a target. Each HRD target shall contain between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) grams of aged blood, body fluids or tissue. Each HRD-Forensic target shall contain between five (5) and fourteen (14) grams of aged blood, body fluids or tissue.
2. The substance must be containerized in a way that would prevent the dog or a human from coming in contact with it. No liquid may be allowed to escape the target.
3. The evaluation team will provide the substances.
4. All protocols set in place for the HRD examinations regarding the possession, transport, handling, weighing, etc. of substance shall be in effect for this examination.

#### **TRAINING/DOCUMENTS**

As of January 2006 additional DISASTER training material and documents can be obtained from the following locations:

1. Disasterdog.org
2. FEMA.gov to Urban Search & Rescue to Documents- to Field Operations Guide

## NASAR CANINE DISASTER RESPONDER EQUIPMENT LIST

Items denoted by an \* must be carried or worn by the handler. All other items must be immediately available to the handler

### PPE:

One	Helmet-must meet or exceed ANSI Z89.1 standards	*
One	Headlamp with extra batteries and lamp	*
One	Pair Boots-safety toe, steel sole inserts preferred	*
One	Eye protection, goggles or safety glasses	*
One	Long sleeve shirt	*
One	Full leg pants	*
One	Knee pads; elbow pads optional	*
One	Pair leather gloves, or gloves of equivalent protection	*
One	Respirator, particulate filter	

### Medical:

Ten	Acetaminophen, Ibuprophen (human use) or buffered aspirin tablets (human and canine use)	*
Four	Antacid tablets	*
Ten	Antihistamine doses	*
Six	Antiseptic cleansing pads	*
One	Antiseptic ointment	*
Six	Band-Aids, various sizes	*
Two	Cotton swabs	*
Ten	Imodium tablets or equivalent	*
Four	Pair medical exam gloves	*
Two	Rolls of "vet" wrap, 2" minimum	*
One	Pair Scissors, multipurpose	*
One	Pair splinter forceps or tweezers	*
Four	Sterile dressings, (4X4 gauze pads)	*
One	Tube or bottle of Super Glue or equivalent	*
Two	Towelettes, clean	*
One	Instant cold pack	*
One	Eyewash bottle, normal saline	*
One	Lip balm with sunscreen	*
	Personal Medications	

### Misc:

One	Back pack or fanny pack	*
One	Food: handler 3700 calories	
One	Food, dog 1 day sealed in bag or can	
One	Shirt, long sleeve, extra	
One	Pair pants, long, extra	
One	Duct tape, 5-10 feet	

## NASAR CANINE DISASTER RESPONDER EQUIPMENT LIST

One	Compass, orienteering	*
One	Watch	*
Two	Socks, extra pairs	
One	Insect repellent	
One	Flagging tape, full roll	*
One	Pad and pencil	*
One	Rain wear, durable	
One	SAR Personal Identification	*
One	Sunscreen lotion, SPF 15 or higher	
One	Muzzle or other item to improvise one	
One	Six foot canine lead	*
Two	Chemical light sticks, six inch	*
One	Marking device for SAMS marking	*
One	Cup or bowl	
One	Water, one gallon minimum; available to the handler	
Two	Liters of water on/with the handler in addition to the one gallon available to the handler.	*
One	Hearing protection	
One	Set dog booties (Optional)	

## **NASAR CANINE HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION (LAND) Certification Programs**

The NASAR Canine Human Remains Detection (Land) Certification Program consists of three (3) separate certification evaluations. These certifications are:

**Canine Human Remains Detection Land (Other):** This is a Human Remains Detection examination and certification with a material source of between 16 and 30 grams inclusive. This examination is comprised of three search stations. These stations are, elevated, surface and buried. This examination meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Team-Land Cadaver Air Scent **Type Other** as of 7 April 2006.

**Canine Human Remains Detection Land (III):** This is a Human Remains Detection examination and certification with a material source of between 5 and 14 grams inclusive. This examination consists of four stations. These stations are; elevated, surface, buried and vehicles. This examination meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Team Land Cadaver Air Scent **Type III** as of 7 April 2006.

**Canine Human Remains Detection Land (IV):** This is a Human Remains Detection examination and certification with a material source of between 5 and 14 grams inclusive. These stations are, elevated, surface and buried. This examination meets the proposed criteria of NIMS Canine Search and Rescue Land Cadaver Air Scent **Type IV** as of 7 April 2006.

A candidate team may test to any or all of the examinations for which they have met the prerequisite requirements. Each examination shall be conducted as a separate test. If a candidate team tests for more than one certification, each shall be evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form shall be completed for each certification tested, and a separate NASAR Certification fee shall be charged for each.

