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## I. Airscent Dog Team Type IV

### 1 SCOPE

- 1.1 The following credentialing standard is intended to allow the AMRG to field non-discriminating airscent dog-and-handler teams that meet NIMS Type IV categorization (FEMA 508-8).
- 1.2 Nothing in the following document should be construed as contradicting or superseding ASTM F1847-98 or F1848-98 regarding SAR dogs and handlers.
- 1.3 Nothing in the following document should be construed as contradicting or superseding Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ASRC, and other relevant standards for fielding as airscent dog resources, excepting where the following standards set higher/additional operational requirements consistent with typing.
- 1.4 Airscent Dog Handler Type IV serves two operational purposes:
  - 1.4.1 For handlers holding it as their primary canine specialty, as a temporary certification for first-time airscent handlers. A reasonable task assignment for such handlers would be daytime tasks of 60 acres or fewer under the supervision of a higher-certified dog handler or an ASRC FTL with experience working with dogs and dog teams. Its purpose is to allow newer handler/dog teams with solid basic search skills to field and gain experience under supervision.
  - 1.4.2 As a secondary certification for handlers holding dog handler credentials in other specialties (HRD, trailing, USAR, etc.) at the NIMS Type III or higher level and have demonstrated the ability to successfully conduct Type IV wilderness airscent search tasks.
- 1.5 An Airscent Dog Team Type IV credential issued by AMRG does not constitute a license to practice skills, but signifies only that the individual holding the credential has met an established standard of knowledge and performance and shall be able to function in a competent manner at the level indicated.
- 1.6 A primary Airscent Dog Team Type IV credential issued by AMRG shall be valid for a one-year period following the initial credential. A secondary Airscent Dog Team Type IV credential issued by AMRG for handlers holding other NIMS Type II or higher certification shall be valid for as long the required external certification is valid or three years, whichever is shorter.
- 1.7 Airscent Dog Team Type IV credential is contingent on maintaining good standing in AMRG and the credential may be suspended or revoked by AMRG, consistent with the section 2.9 of the AMRG Administrative Policies and Standard Operational Guidelines.

### 2 REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Minimum age for a credentialed dog in an Airscent Dog Team Type IV is 12 months.
- 2.2 Candidate Dog Handler meets and maintains all current requirements of AMRG/ASRC

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- 2.3 Shall have successfully completed an hour-length or longer certified course in canine or pet first aid, such as the Red Cross Pet First Aid course; other courses may be accepted as equivalent by a simple majority vote of the AMRG board of directors.
- 2.4 Candidate shall hold a current certification demonstrating minimum obedience and proper behavior, for example an AKC K9 Good Citizen certification; other certifications or credentials may be accepted as equivalent by a simple majority vote of the AMRG board of directors.
- 2.5 Candidate shall maintain a checkoff list reflecting skills described below demonstrated to AMRG Airscent Dog Team Type III or higher handlers reflecting all the practical skills described below.
- 2.6 In addition to the minimum personal equipment requirements as set forth in the AMRG/ASRC FTM requirements, Candidates seeking Airscent Dog Team Type IV credential shall demonstrate that their SAR packs contain the following additional personal equipment items.
  - 2.6.1 One – 6' leash or longer leash that can be clipped to itself to make a 6' length. Flexi-leads and other reeled and similar leashes are not suitable substitutes
  - 2.6.2 One – pair gloves suitable for rope work.
  - 2.6.3 One – extra 1-liter or larger water bottle over and above equipment requirements for FTL
  - 2.6.4 Dog food sufficient to feed the dog for 24 hours
  - 2.6.5 Sufficient Vet wrap, Ace bandage, or similar product to make a temporary muzzle for an injured dog
  - 2.6.6 If part of the dog's reward, any toys/treats/etc.

### 3 KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- 3.1 The Airscent Dog Team Type IV handler shall have an understanding of the items listed under each subject. Some items may require the performance of manual skills.
  - 3.1.1 Canine Search Operations
    - 3.1.1.1 Describe how weather affects movement of airscents as reflected in current meteorological science.
    - 3.1.1.2 Describe the differences in training and operations of airscents and trailing or other ground-scent dogs, and how those differences affect mission and deployment of the two resources.
    - 3.1.1.3 Explain how different times of day and weather patterns affect optimal tactics for approaching airscents tasks.
    - 3.1.1.4 Describe, in a topographic map exercise, how to position an airscents dog team to grid search a wilderness airscents task of approximately 80 acres, given a known wind direction and the geographic features of the area shown on the map.
    - 3.1.1.5 Discuss approaches that might be taken to search the area, including grid search, perimeter search, and binary search, and their relative strengths and weaknesses.
  - 3.1.2 Wilderness Survival
    - 3.1.2.1 Describe how the presence of a canine partner affects survival situations in the wilderness.
    - 3.1.2.2 Describe how canine physiology and physiognomy affects their risk of heat- and cold-related environmental illness differently than humans, and how a handler can prevent or treat these conditions in their canine partners.

