



## *“Experience Matters and Professional K-9 Handlers Know it”*

**HITS- Handler Instruction and Training Seminar-** The largest and most diverse K9 training event in the United States is run by working K-9 handlers who have more than 75 years of combined experience working police dogs. Nothing will ever be more important in your police K-9 career as the training you receive. How well you perform as a police K-9 handler is a direct reflection of your training and education. Your career and your life hang in the balance where your split second decisions on the street might very well determine the quality and longevity of both. Your good decisions can and will oftentimes affect how police dogs are used across the nation for decades to come.

There's clear and convincing evidence that when it comes to police K-9 training, highly experienced trainers can make a significant impression on your career. Thousands of police K-9 handlers from around the world already know that HITS brings you the highest quality training from the most professional K-9 trainers. These are experienced men and women who've been there, just like you. Don't miss the opportunity to learn from the professional trainers at HITS 2018, because *Experience Matters and Professional K-9 Handlers Know it*.

K-9 Handlers, Supervisors and administrators from around the world continue to join us at HITS, year after year, be a part of what matters and come to HITS 2018. Don't miss out on the diversity of what these professional trainers have to offer. Hundreds of men and women who wear the uniform and serve will join together for one common mission, to train for a better and safer K9 deployment the next time they hit the streets. Be smart, train hard, practice professionalism and tactics with each deployment because they both matter to us all.

HITS is owned by working K9 handlers who won't settle for second best when it comes to K9 training. Because we are working handlers, we know what's important in our own training needs and we invite you to come train with us and learn from many of the leading experts and professionals in the police K9 world. We take our training seriously and we know you do too. Join us and hundreds of other professionals just like us in Washington, DC for the best training on the planet.

You'll have opportunities to meet K9 handlers from around the world and build your own network of vital contacts that can help you grow as a handler or trainer. HITS also offers you the chance to shop and browse over 80 vendors with hundreds of new products. There's nothing like getting your hands on the products or seeing a demonstration firsthand. We have everything from vendors selling dogs, specialty equipment and training, to the best in nutrition and safety products. Take a look at our website to get a better idea of what's in store for the HITS 2018 experience in Washington, DC.



*Come to Washington DC and be a part of the HITS 2018 experience*

**WHEN:** HITS 2018 August 14 - 17, 2018, Washington, DC.

**WHERE:** Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, MD.

**ADDRESS:** 201 Waterfront Street,  
National Harbor, MD. 20745-1135

**ROOM COST:** 149.00/night double occupancy  
Reserve your hotel room on the HITS web site,  
[www.HITSK9.NET](http://www.HITSK9.NET)

**ATTENDEE COST:** 375.00 per person before July 15, 2018 After July 15, 2018, - 449.00/person. Register and pay by credit card on our HITS web page [www.HITSK9.NET](http://www.HITSK9.NET)

## ***Schedule of Events***

### ***Tuesday August 14, 2018, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Pre-Registration***

Visit the registration counters in the foyer of the Maryland ballroom, Receive your ID badge, HITS Event Guide and all other free HITS items.

***Tuesday August 14, 2018 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm- Registration & Vendor Appreciation Night, Maryland Ballroom.*** Registration will continue, receive your ID badge, HITS Event Guide and all other free HITS items.

6:30 pm – 7:30pm During Vendor Appreciation Night, Open bar for all attendees and vendors in the vendor area. Start HITS of right, meet the vendors and see what is new in the world of canine training and equipment.



**Wednesday August 15, 2018, Thursday August 16, 2018 and Friday August 17, 2018**

**THREE FULL DAYS OF INSTRUCTION 8:00 am – 6:00 pm each day**

The most diversified and educational law enforcement canine classes ever offered.

8:00am – 6:00 pm each day 5 classes offered simultaneously in five rooms.

10:00 am – 10:30 am Break

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Break

During our breaks stretch your legs and visit the vendors, also enjoy food and drinks in the vendor area.

**Thursday August 16, 2018 HITS Networking reception**

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm - Enjoy HITS signature networking reception in the vendor area. 2 hours of open bar and over 80,000 dollars' worth of raffle prizes given away. If you have never experienced our Networking reception, you don't want to miss it. You must be present to win.

## **HITS 2018 INSTRUCTORS:**

**Brad Smith**

**High Risk K9 Patrol Operations and K9 SWAT Deployment - S.K.I.D.D.S.  
/ CATS**

For those that have a misconception as to how beneficial K9's can be in a high-risk patrol operation or to a SWAT team this class is for you. We encourage all patrol officers, military,



SWAT and supervisors to attend this class. You will learn how to utilize your dog to find the suspect quicker, yet safer, while maintaining your tactical advantage and officer safety.

We will discuss what to look for during your selection of a Tactical Patrol dog or SWAT dog as well as the handler. Learn how a properly trained patrol dog and the handler can be utilized during a in a high-risk patrol deployment or SWAT operation when it comes to tracking, barricaded suspects, approaches, entries, blind corners, room clearing, hallways, stairs, attics, crawl spaces, vehicle assaults, arrest techniques and even in a gas environment.

## **Courtroom Testimony**

### **Know the answers to the questions before their asked.**

Over the year's handlers have improved their training regimen, increase their monthly maintenance training, documentation, and have improved their report writing skills. The one area that is still severely absent is their preparation for a deposition or testifying in a civil courtroom when it comes to answering the basic questions of your job. Know the hard questions any good plaintiff's attorney will ask you to be prepared to give the correct answer because you are a new question.

### **Meet Brad Smith**

Brad Smith retired from the West Covina Police Department in southern California in June 2010 after 30 years of service. Brad was a K9 handler and trainer for West Covina for 25 years and a SWAT dog handler for 18 years. Since 1999 Brad has been National K9 Chairman for N.T.O.A. and a K9 Subject Matter Expert for the California Association of Tactical Officers. Brad specializes in field tactics and officer safety. Brad designed and implemented a K9 SWAT & K9 Patrol Tactical School called S.K.I.D.D.S. and CATS [www.skidds.com](http://www.skidds.com). Brad is also owner of Canine Tactical Operations and Consulting [www.K9TacOps.com](http://www.K9TacOps.com) and the author of the book "K9 Tactical Operations for Patrol and SWAT." Brad has published over 80 articles for a wide variety of publications on K9 Swat Deployment and training. Brad can be reached at [Topdogwck1@aol.com](mailto:Topdogwck1@aol.com) or 626-523-4028.

## **Ken Licklider**

### **Obedience to Odor**

Class Description: This class will take handlers deeper into why detection dogs do what they do. Ken will delve into what "drives" are and how they are utilized. The term obedient to odor



refers to the dog understanding that odor drives the reward, not the handler. This fast pace class will cover everything from odor imprinting, to reward, to search patterns and the why's behind each of these components of detection dog training. Not only is this class highly entertaining, but most of all, it is highly informative.

### **Meet Ken Licklider**

SMSGT, USAF (Ret) Kenneth Licklider, is the Owner/Operator of Vohne Liche Kennels, Inc (VLK), a Service Disabled Veteran owned company headquartered in Denver, Indiana, with additional facilities in California and Holland. VLK is widely known as the premier Private Canine Training Facility and Detection Service Provider in the world and has been providing superior service for the past twenty-four (24) years.

SMSGT Licklider has forty (40) years canine experience, including seventeen (17) years serving in the United States Air Force (U.S.A.F.) in the canine career field. SMSGT Licklider served in the U.S.A.F. from 1977-1993 and served in the capacity of Law Enforcement Superintendent, Kennel Master, Police Service Dog Trainer, and as a Police Service Dog Handler. During his military career SMSGT Licklider competed in and won several military K-9 competitions and was as the recipient of numerous service medals.

Upon his retirement in 1993, SMSGT Licklider formed VLK. SMSGT Licklider is considered a subject matter expert (SME) and is world renowned for his scent work, which has been copied by Dutch Customs. He has been invited to speak and instruct by agencies throughout the United States and abroad and has traveled around the world teaching his methodologies. He currently has dogs and/or conducted training in forty-nine (49) states and more than thirty-two (32) countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, UAE, several in Africa and the European Continent, Mexico, South Africa, Ghana, Turkey, El Salvador, Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Guatemala, Guam, the Philippine Islands, South Korea, and Israel.

SMSGT Licklider has instructed thousands of students and has trained/worked with thousands of dogs in his career. He and his staff train more than five hundred (500) dogs per year. He currently has dogs in service with over five thousand (5,000) Military, Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, Corporate Security, and Private Industry clients to include the United States and Foreign Customs and Border Patrol, Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the



Federal Bureau Of Investigation (FBI), the National Security Agency (NSA), the United States Secret Service (USSS), the United States Pentagon Police, the United States Department of Defense (DoD), the United States Department of State (DoS), the United States Army Special Forces Command, the United States Marine Corp Special Forces Command, the United States Navy Seals, Lackland Military Working Dog School, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, NASA, CN Railway Police, Los Angeles, Chicago, Illinois State Police, Honolulu, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, San Bernardino, Michigan State Police, Metro Detroit Airport Police (MI), Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, Memphis, St. Louis, Phoenix, several Federal and State prisons, Inter-Con, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Engility, Triple Canopy, Global Integrated Security, Aegis, DynCorp, Securitas, Battelle, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) the Peoria Air Show, the Cincinnati Bengals, the Electric Daisy Carnival, and Lollapalooza.

