

TSAR K9 MRE - Mission Readiness Evaluation

The TSAR K9 Mission Readiness Evaluation must be successfully completed within one year of having successfully completed the **Pre-Evaluation III**. Upon successfully completing the **TSAR K9 Mission Readiness Evaluation**, the K9 Team is deemed ready and able for field deployment at any TSAR mission requiring the service of a K9 search team in the modality of evaluation.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE SCHEDULING FIELD PORTION:

- The Handler must pass the New Mexico SAR State Field Certification.
- The Handler must read *Rescue International's First Aid for Search and Rescue Canines and Other Working Dogs* by Karen Dashfield, DVM and successfully complete a test on the contents of the book with a passing score of 80%.
- 23 out of 26 of the below listed Obedience and Agility Commands must be successfully demonstrated in order to continue on to the Field portion of the MRE.
- The K9 Team must successfully perform the following commands on lead with verbal and hand commands (where applicable), evaluated by the K9 Unit Leader and one other unit evaluator.
 - Sit
 - Remote Down
 - Recall from Down
 - Long Down-Stay
 - Absent Down-Stay
 - Stop on Recall
 - Heel
 - Heel w/ 90 & 180 degree turns
 - Wait
 - Socialization, People Approach
 - Socialization, Stay with Stranger
 - Socialization, Car Approach
 - Stay in vehicle
 - Socialization with Dogs
 - Obedience in Distractive Environment
 - Retrieve
 - Directional
- The K-9 Team must successfully perform the following agility evaluation, either on or off lead, evaluated by the K9 Unit Leader and one other unit evaluator.
 - Incline & Board-Walk (Bridge)
 - A-Frame
 - Tunnel
 - Jump
 - Load & Unload
 - Unstable Footing
 - Ladder
 - Boulder Field
 - Swim

FIELD PORTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Evaluation is begun upon first arrival to Incident Base.
- The K-9 Team must arrive on time.

- All equipment for self and dog must be complete and ready to go.
- The K9 team then has 30 minutes to complete the following: brief the mission, complete all “in IB” navigation exercises, and leave IB to deploy into the field.
- **NAVIGATION REQUIREMENTS:**
 - **Air Scent:** Outline your designated search area on a topo map and input those coordinates, forming a defined search sector into your GPS. (in IB)
 - **Track/Trail:** Plot IB and PLS on your map and mark those coordinates in your GPS.
 - Record Weather: wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and humidity. (in IB)
 - Demonstrate on the map how the current weather will affect the search area. (in IB)
 - Illustrate your search strategy on the topo map with the understanding the strategy may change once in the field. (in IB)
 - Program in and navigate to specific UTM coordinates on a GPS. (after leaving IB)
- **AREA SEARCH TIME AND SIZE/LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:**
 - The K-9 team must successfully search and find one or two subjects (unknown) in an area of 120 acres (.48km x .48km) in moderate terrain with some difficulties.
 - The find(s) must take place within 4 hours from the time the dog is released.
- **TRACK/TRAIL TIME AND SIZE/LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:**
 - The K9 Team must successfully find one subject on a track that is 2-3 miles in length in moderate terrain with areas of difficulty.
 - The find must take place within 4 hours from the time the dog is first told to track from the designated point last seen.
 - Track will be aged no less than 12 hours and no more than 24 hours.
 - Track will contain 2 road crossings, a dead end, as well as cross-contamination.
- **SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS:**
 - The handler will not know where the subject(s) is/are placed.
 - Subject(s) is/are placed at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the MRE.
 - The subject shall not wear any bright colors and must not be visible to the handler within 20 feet.
 - The subject may not have hidden for the dog within the last 6 months prior to evaluation and should be unfamiliar to the dog.

★ **VALUES OF MISSION READINESS EVALUATION**

- 3- Year Validation Requirements
 - the K9 Team attends 70% of all scheduled TSAR K9 trainings and meetings during that 3-year period, approved leaves of absence not withstanding.
 - the Field portion only need be repeated to maintain Mission Readiness Status.
- 1-Year Validation Requirements
 - attendance of the K9 Team falls below 70%.
 - K9 Team is not satisfactorily performing in trainings at a Mission Readiness level.
 - K9 Team is completely absent from scheduled team trainings and meetings for 3 months without approved leave of absence.
- Behavior/Obedience Validation Requirements
 - If the dog exhibits regular behavior or obedience issues, the K9 Unit Leader can, at any time, require the K9 Team to perform and satisfactorily pass selected parts or the entirety of the Obedience/Agility portion of the Mission Readiness Evaluation for that K9 Team to retain its Mission Readiness status.