- 3.1.2.3 Discuss average daily food and water requirements for dogs, including how size of dog, level of activity, and weather affect them
- 3.1.2.4 Demonstrate the ability to bivouac in any type weather conditions, with canine partner and without significantly affecting functional ability, using only the equipment carried during operational testing as described below.
- 3.1.3 First Aid
  - 3.1.3.1 Demonstrate treatment of two of the following (simulated) first-aid scenarios on the canine partner:
    - 3.1.3.2 Splinting a fractured leg, including muzzling the dog beforehand
    - 3.1.3.3 Removing a tick
    - 3.1.3.4 Stopping/dressing moderate bleeding, including muzzling the dog beforehand
    - 3.1.3.5 CPR
- 3.1.4 Canine behavior
  - 3.1.4.1 Explain dominance and aggression in dogs, and how aggression toward other dogs and humans can be avoided and/or addressed
  - 3.1.4.2 Explain the value of motivation and reward in shaping canine behavior
- 3.1.5 Search Skills
  - 3.1.5.1 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 40 to 60 acres of moderate terrain unfamiliar to the handler, and in the daylight. Note if the task described here or in 3.1.5.2 contains no subject, the other shall contain a subject.
  - 3.1.5.2 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator and within 10 meters of a 0.5- to 1-mile linear feature such as a trail, ridgetop, creek, etc. unfamiliar to the handler in daylight.
- 3.1.6 Demonstrate basic obedience in the form of:
  - 3.1.6.1 Following the handler off-leash
  - 3.1.6.2 Jumping into a vehicle on command
  - 3.1.6.3 Interacting with a human and neutral dog unknown to the dog without overt signs of aggression or fear
  - 3.1.6.4 Recall off-lead through distractions
  - 3.1.6.5 Down-stay-off lead, in the presence of distractions

#### 4 CREDENTIALING PROCEDURE

##### 4.1.1 Skills checkoffs

4.1.1.1.1 The Candidate must demonstrate all skills described in these standards via a checkoff list maintained by the Candidate.

4.1.1.1.2 Checkoffs may be made by any AMRG Airscent Dog Handler of Type III or above.

4.1.2 External evaluation and certification to NIMS Type IV (or higher) wilderness non-discriminating airscent typing is required and may be acquired through any of the following NIMS-compliant entities:

- 4.1.2.1 Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council (PSARC)
- 4.1.2.2 National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR)
- 4.1.2.3 American Mantrailing, Police & Work Dog Association (AMPWDA)
- 4.1.2.4 American Working Dog Association (AWDA)

- 4.1.2.5 International Police Work Dog Association (IPWDA)
- 4.1.2.6 North American Police Word Dog Association (NAPWDA)
- 4.1.2.7 National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA)
- 4.1.3 When all other requirements are met, the candidate's credential is confirmed by a majority vote of AMRG members at a regularly scheduled business meeting.
- 4.1.4 Should the entity granting external Airscent Dog Team Type IV evaluation require a different time period for recertification, Candidate must re-credential at that time period or one year (see below), whichever is shorter.
- 4.2 Re-credentialing Procedures
  - 4.2.1 ASRC Airscent Dog Team Type IV handlers who hold airscents as their primary certification may not re-credential under this Typing, and must successfully test to Type III or higher at the end of their one-year credential.
  - 4.2.2 Candidates who hold other AMRG canine credentialing of Type III or higher (HRD, trailing, USAR, etc.) may re-credential as AMRG Airscent Dog Team Type IV handlers by meeting or exceeding the following continuing education requirements. These will be a combination of training, missions and demonstration of practical skills to recertify. Note that certification of a handler with a new dog is not to be considered a recertification, but a new certification.
    - 4.2.2.1 Presentation of a copy of his or her canine training logbook documenting a minimum of 36 search tasks over a three-year period (with at least 10 in each year), signed off by AMRG's Canine Training Officer or GTO.
    - 4.2.2.2 Demonstration of participation as an airscents dog handler in a minimum of three (3) real or full-scale exercise simulated mission tasks over the one-year period. TAFs, other mission records or sign-in sheets signed off by Mission Operations Chiefs or Managers, and attestations by Mission Operations Chiefs or Managers will be recognized for this purpose.
    - 4.2.2.3 Successful external recertification, as outlined above.
    - 4.2.2.4 Successful performance of any additional search or other skill performances mandated for Airscent Dog Team Type IV credentialing since the team's initial credentialing.
  - 4.2.3 For handlers holding other canine specialty certifications as outlined above, the Airscent Dog Team Type IV credential may also be renewed by successfully challenging the initial certification procedure, and meeting any other requirements for certification for Airscent Dog Team Type IV that exist at the time of recertification.
  - 4.2.4 Each Candidate is responsible for making individual arrangements for recertification testing.
  - 4.2.5 If a Candidate fails to perform successfully any portion of the re-credentialing or up-credentialing (i.e., credentialing at type III or higher) process, the team loses operational status until these requirements are met.
  - 4.2.6 When all other requirements are met, the candidate's credential is confirmed by a majority vote of AMRG members at a regularly scheduled business meeting.
  - 4.2.7 Failure to re-credential within a year in any case requires re-credentialing under the initial process.

