

Department of Homeland Security Office of Infrastructure Protection

Evolution of Canine Standards

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Working Dogs and the Federal Government

- There is evidence that the Egyptians used dogs in warfare over 6,000 years ago, and historians, classicists, and archaeologists can trace the evolution of the use of the canine for national security missions through the time of the Greeks and Romans, through the Middle Ages, Shakespeare (in *Julius Caesar*, Antony famously declaims, “Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war”) to the 20th and now 21st centuries.
 - While war dogs served heroically in the Great War and the Second World War, detector dogs became increasingly prevalent in law enforcement as the counterterrorism and counter-narcotics missions grew in scope during the 1970s and 1980s.
- Nearly every Federal law enforcement and security agency has a working canine program, supporting a wide-range of missions.
 - For substance detection and patrol tasks, traditional police canine breeds, such as the German Shepherd, Malinois, and Labrador Retriever, comprise the majority of dogs.
 - Other breeds, such as hounds, spaniels and beagles, serve in non-aggressive substance detection and search and rescue roles.



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1970-2010: Forty Years of Growth

- Demand for explosives detection canines (EDC) has increased in response to terrorist attacks over the years.
- The number of dogs now employed is approaching the levels used during the Vietnam War.
 - DOD now has over 2,800 canines (source: Army Times).
- Some key incidents that spurred interest in the EDC mission include:
 - 1972: TWA, JFK Airport; founding of FAA EDC Team
 - 1996: TWA Flight 800 and Khobar Towers Bombing
 - 2001: 9/11 Attacks
 - 2004: Madrid Train Bombings
 - 2005: London Underground Bombings
- When programs expand, there is a 6-8 year spike in numbers of canines used.



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Explosive Detection Canines

- Canines are one of the most effective and efficient explosives detection systems in existence, but a lack of standardization across the community limits capabilities.
- Efforts towards EDC standards:
 - Media
 - National Odor Recognition Standard
 - TSA
 - Military
 - SWGDOG
 - National Initiatives
 - Homeland Security Presidential Directive 19 (HSPD-19)



Perspectives while at FAA/TSA

- In 1973, DOT/FAA had 40 teams at 23 airports.
- By 1997, DOT/FAA had 87 teams.
- 1998 White Commission called for expansion.
- 2002: DHS/TSA takes over program.
- 2009: Approaching 1,000 teams; added cargo screening mission.
- Partnership between TSA and airport/local authorities.



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Perspectives while at TSA

- The three-pronged approach to canine procurement:
 - Partnering with DOD during canine “buy trips”.
 - Use of U.S. canine vendors.
 - TSA Breeding and Development Center.
- The initial training of the handler and canine consists of a 10-week training course.
 - Once a team graduates from the initial training course, they are given an initial certification at an assigned airport.
 - Each newly deployed canine team must complete a 14-day training mission in the operating environment for full certification.
- Training does not stop upon graduation and initial certification.
 - Weekly proficiency training in their operational environment, which includes all the smells and distractions associated with a busy transportation system.
 - Intensive annual certification process.



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Perspectives while serving on SWGDOG

- Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) is a voluntary, international committee that develops best practices and guidelines for detection canines.
 - Benefits government by improving the reliability and performance of detector dogs and their utilization with electronic detectors.
 - Addresses the training and certification of substance dogs (explosives, narcotics, arson) and scenting dogs (tracking, trailing, scent ID, and search and rescue), kenneling and care, evidence preparation and presentation, dog and handler selection, and terminology.
 - SWGDOG guidelines are not mandates or certifications.
 - SWGDOG has developed the current “best practices” for testing and performance.
- Nationally, there are multiple sets of standards for various phases of training and certification of EDC teams that serve Federal, State, local, and private-sector assets.
 - Mission-specific requirements of each agency.
 - Acquisition of canines is unregulated and standards vary widely.