★ **Evaluation Sheets:**

TSAR MRE - OBEDIENCE EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 1

HANDLER'S NAME			
DOG'S NAME		DATE	
OBEDIENCE	EVALUATION STANDARDS	FAIL	PASS
Sit	The dog must sit on command with the handler in close proximity to the dog.		
Remote Down	From the position of the sit-stay, the handler commands the dog to lie down. The down command must be remain in the down command for 1 minute.		
Recall from Down	The handler calls the dog when the remote down is completed. The dog must come quickly and directly to the handler.		
Long Down-Stay	The dog performs the down command. The handler walks 30 feet from the dog, remaining in view, and the dog must remain in the down for 40 minutes. The dog may shift, stand and lay back down of its own accord, but is not to leave the direct area in which the down was begun. The handler may verbally repeat the command no more than two times during the 40-minute time period.		
Absent Down-Stay	The dog is given and performs the down command. The handler walks away at least 30 feet and disappears from site. The dog must remain in the down without the handler visible for 15 minutes. The dog may shift, stand and lay back down of its own accord, but is not to leave the direct area in which the down was begun. The handler may not appear and repeat the command.		
Stop on Recall	The dog is recalled at the end of the absent down-stay. Upon the dog's return path back to the handler, the dog is given a STOP command. The dog must immediately stop without more than a couple of steps forward and remain standing for one minute, awaiting the handler's next command.		
Heel	The heel must be performed without the dog pulling or straining on the lead. During the heel sequence, the dog must perform the heel at slow, medium, and fast paces. The handler may give a command for each of the paces.		
Heel w/ 90 & 180 Degree Turns	During the heel sequence, the dog must readily turn in all directions without pulling, straining, or interfering with the walking gait of the handler.		
Wait	The handler must demonstrate the dog's impulse control. The Handler will present the dog with food or a toy and the dog must exhibit patience toward the presented item until released by the Handler. The wait must be at least 1 minute length.		
SHEET 1 SUB-TOTAL			

TSAR MRE - OBEDIENCE EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 2

OBEDIENCE	EVALUATION STANDARDS	FAIL	PASS
Socialization, People Approach	Handler will stand with dog while a stranger approaches. The dog will sit calmly until the person has greeted the handler. The person will then greet the dog. The dog will remain calm and still during the greeting process, showing confidence.		
Socialization, Stay with Stranger	Handler approaches and hands the lead to someone the dog does not know well. Handler walks away out of site and the dog must remain calm with no whining or barking. Dog can move around, but must not pull away from stranger holding their lead.		
Socialization, Car Approach	Handler will return to and close all the doors, but leave the windows down. The handler will walk 20 feet away from the vehicle while the dog continues to stay in the vehicle. A stranger will pass by the vehicle, drop an item beside the vehicle, and then pick it up and continue walking past the vehicle. The dog will remain calm and quiet. Two other strangers will approach the vehicle, stop beside it and begin talking, talk for a minute, and then continue walking on. The dog must remain still and quiet. A person will walk a dog past the car (within 10 feet of) and the dog will remain still and quiet.		
Stay in Vehicle	Handler will place the dog in a vehicle, open all doors, tell the dog to stay, and leave the direct vicinity of the vehicle. The dog must stay in the vehicle for 5 minutes.		
Socialization with Dogs	The handler will load his/her dog into a vehicle with at least two other dogs. The dogs must sit or down and remain calm.		
Obedience in Distractive Environment	The handler will heel the dog though a series of distractions to include some of the following: children playing, other dogs, loud noises, machinery or noisy equipment, bicycles, passing bicycle, person walking on crutches, yelling, etc. The handler will then ask the dog to down-stay, wait, and recall in the same environment.		
Retrieve	The handler will throw something for the dog to fetch and bring back to the handler. The dog must readily give up the item to the handler.		
Directional	The handler must send the dog out to the right, left and away (air scent) or command the dog to turn right, left, back up and go around (tracking/trailing).		
SHEET 2 SUB-TOTAL			

TSAR MRE - AGILITY EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 3

AGILITY	EVALUATION STANDARDS	FAIL	PASS
Incline & Cat-walk	The dog must walk up an incline board (45 degrees), across an elevated plank (cat-walk, no more than 12" wide and at least 6 feet long), and down a second incline board (45 degrees) on command.		
A-Frame	The dog must scale up a 6-foot A-frame, crest and go down the other side on command.		
Tunnel	The dog must enter a tunnel on command, go all the way through to the other end, and exit a tunnel which is at least 12 feet long.		
Jump	The dog must be able to jump upon a platform which is 24"- 36" high on command. Actual height is dependent on height and breed of dog and is determined by evaluator.		
Load & Unload	The dog must easily load on command one of the following: an ATV, a snowmobile, back of a running pick-up, or a ski lift, must remain on the object while moving for a minimum of 5 minutes and unload on command.		
Unstable Footing	The dog will be tested in crossing three of the following unstable surfaces: slick, moving, noisy, rounded, open grating, or loose debris.		
Boulder Field	The dog must be able to negotiate up, over and down a field of boulders which is at least 10 feet across without hesitation on command.		
Ladder	The dog must calmly, surely, and with precision walk up and down a six foot ladder on command or walk on an elevated horizontal ladder.		
Swim	The dog must demonstrate entering water over its head and swimming a distance of 20 feet. This may be done utilizing retrieval of a toy.		
MRE TOTALS - AGILITY, SHEET 3			
MRE TOTALS - OBEDIENCE, SHEET 2			
MRE TOTALS, OBEDIENCE, SHEET 1			
FAIL	Team must pass 23 out of 26 of the trials in order to move on to field evaluation. If more than 3 trials are failed, the team must re-take and pass this portion before allowed to proceed to the Field MRE portion.	MRE – TOTAL TEAM SCORE	
PASS			

SIGNATURES:

Evaluator 1

Date

Evaluator 2

Date

TSAR MRE - FIELD EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 1

HANDLER'S NAME

DOG'S NAME

DATE

HANDLER - PREP

EVALUATION STANDARDS

SCORE

Arrival

- K9 Team arrives at IB on time
- Has appropriate equipment ready to go
- in appropriate control of one's dog.