As an SME in the military and police service dog world, SMSGT Lickliger has been instrumental in the development of copious specialized canine programs, both nationally and internationally, to include the United States Army Combat Tracking Dog (CTD), the United States Tactical Explosive Detection Dog (TEDD), and the United States Special Forces Multi-Purpose Canine (MPC). He has developed course doctrines, programs of instructions (POIs), and System Training Plans (STRAPS) for several military canine programs and has served as a SME on several research and development canine detection studies.

SMSGT Lickliger is licensed through the Alcohol Tobacco and Fire Arms (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the State of Indiana to possess and store explosive and controlled substances. VLK has an approved magazine on-site for storage of explosives and approved controlled substance storage. He is a member of several police canine associations, is a founding member of the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG), and is a Co-founder of American Working Dogs (AWD). AWD is an American Working Dog Advocate with members from around the world. AWD publishes an internationally distributed magazine that is published quarterly. It is a vital resource of technology and information that hundreds of Law Enforcement and Government Personnel subscribe to as loyal readers. AWD/VLK also hosts an annual Seminar and Certification Trial (Olympics) at their Denver, Indiana location. The Olympics consist of four (4) action packed days of intense competition amongst the world's best canine teams from across the United States and abroad. This unique event is an opportunity for the civilian community to observe military, law



enforcement, and private industry canine teams from local, state, and national entities, compete in events such as detection (explosive and narcotic), tracking, area search, building search, control, obedience, obstacle course, individual and three (3) man team events, and hard dog/fast dog

SMSGT Lickliger has designed and manufactures a line of towable canine transportation units/trailers. The VLK unit, through thoughtful design and masterful engineering has virtually outdated and made obsolete all of the current K-9 trailer and dog transport vehicles currently on the market. Not only does the VLK design resolve the deficiencies of other units, it sets a new standard for dog transport. VLK's largest client of their towable transportation units is the United States Military.

SMSGT Lickliger and his staff can be reached at the corporate headquarters located in Denver, Indiana at 765-985-2274, via email at [Kenneth@vohneliche.com](mailto:Kenneth@vohneliche.com), via their website at [www.vohneliche.com](http://www.vohneliche.com), and via Facebook at Vohne Liche Kennels, VLK West, and VLK Europe b.v.

## **Arthur "Ted" Daus**

### **2018 Drug Canine Legal Updates**

**ONLY AT HITS – U.S. Supreme Court Case Rodriguez V. United States heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 2015.**

Nationally recognized for prosecuting drug trafficking cases, Ted Daus tells it like it is. What a perfect opportunity for K-9 handlers to learn straight from the prosecutor what he needs to hear from you on the stand when presenting your drug cases to the jury. Ted navigates his way through the latest courtroom decision about police detection dogs and takes us along for the wild and sometimes crazy ride. Ted's abilities as a communicator will keep you on the edge of your seat as he opens everyone's eyes to what's been happening in the courtroom and what the future looks like for drug detection K-9 teams across America.

### **Meet Arthur "Ted" Daus**

Ted Daus is an assistant state attorney with the Broward County State Attorney's Office in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He has been a prosecutor for the past 23 years, the last 18 of which he has been assigned to the Drug Trafficking Unit for the State Attorney's Office. Ted graduated from



Nova Southeastern School of Law in 1991. He has extensive experience as a lecturer on search and seizure for D.E.A., U.S. Customs, various Florida Police Departments, the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Police K-9 Training Institute, Police Canine Consultants and the Canine Development Group. He lectures regularly all across the country to National Canine Organization such as U.S.P.C.A., N.P.C.A. & N.A.P.W.D.A. He is an adjunct professor of law for Nova Southeastern University teaching Trial Advocacy and coaching national mock trial teams. He was until recently, the legal editor and writer for Police K-9 Magazine and lectures every year at their national canine conference "HITS". He is the current nationwide legal advisor for the National Police Canine Association headquartered in Arizona. Most recently, Ted was counsel of record for both United States Supreme Court K-9 cases, Harris & Jardines, argued before the court on October 31st, 2012.

## ***Jeff Barrett***

### **Tactical Tracking & Woodland Ops/Critical Incident Debrief**

With 30 years of police K-9 experience, Jeff has tracked down every type of violent fugitive imaginable. By far the most dangerous conditions we're faced with today is deploying a police dog to track in a rural/woodland environment. This class examines the murders of Deputy Sheriff Matt Williams and K-9 DiOGi in intricate detail and how their deaths have initiated a national movement toward advanced tactical training for K-9 tracking and woodland operations. Jeff has delivered this training to well over two thousand police officers and counting. We cannot afford to sacrifice our tactical edge when the stakes are this high! These practical training drills and training scenarios are applicable to every member of your agency. The training you provide others about being your cover officer during a tracking deployment may very well be the training that saves your life or makes a positive difference in securing a safe outcome.

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With 25 years of police K-9 experience, Jeff has tracked down every type of violent fugitive imaginable. By far the most dangerous conditions we're faced with today is deploying a police dog to track in a rural/woodland environment. This class examines the murders of Deputy Sheriff Matt Williams and K-9 DiOGi in intricate detail and how their deaths have initiated a national movement toward advanced tactical training for K-9 tracking and woodland operations. Jeff has delivered this training to well over two thousand police officers and counting. We cannot afford to sacrifice our tactical edge when the stakes are this high! These practical training drills and training scenarios are applicable to every member of your agency. The training you provide others about being your cover officer during a tracking deployment may very well be the training that saves your life or makes a positive difference in securing a safe outcome.

## ***Paul Hammond***

### **Operational Based Explosive Dog Training & Importance of Search Intel**

Paul completed a 2yr Advanced EDD study at VWK9's Academy, in which 100+ Police, Military and Private Sector EDD dog teams were tested on an operational based training and Intel gathering exercise and the results will surprise you & reinforce why this speaker session is a must to attend. Correct operational based training and use of task intelligence is the number one factor for EDD team success during operational Tasks.

### **Meet Paul Hammond**

Paul Hammond  
**President**  
VWK9

26+ years' Working dog experience,

22yrs of which seen continuous canine operations in hostile environments; 8yrs directing canine programs in support of high-profile government organizations including the US Department of State and the Department of Defense in Iraq and Afghanistan

15 years of continuous canine operations in Northern Ireland deployed with the British Military Army Dog Unit, during some of the most challenging & hostile times in its history; completing 2,342 recorded operational detection tasks, against live devices.



Paul completed 6yrs as a working dog adviser in support of the British Government Defense Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) and more recently worked alongside Auburn University's Canine Research & Development Program on various US Canine Defense & Research projects.

Paul had recently returned from briefing the EU Working Dog Commission (representatives of 22 – countries) on Body-worn Explosive K9 Detection.

## **Ryan Morris**

### **Introduction to Homemade Explosive Formulations for K-9 Teams**

"The growing weapon of choice for criminals and terrorists throughout the world are improvised (homemade) explosives and improvised explosive devices (IED). More than ever before, first responders are increasingly more likely to encounter this type of hazard while performing routine operations. This course provides the basic, yet critical information needed to stay safe, while remaining effective. Students will learn to identify common improvised explosives, chemical precursors and the equipment used in the illicit manufacture of improvised explosives; the hazards associated with precursors and manufacturing; and safe operating procedures."

### **Meet Ryan Morris**

Ryan has been a police officer for 20 years, as well as a Bomb Squad Commander/Bomb Technician during most of his career. Ryan is also the owner of Tripwire Operations Group located in Gettysburg, PA. Tripwire is federally licensed as a HAZMAT Carrier, Importer, Exporter, Dealer and Manufacturer of Explosive Materials as well as a Federal Firearms Dealer (Class 3 SOT and Type 10). Tripwire provides some of the country's premier training courses for military and first responder personnel in addition to the explosive and firearm sales.

## **Dr. Kenneth Furton**

### **K9 Science & Subsets: Past, Present and Future**

Dr. Furton will cover the history, state of the art and projections for advances in the science of canine olfaction relating to drugs, explosives and human scent and the standardization efforts of the past 15 years starting with SWGDOG, evolving to OSAC Dogs & Sensors, National Standards from the Academy Standards Board and ultimately accreditation of certifying organizations.



## Meet Dr. Kenneth Furton



Dr. Kenneth G. Furton is a Professor of Chemistry, Provost, Executive Vice President and COO of Florida International University. He is a leading scholar in forensic chemistry, specializing in canine olfaction. Dr. Furton is the founder of the International Forensic Research Institute and served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for 7 years where he helped raise \$50 M in private gifts and dramatically increase grant awards totaling more than \$300 M. As Provost he has led the development and implementation of FIU's bold strategic plan BeyondPossible2020 resulting in significant increases in student success and research preeminence measures.

Dr. Furton has over 20 years of canine research experience and developed the IFRI canine certification program, which has evaluated more than 1,000 canine teams. He has chaired the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) since its inception in 2004 and is currently the chair of the Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Dogs and Sensor subcommittee and he chairs the Dog and Sensors Consensus Body of the Academy Standards Board. Dr. Furton is the author or co-author of more than 800 publications and presentations, including 15 patents and 2 books. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He has given hundreds of invited talks nationally and internationally and has testified as an expert witness in dozens of state and federal trials.

