

NEBRASKA TASK FORCE 1 ANNUAL K9

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2012

Present: Danny Wright, Stacy Schneider, Steve Dolezal, Monica Barger, Andrew Pitcher, Rhonda Comegys, Scott Hofstetter, Damon Wirth, Mark Schroeder, Todd Reed, Steve MacDonald, Laura Denison, Mitch Magill

Next meeting: March 17, 2012, 9:00, TBD

K9 Guide

The K9 Guide is updated and on the website.

New Applicants

NETF1 will roster 12 K9 teams. Applications for rostered positions will be accepted in January of each year but only when a spot is available. Handler Academy will be scheduled as needed. Existing handlers with retired dogs, helpers, and experienced applicants will be given first consideration in the selection process.

Helper Academy

A Helper Academy will be offered a few times a year to those interested. Damon is heading up this effort with a goal of 20-30 trained helpers. For liability purposes helpers must be age 19 or older.

New Positions and Chain of Command

New titles/positions are as follows: Danny Wright-Task Force Program Manager oversees the operation of the task force, Steve Dolezal-K9 Administrator the liaison between the K9 team and upper level leaders, Monica Barger-K9 Coordinator responsible for the scheduling and content of K9 training and the K9 Program. K9 handlers will report to Monica and Steve.

Required Team Trainings

Required team trainings start at 9:00 and will go until about 4 or whenever we're finished. Dates are noted on the websites training calendar. Optional training will be available Monday evenings as well.

Meetings and Conference Calls

The K9 team will meet at the beginning of every required monthly K9 training to discuss changes, issues, or other important business. Everyone is reminded to attend regularly and be on time. Since meetings will occur regularly, the monthly conference calls are cancelled and will be scheduled on an as needed basis. Required team trainings are noted on the team calendar.

Dave Kluthe will incorporate technical training into the required monthly K9 training.

An annual meeting, similar to this one, will be held annually (in January of each year).

Attendance

Handlers are required to attend 80% of required team trainings and events each year. Attendance will affect operational status and funding eligibility. Be sure to sign the roster at each required K9 event.

Training Logs

Training Logs must be submitted every month. Failure to do so could affect your deployment and funding status. Log sheets are available electronically on the website and are submitted to Monica and Stacy. Steve and Monica will look into creating or obtaining a more user friendly monthly log.

Funding

Funding is available to FSA and CE level teams, pre-FSA teams are self-funded. In addition to required trainings, each qualified team may be funded one national FEMA event per year with priority given to those working towards their FSA and CE. Teams are welcome to attend more than 1 yearly training at their own expense. The fiscal year or cooperative agreement runs August thru July.

Pre FSA level teams will be funded two FSA's. Costs incurred after that will be the handlers responsibility.

FSA level teams will be funded one CP and one CE or two CE's. Costs incurred after that will be the handlers responsibility.

Group Trips, Springfield for example, are also funded. The goal is to have one group trip each year with the possibility of more if the budget allows for it.

COTF1 Training Weekend

Each task force was asked to allocate only two participants. Additional teams will be put on a waitlist (up to 5 positions per task force) and spots will be filled accordingly until the 40 spots are filled. NETF1 will fund two handlers to attend this event. Others may attend as well but will pay their own expenses. Damon and Andrew are attending and will be funded; Mitch and Laura are on the waitlist. Attendees for this training must be FEMA task force affiliated or SUSAR affiliated.

Deployments

CE teams are divided into red, white, and blue teams and groups include two experienced and two inexperienced handlers. Deployment is contingent upon availability, experience level, and your status with the team.

Human Remains Detection

NETF1 will not fund or deploy HRD K9's. However, they will support a state mission through EMAC if the Handler is currently rostered with NETF1 (with another K9) and has passed certification equivalent to the FSA or CE level with another K9. Any K9 deployed through NETF1 or Lincoln Fire and Rescue will be SUSAR certified as an HRD K9.

Young Children

Danny is checking into the liability issue of having small children belonging to team members at the pile. Possibility that currently rostered team members may be able to sign for their children for liability purposes, but non rostered team members will not be allowed to bring children under the age of 19 to the any NETF1 or LFR training facility or pile.

Reminders from Stacy

RTA's and travel policies have been updated and distributed. Be sure to submit RTA's 30 days in advance if traveling by air and 15 days prior if travelling by other

means. NETF1 credit cards are used to pay for airline tickets only. Hotel room(s) secured with a NETF1 credit card and all other expenses must be paid for by the traveler and submitted for reimbursement. Danny will work with purchasing on the possibility of using the NETF1 credit cards for all or some of the expenses when traveling.

All expenses for rental cars must be on the renters reimbursement request. Stacy is checking into the possibility of adding a rental car to each person's RTA. Additional travel options are personal vehicles or task force vehicles but they must be approved and on your RTA prior to traveling.

All task force members are asked to be fiscally responsible, document, and use good judgment.

New MOA's were mailed out last week. They must be signed and returned no later than March 1st.

Make sure all contact information is up to date. Let Stacy know if you have changes. Also check your information on the national roster. Monica will forward the roster.

Remember to submit an RTA if you plan on attending the group training in Springfield.

K9 Documents

By March 1st in order to receive funding all handlers must submit an Annual Health Record and Vet Check Cost Estimates. The forms are located in the appendix of the K9 Guide. Not submitting them will affect your deployment status. Monica will discuss the Annual Health Record with the local NETF1 approved vet in Lincoln, however, you may use any vet. Be sure to include shots, fecal exams, heartworm, frontline and all other expense on the Vet Check Cost Estimate.

Safety

Check all holes for safety and stability before hiding people.

Communications

We will continue to use Facebook for informal and email for formal forms of communication.

Action Items:

Verify if an age limit for team members children – Dan Wright

Remove daily log from the website – Stacy (via Dan and Monica)

Add a new monthly log to the website – Stacy (via Monica)

Add Annual K9 forms to website – Stacy (via Monica and new K9 Guide)

Add a cost estimate form to the website – Stacy (via Monica and new K9 Guide)

Forward national roster to K9 members - Monica

Talk to the local vet about the Annual Health Record - Monica