### **PURPOSE**

- I. To identify the minimum knowledge and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR canine crew during limited searches for human remains on land.
- II. To provide a baseline for operational Human Remains Detection Canines but is not all inclusive for all conditions that may be encountered at searches.
- III. To test the team's ability to accurately locate human remains above surface, at surface level and in a shallow burial. (HRD III includes the addition of vehicle search.)
- IV. To test the handler's ability to detect the canine's alerts and to direct a recovery team to the proper search area.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- I. Canine must be a minimum of 12 months of age.
- II. Prior to testing, the candidate must submit proof of being certified as a minimum of a NASAR SARTECH™ II.
- III. Prior to testing the candidate must submit proof of having completed NIMS Integration IS 700. (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)
- IV. Prior to taking the NASAR Canine Human Remains Detection (Land) evaluation, the candidate must take or have previously taken and successfully passed the NASAR Canine SARTECH™ III written examination. (This examination can be taken during the same evaluation weekend as the Human Remains Detection evaluation; the candidate does not have to have been certified in another Canine SARTECH™ discipline prior to testing for Human Remains Detection). If the candidate has previously taken and passed the written as a portion of another Canine SARTECH™ discipline evaluation, they must present proof of passing.
- V. Prior to testing, the handler must produce training records indicating success in blind problems over a period of at least six (6) months with a minimum of twelve (12) logged training sessions during that time period.
- VI. Prior to this evaluation, the candidate must produce written proof of the canine having successfully completed a nationally recognized obedience evaluation, which meets or exceeds the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test. Examples include, but are not limited to, evaluations conducted by a recognized Association of Pet Dog Trainers or National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors, training clubs or organizations, FEMA and/or law enforcement instructors.
- VII. At no time may any canine show aggression towards other dogs, Evaluators or handlers during the evaluation process. Any un-provoked incident will be grounds for failure of the process at that time.
- VIII. The handler must have attended a crime scene preservation class prior to testing. This class must be taught by a State or POST certified law enforcement instructor.
- IX. Prior to testing, the handler must have completed a HazMat Awareness course that meets or exceeds 29CFR1910 (SARA Title III). This course must have been taught by a person who meets the requirements as shown in 29CFR1910. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (also known as SARA Title III) establishes requirements for Federal, State and local governments and industry regarding emergency planning and "Community Right-to-Know" reporting on hazardous and toxic chemicals. This Occupational Safety and Health Standard (29CFR1910) is intended to address comprehensively the issue of evaluating the potential hazards of chemicals, and communicating information concerning hazards and appropriate protective measures to employees.

- X. The handler must have completed a Bloodborne Pathogens training course that meets or exceeds 29CFR1910. This course must have been taught by a person who meets the requirements as shown in 29CFR1910.
- XI. Each testing dog/handler team will have a fresh testing area. Testing areas may only be used once per day. (Exception is vehicles utilized for HRD)
- XII. Abuse of any canine during testing will result in an automatic failure.
- XIII. Handlers will be advised of the test results at the end of the entire exercise in an official debriefing with the coordinator, which will include positive feedback as well as constructive criticism.

## **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Candidate must possess all of the equipment listed in Attachment I of this standard and present this equipment for inspection during the evaluation process.

## **EXAMINATION BASIC GUIDELINES**

- I. These stations will be started and completed by the candidates during daylight hours.
- II. These stations will be tested during the same evaluation process (weekend or two day period).
- III. Cadaver material will be referred to as substance. For each station in category (**Other**), between 16 and 30 grams of aged blood, body fluids or other aged bone or tissue will be used. For each station in category (**III or IV**), 5 to 14 grams of aged blood, body fluids or other aged bone or tissue will be used.
- IV. The scent material must be containerized in a way that would prevent the dog or human from coming in contact with it. No liquid may be allowed to enter the soil or reach the surface of any vehicle. The container with substance shall constitute a target.
- V. The evaluation team will provide the substances.
- VI. The handler will advise the Evaluator on their canine's trained alert behavior. If the canine alerts in a manner other than briefed, the candidate must advise the Evaluator at the time of the alert.
- VII. For the land searches the handler will be given areas to search that measure between 60 and 70 meters on each of four sides, the areas forming as closely as practicable a square. Each corner will be marked with flags or flagging tape. Each of the four corner markers will be clearly visible from the interior of the search area.
- VIII. Each area search shall be open and may have grass or undergrowth up to 30 inches high. Each area shall have sufficient trees so that an elevated target could be hidden in any of them. However, neither trees nor shrubs may be so dense that the handler or evaluator

would easily lose sight of the dog at any time. Further, the trees may not be grouped or spaced in such a way that there would only be one area or location within each search area that an elevated target could be hidden.

- IX. The handler must develop a search plan and advise the Evaluator how they intend to search the area. The handler may deviate from their original plan. If they deviate, they must be able to articulate why and advise the Evaluator at the time of the deviation.
- X. The target should be placed one (1) to six (6) hours prior to the start of each search.
- XI. The search area will be contaminated with human scent to prevent the canine from trailing to the scent source. One or two people in addition to the Evaluator who places the target will walk the search area after the target is placed.
- XII. For the three (3) area searches, one (1) animal scent distraction will be utilized in the search area. Distractions that may be utilized are commercially manufactured animal urine, horse or cow manure, legally obtained skeletal or other remains of non-domesticated animals, animal skins obtained and possessed within local wildlife regulations, or animal antlers obtained and possessed within local wildlife regulations. Under no circumstances will any animal be harmed in order to provide these animal distractions.
- XIII. For testing requiring vehicle searches five vehicles shall be used. They may be of any type or model. They may be parked in any order or position as long as the team has access to them. They shall be parked 10 to 15 feet apart. Only the outsides of the vehicles will be searched. *It must be remembered that some dogs may have an aggressive alert or become overly excited. Vehicles should be used that will not be adversely affected by scratches caused by a dog. NASAR assumes NO responsibility for vehicles used for this testing. It is up to the Coordinator who conducts such examinations to ensure that appropriate vehicles are used.*
- XIV. Canines may travel outside of border areas to compensate for wind and terrain.
- XV. The canine must be under the handler's control at all times. Failing to recall to the handler after exiting the search area will constitute a failure.
- XVI. Once the target is located by the canine, the canine should offer its trained alert behavior. The type of alert given is at the discretion of the handler. The dog may be rewarded.
- XVII. The handler, upon recognizing the canine alert, shall advise the Evaluator, identify and mark the location of the scent source alert by placing a survey flag or wand into the ground.
- XVIII. Any alert on the part of the canine or that the handler identifies which is a false alert will constitute a failure of that station.
- XIX. If the canine mouths, picks up or otherwise begins to move the target, the canine must immediately desist upon command of the handler. If the handler does not immediately

command the canine to desist in this behavior or, if the canine does not immediately comply, this will constitute a failure of that station. No use of a probe will be permitted.