## **S/Sgt. Gary Creed – RCMP Royal Canadian Mounted Police** **We Should Know More About Fentanyl!**

Have you wondered what you would do if you encountered Fentanyl. Have you wondered if your dog will detect Fentanyl. Have you wondered how you would handle Fentanyl if you



found it. We as law enforcement canine handlers know little about Fentanyl, but we should know more!

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police RCMP have developed a unique method in combating this dangerous drug. Listen to S/Sgt Gary Creed explain;

- Basics on Fentanyl and its dangers
- Why we need to train PSD on Fentanyl
- Challenges/dangers related to training with Fentanyl
- Creation of a system on how to safely train PSDs' on Fentanyl
- Explanation of how to create Fentanyl training aids
- Explanation of how to train PSD on Fentanyl
- Safety protocols while handling and training with Fentanyl
- Suggested SOP's for operational and training searches with Fentanyl

### **Meet S/Sgt. Gary Creed**

S/Sgt Gary Creed -Senior Trainer – RCMP Police Dog Service

Gary Creed Joined the RCMP in 1992 and was posted to Coronach and Meadow Lake Saskatchewan as a General Duty member. Gary began working with the RCMP PDS program in 1995 as a quarry/imprinter. Gary subsequently reared 6 potential police service dogs prior to joining PDS full time.

Gary completed the RCMP PDS course in 2000 and was posted to Kelowna, BC where he worked 3 PSD, Dasty, Axel, and Rocket. All dogs were GD full profile dogs, 2 narcotic, and 1 explosive. Gary also worked as a Tactical team dog, ERT team dog, S&R dog, Avalanche S&R dog

In 2011 promoted to the Police Dog Service Training Centre as a Pre-Trainer where I was responsible for the development and evaluation of potential police service dogs from the RCMP breeding program

2014 promoted to position of Police Service Dog Trainer at the RCMP PDSTC. Responsible to training PDS teams in all aspect of PDS work which includes tracking, all varieties of searching, criminal apprehension, obedience, agility.



2017 promoted to Senior Trainer for the RCMP responsible for all aspects of PDS training, testing, and the annual validations of all operational RCMP PDS teams. This also includes other agencies being trained and validated by the RCMP.

### **ONLY AT HITS**

## **Michael Pidgeon & Chuck Marciniak**

### **The video revolution; Using body worn cameras to improve your canine unit and protect yourself and your department**

The use of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) is possibly the most revolutionary change to policing since the portable radio. Departments across the country are requiring their use by uniformed officers and specialized units, including Canine Teams. As with any new piece of equipment, it is imperative that officers learn to use this new tool properly and that policies are developed considering the rights of the officer, the integrity of the investigative process and the public demand for transparency. These policies must be developed with input from department managers, labor organizations and prosecuting agencies. Television and movies have given the public – our potential jurors - a flawed view of what police use of force looks like. It is our responsibility to educate them as best we can and provide proper context for the sometimes-violent nature of police work that they will now see through our BWC video. Learn from the mistakes and successes of other agencies to ensure that your agency has the advantage in criminal and civil court, as well as the court of public opinion.

### **Meet Michael Pidgeon**

Mike Pidgeon started with the San Diego Police Department in 1993 after graduating from San Diego State University with a degree in Criminal Justice Administration. Mike worked various patrol assignments before being selected for the Canine Unit in 2005. Mike promoted to Sergeant and returned to patrol before returned to the Canine Unit in 2012 where he works with his German shepherd partner, Flash.

Mike is a California POST Certified Canine Team Evaluator and served as an adjunct faculty member with the San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Training Center Teaching Firearms and Law Enforcement Information Systems.

Mike was elected to the board of the San Diego Police Officers' Association in 2011 and worked with the board when the SDPD was developing their BWC program.



## **Meet Chuck Marciniak**

Chuck has been an officer with the San Diego Police Department since 1994. Prior to being assigned to the canine unit in 2007, Chuck held a variety of assignments in Patrol, Area Station Investigations, and Narcotics. Currently Chuck is assigned to the Canine Unit as handler and trainer. Chuck has behind the leash experience with both patrol and detection police service dogs. Chuck is one of six instructors within San Diego's 38 patrol and detection K-9 program.

**ONLY AT HITS**

## **Major Mark C. Flynn** **Police Canines in Corrections**

This 2-hour training seminar will focus on police canines in correctional environments, with an emphasis on CDS introduction and trafficking trends. These trends covered will include detecting and interdicting contraband on Staff, visitors, volunteers, and support personnel, cell phone detection canines, prevalence of buprenorphine (brand name Suboxone, very widespread in the mid-Atlantic correctional systems), K-2 and Spice, and the value of passive alert dogs and PEOPLE scans.

The course will also cover the development of relationships and use of the rescue dog organizations, and the use of unconventional breeds in detector work (English springier spaniels, Beagles, Etc.).

## **Meet Major Mark C. Flynn**

Mark Flynn began his career in the Military working dog academy in 1984 at Lockland AFB Texas, and served for 11 years as a Military Working Dog Handler, Supervisor and K-9 Trainer. He transitioned to the civilian world in 1995, and became a K-9 Handler for the MD DPSCS K-9 Unit. The MD DPSCS K-9 Unit is a 40-person force of sworn officers that patrol the Maryland Prison systems, grounds, and surrounding areas, interdicting CDS and contraband, providing armed response and Patrol dog assistance to emergencies, and providing tactical response in the event of escapes and inmate uprisings.

Mark Flynn served as a prolific handler, front line supervisor, full time trainer and assistant commander over the course of a 22-year career with the MD DPSCS K-9 Unit. He is currently a



Maryland police training commission Instructor, and a United States Police Canine Association certified trainer.

Major Flynn utilizes his 34 years' experience in the K-9 field as a dynamic and entertaining instructor, and he frequently teaches at the Police, Correctional and Canine academies in the Maryland and DC metro area. He has also appeared on various TV Programs and news channels, such as Nat-Geo (Big Bigger Biggest Prison addition), Beyond Scared Straight (Hagerstown addition) and numerous news programs.

## **Dr. Lauryn E. Degreeff**

### **The Chemistry of Odor & Odor Detection**

In this class intended for the dog handler / trainer, odor will be described on a molecular level as it relates to the detection of a target. This will include the basics of odor development from an odor source into an odor plume that is detectable by the dog. We will describe how odor emanates from a target object and how the dog might perceive this odor. We will then discuss the variety of factors that affect how the dog experiences the target odor, such as target mass versus odor quantity, differences between manufacturers, changes with time and environmental conditions, challenges related to wrapping and burial. Factors affecting odor availability and methods to prevent contamination of training materials will also be covered. This seminar will be appropriate for handlers of any type of detection dog, including human scent tracking dogs.

### **Considerations in the Detection of Homemade Explosives**

Explosive detection canines are deployed to battle threats at home and abroad. They are utilized in the detection of explosive devices that threaten civilian and military personnel lives, as well as aviation and transportation security, such as landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The type of explosive materials most commonly encountered in the past included nitro-containing high explosives such as TNT and C4, or low explosives, such as smokeless and black powders. As availability and ease of access to such explosives diminished, terrorists abroad began relying on HMEs (homemade explosives), assembled from easily attainable and commercially available materials. The ease of obtaining such commercial products for explosives was accentuated by the growth of the Internet, which brought information of HMEs home for use by domestic terrorists. Also, after the events of 9/11, security technology was enhanced, which pushed terrorist to shift to HMEs and novel explosives that were not readily identifiable. Use of HMEs is expected to continue to increase as such extremist groups continue evolving new methods improving predictability, long-term stability, and streamlined manufacturing of HMEs



involving cheap, more easily accessible materials and less sophisticated equipment. Explosives detection capabilities, both canine and instrumental field detectors, however, have been slow to evolve with the changing threat. Canine training protocols are currently being put in place to address detection of these types of explosives, although HMEs present a number of new detection concerns that should be considered when initiating these new protocols. Issues associated with canine detection of HMEs will be discussed.

### **Meet Dr. Lauryn E. Degreeff**

*Dr. Lauryn E. DeGreeff* has worked in the field of canine detection science for more than 10 years. She began her career studying under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Furton at Florida International University, where she received a Ph.D. in Chemistry with an emphasis in Forensic Science in 2010. Her research focused on the sampling and delivery of human odor, living and deceased, for the purpose of canine detection. Following the completion of her doctorate, she carried out research as a post-doctoral fellow at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit under the advisement of Dr. Brian Eckenrode. Her research focus was detection and determination of volatiles from human scent and odor and human blood by analytical instrumentation for the development/improvement of canine training aids and training methods. Dr. DeGreeff began her research at the Naval Research laboratory in 2012 with research efforts focused on the characterization of explosives for instrumental and canine detection. She has since developed and patented a canine training tool for training on mixed odors, which has recently been brought to commercial market, and she is currently studying the effects of training on the canines' ability to generalize or discriminate like odors. Dr. DeGreeff has published a number of journal articles, has presented her research at numerous national and international conferences, and holds two patents.