## II. Airscent Dog Team Type III

### 1 SCOPE

- 1.1 The following credentialing standard is intended to allow AMRG to field non-discriminating airscent dog-and-handler teams that meet NIMS Type III categorization (FEMA 508-8).
- 1.2 Nothing in the following document should be construed as contradicting or superseding ASTM F1847–98 or F1848–98 regarding SAR dogs and handlers.
- 1.3 Nothing in the following document should be construed as contradicting or superseding Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ASRC, and other relevant standards for fielding as airscent dog resources, excepting where the following standards set higher/additional operational requirements consistent with typing.
- 1.4 Candidates seeking Airscent Dog Team Type III credential shall be capable of performing these functions safely at any time of the year, day or night, and in all weather conditions experienced in the environments to which AMRG responds.
- 1.5 An Airscent Dog Team Type III credential issued by AMRG does not constitute a license to practice skills, but signifies only that the individual holding the credential has met an established standard of knowledge and performance and has demonstrated the ability to function in a competent manner at the level indicated.
- 1.6 Airscent Dog Team Type III credentialing issued by AMRG shall be valid for as long the required external certification is valid or three years, whichever is shorter.
- 1.7 Airscent Dog Team Type III credentialing is contingent on maintaining good standing in AMRG and the credential may be suspended or revoked by AMRG, consistent with the section 2.9 of the AMRG Administrative Policies and Standard Operational Guidelines.

### 2 REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Minimum age for a credentialed dog for Airscent Dog Team Type III is 12 months.
- 2.2 Dog Handler meets and maintains all current requirements of AMRG/ASRC FTL.
- 2.3 Airscent Dog Team Type IV credentialing is not a prerequisite for Airscent Dog Team Type III.
- 2.4 Shall have successfully completed an hour-length or longer certified course in canine or pet first aid, such as the Red Cross Pet First Aid course; other courses may be accepted as equivalent by a simple majority vote of the AMRG board of directors.
- 2.5 Candidate shall hold a current certification demonstrating minimum obedience and proper behavior, for example an AKC K9 Good Citizen certification; other certifications or credentials may be accepted as equivalent by a simple majority vote of the AMRG board of directors.
- 2.6 Candidate shall maintain a checkoff list reflecting skills described below demonstrated to AMRG Airscent Dog Team Type III or higher handlers reflecting all the practical skills described below.
- 2.7 In addition to the minimum personal equipment requirements as set forth in AMRG/ASRC FTL requirements, Candidates seeking Airscent Dog Team Type III demonstrate that their SAR packs contain the following additional personal equipment items while training or during operations.
  - 2.7.1 One – 6' leash or longer leash that can be clipped to itself to make a 6' length. Flexi-leads and other reeled and similar leashes are not suitable substitutes
  - 2.7.2 One – pair leather full-finger gloves suitable for rope work.
  - 2.7.3 One – extra 1-liter or larger water bottle over and above equipment requirements for FTL

- 2.7.4 Dog food sufficient to feed the dog for 24 hours
- 2.7.5 Sufficient Vet wrap, Ace bandage, or similar product to make a temporary muzzle for an injured dog
- 2.7.6 If part of the dog's reward, any toys/treats/etc.

