



K9-TASK FORCE

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Organization

EIN# 92-0385240

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We are a K9-Task Force assisting agencies across North America in K9 response, resources and education. To better serve our community and the agencies we work with, we adhere to or surpass all standards and guidelines identified as US Supreme Court best practices. *Our K9 Task Force requires LE request/approval to deploy.*

Unit Credentials

Our members have been in this field since 2002 and complete over 30+ missions per year throughout North America.

All K9-TF members possess the following:

- Wilderness First Aid/CPR
- Maps/Compass/GPS Navigation Certification
- Fire and Shelter Certification
- Man Tracking Certification
- Helicopter Operations
- Physical Fitness standards
- Appropriate gear/equipment per national first responder standards
- Crime Scene awareness and preservation
- Compliance with FEMA NIMS/ICS certifications/standards
- K9 First Aid/K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

Resources/Services Available

Detector K9s

- Forensics
 - K9s can be used to detect presence of small amounts of human remains odor that is hanging, buried, elevated, in a vehicle, building or wilderness
 - Most effective in cool, slightly moist conditions, with a steady, consistent breeze, and when temperatures are between 38 and 68 degrees.

- All forensic resources meet/exceed the detector K9 standards according to SWGDOG/ ASB/NIST guidelines and handlers may act as court approved resources/witnesses.
- Forensic K9s are “single-discipline” and do not have training in any other odor
- Forensic K9s may be used for probable cause.

- Cadaver
 - K9s can be used to locate the odor of intact or partially intact cadavers in large wilderness settings.
 - A typical K9 can search between 60-100 acres per day, depending on conditions and terrain.
 - Probability of detection decreases each day post mortem because of decomposition and scavenging by animals.
 - Detection is possible for an extended length of time depending on conditions and circumstances.
 - Cadaver dogs / SAR dogs do not qualify for criminal investigations and forensics.

- Live Person
 - K9s can detect the odor of live humans in large wilderness environments.
 - A typical K9 can search 60-100 acres per day depending on conditions.
 - Most effective when search response is immediate and K9s are deployed first or in front of other ground searchers.

- Man Tracking/Trailing
 - K9s can detect the footpath, or parallel to the footpath of a subject or suspect in an urban, rural or wilderness environment.
 - Most effective when response time is less than 1 hour after suspect/subject has started the trail.
 - Probability of trailing success decreases exponentially after 12 hours and is not effective after 24 hours in most conditions.

- Small Evidence/Article
 - Detection of articles or evidence in urban, rural or wilderness area
 - K9 is used to identify an anomaly in the environment that also contains human odor.
 - Highest probability of success if response time is immediate, before the human odor dries/evaporates from the item.

Incident Management (IC)

We can assist with IC and/mapping needs in your large or small incidents

- K9-Task Force members have received advanced training/experience in national Incident Command System (ICS) positions such as Incident Commander or Planning Section Chief
- All team members have received some training in or are familiar with ICS and we frequently deploy on missions where the ICS has been implemented and a management team is in place.
- We have access to mapping tools and resources such as SARtopo and GAIA

Instructors/Evaluators/Lead Evaluators

We travel to you, or host trainings for you to attend the following courses/exams.

- Wilderness First Aid/CPR
- Detector K9 disciplines including Avalanche, Live Find, Trailing, Human Remains Detection - Forensics.
- NASAR SARTECH III and SARTECH II certifications covering:
 - GPS/Maps/Compass/Orienteering
 - Man-Tracking
 - Medical
 - Search
 - Fire/Shelter
 - Helicopter Safety
 - ICS/NIMS
 - Basics and Fundamentals of SAR deployment, gear, safety
- Mountain Rescue Association certification (Summer and Winter)

General SAR Members

- Our members are first responders trained in emergency medical care, technical rescue, swift water rescue, mapping, and search operations for missing persons
- These members may be utilized as extra ground personnel for searching, medical assists, carrying supplies, manning communications for relay or base.

K9 Emergency Medical Doctors

- We have access to a top of the line working K9 veterinarian who is also a medical director for police departments, Forest Service and BLM K9 Units and works with Penn Vet Working Dog Group.
- Our team DVM oversees veterinary care for all working K9s in our organization and trains handlers in prehospital trauma triage and K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

Qualified Expert Witnesses

- All team members maintain thorough documentation of training records and deployment operations that meet or exceed US Supreme Court Standards for Detector K9s and Guidelines as defined by NIST/SWGDOG
- K9/handler teams that deploy for specific missions are certified to an industry recognized national level in each discipline.
- K9/handler teams that deploy meet and exceed the 16-hour/month minimum training standard
- K9/handler teams that deploy meet and exceed familiarity with reference material as recommended by NIST/SWGDOG

Mission Experience

General

- SAR Experience since 2002
- 40+ Deployments per year
 - Missing person searches (Live) - subject presumed to be alive
 - Missing person cases (cadaver) - subject presumed deceased
 - Water searches (cadaver) - drownings/body presumed to be submerged in the water
 - Clandestine burials and/or scattered remains (Forensics) speculative searches
 - Small source (Forensics) - buildings, vehicle
 - Experience working under the direction of deputies, officers, detectives and FBI

Agencies/Organizations Assisted

- **FBI in multiple states**
- Salt Lake City, UT
- **FBI Missoula, MT**
- **Boise Police Department, Boise ID**
- **Missoula Police Department, Missoula MT**
- **Missoula Tribal Police, Missoula MT**
- **Idaho** Sheriffs Office: Ada, Valley, Idaho, Nez Perce, Boise, Clearwater, Gem
- **Montana** Sheriffs Office: Ravalli, Missoula. The Lifeguard Group
- **Colorado** Sheriffs Office: Mesa County
- **Oregon** Sheriffs Offices: Umatilla, Union, Josephine, Baker
- **Utah** Sheriffs Office: Box Elder County
- **Nevada** Sheriffs Office: Elko County
- **Kentucky** (State of) - Division of Emergency Management
- **Minnesota** - Jon Francis Foundation

Training Courses Attended

Forensics/Human Remains

- Response and Understanding Death (Seminar)
- Forensic Canine Training Workshop (CMU Forensic Investigation Research Station)
- Colorado Forensic Canine with Don Blair (Seminar-CO)
- Southern California Human Remains (Seminar-CA)
- Precision in Human Remains Detection (Seminar, Utah)
- Montezuma County Cadaver Training (Seminar, Colorado)
- SDONA-Crime Scene Environment (Seminar, New Mexico)
- Death Dying & Medical Ethics (Montana State University)

General Training

- Clandestine Graves and Historical Burials (Seminar, Montezuma County, Colorado)
- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS 300)
- Canine Search Specialist-Classroom knowledge (FEMA/US&R)
- Basic Inland Search Search Management
- ESCAPE-New Mexico Search and Rescue Council
- SAR Workshop-K9 track-Dolores CO Deployment Experience
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC - Henry Schmidt)
- Trailing in suspect/urban scenarios (Seminar with Kevin Baughan, partner of Jeff Schettler)