

BLUE WARRIOR TACTICS

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

(Canine Division)

IT IS OUR MISSION AND PRACTICE WITH BLUE WARRIOR TACTICS TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF TRAINING TO ENABLE THEM TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES AS CANINE OFFICERS AT THEIR MAXIMUM PROFICIENCY AND CAPABILITIES.

THE ATTACHED TRAINING STANDARDS ARE FORMATTED IN SUCH A MANNER TO GIVE ALL CANINE OFFICERS A GENERAL BASIC GUIDELINE AS TO WHAT BLUE WARRIOR TACTICS WILL CONSIDER THE MINIMUM PROFICIENCY LEVEL REQUIRED TO BE CERTIFIED BY BLUE WARRIOR TACTICS.

GENERAL RULES:

All Certifications will be Pass/Fail.

All decisions by the Instructor(s) will be considered final. Upon the Instructor rendering a decision and critique of the Canine team's performance of a given exercise the Handler will be expected to exit the field without argument. In the event the Handler does not agree with the instructor's decision they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss any issues at the completion of the days training.

All exercises will be at the direction of the Instructor(s). Any handler refusing/failing to follow instructions will subject the Canine team to failing the exercise in question. If the handler's failure to follow the Instructions given was due to miscommunication or misunderstanding of the instruction(s) the team will be allowed to retest immediately at the discretion of the Instructor. However, in the event the Handler again refuses/fails to follow instruction(s) the testing canine team will be dismissed from the field and the exercise will be considered a "**FAIL**".

All equipment used during a given exercise will be subject to inspection by the Instructor to determine if the equipment is in good working condition and performing as designed. Any equipment determined by the instructor to be in poor condition or not working as designed will not be allowed.

No Electronic Collars will be used during certification exercises. If at the discretion of the Instructor, the Canine is allowed to wear an electronic collar during a certification exercise it will be **turned off** and the controller will be turned over to the Instructor until the exercise is complete.

There will be no excessive and/or abusive corrections tolerated.

Any handler observed using corrections determined by the Instructor(s) to be excessive or abusive will be instructed to exit the field immediately and all training will be suspended until the Instructor has addressed the incident with the handler. If this matter cannot be resolved by the instructor and handler, a written report will be filed by the Instructor with the handlers immediate supervisory for their information and consideration of any further action they (the Supervisor) deem necessary.

OBEDIENCE:

The following exercises will determine the Canine Teams proficiency in performing various obedience commands, (off lead) and the handler's ability to control his/her canine in a manner which is safe for them and the public they serve.

Satisfactory completion of these exercises will be a prerequisite to continuing the Blue Warrior Tactics Certification process.

Obedience testing will be conducted in three (3) phases, Heeling, Walking and Distance. However, the Canine team being tested should enter the field prepared to complete all phases. It should be noted that distractions may be added to the field at any time during any of the obedience phases. These distractions may include, people walking around, toys, food items, bite equipment, gun fire, etc.

HEELING:

The heeling phase will consist of the handler heeling his/her dog forward as instructed at a walking pace, a fast pace (double time) and slow pace (half step). They will complete a minimum of two (2) right turns, two (2) left turns and an

about turn during the course of this exercise. All instructions for the change of paces and turns will be at the direction of the Instructor.

WALKING:

The canine team will be directed to a starting point designated by the instructor. At the Instructor's direction the Canine team will walk forward with the canine in the heel position. At the Instructor's direction the handler will command their Canine to **STAY**, (Sit, down or standing) without breaking stride, continuing forward until instructed to call their canine to **HEEL**. Once the Canine is in the heel position the handler will be instructed to make an about turn, again without breaking stride. The Canine team will continue walking forward until the handler is again instructed to place their canine in a **STAY**, (any position as stated above is acceptable) the handler will continue to walk forward until instructed to turn and face his/her dog. At the instructor's direction the Handler will return to his/her dog, upon returning to the heel position Handler will be directed to walk forward until the instructor advises the exercised is complete.