## **TEST METHODS**

- I. Pass the pack station by presenting all items as required in Attachment I. Pack need not be worn during the field stations, but must be available to the handler, i.e. in their vehicle.
- II. Pass the three (3) or four (4) practical search stations as required for the individual certification.

### **A. SURFACE STATION**

- 1) The dog must offer the trained alert behavior within thirty-six (36) inches of the scent source.
- 2) The scent target will be placed in the search area on the ground but camouflaged by natural debris.
- 3) The handler has thirty (30) minutes to complete this station.

### **B. BURIED STATION**

- 1) The dog must offer the trained alert behavior within thirty-six (36) inches of the scent source.
- 2) The target will be buried at least six (6) inches but not more than twenty-four (24) inches below the surface.
- 3) There will be four (4) other blank holes dug in the search area, taking care that they do not become contaminated with cadaver scent.
- 4) The handler has thirty (30) minutes to complete this station.

### **C. ABOVE SURFACE (HANGING) STATION**

- 1) The target will be placed at least five (5) feet, but no more than six (6) feet, above ground level. The target must not be visible to the handler.
- 2) The survey flag marking the alert must be within a distance equal to the height of the target above ground when measured from directly below the target.
- 3) The handler has thirty (30) minutes to complete this station.

#### **D. VEHICLE SEARCH STATION**

- 1) The target shall be placed so that the dog can detect and identify the scent from the exterior of the vehicle.
- 2) The target shall be placed consistent with a location where human remains may reasonably be expected to be located based upon either a homicide or vehicle crash incident.
- 3) The handler shall verbally indicate where the target is located based upon the dog's alert or indication, i.e. passenger's side of trunk, driver's side rear door, driver's side front undercarriage, etc.
- 4) The handler has twelve (12) minutes to complete this station.

#### **❖ PASSING CRITERIA**

- **HANDLER**

- 1) Candidate accurately describes the canine's alert on all stations.
- 2) Distances are within the performance criteria.
- 3) Candidate correctly identifies the target location on all stations.
- 4) Candidate must be able to tell the Evaluators which area the recovery team should search to make the "retrieval" on all stations.
- 5) Candidate must have briefed the Evaluators on any hazards that may be present on all stations.
- 6) Candidate completes all stations within their allotted time limits.

- **CANINE**

- 1) Must alert on all stations in the manner described by the handler.
- 2) There are no false alerts.
- 3) All alerts must be within prescribed distances from all targets.
- 4) Canine has not demonstrated any aggression or unsafe behavior towards any person or other canine.
- 5) Canine was under handler's control at all times.

The candidate must pass all search stations and the pack station to complete and pass the evaluation and receive certification. The certification is valid only for the handler and canine who successfully complete the evaluation.

If a candidate fails one station during a testing session, they need only retake and pass that station. They have one year from the date of the initial attempt to successfully complete the failed station. If they retest after the one year period, they must retake and pass all stations during the same evaluation. If they fail more than one station during a testing session, the entire testing evolution must be retaken during a different testing session.

If they fail to pass the practical stations during two attempts, they must wait a minimum of six months from the most recent failure to retest. At the time of the retest, they must present documentation attesting to continued training in the discipline to be tested.

Attachment I  
HRD Land Equipment List

Human Remains Detection/Land Personal/Canine First Aid and Survival Kit

Personal Medications as necessary.

- Ten Acetaminophen, Ibuprophen or aspirin tablets
- Four Antacid tablets
- Ten Antihistamine doses such as 25 mg Benadryl
- Six Antiseptic cleansing pads
- One Antiseptic ointment
- Six Band aids, various sizes
- One Candle, long burning
- Two Cotton swabs, non-sterile
- One Duct tape, 5-10 feet
- One Eye wash bottle (Normal Saline)
- One Eye protection
- Ten Imodium tablets or equivalent
- One Insect repellent
- Three Leaf bags, large
- Eight Matches in waterproof container
- One Moleskin
- One Muzzle or other item to improvise one
- One Plastic bag, zip-locked, quart size for kit
- One Change for two phone calls
- Four Pair of medical exam gloves
- One Razor blade, single edge
- Two Roller gauze bandages
- Two Rolls of 2 inch "Vet" wrap
- Four Safety pins, large
- One Scissors, multipurpose
- One Space type blanket or space type sleeping bag
- One Splinter forceps, tweezers
- Four Sterile dressings (4x4 gauze pads)
- One Super glue (bottle, tube)
- Two Towelettes, clean
- One Whistle
- Six Water purification tabs in sealed container or commercially approved purification device
- Two Water containers, at least liter size
- One Instant cold or heat packs (based on environment)
- Four Bags, various sizes, zip locked
- One Bandana, hanker chief
- One 6 foot canine lead
- One Cap or other headgear
- Two Carabineers, locking gate
- One Clothes bag, waterproof
- One Clothing adequate for climate and environment
- One Clothing, extra set, suitable for climate and environment

- ❑ Two Socks, extra pairs
- ❑ One Compass, orienteering
- ❑ Two Extra leaf bags
- ❑ One Flagging tape, roll
- ❑ One Flashlight or lantern
- ❑ One Flashlight extra, extra batteries and bulb (Extra bulb not required for high intensity LED lights.)
- ❑ One Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate
- ❑ One Pair gloves, even in summer
- ❑ One Grid reader, 1/24000 scale
- ❑ One Food, Canine, one day in sealed bag or can
- ❑ One Food, Handler, 3700 calories minimum
- ❑ Two ICS 214 Forms
- ❑ One Knife, multi-purpose
- ❑ One Lip balm with sunscreen
- ❑ One Measuring device, 18-inch minimum
- ❑ One Metal cup or pot, 8 oz minimum
- ❑ One Nylon twine or small rope, 50 feet
- ❑ One Pack, 1800 cubic inches (minimum)
- ❑ One Pad and pencil
- ❑ Two Prussik slings (suitable for 9mm to 11mm)
- ❑ One Rainwear, durable
- ❑ One SAR personal identification
- ❑ One Shelter material, 8x10 plastic or coated nylon
- ❑ One Sunscreen lotion, SPF 15 or higher
- ❑ One Package tissue paper or baby wipes (recommended)
- ❑ One Tracking stick, minimum 42 inches long
- ❑ One Accurate method of telling time (watch)
- ❑ One Webbing, 1 inch tubular, 15 to 20 feet
- ❑ One Wire, 5-10 feet woven steel
- ❑ Eight Wire ties, plastic self-locking

#### OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED

- ❑ One Foam pad
- ❑ One Gaiters
- ❑ One Goggles, clear
- ❑ One Canine harness with optional bell or light
- ❑ One Rain cover, pack
- ❑ One Sunglasses, 97% UV protection
- ❑ One Trail snack in addition to primary food

## **NASAR CANINE HUMAN REMAINS DETECTION (WATER) Certification Programs**

The NASAR Canine Human Remains Detection (Water) Certification Program consists of two (2) separate certification evaluations. These certifications are:

**Canine Human Remains Detection (Water) Type I:** This is a water Human Remains Detection examination and certification which meets the proposed criteria of **NIMS Type I** Canine Search and Rescue Team-Water Air Scent as of 7 April 2006. This certification is conducted in a “swiftwater” environment.

**Canine Human Remains Detection (Water) Type II:** This is a water Human Remains Detection examination and certification which meets the proposed criteria of **NIMS Type II** Canine Search and Rescue Team-Water Air Scent as of 7 April 2006. This examination takes place in a “stillwater” environment.

A candidate team may test to either or both of the examinations for which they have met the prerequisite requirements. Each examination shall be conducted as a separate test. If a candidate team tests for more than one certification, each shall be evaluated independently of the other. A separate registration form shall be completed for each certification tested, and a separate NASAR Certification fee shall be charged for each.

### **PURPOSE**

- I. To identify the minimum knowledge and performance skills needed by an individual and their canine partner to perform as a SAR canine crew during limited searches for human remains in a water environment.
- II. To test the team’s ability to search for human remains from the shore.
- III. To test the team’s ability to search for human remains in an open body of water from a boat.
- IV. To test the handler’s ability to detect the canine’s alerts and to direct the divers or recovery team to the proper search area.

### **PREREQUISITS FOR TYPE I AND II.**

- I. Canine must be a minimum of 12 months of age.
- II. Candidate must have successfully completed NASAR SARTECH™ II.
- III. Candidate must have taken and passed the NASAR Canine SARTECH™ III written examination. (This written examination may be taken during the same testing session as the field skills. Prior arrangements must be made with the Testing Coordinator to take the written test. If the written test is not passed, the field portion may not be taken.)

- IV. Candidate must present their training log which documents water based human remains detection training. The training log must document at least twelve (12) positive finds during blind practice searches.
- V. Candidate must have passed the Canine AKC Good Citizen test or equivalent as listed in the standard.
- VI. Candidate must have taken a crime scene preservation class taught by a State or POST Certified law enforcement instructor.
- VII. Candidate must have taken a Hazmat Awareness course meeting 29CFR1910.
- VIII. Candidate must have taken blood borne pathogens training meeting 29CFR1910.
- IX. Candidate must provide proof of having completed IS 700 NIMS Intragation. (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)
- X. Candidate must present proof that they can swim 100 feet. This proof may be in the form of a card or certificate from a state or nationally recognized swimming or scuba diving organization which shows that they have completed a swimming or scuba diving course. In lieu of a card or certificate, they may present an original letter from a team officer or trainer-attesting to their ability to swim 100 feet unaided by a PFD or any other means.
- XI. Candidates for TYPE I must present proof of having completed a Swiftwater Awareness or higher training course. Acceptance of the proof of completion and the acceptability of the issuing organization is at the discretion of the testing Coordinator. If any doubt exists the Coordinator should check with the Field Projects Coordinator for their region.

## **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Candidate must possess all of the equipment listed in Attachment I of this standard and present this equipment for inspection during the evaluation process.

## **CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for this certification:

- A. Obtain training and experience that includes the necessary knowledge and performance skills to pass the two water search stations.
- B. Pass the pack station by presenting all items as required in Attachment I of this standard. Note: PFD and helmet must be worn when within 20 feet of the shoreline or while in a boat. Throw rope and bag available on shore or within boat for open water search. All other equipment must be available to the handler during testing but not taken into the boat or worn on the shore line.

- C. Pass both practical examinations within the limits set for each station.

