Mandatory Performance Requirements

To the extent that conditions allow, evaluators will assess and document the team's performance of the following handler and dog skills. Evaluators will rate skill performance using one of three ratings: YES, NO, or N/A. Criteria for YES and NO ratings are listed in the tables below. N/A indicates that a skill is not applicable or was not observed. A NO rating by both evaluators on any of the skills will result in test failure. A NO rating by only one of the evaluators will result in a "No Test."

It is expected that teams will excel (objective performance) in some areas and perform adequately (threshold performance) in others. The evaluators are encouraged to provide constructive verbal feedback to the team being tested in those areas where their performance meets the threshold criteria but falls short of the ideal.

Area Search Initial 40 Acre Test

Handler Skills Evaluation Guidelines

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
H1	Conduct of Initial Interview	Does not interview or take notes.	NO
		Conducts adequate interview. Gets basic description and enough information to conduct search.	YES (Threshold)
		Conducts excellent but concise interview. Asks all relevant questions about subject, conditions of search area, resources available, prior search efforts.	YES (Objective)
H2	Initial Plan of Action	Has no real plan other than following dog to subjects or plan reflects lack of understanding of search strategy.	NO
		Has adequate plan which shows basic understanding of map reading and search strategy including techniques of hasty search, contouring, grid searching, and perimeter search.	YES (Threshold)
		Has excellent plan which shows good understanding of map reading and search strategy factors. Can articulate good reasons for choosing or rejecting techniques such as hasty search in light of conditions of search area.	YES (Objective)
H3	Demonstration of Map & Compass Skills	Does not know how to relate map to actual terrain. Cannot coordinate compass use with map. Even if team finds subject, cannot give base camp accurate location.	NO
		Has basic skills. Can relate map to actual terrain. Coordinates compass use with map. Uses compass in field. If asked, can determine location on the map and point out areas covered and missed.	YES (Threshold)

		Has excellent skills. Uses map and compass to formulate good search plan and keep track of drainages, landmarks, areas searched/missed etc. Finds location of subject on map and can describe accurately to base camp.	YES (Objective)
H4	Implementation of Plan in Field	Search shows little planning other than wandering around with dog. Even if originally described adequate plan of action (H2), does not actually carry it out or explain changes. Hasty search appropriate for area but not used and no explanation given.	NO
		Carries out original plan of action or explains changes. Does hasty search if appropriate or explains why a different tactic is chosen. Plan would be adequate to clear area with good POD.	YES (Threshold)
		Carries out original plan/explains changes. Good understanding of contouring, grid patterns, etc. Uses hasty search or has good reason not to. Plan makes best use of terrain, wind, etc. Is flexible about changing with changing conditions. Plan maximizes POD.	YES (Objective)
H5	Adjusts Search for Wind Conditions	Makes little effort to use wind appropriately. Lowers POD by failure to monitor grid pattern for wind direction, wind force etc. Doesn't understand lofting or other wind conditions which affect dog's ability to follow scent.	NO
		Reasonably conscious of wind conditions. Generally increases POD by using proper grid. Understands loft, deflection and other conditions and can help dog work out problems following scent.	YES (Threshold)
		Very conscious of wind direction in employing grid patterns. Helps dog work out scent problems by using superior knowledge of wind conditions. Understands effect of wind conditions on POD. However, does not attempt to constantly alter search plan in area where wind constantly changing direction.	YES (Objective)
H6	Alertness to Surroundings and Visual Clues	Shows no interest in possible clues/tracks. Does not check track traps.	NO
		Checks for possible clues/tracks, aware of track traps.	YES (Threshold)
		Finds clue/track. Intelligently decides whether to change plan or re-deploy dog. Does not become consumed with man-tracking.	YES (Objective)