### **Bill Lewis II**

#### ***Leadership Challenges in the K9 Unit***

"Do you think 'it's my way or the highway' is a good way to lead a K9 program? Can everyone be a leader? To be a successful K9 program, leadership isn't merely restricted to the supervisors and command-level personnel. This presentation will explore a few challenges and leadership opportunities that can be shared within a K9 unit by all its participants - handlers, supervisors and commanders. As a former handler and K9 supervisor, Bill Lewis II will share some of his opinions and recommendations for developing or sustaining a positive program through active leadership development – and he will also solicit attendee input to assist that development to potentially guide willing participants."



## ***Bill Lewis II***

### ***Patrol Liability, "The Reasons we get in Trouble"***

Sergeant Bill Lewis II (retired) comes to HITS 2018 as a critical thinker whose forthright and sobering look at some of our most common and reoccurring issues should make us all reevaluate how we operate daily. From the perspective of hindsight, we can clearly see the roadmap to a better, safer and profoundly more effective K-9 industry. By using real world experience and by examining many of the cases that have affected us all, Bill Lewis is able to pattern a better solution to avoid the trouble that faces us daily in the law enforcement K9 realm.

## ***Meet Bill Lewis***

Sergeant Bill Lewis II (Retired) has over 37 years of law enforcement and instructor experience, retiring from the Oxnard (CA) Police Department after serving over 27 years. He was a K9 handler, K9 supervisor, and served on SWAT for over 25 years as a tactical operator and Team Leader. He is an expert witness, a certifying official for CNCA/CA POST, Board Member & Patrol Dog Training Coordinator for the California Narcotic Canine Association (CNCA), and Director for the California Association of Tactical Officers (CATO). Sergeant Lewis is the owner of Training and Consulting Team ("TAC Team"), instructor for "Canine Liability 360," author of many K9-related articles, and serves as the primary facilitator for TacticalK9USA.com and TacticalDebriefs.com.

## ***Chris Jakubin***

### **BOMB DOG TRAINING/FROM A to O (Odor)**

In today's day and age all bomb dog teams need to be one step ahead of the game. We all must think outside the box and train for today's threat. Today's bomb dog is not only needed before special events but also during these events. Ask yourself this...can your dog work during a 4th of July Parade. Consider all the distractions that occur during such an event. In Chris Jakubin's class you will learn how and where to prepare your dog teams. You will learn training techniques to get your dog to hunt and what to hunt without any stimulus. These techniques are solidified in how we practice...how are you practicing?

## ***Meet Chris Jakubin***



Chris Jakubin is in his 30th year of training in the police dog field. He was part of the Military Working Dog Program for over 28 years. Chris is currently a trainer at AMK9. He was certified by the Department of Defense as handler, trainer, supervisor and program manager. Chris also acts as instructor and certifying agent for the following disciplines: tracking/trailing, narcotics, explosives and patrol. He has experience preparing and deploying numerous Detector Dogs for both domestic and over-seas contingencies. Chris has been involved with the military's green dog training program, handling detector dogs including explosive detector dogs in support of numerous distinguished visitors and managing the explosive dog teams in support of countless special events. Chris has given numerous presentations independently, for HITS and the National Police K-9 association in detection and patrol disciplines. He developed a muzzle-training seminar that has assisted numerous agencies build a fighting street dog with countless success stories, post instruction. Chris also is a valued guest instructor for the Canine Training Academy where he instructs teams from around the country in woodland/urban trailing/tracking work.

## **Shawn Rosner**

### **K9 Public Relations and Establishing a 501c3**

***Are you looking for ways to fund your K9 unit?*** Use Shawn's experience and knowledge to get you started on the right road. Course covers best practices on format and content for presentations that provide maximum exposure for your audience and minimum liability for the agency. It discusses the bridge established by an agency and the community because of these events. It provides options for off-setting costs to an agency through various means, including partnerships with not for profit organizations that support the dogs and handlers, specialized fundraising events and/or forming an agency's own not for profit organization. It discusses how to create rapport with the public, local businesses and vendors, and the roles they can play in your fundraising efforts. It provides various types of fundraising ideas as examples to assist departments in the planning process. It discusses the pros and cons of starting their own not for profit; this includes how to go about establishing 501(c)3, and how to best work with an established not for profit should they choose not to.

### **Meet Shawn Rosner**

Retired Deputy Shawn Rosner, brings over 23 years of law enforcement experience that includes working as a Canine Specialist in the United States Air Force, handling canines in the corrections division, and as a deputy sheriff in the field operations division of the Placer County Sheriff's Office. Shawn acted as the OIC of Placer County's canine unit for 2 years, written budget narratives for instituting canines in corrections and field operations; canine polices and was the patrol division's canine unit team coordinator for 17 years. He has developed, written



operational scripts, conducted and participated in over 1000 canine demonstrations and educational events.

For 11 years Shawn has designed, written operational plans, coordinated and managed joint operational and multi-jurisdictional specialized canine training for high elevation wilderness tracking/area searching. These training events include hoisting with your canine partner from an appropriate airship into a location not immediately accessible, where there is an urgent need for the significant force multiplication an experienced canine team can project. These events are held in different types of locations, are taught to other agencies and work in conjunction with state, federal and local authorities including the United States Air Force.

In 2005 Shawn was one of the cofounders and serves today as vice president of the Foothills K9 Association which is a non-profit organization. Their mission is to support working and retired law enforcement canines, their handlers and canine programs. They provide safety and working equipment, quality after retirement medical care for law enforcement dogs, along with fundraising for purchasing new and replacement dogs. Shawn lectures and teaches on canine related innovations concerning alternative tactical deployment systems and the importance of community relationships through the natural bridge of canine demonstrations and educational events.

## **Scott Klappenback \*\*\*NEW CLASS ONLY AT HITS\*\*\*** **Protecting our Profession**

The law enforcement community has been under extreme scrutiny the past several years and so has the marine mammal training profession for even longer. The movie Blackfish has changed the marine mammal animal training profession forever. And the working dog profession is not immune from this type of scrutiny. As a K9 handler in today's climate it is imperative the handler understands the basic principles of animal training. This understanding will assist in avoiding court challenges by defense experts, poor public perceptions on how our K9s are treated and more importantly improve your K9's performance. Scott will review basics of animal learning and share his concerns regarding how we can collectively best avoid the next "Blackfish effect".

## **Hidden Compartments & K-9 Usage**

It is not uncommon for detection K-9 handlers to routinely conduct dog sniffs of vehicles. Some of these sniffs result in positive alerts and indications. That's when the next challenge begins: locating the contraband hidden somewhere in the vehicle. This class will review some of the simple versus sophisticated natural voids as well as manufactured after-market hidden



compartments utilized by D.T.O. smugglers. In addition, an approach on how to locate these compartments will be reviewed. This will be facilitated through review of actual interdiction vehicle stops and videos. Strategies on K-9 deployments on these types of sniffs will also be discussed.

## **Meet Scott Klappenback**

Scott Klappenback has been with the Orange County Sheriff's Department in southern California for more than 29 years where he, as a Designated Level 1 Reserve Lieutenant, has worked patrol assignments his entire tenure. For the past 14 years, he has been a K-9 handler with the last 7 years being assigned to the Special Investigations Bureau's Highway Interdiction Team. During this time, he has worked two certified narcotic detection dogs in patrol. He currently is an instructor for the Orange County Sheriff's Department's POST certified Basic Narcotics Investigation Course and teaches the Vehicle Hidden Compartments and K-9 usage segments. He has also taught classes for California Narcotics Officers Association's (CNOA) Training Institute on drug traffickers, hidden/concealed compartments and narcotic K-9 usage. Scott's assignment also includes appointment as a Task Force Officer for the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, he has testified as an expert witness on transportation and sales of narcotics. Scott is a member and past Board member of the Orange County Police Canine Association (OCPA). He obtained his B.A. degree in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine.

When not working for the Sheriff's department, Scott works under contract for the United States Navy Marine Mammal Program and is an instructor for the U.S. Navy's Marine Mammal Handlers Animal Training Certification Course based in San Diego. He has been in the animal training profession for more than 35 years. He is past president of the International Marine Animal Trainer's Association (IMATA) which represents more than 2,000 professional animal trainers worldwide.

## **Don Roberts**

**The DHS S&T K9 program and how it benefits State and Local law enforcement canine teams.**



The DHS Science & Technology (S&T) Detection Canine program serves as a Federal focal point for the detection canine community by providing tools, techniques and knowledge to better understand, train and utilize the detection canine.

The DHS S&T canine program manager, Don Roberts will provide an overview of how the State and Local law enforcement community can leverage the program to assist you with meeting your agency's K9 program needs.

Mr. Roberts will also bring expert staff from his program to discuss:

- Chemistry of odor detection – specifically for explosive detection
- Best practices for maintenance training and operation readiness testing and evaluation
- Recently established Regional Explosives Detection Dog Initiative (**REDDI**)

Through REDDI, S&T is providing a series of regionally-based events for detection canine teams in the law enforcement community. The events will include classroom instruction and exercises demonstrating common issues which will improve explosives and odor knowledge and appreciation for the participating canine handlers. Fundamental odor recognition evaluations and operational searches based on real-world scenarios will help identify strengths and weaknesses within the HSE and inform the direction of priority S&T program investments. REDDI's goal is to improve explosive detection canine team training effectiveness and efficiency in order to improve overall operational proficiency.