## **EXAMINATION BASIC GUIDELINES**

- I. There shall be a shore based/bank search station and an open water search station. They may be completed in either order depending on the needs of the Evaluators.
- II. The stations will be started and completed by the candidates during daylight hours.
- III. The examinations may be scheduled to take place over one or more days depending upon the number of candidates and weather/water conditions.
- IV. Cadaver material will be referred to as substance. For each station, between twenty (20) and thirty (30) grams of aged bone or tissue will be used.
- V. A container will be used that will not allow particulate matter to enter into the water, however will allow scent to escape into the water, or a scent pump may be used.
- VI. If a scent pump is utilized, there may not be any visible bubbles during those times when candidates are testing. For the shore based testing, the scent pump must be set up a minimum of twenty five (25) meters down current from the end of the testing area. In all cases, the hoses and other mechanisms used shall be placed or concealed in such a manner that neither the handler nor canine can visually observe any part of the scent pump equipment within the testing area. All joints, seams or attachment points, with the exception of the end, shall be sealed in such a manner as to prevent any odor from escaping.
- VII. The evaluation team will provide the substances.
- VIII. The container with substance shall constitute a target.
- IX. Each target shall be placed in position, as required by each scenario, a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the first examination.
- X. Each person, Evaluator, handler or any other person involved in the examinations who is working on the water or within 20 feet of the water's edge shall, at all times while on or near the water, wear the evaluation required PFD and helmet.
- XI. The canine must be able to load into and remain calm in the provided boat. The canine must remain under the control of the handler at all times during the evaluations. If the canine cannot be loaded calmly and safely into the boat or if it exhibits behavior that the Evaluator considers unsafe, the evaluation will be stopped. (Examples of unsafe behavior are: refusing to load into the boat, growling, biting, refusing to obey basic obedience commands from the handler, i.e. sit, down, stay, etc.)
- XII. Either the evaluation team or the candidate may provide the boat. In either case, at a minimum, it will meet the following criteria:
  - A. In the judgment of the Coordinator, it is safe for the body of water and is rated to carry the number of people necessary, including the canine, on board.
  - B. It may be inflatable, rigid hull inflatable or rigid hull.

- C. It will have a low bow and gunnels to allow the canine close proximity to the water and near water air currents.
  - D. The boat shall be rated for the weight of the occupants and any equipment carried within the boat. (All occupants will wear the evaluation required PFD while in the boat, Helmet also required for Type I.) If the boat is not commercially manufactured and does not display a manufacturer's weight/loading plate, the following formula will be used to determine capacity: the length in feet, times the width in feet, divided by fifteen gives the number of occupants allowed at a standard weight of 150 lbs. per occupant. The canine is counted as one of the occupants regardless of its weight.
  - E. Regardless of the means of propulsion, the boat will contain at least two paddles or oars at all times while in the water.
- XIII The evaluation team may provide the boat handler for the open water search phase. This will not preclude the Coordinator from approving the use of a locally provided boat handler if the Coordinator is satisfied with the handler's ability to safely operate the boat.
- XIV Up to six (6) candidate/canine teams may use each of the evaluation areas before new areas need to be established. New areas will be in such a location that the scent from the previously used areas would not affect the new areas.
- XV There will be one (1) evaluator for each station. Passing or failing a station will be determined by the alert being marked within the prescribed distance from the target, being completed within the allotted time period, and by meeting all other requirements for certification.
- XVI Both stations must be successfully completed within their time limits in order to pass this certification. If a candidate fails only one station, they need only retake and pass that station within one year. This retest may be done during the same testing session, time and area permitting.
- XVII All candidates who fail a station will be advised of the reason(s) for their failure **after** both stations have been completed. The Coordinator will advise the candidate of their results, either passing or failing. The candidate will be advised of any failure in a non-public setting and in such a manner that it would be constructive to the candidate.
- XVIII All candidates, who pass both stations, will be advised by the Coordinator that they have passed. Any constructive information that was developed during the stations will be provided to the candidate at this time.

## TEST METHODS

- I. Take and pass the Canine SARTECH™ III written examination.
- II. Pass the Pack Station by presenting all items as required in Attachment I.
- III. Pass two (2) practical search stations as defined in this standard.

## **A. SHORE BASED/BANK SEARCH STATION**

1. “SWIFTWATER” TYPE I. The body of water shall be consistent with the general area that the testing is taking place. The current will be above one (1) knot or will be considered “swift water” if there are whitewater areas within the testing areas. In all cases, the Coordinator will ensure that the testing can be conducted within expected safety margins for swift water work.
2. “STILLWATER” TYPE II. “The water current shall be from zero (0) knots to no more than one (1) knot with there being no white water within the testing area. The Coordinator will ensure, based upon their experience and training, that the area is safe to utilize within the scope of this testing. A flow rate method may be used to determine the current. A stick or other light, floating object, traveling 300 feet in 140 seconds would indicate that the current is at the maximum allowable limit.

A suitable body of water shall be located for either swift or still water. This may be a canal, stream, river or other similar body of water. It shall be between thirty (30) and one hundred (100) feet across in the testing area(s).

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH TESTING TYPES**

1. The length of the search area shall be between 80 and 100 meters, with beginning and ending clearly marked.
2. The target shall be placed no closer than ten (10) feet nor further than 20 feet from the bank and between three (3) and ten (10) feet below the water’s surface. The target shall be placed closest to the bank where the prevailing wind and water currents and conditions dictate that a knowledgeable handler would start.
3. Candidate will brief the Evaluator on their canine’s trained responses and alerts. If the canine alerts in a manner other than briefed, the candidate must advise the Evaluator at the time of the alert.
4. Candidate will develop a search plan and brief the Evaluators. This should include any weather conditions, water conditions, terrain conditions or water hazards that were involved in determining this plan. If the candidate deviates from their search plan, they must be able to articulate why. If the search plan is reasonable and safe for the conditions, the Evaluator will advise the candidate to proceed when they are ready.
5. The candidate handler may use any non-destructive marking devices that they wish.
6. The candidate will determine on which bank they wish to start. They are not required to search from both banks. If they wish to search from both banks, the evaluation team will provide transport from one to the other. If transport will take in excess of five minutes, this transport time will not be deducted from the search time.

7. The candidate will have thirty (30) minutes to complete their search, rest periods included. (Excess transport time is excluded as outlined in item eight.)
8. The candidate will show the evaluator where the canine's strongest alert was, the most probable location for the target, where a recovery team should work and show on a topographical map the location that they indicated as the area of strongest alert.