### 3 KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- 3.1 The Airscent Dog Team Type III handler shall have an understanding of the items listed under each subject. Some items may require the performance of manual skills.
  - 3.1.1 Canine Search Operations
    - 3.1.1.1 Describe how weather affects movement of airscent as reflected in current meteorological science.
    - 3.1.1.2 Describe the differences in training and operations of airscent and trailing or other ground-scent dogs, and how those differences affect mission and deployment of the two resources.
    - 3.1.1.3 Explain how different times of day and weather patterns affect optimal tactics for approaching airscent tasks.
    - 3.1.1.4 Describe, in a topographic map exercise, a workable search pattern for an airscent dog team to grid search a wilderness airscent task of approximately 80 acres, given a known wind direction and the geographic features of the area shown on the map.
    - 3.1.1.5 Discuss other approaches that might be taken to search the area, including grid search, perimeter search, and binary search, and their relative strengths and weaknesses.
  - 3.1.2 Wilderness Survival
    - 3.1.2.1 Describe how the presence of a canine partner affects survival situations in the wilderness.
    - 3.1.2.2 Describe how canine physiology and physiognomy affects their risk of heat- and cold-related environmental illness differently than humans, and how a handler can prevent or treat these conditions in their canine partners.
    - 3.1.2.3 Discuss average daily food and water requirements for dogs, including how size of dog, level of activity, and weather affect them
    - 3.1.2.4 Demonstrate the ability to bivouac in any type weather conditions, with canine partner and without significantly affecting functional ability, using only the equipment carried during operational testing as described below.
  - 3.1.3 First Aid
    - 3.1.3.1 Demonstrate treatment of two of the following (simulated) first-aid scenarios on the canine partner:
      - 3.1.3.2 Splinting a fractured leg, including muzzling the dog beforehand
      - 3.1.3.3 Removing a tick
      - 3.1.3.4 Stopping/dressing moderate bleeding, including muzzling the dog beforehand
      - 3.1.3.5 CPR
  - 3.1.4 Canine behavior
    - 3.1.4.1 Discuss issues of dominance and aggression in dogs, and how aggression toward other dogs and humans can be avoided and/or addressed
    - 3.1.4.2 Explain the value of motivation and reward in shaping canine behavior
  - 3.1.5 Search Skills
    - 3.1.5.1 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to two subjects

hidden in camouflage or other low-visibility colors in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 60 to 120 acres of moderate terrain not familiar to the handler and in the daylight. If two subjects are placed they shall be separated by at least 300 meters. Note that if this or any of the tasks described in 3.1.5.2, 3.1.5.3, or 3.1.5.4 contain no subject, the rest shall contain at least one.

- 3.1.5.2 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in camouflage or other low-visibility colors in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator and within 10 meters of a 0.5- to 1-mile linear feature such as a trail, ridgetop, creek, etc. in daylight or at night in an area not familiar to the handler.
- 3.1.5.3 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in camouflage or other low-visibility colors in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 20 to 40 acres of moderate terrain at night in an area not familiar to the handler.
- 3.1.5.4 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in camouflage or other low-visibility colors in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 20 to 40 acres of difficult terrain (i.e., steep or irregular, as in a strip mine piling area) or vegetation (thick brambles/undergrowth/rhododendron, etc.) not familiar to the handler.
- 3.1.5.5 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for greater than 15 grams of human tissue that is hidden under a low-visibility-colored covering (container, camouflage cloth, vegetation, etc.) at ground level in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of one (1) acre. Area may be familiar to handler.
- 3.1.6 Demonstration of basic obedience in the form of:
  - 3.1.6.1 Following the handler off-leash
  - 3.1.6.2 Jumping into a vehicle on command
  - 3.1.6.3 Interacting with a human and neutral dog unknown to the dog without overt signs of aggression or fear
  - 3.1.6.4 Recall off-lead through distractions
  - 3.1.6.5 Down-stay-off lead, in the presence of distractions

#### 4 CREDENTIALING PROCEDURE

##### 4.1 Testing/External Evaluation

###### 4.1.1 Skills checkoffs

4.1.1.1 The Candidate must demonstrate all skills described in these standards via a checkoff list maintained by the Candidate.

4.1.1.2 Checkoffs may be signed off by any AMRG Airscent Dog Handler of Type III or above.

4.1.2 External evaluation and certification to NIMS Type III wilderness non-discriminating airscent typing is required and may be acquired through any of the following NIMS-compliant entities:

- 4.1.2.1 Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council (PSARC)
- 4.1.2.2 National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR)
- 4.1.2.3 American Mantrailing, Police & Work Dog Association (AMPWDA)
- 4.1.2.4 American Working Dog Association (AWDA)
- 4.1.2.5 International Police Work Dog Association (IPWDA)