DISTANCE:

The canine team will be instructed to proceed to a designated point by the Instructor. When instructed to do so the Handler will leave their dog in a **STAY** position and proceed forward until instructed to turn and face their dog. The Instructor will then direct the Handler to have their dog change positions (Sit to down or down to sit) using either voice or hand signals. This is at the instructor's discretion. The handler will then be directed to call their dog to them, however prior to the dog reaching the handler, the handler will be directed to **STOP** their dog. This again can be accomplished with any command (sit, down or standing stay). The Canine team will remain in this position for a minimum of two (2) minutes. At the completion of the required time the Canine will be called to the heel position and the exercise will be complete.

Upon successfully completing all three (3) obedience phase the Team will be considered Certified and may continue with the Blue Warrior Tactics Certification Process.

CRIMINAL APPREHENSION/HANDLER PROTECTION:

The following exercises will determine the proficiency of the Canine in his/her ability to apprehend a fleeing/combatative suspect or engaged a passive suspect who is refusing to follow lawful directions from the Officer. The Canine's resolve to defend the handler with or without command from the handler will also be tested. These exercises will be conducted in five (5) phases, False start, recall, handler protection, running apprehension with gun fire, and engaging a passive subject. All protective equipment used during these exercises will be inspected by the Instructor prior to testing to ensure it is in good condition and will provide the necessary protection for the Decoy's. The Canine will enter the field on the lead of the handler's choice however the lead will not exceed six (6) foot. All exercises will be completed off lead unless otherwise specified by the Instructor.

FALSE START:

The Canine team will be directed to a point by the Instructor and handler will remove the lead. The handler will give his/her canine a commanded to stay and take two (2) steps (approx. 6') away from their dog. A decoy will then approach the team (within approx. 10') and engage in a brief conversation with the handler. At the direction of the Instructor the decoy will quickly walk/or run from the area. It is permissible for the Handler to give his/her canine an additional stay command as the decoy exits the area. The Canine is permitted to alert on the decoy however he/she cannot break from the stay command. Once the decoy is out of sight the handler may approach his/her dog and praise them. Chasing or engaging the Decoy by the Canine will result in a **"FAIL"**.

RECALL:

The canine team will remain in the starting position indicated by the Instructor in the previous exercise (False start). At direction of the Instructor the decoy will reappear and approach to within approx. 40' feet of the canine team. The handler and the decoy will engage in a brief conversation during which the Handler will

attempt to get the decoy to come closer. The Instructor will then direct the decoy to flee the area, at which time the Handler will send his/her dog to apprehend the decoy. Upon the canine being sent the decoy will stop and surrender thus terminating the pursuit. The Handler will then recall his/her dog using any command necessary to stop the canine from engaging the decoy. If the canine continues and bumps the decoy it will not necessarily result in the canine failing this exercise, however if the canine engages the decoy by biting the exercise will be considered a **“FAIL”**.

HANDLER PROTECTION:

This exercise will continue from the point where the previous exercise (Recall) ended. At the direction of the Instructor the Canine team will approach to within approx. 20' feet of the decoy. The Handler will give his/her canine a command to stay and approach the decoy to simulate a pat search. During this search the decoy will attack the handler at which time the canine will engage the decoy without command from the handler. After a brief struggle the decoy will be instructed to stop fighting the dog and will cease all movement. The Canine will then be called “out” and after disengaging from decoy either return to his/her handler (heel position) or remain in a guard position. Upon the Canine disengaging from the decoy the handler will again approach the decoy and simulate a pat search. When the pat search is complete the handler will move to approx. 10' feet behind or to the side of the decoy and call his/her dog to the heel position. If the canine reengages the decoy upon being called to heel the exercise will be considered a **“FAIL”**.