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Perspectives while at DHS

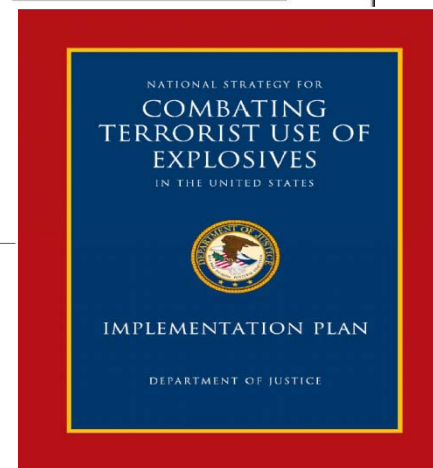
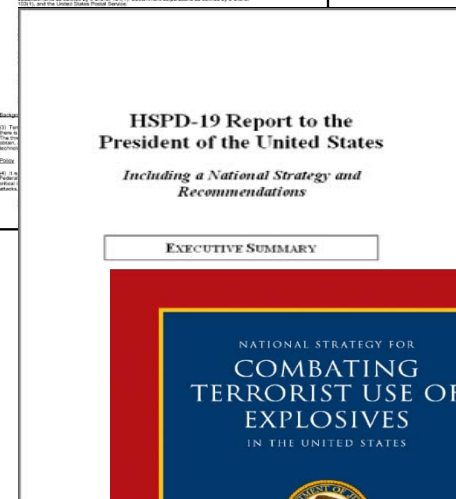
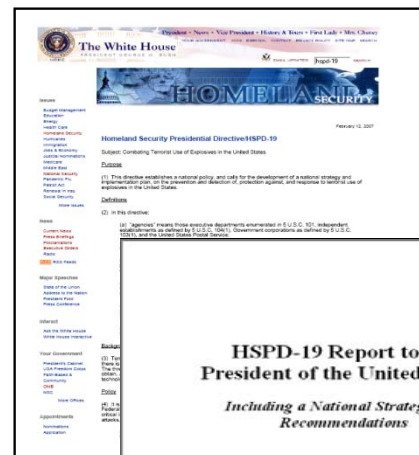
- Within the Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP), the Protective Security Coordination Division's Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) is the DHS lead for developing and implementing HSPD-19.
- Since 2007, IP has supported U.S. Government canine programs by leading efforts to develop canine training and performance standards, and through capabilities analysis of State and local EDC teams.



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HSPD-19

- HSPD-19 sets national policy to combat terrorist use of explosives in the United States.
 - HSPD-19 Report required the development of canine standards.
 - Cooperation in the canine realm (DHS,DOJ and DOD).
- The unprecedented cooperation among the Federal agencies through the HSPD-19 development process lays the groundwork for the Federal canine community to “get our house in order.”



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Issues

- Canine use is neither streamlined nor centralized.
 - In addition to numerous Federal programs, there are hundreds of State, local, and private sector canine training programs.
 - Each agency procures, trains, deploys, and certifies canines to meet specific mission requirements.
 - As such, there is not and should not be one certifying or training agency or program for the U.S. Government.
- It is critical that the U.S. Government develop broad, scientifically-supported training and performance standards so that the proficiency of canine teams can be tested and resources can be shared among agencies in a terrorist incident or national emergency.
- DHS continues to be a leading force for development of voluntary, nationwide training and performance standards.

Current Status

- The community knows that standardization is the only realistic path forward.
- The entire community has the same goal: to field proficient teams.
- Federal Agencies
 - Change has come and will continue to occur.
 - National standards will be developed.
 - Issue is bigger than any one agency or organization.
 - Existing on an island is not possible.
- Canine Community
 - Good trainers and canines exist.
 - Need for education.
 - Need for guidelines and a standardized certification process.
 - Need for continuing training.
 - Need for direction and leadership.
 - Need for infrastructure (explosives magazines, training aids etc.).



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Current Status

- While Federal programs have been growing, the budget situation for State and local governments has resulted in teams being eliminated.
- State and local governments need to be educated about the financial and logistical requirements of having a canine program.
 - Federal Transit Administration published a guide in the late 1990s.
- Expanding Federal programs create lifecycle issues.

Way Forward

- National Explosives Detection Canine Advisory Board.
 - DHS, DOJ, canine associations.
- Agreement to meet approved advisory board standards for training and testing.
- Commitment to improve the efficiency of all explosives detection canine trainers, evaluators and teams.
- Commitment to work with other canine and law enforcement associations, agencies and organizations to accomplish our goal.



Way Forward

- Selection: where does it fit in? And how do we define it?
 - Current SWGDOG best practices.
 - Missions continues to evolve; agencies have different requirements.
 - New mission requirements continue to evolve (e.g. cargo screening, small amount or vapor detection).
 - Breeding: Vision vs. Bean counting.
- How do we transfer lessons learned from the military abroad to the community at home?
- In general, the scientific community has driven innovation and modernization in the use of working dogs.
- The full community must understand and embrace the science behind what goes on in the field - Where the **PAWS** Meet the Road.



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