➤ **PASSING CRITERIA**

- **HANDLER**

1. Candidate accurately describes the canine's water alert.
2. Candidate correctly identifies the area where the scent is emanating from the water within the distance prescribed. The distance shall be an area equal to one and one half (1 ½) times the depth of the target. (For example: if the target is at a depth of eight feet, they must call the alert and mark same within 12 feet of the target.)
3. Candidate must be able to tell the Evaluator which area the recovery team should search to make the "recovery".
4. Candidate must have briefed the Evaluator on any water hazards that may be present.
5. Candidate completes the station within allotted time limit.

- **CANINE**

1. Must alert on the target and in the manner described by the handler or as amended by the handler at the time of the alert.
2. Canine has not demonstrated any aggression or unsafe behavior towards any person or other canine.

**B. OPENWATER SEARCH STATION**

1. "SWIFTWATER" TYPE 1. The body of water shall be consistent with the general area that the testing is taking place. The current will be above one (1) knot or will be considered "swift water" if there are whitewater areas within the testing areas. In all cases the coordinator will ensure that the testing can be conducted within expected safety margins for swift water work.
2. "STILLWATER" TYPE II. The body of water shall be consistent with the general area that the testing is taking place. The current may be between zero (0) knots and one (1) knot. There may be no white water within the testing area. A flow rate method may be used to determine the current. A stick or other light, floating object, traveling 300 feet in 140 seconds would indicate that the current is at the

maximum allowable limit. The Coordinator will ensure, based upon their experience and training, that the area is safe to utilize within the scope of this testing.

3. The depth will allow the scent source to be placed between ten (10) and thirty (30) feet beneath the surface.
  - a. The area of the search shall be determined by the size and shape of the body of water. However, the size of the search area shall be between one (1) acre, approximately 4,430 square yards, and four (4) acres, approximately 19,920 square yards.
  - b. The search area may be denoted either by physical shore based landmarks or by visible floating markers.
4. At no point will the body of water in the search area be narrower than thirty-five (35) meters.
5. Candidate will brief the Evaluator on their canine's trained responses and alerts. If the canine alerts in a manner other than briefed, the candidate must advise the Evaluator at the time of the alert.
6. Candidate will develop a search plan and brief the Evaluators. This should include any weather conditions, water conditions, terrain conditions or water hazards that were involved in determining this plan. If the candidate deviates from their search plan, they must be able to articulate why. If the search plan is reasonable and safe for the conditions, the Evaluators will advise the candidate to proceed when they are ready.
7. Forty-five (45) minutes are allotted for the search. The time begins when the boat first enters the search area with the handler and canine on board.
8. Time ends when the handler advises that they are done or the forty-five (45) minutes have elapsed.
9. The candidate will place a buoy at the point closest to where they believe the target is located; advise the Evaluator where the recovery team should make the recovery, and why they came to this conclusion. Each candidate shall provide their own alert marking buoy and any other marking buoys they wish to use.
10. The candidate will retrieve any marking devices that they may have used.
11. The candidate will indicate on a topographical map the location that they identified.
12. The evaluation may be stopped at any time if the Evaluator believes that the canine is acting in an unsafe manner or in such a way that could jeopardize the safety of the boat or occupants.

➤ PASSING CRITERIA

- HANDLER:

- 1) Candidate must accurately describe the canine's water alert.
- 2) Candidate correctly identifies the area where the scent is emanating from the water. The candidate's marking buoy must be placed by the candidate within a distance equal to one and one half (1 ½) times the depth of the target. (For example: if the target is at 20 feet, the buoy must be placed within 30 feet of the target.)
- 3) Candidate must be able to tell the Evaluators which area the recovery team should search to make the "recovery".
- 4) Candidate must have briefed the Evaluators on any water hazards that may be present.
- 5) Candidate completes the station within allotted time limit.

- CANINE:

- 1) Must have boarded the watercraft, remained at ease during the search and be able to safely exit the watercraft.
- 2) Canine has not demonstrated any aggression or unsafe behavior towards any person or other canine.
- 3) Canine must have alerted on the target in the manner briefed or as amended by the handler at the time of the alert.

The candidate must pass both search stations and the pack station to complete and pass the evaluation and receive certification. The certification is valid only for the handler and canine who successfully complete the evaluation.

If a candidate fails one station during a testing session, they need only retake and pass that station. They have one year from the date of the initial attempt to successfully complete the failed station. If they retest after the one year period, they must retake and pass all stations during the same evaluation.

If they fail to pass the practical stations during two attempts within a six-month period, they must wait a minimum of six months from the most recent failure to retest. At the time of the retest, they must present documentation attesting to continued training in the area to be tested.

Attachment I  
HRD Water Equipment List

Human Remains Detection/Water Personal/Canine First Aid and Survival Kit

Personal Medications as necessary

- One Helmet approved for swift water use.
- One Personal Floatation Device Type I, II, III or V. TYPE V REQUIRED FOR SWIFTWATER TESTING.
- One Water throw rope and bag.
- Ten Acetaminophen, Ibuprophen or aspirin tablets
- Four Antacid tablets
- Ten Antihistamine doses such as 25 mg Benadryl
- Six Antiseptic cleansing pads
- One Antiseptic ointment
- Six Band aids, various sizes
- One Candle, long burning
- Two Cotton swabs, non-sterile
- One Duct tape, 5-10 feet
- One Eye wash bottle (Normal Saline)
- Ten Imodium tablets or equivalent
- Three Leaf bags, large
- Eight Matches in waterproof container
- One Moleskin
- One Muzzle or other item to improvise one
- One Plastic bag, zip-locked, quart size for kit
- One Change for two phone calls
- Four Pairs of medical exam gloves
- One Razor blade, single edge
- Two Roller gauze bandages
- Two Rolls of 2 inch "Vet" wrap
- Four Safety pins, large
- One Scissors, multipurpose
- One Space type blanket and space type sleeping bag
- One Splinter forceps, tweezers
- Four Sterile dressings (4x4 gauze pads)
- One Super glue (bottle, tube)
- Two Towelettes, clean
- One Whistle
- Six Water purification tabs in sealed container or a commercially approved purification device
- Two Water containers, at least liter size
- One Instant cold or heat packs (based on environment)
- Four Bags, various sizes, zip locked
- One Bandana, handkerchief
- One 6 foot canine lead
- One Cap or other headgear
- Two Carabineers, locking gate
- One Clothes bag, waterproof