RUNNING APPREHENSION: *(With gun fire)*

NOTE THIS EXERCISE WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH A BLANK PISTOL OR FIREARM LOADED WITH BLANKS WHICH WILL BE INSPECTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO THE EXERCISE BEGINNING

For this exercise the handler and canine will be directed back to the original starting point. The decoy will approach to within approx. 40' feet of the canine team and engage in a brief conversation with the handler. At the direction of the

instructor the decoy will display a weapon and fire two (2) rounds in the general direction of the canine team. Upon the second shot being fired the Canine will be released to make the apprehension. After the decoy is apprehended the handler will order the decoy to drop the weapon (if still in the decoy's possession) and stop fighting the canine. The decoy will then stop all movement and the canine will be called out and return to the heel position. In the event the canine refuses to out or reengages the decoy after being call out the exercise will be considered a **"FAIL"**.

PASSIVE APPREHENSION:

This exercise will begin with the Decoy either sitting or standing approx. 20' feet from where the Canine team will enter the field. Upon entering the field, the handler will stop and place his/her dog in a sitting position. The Handler will then give the decoy clear direction to either come to him/her (The Handler) or leave the field. The Decoy will ignore all the directions from the handler and remain completely passive. At the direction of the Instructor the Handler will send his/her dog to engage the decoy. The decoy will remain passive until the dog is engaged and at that time be free to "fight the dog". After a brief fight the decoy will surrender and the dog will be called "out". Once the dog has disengaged from the decoy and returned to or been retrieved by the Handler the exercise will be considered over. In the event the Canine refuses to engage the Decoy the exercise will be considered a **"FAIL"**.

BUILDING SEARCH:

This exercise will determine the Canine team's proficiency in locating a subject(s) who has hidden themselves in an attempt to evade arrest or detection in the building. During the course of this search the instructor will accompany the Team simulating the presence of a back-up officer. This exercise will not only evaluate the Canine's ability to locate the subject(s) hidden, but will also evaluate the Handler's ability to use cover, and concealment tactics for an overall view of the Team's proficiency in conducting the search. All types of structures may be used for this exercise. These may include but will not be limited to, Residences,

Warehouses, Stores, Barns, Schools, Office buildings, etc. In the event none of these type buildings are available any building deemed acceptable by the Instructor may be used. This exercise will be conducted off lead unless the Canine Team's department policy prohibits off lead deployments.

The Subject(s) will enter the Building a minimum of ten (10) minutes before the exercise begins, and will conceal themselves in a location or area which will not allow the Canine to visually find them. All proper safety equipment (bite suits, sleeves etc.) and any other safety related measures will be utilized to protect the Hidden Subject(s) and Canine team from injury. After the Subject(s) have been hidden the proper amount of time The Canine Team will enter the Building from another entrance, give their "Announcement" and begin the search. **At no time during this search will the handler open any doors unless directed to do so by the Instructor.** The Team will complete the search and either engage the subject(s) or indicate where the subject(s) are hidden.

If during the course of this exercise the Instructor determines the Canine is not searching the exercise can/will be terminated and be considered a "FAIL".

AREA SEARCH:

This Exercise will determine the Canine Teams proficiency in locating a hidden subject(s) in a large area. The Instructor will direct the Canine Team to the search area and provide the Handler with the parameters of the area to be searched. The Instructor will also advise the handler if the search will terminate in a bite or an alert on a passive subject. The Handler will then conduct the search, selecting a starting point using the wind direction or any other environmental factors at their disposal. This exercise may be conducted on or off lead, however the lead cannot exceed 50' feet in length. The Canine must alert to the presence of subject within 10' feet of where they are hidden (in the case of passive subject) or engage the decoy (in the case of a bite). Upon the handler advising the Instructor his/her dog is alerting to the hidden subject or the canine engaging the decoy the exercise will considered complete. In the event the Canine fails to locate the subject or refuses to engage the decoy this exercise will be considered a "FAIL".