Mission Briefing

- Obtains the mission and subject info.
- Asks appropriate questions.
- Gathers navigation and weather info
- Determines scent source (scent-specific only).

Navigation

- Programs GPS
- Plots required info on a topo map
- Determines correct bearing(s) using a map and compass

Search Strategy

- Determines wind direction & speed,
- Takes temperature, & humidity readings
- Accurately logs measurements
- Accurately describes search terrain from topo map
- Formulates and describes a viable search strategy

Scent Theory

- Demonstrates clear understanding of scent theory by illustrating how wind and scent should move through the search sector on the map.
- Utilizes that understanding throughout the search.

MRE – TOTAL: HANDLER PREP - SHEET 1

TSAR MRE - FIELD EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 2

HANDLER – IN FIELD	EVALUATION STANDARDS	SCORE
Handling Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and send out. • Communication with dog during search • Does not lead dog 	
Reading Dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working, not working • distracted by wildlife, etc. • indications • alert 	
Search Strategy	Handler adjusts the search plan as needed for terrain and weather changes or for support team or IC needs.	
Navigation	Handler must show clear, concise interface with his/her navigational team regarding the search area & executing the search plan	
Communications	Handler must facilitate appropriate communication with base camp	
K9 Care	Handler must demonstrate an understanding for when it is appropriate for the dog to be rested and watered and in attending to other K9 needs during the search.	
Physical Fitness	Handler must exhibit adequate physical fitness and stamina to complete the required search with ease.	
Professionalism	Handler must maintain a calm and professional attitude.	
Reward	Handler must demonstrate an acceptable reward system for the dog.	
MRE – TOTAL: HANDLER IN FIELD - SHEET 2		

TSAR MRE - FIELD EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 3

Dog – IN field	EVALUATION STANDARDS	SCORE	
		SUBJECT 1	SUBJECT 2
Work Ethic	Dog must exhibit eagerness to work & a consistent work ethic throughout the search.		
Handler Response	Dog must exhibit a quick, positive response to handler's commands.		
Physical Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog must show an ease in ability to handle the terrain. • Dog must exhibit stamina for weather and terrain. 		
Problem Solving	Dog must show ability to problem-solve through difficulties in the search in regards to scent, physical barriers, etc.		
Working Focus	Dog must be willing to quickly resume work after a break or interruption of search or to resume if needing to further search after the first subject is located.		
Handler Relationship	Dog must exhibit a good relationship with the handler throughout the search.		
Reward Satisfaction	Dog must exhibit exuberance & satisfaction with his reward system.		
MRE – TOTALS: DOG IN FIELD – SCORES FOR SUBJECTS 1 & 2			
MRE – TOTAL: DOG IN FIELD - SHEET 3			

**TSAR MRE - FIELD EVALUATION SCORE SHEET 4
SPECIFIC SEARCH MODALITIES**

 **AIR SCENT**

EVALUATION STANDARD	Search grid is 120 acres (.48km x .48km)	YES	NO	
	Subjects are in place at least 30 minutes prior to begin of search.	YES	NO	
The above standards must be met for the Area Evaluation to be valid.		SCORE	SUBJECT 1	SUBJECT 2
Ranging	Dog ranges well in front of the handler in relation to terrain and weather circumstances.			
Directional Send Outs	Dog ranges in the appropriate direction when directional signals are given by the handler.			
Recall/Redirect	Dog exhibits clear recall or redirect when necessary.			
Subject Loyalty	Dog must demonstrate a clear find/re-find, taking the handler all the way into the subject.			
MRE – TOTAL: AIR SCENT – SCORES FOR SUBJECTS 1 & 2				

MRE – TOTAL: AIR SCENT – SHEET 4

 **TRACKING/TRAILING**

EVALUATION STANDARDS	Track will be no less than 1 mile and no more than 3 miles.	YES	NO
	Track will be aged no less than 12 hours and no more than 24 hours.	YES	NO
	Track will contain 2 road crossings, a dead end, cross contamination, & scent discrimination.	YES	NO
The above standards must be met for the Tracking/Trailing Evaluation to be valid.		SCORE	
Track Acquisition	Dog must demonstrate a clear track acquisition.		
Line-Handling	Handler handles the lead with finesse & exhibits clear communication skills to the dog through the line.		
Problem-Solving	Dog must show clear decision-making when doing a negative check or re-acquiring the track.		
Subject Loyalty	Dog must eagerly approach the subject when found.		

MRE – TOTAL: TRACKING/TRAILING – SHEET 4