- 4.1.2.6 North American Police Word Dog Association (NAPWDA)
- 4.1.2.7 National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA)
- 4.1.3 When all other requirements are met, the candidate's credential is confirmed by a majority vote of AMRG members at a regularly scheduled business meeting.
- 4.1.4 Should the entity granting external Airscent Dog Team Type III evaluation require a different time period for recertification, Candidate must re-test at that time period or at the three-year period described above, whichever is shorter.
- 4.2 Re-credentialing Procedures
  - 4.2.1 To maintain AMRG Airscent Dog Team Type III credentials, a team must re-certify before the expiration of their current credential.
  - 4.2.2 Individuals applying for recertification must meet or exceed the following continuing education requirements. These will be a combination of training, missions and demonstration of practical skills to recertify. Note that certification of a handler with a new dog is not to be considered a recertification, but a new certification.
    - 4.2.2.1 Presentation of a copy of his or her canine training logbook documenting a minimum of 72 search tasks over a three-year period (with at least 20 in each year), signed off by AMRG's Canine Training Officer or GTO.
    - 4.2.2.2 Demonstration of participation as an airscents dog handler or canine management liaison in a minimum of nine (9) real or full-scale exercise simulated mission tasks over the three-year period. TAFs, other mission records or sign-in sheets signed off by Mission Operations Chiefs or Managers, and attestations by Mission Operations Chiefs or Managers will be recognized for this purpose.
    - 4.2.2.3 Current and valid recognized external recertification, as described above.
    - 4.2.2.4 Successful performance of any additional search or other skill performances mandated for Airscent Dog Team Type III credentialing since the team's initial credentialing.
  - 4.2.3 The Airscent Dog Team Type III credential may also be renewed by successfully challenging the initial credentialing process, and meeting any other requirements for certification for Airscent Dog Team Type III that exist at the time of recertification.
  - 4.2.4 Each Candidate is responsible for making individual arrangements for recertification testing.
  - 4.2.5 If a Candidate fails to perform successfully any portion of the re-credentialing process, the team loses operational status until these requirements are met.
  - 4.2.6 Failure to re-credential within a year of the expiration of the external certification requires re-credentialing under the full initial process.
  - 4.2.7 When all other requirements are met, the candidate's credential is confirmed by a majority vote of AMRG members at a regularly scheduled business meeting.



### III. Airscent Dog Team Type I

#### 1 SCOPE

- 1.1 The following credentialing standard is intended to allow AMRG to field non-discriminating airscent dog-and-handler teams that meet NIMS Type I categorization (FEMA 508-8).
- 1.2 Nothing in the following document should be construed as contradicting or superseding ASTM F1847–98 or F1848–98 regarding SAR dogs and handlers.
- 1.3 Nothing in the following document should be construed as contradicting or superseding Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ASRC, and other relevant standards for fielding as airscent dog resources, excepting where the following standards set higher/additional operational requirements consistent with typing.
- 1.4 Candidates seeking Airscent Dog Team Type I credential shall be capable of performing these functions safely at any time of the year, day or night, and in all weather conditions experienced in the environments to which AMRG responds.
- 1.5 An Airscent Dog Team Type I credential issued by AMRG does not constitute a license to practice skills, but signifies only that the individual holding the credential has met an established standard of knowledge and performance and shall be able to function in a competent manner at the level indicated.
- 1.6 Airscent Dog Team Type I credential issued by AMRG shall be valid for as long the required external certification is valid or three years, whichever is shorter.
- 1.7 Airscent Dog Team Type I credential is contingent on maintaining good standing in AMRG and the credential may be suspended or revoked by AMRG, consistent with the section 2.9 of the AMRG Administrative Policies and Standard Operational Guidelines.

#### 2 REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Minimum age for a credentialed dog for Airscent Dog Team Type I is 12 months.
- 2.2 Dog Handler meets and maintains all current requirements of AMRG/ASRC FTL.
- 2.3 Airscent Dog Team Type IV or III credentialing is not a prerequisite for Airscent Dog Team Type I.
- 2.4 Shall have successfully completed an hour-length or longer certified course in canine or pet first aid, such as the Red Cross Pet First Aid course; other courses may be accepted as equivalent by a simple majority vote of the AMRG board of directors.
- 2.5 Candidate shall hold a current certification demonstrating minimum obedience and proper behavior, for example an AKC K9 Good Citizen certification; other certifications or credentials may be accepted as equivalent by a simple majority vote of the AMRG board of directors.
- 2.6 Candidate shall maintain a checkoff list reflecting skills described below demonstrated to AMRG Airscent Dog Team Type III or higher handlers reflecting all the practical skills described below.
- 2.7 In addition to the minimum personal equipment requirements as set forth in AMRG/ASRC FTL requirements, Candidates seeking Airscent Dog Team Type I credential shall demonstrate that their SAR packs contain the following additional personal equipment items.
  - 2.7.1 One – 6' leash or longer leash that can be clipped to itself to make a 6' length. Flexi-leads and other reeled and similar leashes are not suitable substitutes
  - 2.7.2 One – pair gloves suitable for rope work.
  - 2.7.3 One – extra 1-liter or larger water bottle over and above equipment requirements for FTL