## **Meet Don Roberts**

Mr. Roberts is the Program Manager for the Detection Canine and Surface Transportation Explosive Threat Detection Programs for the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency, Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The DHS S&T Canine program goal is to provide the Homeland Security Enterprise (HSE) with a centralized focal point within DHS to address mission requirements, conduct operationally relevant research, and to improve the operational proficiency of the DHS/HSE detection canine teams.

## **Mike Ritland**

### **Decoy Fundamentals & Patrol Dog Selection**

The importance of the ability to properly select a patrol dog coupled with sound decoying fundamentals cannot be overstated. Mike will walk you through his 5 block patrol dog selection test, followed by discussing the importance of the art of decoying and the transitioning of drives to maximize a dogs stress threshold and their ability to win against the



man. Transitioning from equipment to the real world, as well as troubleshooting will also be covered.

## **Basic Tracking Fundamentals using Operant Conditioning**

Mike will cover the latest tracking techniques he employed for a recent Federal LEO Patrol and SAR tracking course, including initial K9 selection, imprinting human odor and response with operant conditioning, and building complexities into the tracks to prepare for real world work.

## **True Foundations**

Training the police K9 utilizing operant conditioning techniques and relationship building. Mike will discuss the OC “process” he uses to train police K9s in all aspects of tactical OB, tracking, and bite work for the real world. He will also cover troubleshooting training problems and thinking your way through them using the A + B = C method.

## **Meet Mike Ritland**

Mike Ritland joined the U.S. Navy in 1996 and served for 12 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL. After his service, Mike served as a Naval Special Warfare (SEAL) Multi-purpose canine trainer, and founded Trikos International. Trikos specializes in providing training consultation, working K9’s to police departments, Federal LEO and government agencies.

He now has over 15 years’ experience in importing, breeding, raising, and training multiple breeds of working dogs for a number of different working capacities. With his unique training approach, Ritland has trained hundreds of working dogs for combat and the real world, and specializes in military dog training, police dog training and SAR K9 training. With this proven success, Mike and Trikos International have grown into a global brand, providing K9s for private individuals, and a host of government agencies, including:

- Department of Defense (DoD)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)
- Police Departments across the U.S.



Mike Ritland also founded the Warrior Dog Foundation, a non-profit special operations K9 retirement foundation. The WDF provides a home for all working K9's to receive nothing but the best mental and physical rehabilitation.

All this experience prompted Mike Ritland to write three New York Times Best Selling books: Trident K9 Warriors, Navy SEAL Dogs, and TEAM Dog.

Most recently, Mike created the [MikeRitland.com](http://MikeRitland.com) Team Dog Online Training website launched. This platform provides online dog training to dog owners across the world. Current community members range from first time puppy owners to well established dog trainers, as there is something for everyone, and Ritland personally interacts with members on the site and answers their questions.

Mike Ritland currently resides in Dallas, Texas and dedicates his time daily to working with his K9s at Trikos International and the Warrior Dog Foundation.

## **Rob Lukason**

### **The Mathematics of K9 Unit Supervision**

The K9 unit, depending on size is made up of positions that make that unit "work". From the Unit Supervisor, to the Trainers and Instructors, senior handlers, the most junior canine teams, to the mission support personnel, the need for supervision is a necessary function. It is important to have a member of the unit that is responsible for the "Math" of the unit. Every unit has a "one best arrangement" of organizational assignments to assure the optimum performance level of the team as a synergistic whole. The successful Supervisor is the one who knows what that one best combination is to attain a cohesive unit.

### **Meet Rob Lukason**



**Robert H. Lukason**  
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent  
El Paso Sector  
*U.S. Border Patrol*  
*U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

Assistant Chief Patrol Agent (ACPA) Rob Lukason's federal service began with 8 years in the United States Navy ending in 1992. Following military service, Lukason became an Immigration Detention Enforcement Officer assigned to the Livermore Border Patrol Sector. Lukason became a Border Patrol Agent in 1996 and was assigned to the San Clemente, California Border Patrol Station.

After a few years in the field, Lukason was designated as a Detection canine handler for the Border Patrol, attending Canine Handler school in 2000. In 2002, Lukason was selected to attend the Border Patrol's Canine Instructor course, in El Paso, Texas, in which he graduated as "Top Dog" for Canine Instructor class #25.

In 2004, Lukason transferred to Tucson, Arizona Border Patrol Sector where he was selected to be the Sector's Canine Coordinator, responsible for the training and certification of the Tucson Sector's 80 detection canine teams.

ACPA Lukason was promoted in 2006 to a permanent Supervisory Border Patrol Agent/Course Development Instructor position at the Customs and Border Protection's Canine Center El Paso. In 2009, Lukason was promoted to a Training Operations Supervisor (TOS). As a TOS, Lukason was responsible for all canine training and delivery operations at the Canine Center El Paso.

In 2014, Lukason was promoted as the USBP's Canine Program Manager in Washington DC, in where he was responsible for the USBP's 900 + canine units nationwide.

Lukason is a certifying official for narcotic and patrol and has been a K9 Judge for several events including the Western States Police Fire Olympics, the Friends of Las Vegas K9 event in Las Vegas, and the Desert Dog K9 Trials in Scottsdale, AZ. Lukason has attended over 90 law enforcement K9 training events/seminars, in where he teaches and speaks on a regular basis.



Currently, ACPA Lukason is a member of the command staff at the El Paso Border Patrol sector and still maintains canine instructor certifications in Concealed Human/Narcotic Detection and Patrol with the USBP.

## ***Bill Heiser***

### **Selection testing of single and dual purpose canines**

In this course Bill will review multiple steps that need to be taken in successfully selecting single and dual purpose canines. Bill Heiser has been hand selecting his dogs from Europe and testing dogs for over 25 years. Southern Coast K9 is known in the industry to offer some of the best dogs available. He will share with you the process of selection testing by reviewing the following:

- The drives in the dog; prey, hunt, play, fight, retrieve, rank and survival.
- First Impression of the dog: Appearance, condition, teeth , ears, coat, feet, genitals and over confidence
- Environmental Soundness: Flooring, stairs, darkness, confined area or space, obstacles, noises, vehicles, desks and tables will the dog jump up
- Testing of Ball or Toy drive

Additional testing for dual purpose would include:

- First check civil drive no equipment
- Equipment Fixated
- Bite on sleeve or suit and is it a full mouth bite
- With Suit will he bite legs or arms
- Power Bite? Is Dog committed?
- Bite under stress with whip and yelling
- Multiple Distraction Scenarios & Obstacles
- Dogs focus on bite
- Gunfire reaction
- What type of force and approach does he have.

### ***Meet Bill Heiser***

Bill Heiser oversees all Law Enforcement K9 Sales & Training for ITC Security Partners to include Southern Coast K9 located in Florida and the AMK9 Academy location in Alabama.



He began his career at the Daytona Beach Police Department as K9 narcotic dog handler and was quickly recognized as one of the best around. His work as a handler got the attention of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office where he finished his long career. Bill was the lead detection trainer and handler overseeing the training and selection of all dogs for the Volusia County Sheriff's Department and several surrounding law enforcement agencies. Bill was selected by the National Guard Multi-jurisdictional Counter Drug Task Force as an instructor and has traveled throughout the United States teaching. Mr. Heiser is a member of numerous organizations and has trained and certified with the United States Police Canine Association, National Narcotic Detection Association, United States Customs and Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He as well has trained with the German Customs, German Polizei, Dutch Police during his tenure.

Bill started his company, Southern Coast K9 in 1988 while still working as a Sheriff's Office handler with only two kennels in his back yard. Southern Coast K9 now has 12 full time employees and 85 kennels on 12 manicured acres of land.

Bill continues to travel to Europe and hand select all of his dogs personally. He will look at over one hundred dogs and only three to five percent make the cut due to his exacting standard and demand for superior animals. Bill has selected and trained thousands of dogs over the years. His experience in the selection process over all these years giving him the experience and knowledge to present this course on Selection Testing of a Single and Dual Purpose Dog.

## ***Tony Guzman***

### **"The 4 parts of K9 Aggression Instinct and the Pack/Bonding Instinct"**

This class covers the 4 parts of K9 aggression instincts. This is to simplify the many questions that handlers and trainers have in properly identifying aggressions in their K9 partners.

This class will assist them in identifying the aggression to assist them in the selection of future working dog applicants and to resolve current issues they may have relating to behavior dispositions.

### **Meet Tony Guzman**



Since 1985, Tony has been International Trainer and Competitor in the areas of Police work, Narcotics and Explosives Detection, Home and Business Protection, Schutzhund & KNPV Police Training. He's been featured in numerous International television stations exhibiting him as one of the top dog trainers in the World.