H7	Coverage of Search Area	Leaves many holes, doesn't find/check margins, grid pattern too wide for wind conditions. If finds subject, appears to have stumbled upon them fortuitously.	NO
		Covers search area adequately. Checks sector perimeters (unless finds subject first) Does hasty search if appropriate. Does not leave major holes without adequate explanation and a plan to return.	YES (Threshold)
		Excellent coverage of search area. Maximizes POD by use of appropriate grid pattern, ridges/drainages, hasty search, etc.	YES (Objective)
H8	Ability to Interpret Dog's Alerts, Interest	Cannot read dog. Calls dog off scent. Does not know when dog needs help/encouragement.	NO
		Adequate reading of dog. Encourages dog when dog needs help working out interest.	YES (Threshold)
		Excellent job of reading dog. Knows how to help dog work out problems. Knows when dog has clue or subject. Knows when dog needs to be told to get back to work.	YES (Objective)
H9	Ability to Direct and Control Dog	Little control of dog. Can't send dog to search specific areas. Can't redirect distracted dog. Dog runs search.	NO
		Adequate control of dog. Can send dog to specific areas.	YES (Threshold)
		Excellent control of dog. Can send dog out to specific areas. Can give dog directions while dog is in field.	YES (Objective)
H10	Physical Condition of Handler	Handler in poor condition and cannot maintain pace adequate to search area with reasonable POD.	NO
		Handler condition adequate for terrain.	YES (Threshold)
		Handler in excellent condition, can handle rough terrain and steep grades	YES (Objective)
H11	Provision of Appropriate Breaks for Dog	Dog's physical condition, motivation or ability to search suffers from handler's failure to provide appropriate water/rest breaks.	NO
		Adequate water/rest breaks given as dog becomes stressed.	YES (Threshold)
		Proactive. Water/rest breaks given before dog becomes stressed. Keeps dog well hydrated and rested throughout search.	YES (Objective)

Area Search Dog Skills Evaluation Guidelines

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
D1	Locates Subject	Does not locate subject or is led into subject.	NO
		Locates subject by scent cone, track or by going into area as directed by handler.	YES (Threshold)
		Locates subject from significant distance by following scent cone, track, or searching ridge, drainage, clump of bushes as directed by handler. Works out any problematic scent conditions.	YES (Objective)
D2	Alerts Handler of Finding Subject	Dog makes no discernible alert, and leaves subject to continue with search. Stays with subject unseen by handler or returns to handler without indication that subject found. Bark and hold at subject as trained alert is not acceptable.	NO
		Dog performs its trained alert or indicates by its body language that it has found the subject. Alert or behavior must be such that it would be recognized by the handler at night.	YES (Threshold)
		Dog performs its trained alert which is recognized by both handler and evaluators.	YES (Objective)
D3	Takes Handler All the Way to Subject	Dog does not go back to subject.	NO
		Dog leads handler all the way to subject after several commands or with encouragement or with brief detour such as for water.	YES (Threshold)
		Dog immediately takes handler on first command without detour or delay.	YES (Objective)
D4	Ability to Handle Terrain (Agility)	Dog's agility inadequate for terrain.	NO
		Dog's agility adequate for terrain.	YES (Threshold)
		Dog shows excellent agility.	YES (Objective)
D5	Demonstrates Adequate Stamina	Dog too tired to complete search. Or, subject is located within allotted time, but dog's alert is very weak due to exhaustion and it is clear that (even after rest break) dog could not continue with search.	NO
		Dog's stamina adequate. Although depleted in energy and enthusiasm when subject is located, shows ability to continue, adequate alert.	YES (Threshold)
		Dog has excellent stamina. Shows enthusiasm and willingness to go on after subject located.	YES (Objective)

Area Search Field Qualification Test

Handler Skills Evaluation Guidelines

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
H1	Conduct of Initial Interview	Does not interview or take notes.	No
		Conducts adequate interview. Gets basic description and enough information to conduct search.	Yes (Threshold)
		Conducts excellent but concise interview. Asks all relevant questions about subject, conditions of search area, resources available, prior search efforts.	Yes (Objective)
H2	Initial Plan of Action	Has no real plan other than following dog to subjects or plan reflects lack of understanding of search strategy.	No
		Has adequate plan which shows basic understanding of map reading and search strategy including techniques of hasty search, contouring, grid searching, and perimeter search.	Yes (Threshold)
		Has excellent plan which shows good understanding of map reading and search strategy factors. Can articulate good reasons for choosing or rejecting techniques such as hasty search in light of conditions of search area.	Yes (Objective)
H3	Demonstration of Map & Compass Skills	Does not know how to relate map to actual terrain. Cannot coordinate compass use with map. Even if team finds subjects, cannot give base camp accurate location.	No
H3	Demonstration of Map & Compass Skills	Has basic skills. Can relate map to actual terrain. Coordinates compass use with map. Uses compass in field. If asked, can determine location on the map and point out areas covered and missed.	Yes (Threshold) Yes (Threshold)
		Has excellent skills. Uses map and compass to formulate good search plan and keep track of drainages, landmarks, areas searched/missed etc. Finds location of subjects on map and can describe accurately to base camp.	Yes (Objective)