- 2.7.4 Dog food sufficient to feed the dog for 24 hours
- 2.7.5 Sufficient Vet wrap, Ace bandage, or similar product to make a temporary muzzle for an injured dog
- 2.7.6 If part of the dog's reward, any toys/treats/etc.
- 3 KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS
  - 3.1 The Airscent Dog Team Type I handler shall have an understanding of the items listed under each subject. Some items may require the performance of manual skills.
    - 3.1.1 Canine Search Operations
      - 3.1.1.1 Describe how weather affects movement of airscent as reflected in current meteorological science.
      - 3.1.1.2 Describe the differences in training and operations of airscent and trailing or other ground-scent dogs, and how those differences affect mission and deployment of the two resources.
      - 3.1.1.3 Explain how different times of day and weather patterns affect optimal tactics for approaching airscent tasks.
      - 3.1.1.4 Given a topographic map on which is outlined an approximately 80-acre search area, and the wind direction, describe how to position an airscent dog team to grid search this area with a wilderness airscent task.
      - 3.1.1.5 Discuss approaches that might be taken to search the area, including grid search, perimeter search, and binary search, and their relative strengths and weaknesses.
    - 3.1.2 Wilderness Survival
      - 3.1.2.1 Describe how the presence of a canine partner affects survival situations in the wilderness.
      - 3.1.2.2 Describe how canine physiology and physiognomy affects their risk of heat- and cold-related environmental illness differently than humans, and how a handler can prevent or treat these conditions in their canine partners.
      - 3.1.2.3 Discuss average daily food and water requirements for dogs, including how size of dog, level of activity, and weather affect them
      - 3.1.2.4 Demonstrate the ability to bivouac in any type weather conditions, with canine partner and without significantly affecting functional ability, using only the equipment carried during operational testing as described below.
      - 3.1.2.5 Demonstrate proper technique for caching food and other equipment necessary for handler and dog over a period of 72 hours, in a manner resistant to local wildlife.
    - 3.1.3 First Aid
      - 3.1.3.1 Demonstrate treatment of two of the following (simulated) first-aid scenarios on the canine partner:
        - 3.1.3.2 Splinting a fractured leg, including muzzling the dog beforehand
        - 3.1.3.3 Removing a tick
        - 3.1.3.4 Stopping/dressing moderate bleeding, including muzzling the dog beforehand
        - 3.1.3.5 CPR
    - 3.1.4 Canine behavior
      - 3.1.4.1 Discuss issues of dominance and aggression in dogs, and how aggression toward other dogs and humans can be avoided and/or addressed
      - 3.1.4.2 Explain the value of motivation and reward in shaping canine behavior
    - 3.1.5 Search Skills

- 3.1.5.1 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to three subjects hidden in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 120 to 160 acres of moderate terrain not familiar to the handler and in the daylight. If multiple subjects are placed they shall be separated by at least 300 meters from each other. Note that if this or any of the tasks described in 3.1.5.2, 3.1.5.3, or 3.1.5.4 contain no subject, the rest shall contain at least one subject.
- 3.1.5.2 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator and within 10 meters of a 1- to 2-mile linear feature such as a trail, ridgetop, creek, etc. unfamiliar to the handler in daylight or at night.
- 3.1.5.3 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 40 to 60 acres of moderate terrain unfamiliar to the handler at night.
- 3.1.5.4 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for zero to one subject hidden in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of 40 to 60 acres of difficult terrain (i.e., steep or irregular, as in a strip mine piling area) or vegetation (thick brambles/undergrowth/rhododendron, etc.) unfamiliar to the handler during the day.
- 3.1.5.5 Successfully demonstrate a canine airscent search for greater than 15 grams of human tissue that is hidden under a low-visibility-colored covering (container, camouflage cloth, vegetation, etc.) at ground level in a randomized location not known to the handler or evaluator within an area of one (1) acre. Area may be familiar to handler.
- 3.1.6 Demonstrate basic obedience in the form of:
  - 3.1.6.1 Following the handler off-leash
  - 3.1.6.2 Jumping into a vehicle on command
  - 3.1.6.3 Interacting with a human and neutral dog unknown to the dog without overt signs of aggression or fear
  - 3.1.6.4 Recall off-lead through distractions
  - 3.1.6.5 Down-stay-off lead, in the presence of distractions

#### 4 CREDENTIALING PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Testing/External Evaluation
  - 4.2 Skills checkoffs
    - 4.2.1.1 The Candidate must demonstrate all skills described in these standards via a checkoff list maintained by the Candidate.
    - 4.2.1.2 Checkoffs may be made by any AMRG Airscent Dog Handler of Type III or above.
    - 4.2.2 External evaluation and certification to NIMS Type I or II wilderness non-discriminating airscent typing is required and may be acquired through any of the following NIMS-compliant entities:
      - 4.2.2.1 Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council (PSARC)
      - 4.2.2.2 National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR)
      - 4.2.2.3 American Mantrailing, Police & Work Dog Association (AMPWDA)
      - 4.2.2.4 American Working Dog Association (AWDA)
      - 4.2.2.5 International Police Work Dog Association (IPWDA)
      - 4.2.2.6 North American Police Word Dog Association (NAPWDA)
      - 4.2.2.7 National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA)