### Following are Some of Tony's accomplishments throughout the years

- Head Trainer of over 5000 dog and/or canine teams in obedience, protection, narcotics or explosives. Has prepared canine teams for certifications through Florida Department of Law Enforcement standards since 1987.
- Certified Instructor for the Miami-Dade Police Department Criminal Apprehension since 1987.
- Services over 100 Law Enforcement Agencies Nationwide and Overseas.
- 
- Trainer and Evaluator for the IFRI program, an Independent Scientific Validation of Canine Detection Teams. A joint project of the International Forensic Science Research Institute (IFRI) Florida International University (FIU) and the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) since 1999. Always setting the standards through SWGDOG.
- 
- Certified professional witness for the State of Florida.
- Trainer and Evaluator for the IFRI program, an independent scientific validation of canine detection teams. A joint project of the International Forensic Science Research Institute (IFRI) and Florida International University (FIU)
- Head Trainer for the DISIP K9 Unit of the Venezuelan Government. 15 explosive detection canine teams which were deployed for security purposes at the World OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), meeting in Venezuela prior to September 11th, 2001.
- Contracted by the U.S - State Department, as head instructor for C.E.S.A. (Cuerpo Especializado de Seguridad Aeroportaria – Airport unit) explosive detection canine teams for deployment as Security of the Pan-American Olympic Games of 2003 in the Dominican Republic.
- Head Trainer for the C.E.S.A unit explosives detection program, selected by the United States Government, pioneering their explosives' detection program by training 2 supervisors and 5 canine teams in 2000.
- Head Trainer of the Dominican Republic DEA – DNCD, also selected by the United States of America State Department in 1999; pioneering their program for Narcotics Detection in the Dominican Republic. A program starting with only 5 canine teams and ending up with a total of 23 teams for deployment within 2 years.



- Contracted by the U.S. State Department to provide Police Service Dogs for Trinidad & Tobago.
- Trainer/Supplier of Canine Teams that were originally deployed at the Green Zone in Iraq, Dubai and Afghanistan in 2004 and 2005 contracted through Canine Associates International.
- In 1999, Head Trainer of the only dual purpose canine team in history of the United States Police Canine Association to obtain 200 points out of 200 for narcotics' detection and Recipient of the "Fred Wheeler Award" (highest combined score in obedience and criminal apprehension).
- In 2002; Selected as one of four Americans to represent the U.S.A. in Slovenia for the World Championship Belgian Malinois Team with his Belgian Malinois "Ficco Vom Roten Falken".
- Recipient of Singapore K9 Units – Certificate of Appreciation for enhancement of canine program in Holland after completing K9 seminar in the Netherlands.

Most of his dogs have placed in the top ten in the United States Police Canine Association Nationals and Regional's in different categories for the last 25+ years.

Recognized and sought after for seminars by numerous Police Agencies in the United States and across the world and consistently sought by other canine professionals in his field for his advice on training techniques and the success of his methods.

- Featured on the cover of Dog Sports Magazine (October 1993 and April 1995 Issues) and Ray Allen Magazine (1996 issue).
- Featured in numerous local news articles in the Miami Herald, Sun Sentinel and various newspapers for accomplishments related to the many Police Agencies he has supplied and trained canines for during the last 25 years.
- Featured in numerous International television stations exhibiting him as one of the top dog trainers in the world. (You can view some of the media clips online)
  - WCBS News - Special Report; "A women's best friend" a local report about women and their loyal canine partners in the areas of security and personal protection and the benefits of having a fully trained canine partner.
  - WSVN-Fox 7 news special report "How a well trained dog should behave". The areas of canine training and proper handling.



- Behind the Silver Badge – A special report on how and where Miami Dade County selects their dogs and canine handlers for the specialized unit.
- Telemundo - Canines against Criminals; a special 3 day report showing the public how police dogs & officers are trained to protect the public against criminals and their fight against the drug wars; also how these loyal partners can be trained to protect families as well.
- Primer Impacto –Special Report on Executive Protection and Police Dog Training
- Control – Special Report on Police Dogs and Canine Detection Training
- Ocurrio Asi – Special feature on Tony going to the world team competition and canine training.

## **Bob Suarez**

### **“The 4 parts of K9 Aggression Instinct and the Pack/Bonding Instinct”**

This class covers the 4 parts of K9 aggression instincts. This is to simplify the many questions that handlers and trainers have in properly identifying aggressions in their K9 partners.

This class will assist them in identifying the aggression to assist them in the selection of future working dog applicants and to resolve current issues they may have relating to behavior dispositions.

### **Meet Bob Suarez**

Certified IFRI Trainer/Evaluator for Narcotics, Explosives, Cadaver and Wildlife

Certified USPCA Trainer and President of Region 8 (East TN)

Certifying official for NNDDA in Patrol and Narcotics

Certifying judge for AWD in Patrol, Narcotics, and Explosives

Tennessee Post instructor for K9



USPCA President of Region 8 (East TN)

Trained or co-trained over 1,000 dogs in the areas of Patrol, SWAT applications, Jail Entry Applications, Tracking, Drug Detection, Explosive Detection, Accelerant Detection, Cadaver Detection, Wildlife Detection, Evidence Recovery, Building/Area Search, Agility, Criminal Apprehension, Basic, Advanced, and Tactical Obedience, Search and Rescue

Taught over 100 K9 handler's courses on Patrol, Drug Detection, Explosive Detection, Tracking, etc.

Lead instructor for several K9 seminars

Certified handler in Patrol, Drug Detection, Cadaver Detection, Explosive Detection, and Tracking under USPCA, NNDDA, AWD, FDLE, and IFRI

Licensed DEA K9 researcher

Narcotics investigation/K9 handler

SWAT operator certified

Certified dignitary protection detail officer

Certified and testified as an expert in reference to police service dogs in 6th Circuit Federal Court

Written K9 SOPs for law enforcement agencies

Managed 10 team unit

## **Jerry McClellan**

### **Training for the right reason**

This class is ideal for the new handler. The class will cover how animals learn and how we apply that to K9 training. When it comes to training it is easy to fall into a rut and start to simply go through the motions, especially in monthly maintenance training. In this class we will review past events throughout history in the United States and around the world and how law



enforcement responded to the incidents. We will then discuss the fundamentals of K9 training, to include, your monthly in-service training. In law enforcement we need to ask ourselves are we training for what we may face or setting up our training in response to something that has already happened? This goal of the class is for you to be able to analyze and adapt to meet the threat of the ever-changing world we live in.

### **Meet Jerry McClellan**

Sgt. Jerry McClellan is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a current Patrol K9 Handler and Trainer in Massachusetts. Jerry joined the his agency in 2000, since that time he has served as a member of the Police Academy Staff as well as a member of the SWAT Team. Jerry is a certified firearms instructor for the State of Massachusetts. In 2014 Jerry was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as the supervisor of the department's K9 Unit. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Curry College and a Masters in Public Administration with a focus in Homeland Security from Anna Maria College. Jerry has worked overseas as a Private Military Contractor training explosive detection K9 teams.

## **Ken Pavlick**

### **ODOR IMPRINTING METHODS: AN OVERVIEW**

If success and longevity are the benchmarks for quality, then Ken Pavlick has achieved a lifetime award. With over 35 years of K9 experience, Ken owns and operates the highly successful Pacific Coast K9 facility which has produced some of the most enthusiastic and energetic detector dogs in the world. Pacific Coast K9 has placed over 1100 detector dogs into service over the last 11 years. Knowing what works when it comes to selecting and training detector dogs is Ken's business. But more importantly, knowing what to do when what you're doing isn't working is Ken's specialty. Come listen as Ken provides an overview of various methods for imprinting a detector dog. And how sometimes, combining some of these methods into a hybrid system, allows you to be successful.

### **Meet Ken Pavlick**

Ken Pavlick has over 35 years of experience handling, training and judging police working dogs in almost every facet (patrol, swat, explosive, narcotic, SAR). His K9 background ranges from training and supervising a 27 dog section in the U.S. Air Force, handling a patrol/narcotic detection canine for Riverside County Sheriff's Office where he was responsible for a 744 kilo



cocaine seizure from a semi-truck and working his dog with the SWAT team. He built the Canyon County (Idaho) Sheriff's Office K9 unit from one dog to 15 teams, trained multiple dogs for other agencies, and helped write the Idaho POST standards for police canines. Ken also worked all positions on the SWAT team. In 2003, Ken left full time law enforcement to open Pacific Coast K9 in WA state, where he is still a sworn reserve police officer. Pacific Coast K9 specializes in high drive sporting breeds for detection work, but also trains and sells German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois, placing well over 100 dogs per year. Ken is also an instructor with SKIDDS/CATS, and an adjunct Utah POST instructor on K9 subjects.

## **Steve Dean**

### **Selection & preparation of a puppy for police work**

All over the world the police, military, government agencies and private contractors are placing a strain on the supply of quality adult dogs. When demand is high, so are prices and many police departments are finding it difficult to find the right quality dogs at the right price. One option is to source and train new or replacement K9's from a puppy.

In the UK the largest police department, the London (UK) Metropolitan police have been breeding their own service dogs since 1961 supplying German Shepherds, Malinois, Labradors and Spaniels to their own K9 officers and those from other police departments in the UK and abroad.

Steve Dean was the officer in charge of this extensive breeding and puppy training program for 13 years breeding and supervising the training of well in excess of 1500 police puppies. In this presentation he will cover the topic of sourcing & selecting the right puppy, how to conduct puppy character profiling, the importance of socialization and the rights and wrongs of preparing a puppy for basic police service training.

### **Meet Steve Dean**

Steve Dean was a police officer in the London (UK) Metropolitan Police from 1973 until 2005. He became a K9 handler in 1981 at the time when the K9 unit was functioning with 400 operational police dogs. As an operation police dog handler he was a member of the tactical firearms support unit providing K9 support to the Metropolitan Police SWAT unit. He is an advance police dog training instructor and an expert in the identification of dangerous dogs.



Since Steve's retirement from the police service he continues to act as an advisor to various police departments and to breed and train German Shepherds at his facility in the South East of England.