ARTICLE SEARCH:

This exercise will determine the Canine Teams proficiency in searching and locating items hidden in a designated search area. These items may include but not be limited to the following: Credit Card, Cigarette lighter, spent shotgun shell or other ammunition, Wallet, Handgun, paper, wooden handle tools, keys, sunglasses or any other item deemed appropriate by the Instructor. The search area will be an area a minimum of 30-60' square of heavy vegetation, and will be contaminated with multiple traversing human tracks prior to the exercise. The search area will contain five (5) items selected from the above list, the canine must locate a minimum of two (2) of these items with an indication which is obvious to the Instructor. This exercise may be conducted on or off lead at the handler's discretion, however there will be a time limit of ten (10) minutes to complete this search. In the event the Canine does locate the minimum number of items or exceeds the allotted time the exercise will be considered a "FAIL".

TRACKING AND TRAILING:

This exercise will determine the Canine Teams proficiency in following the track/trail of an unknown subject. This track/trail will be a minimum of 1/4 of a mile, but will not exceed a 1/2 mile in length. The track/trail will be approximately fifteen (15) minutes old and will have a cross track which will be laid approximately 5-10 minutes after the original track. The track will be initiated on vegetation (Grass) and will have a minimum of one road crossing (hard surface, gravel, dirt) etc. There will also be a minimum of two (2) turns in the length of the track.

The Canine Team will be directed to a spot within ten (10) feet of the start of the track. The team will then be required to initiate the track, indicating to the Instructor when they have located the track/trail. The Team will then proceed, running the track/trail until the subject is located. There will be no time limitations on this exercise, however if the Instructor determines the Canine Team is not track/trailing the Subject and/or is no longer working the odor (scent) of the subject the track may be terminate. In the event the Instructor terminates the

track/trail or the Canine Team does not locate the Subject this exercise will be considered a **“FAIL”**.

NARCOTICS DETECTION:

The following exercises will determine the Canine Teams proficiency in the detection of narcotics. These exercises will be conducted in multiple search areas, Vehicles, Buildings, Containers and any other area designated appropriate by the Instructor. There will be a break between each search area to allow sufficient time to reset the search area. A total of five narcotics will be utilized for these exercise's, Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack cocaine, Heroin and Methamphetamine. All narcotics hides will be placed a minimum of 20 minutes prior to the Canine Team conducting the search. The amount (weight) of each hide will be determined by the Instructor.

***No pseudo narcotics will be used for certification testing.**

All searches may be conducted on or off lead at the discretion of the handler. The searches may be a “free search”, a directed search or a combination of search styles, however the canine's indication that a hide has been located must be clear and obvious to the Instructor.

VEHICLE SEARCH:

This search area will consist of four vehicles spaced far enough apart to eliminate any cross contamination from vehicle to vehicle. Narcotic hides will be located on two (2) of the four (4) vehicles with the other two (2) remaining blank. The hides will be either inside or outside of the vehicles at the discretion of the Instructor. In the event the Canine is not successful in locating the two hides or gives more than one (1) false indication during the course of this exercise, the exercise will be considered a **“FAIL”**.

BUILDING SEARCH (NARCOTICS):

This search area will consist of four (4) room two (2) of which contain narcotics hides. The remaining rooms will be blank. In the event the canine is not successful in locating the two (2) hides or gives more than one (1) false indication during the course of this exercise, the exercise will be considered a **“FAIL”**.

CONTAINER SEARCH:

This search will consist of five (5) containers, (boxes, luggage, cans) etc. The selected containers will be spaced in such a manner as to eliminate cross contamination. One hide will be placed in a selected container the remaining containers will remain blank. In the event the canine is not successful in locating the hide or gives a false indication this exercise will be considered a **“FAIL”**.

BLUE WARRIOR TACTICS CERTIFICATIONS WILL BE VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE THE CERTIFICATION WAS ISSUED.

THE CANINE AND HANDLER ARE CONSIDERED A “TEAM”. IN THE EVENT THE CANINE CHANGES HANDLERS, A NEW TEAM WILL EXIST AND ALL PREVIOUS CERTIFICATIONS WILL BE VOID.