

NASDN TASK BOOK

AREA SEARCH – LIVE



Handler: Name	Last:	First:
Organization (if applicable)		
Canine: Call Name		
Registered Name (if applicable)		
Reg. Organization		
Breed		
Gender / DOB		
Color / Markings		

Purpose: The purpose of this task book is to document the combination of knowledge, skills and abilities that, when acquired, demonstrates the competencies needed to request a NASDN Canine Evaluation. Members must be observed completing all tasks and show knowledge, competency, and consistency in their performance during the completion of this task book.

Task Books: A separate Task Book must be completed for each canine discipline. A canine team is defined a specific handler with a specific canine. There are four NASDN task books; three discipline specific, and one general SAR book.

- Area Search
- Human Remains Detection
- K9 Mantrailing
- General SAR

Each discipline specific task book includes all basic and specialty skills as well as a practice skill assessment test. The general task book lists skills that are non discipline specific, but desirable for search and rescue work. These include, but are not limited to, first aid, navigation, incident command, physical fitness, blood borne pathogens, etc. Most of these skill sets are available through other professional agencies and NASDN will not evaluate teams in these areas.

NASDN Evaluations: NASDN has specific evaluation standards for the following:

- Area Search – 40-60 acre wilderness
- Human Remains Detection – small area, small source
- K9 Mantrailing – basic and advanced

NASDN also supports Specialty Evaluations, upon request. The Canine Evaluation in that discipline must have been successfully completed, prior to requesting a Specialty Evaluation. Examples of Specialty evaluations can include, but not limited to scent specific area search, multiple victim area search, large area/large source human remains detection, etc.

Signature authority: The task books should be signed off by a qualified observer. NASDN evaluations must be conducted and signed by approved NASDN evaluators. Definitions and qualifications for these personnel are listed in the NASDN Evaluator and Instructor Standards.

Task Book Skill Sets: All tasks will be hands-on skill demonstrations. Each item has a requirement designation (R or O), as outlined below.

R - Required for the NASDN Canine Evaluation.

O – Optional but highly recommended

The task book required (R) skill sets must all be completed within 24 months of the earliest signature date listed in order to request a NASDN Canine Evaluation.

It is recommended that these skill sets be conducted during the daytime in moderate terrain and weather. However, it is also highly advised that the K9 team train these skills at night and in adverse conditions. All tasks should be worked as “blind” to the handler when being signed off by a qualified observer.

The task book is not required to be repeated once initial NASDN Evaluation in that discipline has been achieved. NASDN does recommend you continue to train toward the Skill Sets listed in the Task Book and use the Skill Assessment Test to maintain proficiency.

***Due to the limited time available at NASDN seminars, NASDN prefers that Skill Sets and Skill Assessment Tests are completed locally to the greatest extent possible.*

Task Book Skills Assessment Test: At the end of each discipline task book is a Skills Assessment Test. This test is a compilation of the various skills needed to prepare for an evaluation. It is a “practice” test to help the K9 team put all the individual skills together. (Compare it to a team scrimmage after all the individual players become proficient at the drills). The more proficient the K9 becomes at this exercise, the more prepared they will be to evaluate and search. It is highly recommended for the K-9 Team to do these periodically. This should be conducted with a qualified observer in order to identify areas that need additional training.

Canine Evaluation: Only an approved NASDN Evaluator may conduct the Canine Evaluation. Requests should be submitted in advance, utilizing NASDN’s Evaluation Request form. Evaluations must be done either at official NASDN seminars or through specific testing requests by host teams (see policy on non-seminar evaluation requests). Once the Evaluation has successfully been completed and passed, you will be supplied with a NASDN Certificate of Completion which will expire 24 months from the date of completion.

Canine Evaluation Renewal: Only an approved NASDN Evaluator may conduct the Canine Evaluation. Requests should be submitted in advance, utilizing NASDN’s Evaluation Request form. The evaluation standard and test for renewal is the same as the initial evaluation test. The renewal evaluation will be conducted at the highest level obtained that this K9 team successfully completed (ie if you have passed a basic evaluation and then successfully passed the advanced level, when requesting to renew your evaluation, you only have to update at the advanced level, not at basic Level). K9 team will be allowed to take the advanced Evaluation for one year past its *lapsed* date before being required to start again at the basic level.

AREA SEARCH SKILL SETS

Skill set 1: Canine Control

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
1.1	R	Canine does not display uncontrolled aggression towards humans or other canines.		
1.2	R	Handler maintains control of canine at all times even in a busy environment.		
1.3	R	Canine has a solid recall to handler.		
1.4	R	Canine can be directed into areas by handler		
1.5	R	Canine will ignore or quickly come off of natural, animal, and human distractions and continue to work through these distractions with minimal handler involvement.		
1.6	O	Canine can perform basic obedience commands (sit, down, stay, leave it, loose heel) with handler off lead.		
1.7	O	Canine can remain calm in vehicle or crate while handler is out of sight at least 10 minutes.		
1.8	O	Canine can work in a busy environment and among multiple searchers (K9 and human).		

