

COMBATTING PERSON-BORNE EXPLOSIVES

Since 2012, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Detection Canine Program has worked to better understand the effectiveness of canines as they are trained to protect soft targets and crowded venues from explosive threats. One project has focused on assessing canines specially trained in person-borne explosive detection (PBED) to understand the strengths and limitations of the canines against current and emerging threats. To date, thousands of data points have been collected over more than seven years during hundreds of individual assessment events involving federal, state, and local law enforcement partner agencies. The resulting guideline is based on the deep understanding gained from these assessments and verification of advanced training techniques that have proven successful in fielding proficient PBED canine teams.

S&T RESPONDING TO THE NEED

The S&T PBED Guideline is intended for canine training officers familiar with traditional explosive detection canine training who would like to "up-train" teams to develop PBED capability. The main body of the guideline includes preparatory training to ready the canine for more complex tasks, a discussion of the methodology of the "scent cone," and a progressive training program from static through dynamic training.

The PBED Guideline exists in a website format, including example videos and pictures, with no requirement for internet access. If you are interested in discussing the canine person-borne explosive detection training guideline, please contact us at STK9@hq.dhs.gov.

GUIDELINE OVERVIEW

The PBED Guideline includes a thorough description of the requirements and resources critical to a successful program, including:

- Time and resource commitments for dedicated operational maintenance training
- Creation of personnel decoy pools
- Need for access to private and public spaces

The full 7-week program is structured to:

- Describe the purpose and desired outcome
- Provide objectives for achievement
- Identify the training environment
- Provide specific material requirements
- Describe how to set up each exercise
- Provide full methodology for training

Also included are recommendations for maintenance and remedial training.



Scent cone training methodology is discussed in the Guideline.



A detection canine team working the crowd at a stadium.