



## National Explosives Detection Canine Certification Level III

### **Objectives:**

- Offer a standardized national certification as directed by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-19 (HSPD-19) in accordance with the National Explosives Detection Canine Advisory Board (NEDCAB).
- Set a uniform standard that will allow jurisdictions to share explosives detection canine team resources and personnel that have been trained within a common framework.
- Provide a 2 part certification (Level III) to law enforcement explosives detection canine teams that consists of odor recognition testing, as well as, operational testing in a variety of environments. (Level I- certification with one of the four organization, Level II – complete NORT)
- Partner with existing International and National Canine Associations; USPCA, NAPWDA, IPWDA and NPCA to achieve a consensus for canine explosives detection capabilities.
- Require participation in International and National Canine Associations.
- Create and facilitate greater interaction between not only the explosives detection canine community, but also the bomb squad community.
- Enhance the capability for explosives detection canines to detect homemade explosives (HME).

### **Directives:**

- A current certification (Level I) must be obtained prior to completing the National Odor Recognition Testing. (Level II)
- ATF will offer the NORT each year to association members through an organized event. Each association will be given three test sites of their choice per year.
- All NORT certifications will be conducted by the ATF with assistance of the canine associations and must be renewed on a bi-annual basis.
- Any persons not holding a current certification with the hosting association would not be allowed to participate, unless they are willing to join the hosting association and pass their certification.

- Upon completion of Level I and II certifications, teams may elect to achieve Level III National Certification enabling them to be eligible for Federal and State grants.
- Level I certification is renewed annually, Level II certification is bi-annually, and Level III certification is every 3 years.
- All training/certifications are in keeping with established Scientific Working Group on Dogs and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) best practices, HSPD-19 and NEDCAB.

## **Courses Offered:**

### **National Explosives Detection Canine Certification (Handlers)**

This is a 40-hour course that provides training and certification for canine teams in the area of explosives detection. Training topics include: Explosives Recognition and Safety, Explosives Storage, Handling, and Transportation, Air Movement, Legal, Contamination and Investigative Applications.

#### **Handler Requirements:**

- Law Enforcement Officer (active)
- Member in good standing with one or more of the listed canine associations.
- Minimum of one year as an explosive detection canine handler and current certification with one or more of the listed canine associations. (level I)
- Successful completion of the ATF National Odor Recognition Test (NORT) within one year for initial certification and within 2 years for re-certification. (Level II)
- ATF will make the final determination on all selections based upon geographical funding and over-all needs of the ATF.

### **National Explosives Detection Canine Certification (Evaluators)**

This 40-hour course provides canine trainers with consistent techniques to improve the proficiency of canine teams for the detection of explosives. The course will teach how to imprint canines on new explosives odors to include HME, set up and assist with the successful administration of the NORT, as well as the operational certification. Evaluators will work under the direction of the ATF Canine Training Staff and follow established procedures used by the ATF Canine Training and Operations Support Branch.

#### **Evaluator Requirements:**

- Law Enforcement Officer (active)
- Minimum 5 years experience in explosives detection canine training. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis.

- Member in good standing with one or more of the listed canine associations.
- Recognized as an *explosives detection canine trainer* with one or more of the listed canine associations.
- All candidates must submit a resume to include all explosives detection canine handler and trainer experience.
- ATF will make the final determination on all selections based upon geographical funding and over-all needs of the ATF.

## **Administrative Protocol**

- Applicants must fill out entry application form and then forward it to their respective organizations *Person in charge* (POC) listed on the bottom of the application for concurrence. The organizational POC will then forward the application to the POC listed below.
- The Application can be mailed to [Patrick.Davis@ATF.gov](mailto:Patrick.Davis@ATF.gov) or faxed to the Canine Training and Operations Support Branch at 540-622-8660 in care of Patrick Davis.
- All applications will be processed based on availability and equitable distribution for all canine associations. Upon selection, the individual and the responsible organization will be notified.
- The ATF will fund the course for all individuals to include transportation, lodging and per diem.