Skill set 2: ability to locate target

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
2.1A	R	Canine recognizes live human odor		
2.2	R	Canine will range independently from handler to acquire scent		
2.3	R	Canine will consistently react to target scent and work scent until target acquired		
2.4	R	Canine will work areas which contain no scent source		
2.5	R	Canine will locate target in concealed/covered position on the ground		
2.6A	R	Canine will locate target in various situations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated • In a shelter/building/vehicle (inaccessible without opening a door, etc) • moving 		
2.7	R	Canine will problem solve on own with little handler guidance		
2.8	O	Canine will identify articles from target		
2.9	O	Canine will locate correct target when decoy(s) are present		

Skill set 3: ability to interpret canine behavior

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
3.1	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine has acquired target odor		
3.2	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets areas when scent is not present		
3.3	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is following non-target odor		
3.4	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is not actively searching		
3.6	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine needs water, breaks, other aid and provides them		
3.7	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets scent corridors (scent pulled between two terrain obstacles)		
3.8	R	Handler observes and correctly interprets scent pools		

Skill set 4: final trained response

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
4.1	R	Handler can accurately articulate the K9s final trained response. It is:		
4.2	R	Canine's final trained response can be easily recognized by someone other than the handler		
4.3	R	Canine performs final trained response consistently <i>without prompting from handler.</i>		
4.4A	R	Canine takes handler as close to subject as safely possible		
4.5	R	Handler identifies target based on canine's final trained response		
4.6	R	Canine does not make false alerts		

Skill set 5: handler search skills

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
5.1	R	Handler reviews map/ terrain features to plan search and identify hazards		
5.2	R	Handler checks all climate and environmental conditions to plan search		
5.3	R	Handler asks pertinent questions regarding victim		
5.4	R	Handler carries gear needed for search		
5.5	O	Handler properly collects a scent article		
5.6	R	Handler articulates his strategy verbally as well as on map/gps		
5.7	R	Handler can explain differences between grid, hasty, trail, sector searches, pros and cons of each, and what factors go in to planning them and when they would be deployed in a search.		

Skill set 6: Team Search Ability

#	REQ	TASK	WITNESS	DATE
6.2	R	Handler follows his search plan, or communicates why he is deviating, and adjusts accordingly		
6.3	R	Handler is cognizant of changes in climate and environment and adjusts strategy		
6.4	R	Handler uses dog's behavior changes to adjust search strategy		
6.5	R	Handler adequately and efficiently covers entire search area		
6.6	R	Handler conducts adequate verbal debrief identifying coverage of area, location of targets and other information as needed.		
6.7	R	Team can perform a grid search		
6.8	R	Team can perform a trail search		
6.9	R	Team can perform a hasty search		
6.10	R	Team can perform a sector search		
6.12	O	Team can perform a night search		
6.13	O	Handler provides written report of search with detailed mapping, as well as written description.		
6.14	O	Handler understands and can calculate POD		
6.15	O	Team can search for multiple victims		
6.16	O	Team can perform scent specific search (with no final trained response given at decoys)		

Each witness, which signs off on a task, should sign here and give full name

Witness Signature

Witness Signature

Witness Name

Witness Name

Witness Signature

Witness Signature

Witness Name

Witness Name

Witness Signature

Witness Signature

Witness Name

Witness Name

Witness Signature

Witness Signature

SKILLS ASSESSMENT TEST AREA SEARCH - LIVE

Instructions:

Each aspect of this test is a pass/fail. A fail in any item constitutes a fail overall. This test must be performed under observation of Qualified Observer.

Area of test will be 5-10 acres (based on terrain) and be completed in 30 minutes. It should be conducted during daylight hours in a semi contaminated area without other known targets in area during test. Terrain and weather conditions should be moderate to the best extent possible.

One subject will be placed in the designated area and will be concealed from view by items that blend in to the terrain features. The subject will be placed a minimum of 20 minutes prior to test and should be unknown to the canine.

The test area will be provided to the handler by either map or gps coordinates. Handler will be provided a starting point for test. Time will start as soon as this information is provided to handler.

Handler will be required to provide the following information prior to releasing his canine:

- Canine's final trained response
- Search strategy

Handler will be required to provide a verbal debrief of the test to observers immediately afterwards. This will not be included in the time period, but will be evaluated as part of the test.

Qualified Observer will provide comments for any section of test that was failed.

GRADING SHEET – AREA SEARCH SKILL ASSESSMENT TEST

	Canine Control	P/F
1.1	Canine does not display uncontrolled aggression towards humans or other canines.	
1.2	Handler maintains control of canine at all times even in a busy environment	
1.4	Canine can be directed into areas by handler.	
1.5	Canine will ignore or quickly come off of natural, animal, and human distractions while working and continue to work through these distractions.	

	ability to locate target	P/F
2.1	Canine recognizes live human odor	
2.2	Canine will range independently from handler to acquire scent	
2.3	Canine will consistently react to target scent and work scent until target acquired	
2.5	Canine will locate target	

	ability to interpret canine behavior	P/F
3.1	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine has acquired target odor	
3.2	Handler observes and correctly interprets where scent is not present	
3.3	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is following non-target odor	
3.4	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine is not actively searching	
3.6	Handler observes and correctly interprets when canine needs water, breaks, etc and provides it	

	final trained response	P/F
4.1	Handler can accurately articulate the K9s final trained response	
4.2	Canine’s final trained response can be easily recognized by evaluator	
4.3	Canine performs final trained response consistently <i>without prompting from handler</i>	
4.4	Canine takes handler as close to subject as safely possible	
4.5	Handler identifies target based on canine’s final trained response	
4.6	Canine does not make false alerts	

	handler search skills	P/F
5.1	Handler reviews map/terrain features to plan search and identify hazards	
5.2	Handler checks all climate and environmental conditions to plan search	
5.3	Handler asks pertinent questions regarding victim to plan search	
5.4	Handler carries gear needed for search	
5.6	Handler articulates his strategy verbally as well as on map/gps	

	team search ability	P/F
6.2	handler follows his search plan, or communicates why he is deviating, and adjusts accordingly	
6.3	Handler is cognizant of changes in climate and environment and adjusts strategy	
6.4	handler uses dog’s behavior changes to adjust search strategy	
6.5	handler adequately and efficiently covers entire search area	
6.6	handler conducts adequate verbal debrief to evaluator identifying coverage of area, location of target and other information as needed.	

Team completes test in required time P/F