## ***Jeff Meyer & Cameron Ford***

### **On the Mark Detection Training**

Cameron Ford and Jeff Meyer will discuss the common problems handlers deal with in detection dogs as well as how a small and simple change in their approach (based on science) will lessen or eliminate those issues, as well as creating reliability under the scrutiny of law.

### **Meet Cameron Ford**

Cameron Ford has been in K-9 for 20 years. First serving the U.S. Air Force as a Military Working Dog Handler and trainer. Cameron is one of very few American's ever to attend the German Polizei working dog school in Eckenbach Germany. After leaving the Air Force, Cameron owned and operated a Police Dog training school in Orlando FL. Cameron has also worked as a Police officer in FL and TX, working as a K-9 handler, state instructor, state evaluator, and SWAT operator. In recent years Cameron has worked in the Government Contractor field training overseeing over 200 K-9 teams in the middle east. Currently Cameron is a contractor for Cobra Canine and a multi-purpose canine trainer for the U.S. military. Cameron will be presenting: "Police K9 Learning & Clear Communication"

## **Jill Cline, Rick Kesler, Russ Kelley**

### **"The 411 on pre-deployment preparation and post-deployment recovery"?**

Get the 411 on how to improve your dog's performance pre and post deployment with simple changes to your everyday schedule. Learn the most recent discoveries and tried and true methods for preventing overheating during deployment, best practices for detection performance and simple steps to prevent injury and illness.

### **Meet Jill Cline**



Dr. Cline is the Site Director for Royal Canin Pet Health and Nutrition Center and has 20 years of experience in the pet food industry. Dr. Cline has a PHD in comparative nutrition and has worked in several areas within the pet industry including manufacturing and product development, non-invasive R&D, and technical communications for veterinarians, breeders and working/sporting dog enthusiasts. Her expertise is in vitamin metabolism, skin and coat health and she has a keen interest in human and canine athletes, feeding behaviors and aging animals. She has lectured extensively on the influence nutrition has on a working dog's cognitive function and the link between dietary requirements and how they affect dogs ability to learn and maximize their performance. Dr. Cline is a self-described healthy lifestyle advocate which she combines with her active engagement with the sporting and working dog training communities because of her keen interest in "dogs with jobs" – she blames her passion on the two very busy sporting dogs and one working dog she has at home.

### **Meet Rick Kesler**

Rick Kesler D.V.M is now a Senior Service Veterinarian with Royal Canin in the corporate affairs office. His duties meld well with Royal Canin's philosophy of sharing knowledge to all breeders and working dog handlers. He graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University in 1985. Since then he has practiced with a special interest of working with breeders of cats and dogs and active with working and service dogs across all the country. He has lectured throughout the United States and also internationally, writing for journals dedicated to pets and being a consultant to breeders and handlers of working and service dogs worldwide. He also has served as consultant to two large veterinary distributorships in the United States. Dr. Kesler has worked diligently to reduce the incidence of canine Brucellosis throughout the world. He is a co-author of Best Practices for Breeders regarding Brucellosis published this year by the USDA. He lives with his wife Julie in Kansas and spends his precious free time cooking new dishes with Julie, bicycling and reading Civil War books.

### **Meet Russ Kelley**

Russ is an Alumni of Auburn University, Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences. His undergraduate emphasis was Meat Science and Animal Production. Russ's graduate work focused on Growth & Development with an emphasis on embryonic and neonatal muscle development. Russ was on staff at Auburn University as a Research Specialist from 1993-1997. He joined The Iams Company in 1997 as a member of the Strategic Research Group (Discovery) where he led efforts in Maternal and Neonatal Nutrition with an emphasis on fatty acid metabolism. He also led efforts in the Service and Working Dog arenas and developed multiple collaborative Research Alliances with external organizations. Later he also led Gastrointestinal Health efforts with emphasis on Puppy and Stress Models. Upon retiring from The Iams Company, Russ founded Kelley Canine Consulting where he served numerous organizations



around the globe on Colony Management, Facility Design, Nutritional Management, and Breeder Selection Criteria. Russ returned to industry in 2016, joining Royal Canin as Science Lead / Service and Working Dog Research Manager. Russ is based in Lewisburg, Ohio where he is a member of the PHNC Leadership Team and is a member of the Discover Team in Aimargues, France.

## **Armin Winkler**

### **Fundamentals of Aggression Control**

An examination of the underlying causes and obstacles of effective and reliable aggression control leading into a detailed plan of how to train this complex skill.

A clear step by step outline how to teach and train effective and reliable real world aggression control which is essential for any K9.

The skills taught here make K9s more functional in all deployment situations and allow for usage of dogs in even the most complex tactical situations.

### **Extreme Control in Extreme Situations**

Putting the real world application of K9 control into perspective. Tactical applications of control in the most intense and extreme situations.

The K9 usages in Law Enforcement and Military tactical operations is becoming ever more complex. This class is designed to give handlers and trainers a deeper understanding on how to achieve control and how to effectively incorporate it into training scenarios.

### **Complete Muzzle Training for Reliable Street Performance**

Muzzle training can and should be an integral part of K9 training. Unfortunately, it is underused in many agencies and often trained in a manner that makes dogs not function well with a muzzle. This class lays out a program that builds muzzle work into all aspects of K9 training, not just to make the dog function more effectively while wearing the muzzle but to enhance all aspects of functional apprehension training.

## **Meet Armin Winkler**



Armin is a native of Germany who has spent the majority of his life working dogs in the civilian and law enforcement fields since the mid 1970s. He has operated his own K9 security business in Canada. Armin is a published author who has written and published K9 training articles all over the world. Armin operates Rivanna K9 Services in Virginia where he provides training services as an Applied Animal Behavioral Scientist to his clients. He is a certified law enforcement instructor through the Justice Institute of British Columbia and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Armin provides in depth training programs to SOF military K9 units as well as LE agencies. He has advised and consulted with All US Tier 1 SOF units. As well as many SOF units across the globe. Armin is instructing at the 2018 SOF K9 Conference in Warsaw, Poland.

## Shay Maimoni

### **K9 Behaviors & Muzzle Fighting – Enhance your dog’s ability**

Muzzle fighting is the highest level of Bite Work, which is what is used in Special Operation K9’s in Israel to create K9’s who are ready at any given moment.

Anyone can take a bite, only a few know how to read the dog’s language and respond appropriately to enhance the K9’s abilities. Reading the dog’s behavior while decoying can make or break a dog. Knowing how dog’s communicate will make you a better detection team, and knowing the dog’s Language will prevent unnecessary handlers bites and reduce liability.

The benefits of muzzle fighting cannot be skipped, as it is essential for your K9’s everyday job. During this class you will learn how to properly engage in muzzle training to make your dog a stronger, better dog. At the end of this class you will leave knowing how to properly teach your dog how to muzzle fight like a PRO.

We encourage Military, S.W.A.T., and patrol handlers, supervisors and Decoys to attend this class, as well as everyone who wants to enhance their knowledge on the latest training techniques for their K9.

### **Meet Shay Maimoni**

**Shay (Shy) Maimoni** is the Owner and Head trainer of Israeli Special Tactics K9. He is also the founder of WooF Dogs “We Speak your Dog’s Language”. He lectures around the world on Dog’s Language which he learned by doing hundreds of hours of research & observation. He has over 20 years of K9 training experience and is a former Israeli Defense Forces K9 Trainer. Shay began his career with the Israeli Defense Forces and trained with their Counter-Terrorism K9



Units. These units which have been in constant combat for the last 60 years use muzzle fighting as a tool to build a well-rounded dog that will thrive in any situation.

## Brian Hare

### The Genius of Dogs

We have learned more in the past decade about the mind of the dog than we had in the previous century. I will discuss my own research that unlocked the genius of dogs as well as how we are using our new understanding to identify the best working dogs. I will also introduce our new citizen science approach to address long unanswered questions regarding breed differences in canine cognition. The audience will leave with an understanding of the revolution that is occurring that will forever change how we understand dogs.

### Meet Brian Hare

Dr. Brian Hare is a professor of evolutionary anthropology at Duke University in North Carolina and a member of the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, which is a division of the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, founded the Hominoid Psychology Research Group while at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, and subsequently founded the Duke Canine Cognition Center when arriving at Duke University. Dr. Hare has co-authored three books and published over 100 scientific papers including in *Science*, *Nature* and *PNAS*. Dr. Hare's research has consistently received national and international media coverage including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, National Geographic, Time, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times and The Chicago Tribune. His work has featured on television programs including 60 minutes, NOVA, and Nature as well as the series *Is your dog a genius* that he hosted for National Geographic Wild. His book *The Genius of Dogs* written with his wife Vanessa Woods is a New York Times Bestseller and together they also founded the citizen science company *Dognition.com* that has helped tens of thousands of dogs be better understood by their human families. Dr. Hare's new book "Survival of the Friendliest" is due out from Random House in 2018. He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina with his family and his two best friends Tasmania and Congo.



## **Mary C. Davis**

### **Demystifying the OUT**

A discussion of drive state, bite progression, and how to create a training plan that fits your dog.