- One Clothing adequate for climate and environment
- One Clothing, extra set, suitable for climate and environment
- Two Extra Pairs of socks
- One Compass, orienteering
- One Flagging tape, roll
- One Flashlight or lantern
- One Flashlight extra, extra batteries and bulb
- One Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate
- One Pair gloves, even in summer
- One Grid reader, 1/24000 scale
- One Food, Canine, one day in sealed bag or can
- One Food, Handler, 3700 calories minimum
- Two ICS 214 Forms
- One Knife, multi-purpose
- One Lip balm with sunscreen
- One Measuring device, 18-inch minimum
- One Metal cup or pot, 8 oz minimum
- One Nylon twine or small rope, 50 feet
- One Pack, 1800 cubic inches (minimum)
- One Pad and pencil
- Two Prussik slings (suitable for 9mm to 11mm)
- One Rainwear, durable
- One SAR personal identification
- One Shelter material, 8x10 plastic or coated nylon
- One Sunscreen lotion, SPF 15 or higher
- One Package tissue paper or baby wipes (recommended)
- One Tracking stick, minimum 42 inches long
- One Accurate method of telling time (watch)
- One Webbing, 1 inch tubular, 15 to 20 feet
- One Wire, 5-10 feet woven steel
- Eight Wire ties, plastic self-locking
- One Insect repellent

#### OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED

- Foam pad
- Pair of gaiters
- Goggles, clear
- Canine harness with optional bell or light
- Rain cover, pack
- Sunglasses, 97% UV protection
- Trail snack in addition to primary food
- Floatation device for canine

## **NASAR Canine Avalanche Responder Certification Program**

The NASAR Canine Avalanche Responder (handler) must show proof of completion of the following courses or programs:

1. Canine must be a minimum of 12 months of age.
2. A current nationally approved CPR certification.
3. A current American Red Cross or equivalent Basic First Aid Course or higher medical training.
4. NASAR Search and Rescue Technician II or I, American Avalanche Institute, National Avalanche School or National Ski Patrol certification.
5. Present proof that their canine has passed an AKC Canine Good Citizenship or nationally recognized equivalent.
6. The handler must have completed at a minimum, an Avalanche Awareness training course. This course must be a NSP Avalanche Level I or II, National Forest Service (NFS) Avalanche Awareness, American Avalanche Association Level I or II, American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) or equivalent.
7. Proof of completion National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

The handler and K9 must show proof of skills and abilities in the following areas:

1. The handler must be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of avalanche safety, if asked.
2. The handler must be competent in winter travel.
3. The handler must have the ability to maintain situational awareness while searching in the avalanche path.
4. The handler must be aware of the hazards associated with any avalanche.
5. The handler must be able to perform as a safety observer for other canine teams/hazard identification.
6. The handler must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the signs that canine partner is tiring and becoming dehydrated.
7. The handler must be able to demonstrate knowledge of what Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) stands for and why it is an important part of any search.
8. The handler must be able to demonstrate knowledge of micrometeorology and scent movement in snow.
9. The handler must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the difference between Day/Night operations and difference in scent movement for each.
10. The handler must be able to demonstrate knowledge of how the Canine Avalanche Responder integrates into overall SAR efforts.
11. The handler must be able to accurately identify the search area assigned.
12. The handler and canine must be able to ride a chair lift, snowmobile or helicopter, depending upon the needs of the requesting agency, and what type of mobilization is available.
13. The canine must be able to work off lead and demonstrate general directional control.

14. The handler must be able to commit to their canine's indication/alert, mark the location, and then determine the most likely location of the victim based on scent movement in the area.

#### Test Methods:

##### Written Examination

Pass a written examination consisting of at least 100 questions and a practical examination within the limits defined for each performance objective.

The written portion of the Canine SARTECH test may be waived if the handler has previously certified another dog in the Canine SARTECH certification program, and the Certificate has been issued within the previous 5 years of the new evaluation date.

##### Practical Examinations:

All testing should be conducted during daylight hours.

##### Avalanche Test Site:

1. The avalanche testing site shall be approximately 1 acre in size (70 x 70 meters)
2. If the avalanche site provided is larger than required, the search area may be reduced and marked using flagging or area security tape.
3. Each area may be used for up to six (6) candidates per day.
4. Care must be exercised to ensure the safety of all involved in the examination (especially the buried subjects).
5. There shall be radio contact at all times with the buried subjects (Earpieces are preferred), and their transceivers will be turned to transmit.
6. All subjects will be placed as to be inaccessible and invisible to the canine and handler.
7. All subjects shall be briefed to be non responsive to the canine or handler.
8. All subjects shall be placed no less than 10 minutes prior to the beginning of testing (no subject to be buried over 45 minutes).
9. Other than the ten minutes indicated in number eight (8) above, there shall be no minimum time between candidates.
10. If the subject(s) must be placed by walking the surface of the site, then one or more other people will walk the surface after the subject(s) are placed. The site will be thoroughly contaminated with tracks and other surface scent. To assist in simulating a realistic avalanche working situation, snow machines, skis and probe poles may be placed on or around the area to be searched as well as human searchers working the test area may be present.
11. There will be a person (does not need to be an evaluator but must be judged competent for the task by the coordinator) assigned as the safety observer. They will maintain radio contact with the subjects and the field teams during the evaluation.
12. There will always be at least one person assigned as a shoveler to each subject.
13. If a handler removes their canine from the avalanche site for any purpose during their search, that time is counted as part of their search time.
14. All personnel, when working on or near an avalanche site, will wear a transceiver, and will be knowledgeable in its use.
15. A candidate may not use a transceiver to assist in locating a hidden subject.