H4	Implementation of Plan in Field	Search shows little planning other than wandering around with dog. Even if originally described adequate plan of action (H2), does not actually carry it out or explain changes. Hasty search appropriate for area but not used and no explanation given.	No
		Carries out original plan of action or explains changes. Does hasty search if appropriate or explains why a different tactic is chosen. Plan would be adequate to clear area with good POD.	Yes (Threshold)
		Carries out original plan/explains changes. Good understanding of contouring, grid patterns, etc. Uses hasty search or has good reason not to. Plan makes best use of terrain, wind, etc. Is flexible about changing with changing conditions. Plan maximizes POD.	Yes (Objective)
H5	Adjusts Search for Wind Conditions	Makes little effort to use wind appropriately. Lowers POD by failure to monitor grid pattern for wind direction, wind force etc. Doesn't understand lofting or other wind conditions which affect dog's ability to follow scent.	No
		Reasonably conscious of wind conditions. Generally increases POD by using proper grid. Understands loft, deflection and other conditions and can help dog work out problems following scent.	Yes (Threshold)
		Very conscious of wind direction in employing grid patterns. Helps dog work out scent problems by using superior knowledge of wind conditions. Understands effect of wind conditions on POD. However, does not attempt to constantly alter search plan in area where wind constantly changing direction.	Yes (Objective) Yes (Objective)
H6	Alertness to Surroundings and Visual Clues	Shows no interest in possible clues/tracks. Does not check track traps.	No
		Checks for possible clues/tracks, aware of track traps.	Yes (Threshold)
		Finds clue/track. Intelligently decides whether to change plan or re-deploy dog. Does not become consumed with man-tracking.	Yes (Objective)
H7	Coverage of Search Area	Leaves many holes, doesn't find/check margins, grid pattern too wide for wind conditions. If finds subjects, appears to have stumbled upon them fortuitously.	No

		Covers search area adequately. Checks sector perimeters (unless finds subjects first) Does hasty search if appropriate. Does not leave major holes without adequate explanation and a plan to return.	Yes (Threshold)
		Excellent coverage of search area. Maximizes POD by use of appropriate grid pattern, ridges/drainages, hasty search, etc.	Yes (Objective)
H8	Ability to Interpret Dog's Alerts, Interest	Cannot read dog. Calls dog off scent. Does not know when dog needs help/encouragement.	No
		Adequate reading of dog. Encourages dog when dog needs help working out interest.	Yes (Threshold)
		Excellent job of reading dog. Knows how to help dog work out problems. Knows when dog has clue or subject. Knows when dog needs to be told to get back to work.	Yes (Objective)
H9	Ability to Direct and Control Dog	Little control of dog. Can't send dog to search specific areas. Can't redirect distracted dog. Dog runs search.	No
		Adequate control of dog. Can send dog to specific areas.	Yes (Threshold)
		Excellent control of dog. Can send dog out to specific areas. Can give dog directions while dog is in field.	Yes (Objective)
H10	Physical Condition of Handler	Handler in poor condition and cannot maintain pace adequate to search area with reasonable POD.	No
		Handler condition adequate for terrain.	Yes (Threshold)
		Handler in excellent condition, can handle rough terrain and steep grades	YES (Objective)
H11	Provision of Appropriate Breaks for Dog	Dog's physical condition, motivation or ability to search suffers from handler's failure to provide appropriate water/rest breaks.	No
		Adequate water/rest breaks given as dog becomes stressed.	Yes (Threshold)
		Proactive. Water/rest breaks given before dog becomes stressed. Keeps dog well hydrated and rested through-out search.	Yes (Objective)