A clean out is one of the more difficult behaviors to train and maintain for many teams. This class will explore factors that directly affect your dog's ability to reliably respond to the out command. Different approaches will be discussed identifying the pros and cons of each. Students will gain a better perspective of the dynamics of biting behavior and have tools to design a system that will benefit their dog

### **Meet Mary C. Davis**

Sgt. Mary Davis is the K9 training supervisor for Montgomery County MD. She has been an active handler since 1991 and has accumulated over 10,000 hours of field time with patrol dog teams. Her training resume spans 20 years with over 100 patrol and detection dogs successfully completing basic training. Her depth of experience and continued quest to improve methods and accountability has earned her a solid reputation as an excellent trainer in the Washington DC area

## **Marty Dulworth & Joe Garrett**

### **How to Keep the Warrior Mindset**

Listen as Marty Dulworth and his brother Joe Garrett give you their firsthand account of surviving an active shooter incident that cost Marty the life of his K-9 and left him an amputee. In an emotional and intense debrief, Marty & Joe take you through the moments where life and death hung in the balance and in an instant life as he knew it, changed forever. Joe Garrett provides a unique perspective of the incident as a responding unit, that has never been heard before. Listen as Marty discusses what it's like to mentally win against the challenges of such a horrific gunfight and beyond. From the physical will to live to the mental train wreck that must be put back on track, Marty helps explain what it takes to be a true warrior in both body and spirit.



## **Meet Marty Dulworth**

Marty Dulworth graduated from Shenandoah High School in Middletown, Indiana in June of 1995. He left for basic training in the United States Marine Corps immediately after. He was meritoriously promoted to the rank of sergeant in within two years and participated in two West Pacific (WES-PAC) deployments. After is honorable discharge he was hired as a police officer in Anderson, Indiana in March of 2001. He has served in the uniform patrol working all shifts before being assigned as a K-9 officer in 2006. He was also a member of the SWAT unit when he was wounded, and he still maintains his credentials as a defensive tactics instructor. In 2010 his partner Kilo and he won the Police K-9 Olympics besting 107 teams from as far away as Hawaii. He and Kilo were awarded several citations during the time they worked together. In 2016 Marty was awarded the Police Officer of the Year award by the Indiana Prosecutors Association for his dedication and work excellence. His military awards include Navy Achievement Medal (w/gold star), Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Deployment Ribbon w/ gold star, and National Defense Ribbon. His police department awards included Two (2) Combat Crosses, Purple Heart, and several Meritorious Service and Achievement ribbons well a Life Saving Medal. Marty is married to Jessica and had two sons Ryan and Jax. He also has two daughters Hayley and Marlie and is expecting a son Haynes soon.

## **Meet Joe Garrett**

Joe graduated from Shenandoah High School in 1977 and after working several common labor jobs joined the United States Marine Corps in 1979. During his initial enlistment he was meritoriously promoted to sergeant and was deployed on two West PAC Tours. After his discharge from active duty he enlisted in the active reserves where he stayed until his retirement in 2008. His final tour was in Fallujah, Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom I, II, and III. Joe became a member of the Anderson Police Department on August 16, 1985 and is still working 3<sup>rd</sup> shift patrol. During his tenure at the PD he has worked all shifts, been a member of the mounted patrol and worked in CID. Joe was a member of the SWAT Team for over 17 years. He is the lead firearms instructor as well as a defensive tactics instructor for 25 years. He was awarded Officer of the Year in 1991 and 1992. His military awards include the Bronze Star for actions against the enemy, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Deployment Ribbon w/ gold star, and National Defense Ribbon, and several leadership and service awards. His police awards include the L.E.O. Medal of Valor, 2 Combat Crosses, 3 Meritorious Service Awards, 1 Distinguished Service Award, and 5 Life Saving Awards. Joe is married to his wife Mendy for 21 years and they have 4 children Cara 26, Kegan 24, Sophia 14, and Ava 11. They also have a foster child Keighton who is 5.



## ***Jason Purgason,***

### **Detection for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

#### ***A Modern Approach to Training Detection Dog Teams***

Much has evolved in the way of training, handling and deploying detection dog teams in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Over the years new training and handling methods have been explored and developed with varying degrees of success. Developing proven systems for training detection dogs and their handlers requires us to take an objective look at the current methods and techniques that are being used and create effective plans for improving upon them. This class will explore ways in which we will improve in both our handling and training of detection dogs.

### **Meet Jason Purgason**

Jason is the Training Director and owner of Highland Canine Training, LLC which was founded in 2006 and is located in Harmony, North Carolina. Having earned his Police Canine Instructor's Certification in 2003, Jason has been training dogs for over 25 years. He has trained canines in the areas of Narcotics Detection, Explosives Detection, Human Detection, Police Patrol, Scent Discrimination Tracking / Trailing, Termite Detection, Mold Detection, Human Remains Detection, Allergen Detection, Bat Guano Detection, Urban Disaster, Wilderness Search and Rescue. Jason has trained over 900 working dogs and handlers for detection, police patrol and search and rescue. Jason's work in the K9 detection training and patrol dog training has qualified him as a subject matter court expert.

Jason has been a sworn Police Officer since 1995 and served Reidsville Police Department in North Carolina for over 10 years as a Police Canine Handler, a K9 Unit Supervisor, Vice Narcotics/Interdiction Unit Supervisor and an Operator on the SWAT team. Using his professional background, Jason conducts **police canine handler courses and seminars** throughout the United States including Police and Military personnel at NASA and the Pentagon as well as for Special Forces units of the United States Military and for foreign Military and Police Departments. Jason has been an Instructor/Speaker at HITS and other national and international K9 conferences for several years. Additionally, Jason provides oversight of all other **trainers' courses offered at Highland Canine Training, LLC.**



## **Rob Downey**

### **Canine nutrition and heat stress in the working dog.**

His lecture will cover feeding the working dog, the effects of heat stress on the canine athlete. Rob Downey brings to the Pet food Industry the unique combination of a broad scope of knowledge in the field of nutrition and exercise physiology as well as a life long passion for dogs. He has lectured to audiences worldwide, as well as all across the United States.

### **Meet Rob Downey**

Rob's postgraduate work in canine nutrition and heat stress in working dogs has been published in peer-reviewed Veterinary and Scientific journals for the last 30 years. From competing in field trials as a kid in Northeastern Ohio with German Shorthair Pointers, to winning the 2008 Limited North American Championship Sled Dog Race in Fairbanks, Alaska, Rob has spent his life working with canine athletes and working dogs. Rob has covered over 30,000 miles by dog team in his career.

## **Bob Day**

### **High Risk Arrests Using Your K9 \*\*\*NEW CLASS ONLY HITS\*\***

This class will show how officers can use their K9's in buy/busts, felony pickups, and arrest suspects in stolen vehicles with the assistance of SWAT and other officers. What we will be teaching can be used with a one K9 Unit department or a department with multiple dogs. We will talk about the evolution of our unit and the mistakes we made to get to where we are today.

### **Meet Bob Day**

Officer Robert Day  
Aurora Police K9 Unit Trainer  
Aurora, Colorado



Officer Day started his law enforcement career in 1982 in Nebraska. In 1987 he became a police officer in Aurora, Colorado and currently a K9 Trainer for the K9 Unit and has over 16 years of experience in K9. During his 35 years in law enforcement, Officer Day has worked in patrol as a patrol officer and Field Training Officer. From 1991 to 1996 he was a narcotics officer and his last 2 years ran a single purpose narcotics K9. In 1999 Officer Day was selected to the Aurora K9 Unit where he ran a dual-purpose explosive/patrol K9. During that time, Officer Day became the unit's trainer in narcotics and explosives. Officer Day is currently an Adjunct Judge in patrol, explosives, and narcotics through Utah POST. Officer Day has conducted several hundred operations with the Aurora Strategic Response and Tactics Team (SWAT).

## **Claire Rayburn**

### **Interactive Explosive Labs based on Real World Events**

Stay prepared for tomorrow's threat. With terrorist bombing attacks happening worldwide at an increasing frequency, we believe it's important for you to understand the current events and trends in explosives. This presentation will give you the opportunity to walk through multiple realistic explosive laboratories based on recent bombings worldwide. This interactive presentation will engage all your senses. Take the opportunity to walk the terrain and experience the modern explosives lab. You'll leave: With a deeper understanding of how explosives concepts translate into the current terrorist explosive lab. Better prepared to correctly identify an explosives lab and its inherent danger; and more knowledgeable in keeping you and your K9 partner safe in an explosives lab.

### **Meet Claire Rayburn**

Ms. Claire Rayburn is the Explosives K-9 Training Representative for Signature Science's TrueScent line of K-9 training aids. Prior to joining Signature Science, Ms. Rayburn served as a Special Agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for over 25 years. During her time as an ATF Special Agent, she became an Interstate Nexus Firearms Expert and a Certified Explosives Specialist. Over the years, Ms. Rayburn was actively involved in many of ATF's high profile missions. She participated in the response to the school shooting in Columbine and to the explosion at the fertilizer plant in West, TX; she was one of the ATF Agents executing the search warrant on the Branch Davidians in Waco, TX. In 2002, Ms. Rayburn became an Explosive K-9 Handler. She actively worked two (2) ATF Explosive Detection K-9s, with responsibility for covering special events, providing dignitary protection, performing



crime scene searches, and executing search warrants. As part of an ATF R&D project, Ms. Rayburn imprinted canines, and served as an assistant trainer for the canine class.