16. There will be no minimum time limit for this evaluation.
17. There will be five (5) minutes allowed for the briefing and an additional twenty (20) minutes for the search phase. (Refer to evaluators instructions)
18. There will be two (2) subjects buried in snow caves between three (3) and six (6) feet in depth.
19. The handler will brief their Evaluator of his/her search strategy based on the conditions and urgency of the search.
20. The handler will work the area as he/she would on an actual search and perform a debriefing whether or not all finds were made.
21. When the dog indicates/alerts, the handler will mark the spot with a flag (the handler may NOT probe the area), call for a shoveler, and continue to search. The handler may send their dog back into a hole to confirm a find, at their discretion.
22. If a candidate calls for a shoveler, that will be considered calling an alert.
23. When the handler feels the area has been searched thoroughly, he/she will report to the Evaluator to indicate their completion of the test.

### PASS/FAIL

#### Handler Skills:

1. The handler must be adequately attired and equipped.
2. The handler must develop the appropriate strategy.
3. The handler must be able to recognize and articulate their dog's indications/alerts.
4. The handler must properly mark their dog's indication/alert.
5. The handler must be able to safely negotiate the avalanche site during searching and marking.
6. The handler must not call any false alerts.
7. The handler must make required radio calls.
8. The handler must conduct their interview effectively.

#### Canine Skills:

1. The dog must stay focused on the search.
2. The dog must locate and indicate/alert of each of the subjects hidden within the avalanche site. The alert must be consistent with the location of each subject.
3. The dog must remain on the avalanche site.
4. The dog must not give any false alerts.
5. The dog must be able to negotiate the avalanche site safely.
6. The dog should show enthusiasm, intensity and endurance.

#### Team Skills:

The handler and dog must make an effective team.  
 The dog needs to show obedience through its reaction to his/her handler commands.  
 Both subjects must be located within the allotted time limit.

## NASAR Canine Avalanche Responder Equipment List

Items denoted by an \* must be carried or worn by the handler. All other items must be immediately available to the handler.

### **Specialized Equipment**

- |                          |     |  |   |
|--------------------------|-----|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Goggles  | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Pair Snow Shoes or XC Skis                     | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Set of Ski Poles                               | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Avalanche Rescue Shovel                        | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Probe Pole                                     | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Avalanche Beacon                               | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ten | Marking Flags with Handler/K9's Name           | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One | Full Face Protection                           | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |     | Additional body insulation unaffected by water | * |

### **Medical:**

- |                          |      |  |   |
|--------------------------|------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |      | Personal medications as necessary                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ten  | Acetaminophen, ibuprofen or buffered aspirin tablets | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Four | Antacid tablets                                      | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ten  | Antihistamine doses such as 25 mg Benadryl           | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Six  | Antiseptic cleansing pads                            | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Antiseptic ointment                                  | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Six  | Band aids, various sizes                             | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two  | Cotton swabs, non sterile                            | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ten  | Imodium tablets or equivalent                        | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Four | Pair of medical exam gloves                          | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two  | Roller gauze bandages                                | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two  | Rolls of 2 inch Vet wrap                             | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Scissors, multi-purpose                              | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Splinter forceps, tweezers                           | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Four | Sterile dressings (4x4 gauze pads)                   | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Super glue (bottle, tube)                            | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two  | Towelettes, clean                                    | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Instant cold or heat pack (based on environment)     | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Eye wash bottle (Normal Saline)                      | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Lip balm, with sunscreen                             | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One  | Sunscreen lotion, SPF 15 or higher                   | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two  | Hand warmers   | * |

### **Misc:**

- |                          |       |  |   |
|--------------------------|-------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One   | Day pack or fanny pack   | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Six   | Water purification tabs in sealed container or commercially approved purification device | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eight | Matches in waterproof container  | * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One   | Compass, mirror sighting   | * |

- One 6-foot canine lead \*
- One Muzzle or other item to improvise one \*
- One Accurate method of telling time (watch) \*
- One Flagging tape, full role \*
- One Pad and pencil \*
- One SAR personal identification \*
- One Candle, long burning
- One Duct tape, 5-10 feet
- One Leaf bag, large
- One Moleskin
- One Plastic bag, zip-locked, quart size, for kit
- One Change for two phone calls
- One Razor blade, single edge
- Four Safety pins, large
- One Space type blanket or space type sleeping bag
- One Whistle
- Two Water containers, at least liter size
- Four Bags, various sizes, zip-locked
- One Bandanna, handkerchief
- Two Carabineers, locking gate
- One Clothes bag, waterproof
- One Extra Hat
- One Pair extra Gloves
- Two Socks, extra pairs
- One Flashlight or lantern
- One Flashlight extra, extra batteries and bulb
- One Footwear, sturdy, adequate for climate
- One Food, Canine, one days worth in sealed bag
- One Food, Handler, 3700 calories minimum
- One Knife, multi-purpose
- One Metal cup or pot, 8 ounces minimum
- One Nylon twine or small rope, 50 feet
- One Pack, 1800 cubic inches (minimum)
- Two Prussik slings (suitable for 9mm to 11mm rope)
- One Shelter material, 8x10 plastic or coated nylon
- One Package tissue paper or baby wipes (recommended)
- One Webbing, 1 inch tubular, 15 to 20 feet
- One Wire, 5-10 feet woven steel
- Eight Wire ties, plastic self-locking