Area Search Dog Skills Evaluation Guidelines

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
D1	Locates Subject #1	Does not locate subject or is led into subject by handler.	No
		Locates subject by scent cone, track or by going into area as directed by handler.	Yes (Threshold)
		Locates subject from significant distance by following scent cone, track, or searching ridge, drainage, clump of bushes as directed by handler. Works out any problematic scent conditions.	Yes (Objective)
D2	Alerts Handler of Finding Subject #1	Dog makes no discernible alert, and leaves subject to continue with search. Stays with subject unseen by handler or returns to handler without any indication that subject found. Bark and hold at the subject as trained alert is not acceptable.	No
		Dog performs its trained alert or indicates by its body language that it has found the subject. Alert or behavior must be such that it would be recognized by the handler at night.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog performs its trained alert which is recognized by both handler and evaluators.	Yes (Objective)
D3	Takes Handler All the Way to Subject #1	Dog does not go back to subject.	NO
		Dog leads handler all the way to subject after several commands or with constant encouragement or with brief detour such as for water.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog immediately takes handler on first command without detour or delay.	Yes (Objective)
D4	Locates Subject #2	[same as D1]	[same as D1]
D5	Alerts Handler of Finding Subject #2	[Same as D2]	[same as D2]
D6	Takes Handler All the Way to Subject #2	[same as D3]	[same as D3]
D7	Ability to Handle Terrain (Agility)	Dog's agility inadequate for terrain.	No
		Dog's agility adequate for terrain.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog shows excellent agility.	Yes

			(Objective)
D8	Demonstrates Adequate Stamina	Dog too tired to complete search. Or, subjects are located within allotted time, but dog's alert is very weak due to exhaustion and it is clear that (even after rest break) dog could not continue with search.	No
		Dog's stamina adequate. Although depleted in energy and enthusiasm by the time subjects are located, shows ability to continue, adequate alert.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog has excellent stamina. Shows enthusiasm and willingness to go on after subject is located.	Yes (Objective)

Trailing Field Qualification Test

Handler Skills Evaluation Guidelines

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
H1.	Conduct of Initial Interview	Does not interview or take notes.	No
		Conducts adequate interview. Gets PLS and basic subject information.	Yes (Threshold)
		Conducts excellent but concise interview. Informs IC of information dog can provide.	Yes (Objective)
H2.	Demonstration of Working Knowledge of Scent	Unable to explain how dog's actions could be explained by scent behavior. Does not ask about weather when or since trail was laid.	No
		Able to occasionally relate scent to weather and terrain.	Yes (Threshold)
		Has thorough knowledge of scent. Able to point out terrain features which may affect scent. Relates areas of dog interest to terrain and wind.	Yes (Objective)
H3.	Ability to Read Dog	Repeatedly pulls dog off scent or leads dog.	No
		Allows dog to work scent trail. Can tell within a reasonable time frame if dog is on or off scent.	Yes (Threshold)
		Handler accurately analyzes scent relative to dog's behavior.	Yes (Objective)
H4.	Demonstration of Adequate Stamina	Handler in poor condition.	No
		Handler condition adequate.	Yes (Threshold)
		Handler condition excellent.	Yes (Objective)

Trailing Dog Skills Evaluation Guidelines

No.	Skill	Criteria for Evaluation	Report
D1.	Dog Trails to Subject	Dog does not find subject.	No
		Dog finds subject.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog finds and positively indicates the subject.	Yes (Objective)
D2.	Dog Stays on Task	Dog is unable to complete trail due to becoming distracted.	No
		Dog is distracted by smells/sounds/sights but handler is able to return dog's focus to work.	Yes (Threshold)
		If distracted, dog immediately returns to work.	Yes (Objective)
D3.	Dog Seems Motivated	Dog stops working due to lack of motivation and does not finish trail.	No
		Dog willingly works scent trail.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog is enthusiastic and works out problems.	Yes (Objective)
D4.	Dog Demonstrates Adequate Stamina	Dog is too tired to complete trail or appears exhausted.	No
		Dog stamina is adequate. Shows ability to continue if needed.	Yes (Threshold)
		Dog has excellent stamina. Shows enthusiasm.	Yes (Objective)