- 4.2.3 Should the entity granting external Airscent Dog Team Type I or II evaluation require a different time period for recertification, Candidate must re-test at that time period or at the three-year period described above, whichever is shorter.
- 4.2.4 When all other requirements are met, the candidate's credential is confirmed by a majority vote of AMRG members at a regularly scheduled business meeting.
- 4.3 Re-credentialing Procedures
  - 4.3.1 To maintain AMRG Airscent Dog Team Type I credentials, a team must re-certify before the expiration of their current credential.
  - 4.3.2 Individuals applying for recertification must meet or exceed the following continuing education requirements. These will be a combination of training, missions and demonstration of practical skills to recertify. Note that certification of a handler with a new dog is not to be considered a recertification, but a new certification.
    - 4.3.2.1 Presentation of a copy of his or her canine training logbook documenting a minimum of 72 search tasks over a three-year period (with at least 20 in each year), signed off by AMRG's Canine Training Officer or GTO.
    - 4.3.2.2 Demonstration of participation as an airscents dog handler or canine management liaison in a minimum of nine (9) real or full-scale exercise simulated mission tasks over the three-year period. TAFs, other mission records or sign-in sheets signed off by Mission Operations Chiefs or Managers, and attestations by Mission Operations Chiefs or Managers will be recognized for this purpose.
    - 4.3.2.3 Current and valid recognized external recertification, as outlined above.
    - 4.3.2.4 Successful performance of any additional search or other skill performances mandated for Airscent Dog Team Type I credentialing since the team's initial credentialing.
  - 4.3.3 The Airscent Dog Team Type I credential may also be renewed by successfully challenging the initial credentialing process, and meeting any other requirements for certification for Airscent Dog Team Type I that exist at the time of recertification.
  - 4.3.4 Each Candidate is responsible for making individual arrangements for recertification testing.
  - 4.3.5 If a Candidate fails to perform successfully any portion of the re-credentialing process, the team loses operational status until these requirements are met.
  - 4.3.6 Failure to re-credential within a year of the expiration of the external certification requires re-credentialing under the full initial process.
  - 4.3.7 When all other requirements are met, the candidate's credential is confirmed by a majority vote of AMRG members at a regularly scheduled business meeting.

#### IV. Non-Airscent Secondary Certifications

##### 1 SCOPE

- 1.1 To allow AMRG to field SAR dog resources beyond current standards, members who are currently credentialed at Airscent Dog Team Type III or higher and who have current credentials in other canine specialties (HRD, trialing, USAR, etc.) at the NIMS Type IV or higher level are considered operational in those specialties at the NIMS Type level of their external certification.
- 1.2 This mechanism for fielding will automatically be superseded by future AMRG standards in these specialties.

## V. Supporting Documentation

### 1 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 1.1 Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
  - 1.2 Administrative Policies and Standard Operational Procedures, Encompassing ASRC and MRA requirements.
- 1.3 Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
  - 1.3.1 Training Standards (v7.1 or current)
- 1.4 ASTM Standards
  - 1.4.1 F1847 – 98 Standard Guide for Demonstrating Minimum Skills of Search and Rescue Dogs and Handlers
  - 1.4.2 F1848 – 98 Standard Classification for Search and Rescue Dog Crew/Teams
- 1.5 Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - 1.5.1 Emergency Support Function #9 Search and Rescue
    - 1.5.1.1 <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-09.pdf>
- 1.6 Typed Resource Definitions – Search and Rescue
  - 1.6.1 [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/508-8\\_search\\_and\\_rescue\\_resources.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/508-8_search_and_rescue_resources.pdf)
- 1.7 State Search and Rescue Councils
  - 1.7.1 Pennsylvania ([www.psarc.org](http://www.psarc.org))
  - 1.7.2 Virginia ([www.vasarco.org](http://www.vasarco.org))
  - 1.7.3 State Emergency Operations Plans
    - 1.7.3.1 Maryland Emergency Management Agency
      - 1.7.3.1.1 [http://www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA/content/pdf/The\\_State\\_of\\_Maryland\\_Emergency\\_Operations\\_Plan\\_26Aug09.pdf](http://www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA/content/pdf/The_State_of_Maryland_Emergency_Operations_Plan_26Aug09.pdf)
    - 1.7.3.2 Ohio Emergency Management Agency
      - 1.7.3.2.1 [http://ema.ohio.gov/Documents/Ohio\\_EOP/esf\\_9.pdf](http://ema.ohio.gov/Documents/Ohio_EOP/esf_9.pdf)
    - 1.7.3.3 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
    - 1.7.3.4 West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
      - 1.7.3.4.1 [http://www.wvdhsem.gov/wveop\\_1.htm](http://www.wvdhsem.gov/wveop_1.htm)
    - 1.7.3.5 Virginia Department of Emergency Management
      - 1.7.3.5.1 [http://www.vaemergency.com/library/plans/coveop/eopvol2/COVEOP\\_SF9\\_version\\_12\\_10\\_2009.pdf](http://www.vaemergency.com/library/plans/coveop/eopvol2/COVEOP_SF9_version_12_10_2009.pdf)
  - 1.7.4 Mountain Rescue Association
    - 1.7.4.1 Member Policies 6-24-2007

### 2 TERMINOLOGY

- 2.1 The definitions listed here are for the purpose of these standards only. They are intended to adhere to ASTM F1848–98 and may or may not reflect the definitions used by other individuals, groups, or agencies.
  - 2.1.1 AHJ – Agency Having Jurisdiction
  - 2.1.2 Airscent – Airborne Human scent carried by the wind or residing in the air in the absence of wind
  - 2.1.3 Airscent SAR Dog – a dog trained to search linear features or areas for subjects without needing a scent article or an LKP within the feature or area, usually (but not necessarily) by following airscents or residual scents
  - 2.1.4 AKC – the American Kennel Club
  - 2.1.5 Alert – natural behavior by dog subjectively identified by handler as indicating that the dog has encountered human scent
  - 2.1.6 Bark-and-hold – trained behavior in which dog stays with subject and attracts

- handler to subject's location by barking
- 2.1.7 Canine Training Officer – AMRG officer, appointed jointly by AMRG's Commander and GTO, responsible for internal canine training and testing program and duties described below.
  - 2.1.8 DHS – Department of Homeland Security
  - 2.1.9 Dog-and-handler team – the functional unit to be tested, one dog and one handler.
  - 2.1.10 Dog Handler – a SAR professional who is trained and trains with a dog to perform canine-guided SAR tasks; the operator who interacts with that dog during SAR tasks. At Type III level, the handler is by definition the FTL for the dog team.
  - 2.1.11 Dog team – the dog-and-handler team plus any Dog Team Members.
  - 2.1.12 Dog Team Member – human member of the dog team other than the handler, who will be responsible for visual searching in parallel with the dog's olfactory search, as well as other tasks assigned by the FTL of the dog team (for example, communications, first aid, etc.)
  - 2.1.13 FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - 2.1.14 FTL – Field Team Leader
  - 2.1.15 FTM – Field Team Member
  - 2.1.16 Ground scent – Human scent that has fallen directly from the subject onto the ground, sometimes deflected slightly by the wind
  - 2.1.17 GTO – ASRC Group Training Officer
  - 2.1.18 HRD – Human Remains Detection
  - 2.1.19 NASAR – National Association for Search and Rescue
  - 2.1.20 Neutral dog – an experienced dog that does not initiate aggression or act fearfully toward strange dogs
  - 2.1.21 NIMS – National Incident Management Systems
  - 2.1.22 PSARC – Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council
  - 2.1.23 PTB – Position Task Book
  - 2.1.24 Refind – Trained behavior in which dog, after signaling to handler, leads handler to subject.
  - 2.1.25 Residual scent – Human scent found on vegetation or other surfaces having been deposited by the wind (as opposed to ground scent)
  - 2.1.26 Scent article – any object, man-made or natural, that is known to have been handled/touched by the subject (skin contact or through light clothing) and has received minimal (ideally no) handling by other humans. This can include objects such as unhandled cotton balls that have been in contact with an object known to be touched by the subject.
  - 2.1.27 Signal – Behavior of dog, trained or natural, that signals to the handler that the dog has found the subject or another human in the search area.
  - 2.1.28 TAF – Task Assignment Form.
  - 2.1.29 Trailing SAR Dog – a dog trained to begin searching for a specific subject at an LKP or PLS, roughly following their path of movement to their current location, usually (but not necessarily) by following ground or residual scent. Dog follows only scent of a specific subject through use of a scent article.
  - 2.1.30 USAR – Urban Search and Rescue/Disaster SAR
  - 2.1.31 VASARCO – Virginia Search and Rescue Council
  - 2.1.32 VDEM – Virginia Department of Emergency Management
  - 2.1.33 WVSARCO – West Virginia Search and Rescue Council