



*“In every walk of life, the Experts are looked to for their opinions.  
In our world, those Experts are always found at HITS”*

HITS- **H**andler **I**nstruction and **T**raining **S**eminar – For more than a decade, HITS has been the largest K-9 training conference in world. HITS has revolutionized the way the law enforcement K-9 industry receives it’s training. We’ve continued to bring scores of training topics together in a way that works for thousands of handlers from around the globe. The experts in each field come to HITS with fresh ideas about training and deploying your police dog. HITS will have more than 100 vendor booths to shop and browse through each day. We’re committed to bringing our fellow handlers the same training and the top of the line training equipment that we want for ourselves. When you come to HITS, you’ve committed yourself to learning more from the Experts who know police dogs. After all, it’s who we are and it’s what we do. You’ve been there, we’ve been there too. HITS training, for K-9 handlers, by K-9 handlers.

***Come to Chicago, Illinois and be a part of the HITS 2019  
experience***

**WHEN:** HITS 2019 August 13 - 16, 2019, Chicago, Illinois.

**WHERE:** McCormick Place convention center.

**ADDRESS:** 2301 S. Martin Luther King Drive,  
Chicago, Illinois, 60616

**HOTEL:** Hyatt Regency McCormick Place  
2233 S Martin Luther King Dr  
Chicago, Illinois, 60616

**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, 2019 After July  
15, 2019, - 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 13, 2019, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Pre-Registration***

Visit the registration counters in the foyer of the McCormick Place S100 room. Receive your ID badge, HITS Event Guide and all other free HITS items.

***Tuesday August 13, 2019 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm- Registration & Vendor Appreciation Night, S100 Vendor Room.*** 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 14, 2019, Thursday August 15, 2019 and Friday August 16, 2019***

***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 15, 2019 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 2019 INSTRUCTORS:***

### ***Steve Dean – Selecting and training the young Police Dog***

Acquiring a mature dog whether fully trained, partly trained or green is becoming more and more difficult because demand for this type of dog is World Wide & high which has an impact on rising costs. For those of us that are limited in our budget we need to look at what other options are available to us to provide quality dogs to meet our needs. In short this means looking at those animals that are currently available for a lower price tag and are less commercially valuable.

This means choosing between 2 categories

- a) Mature dogs of lower quality or ability
- b) Younger dogs that have not been developed

As purchasing a dog of low quality (either health or ability) is not a viable option this really only leaves us with one choice. Finding, selecting & training the younger dog.

This class explores the option of starting with the younger dog including how to identify the right dog via a tried and tested selection process used by UK and other European police & Border Control units, how to develop the young dog to cope with environmental and socially challenging situations based on an understanding of the dogs mental & physical development and how to develop skills that lead on to the basis for advanced training.



## **Meet Steve Dean**

Steve Dean spent 32 years as a police officer in the Metropolitan Police, London, at that time one of the largest police forces in the world with over 30,000 officers and a K9 unit with over 400 dogs. Steve spent 25 years of his police career within the K9 unit both as an operational police dog handler and as a full time police dog trainer at the Metropolitan Police Dog Training School. He is the holder of an advanced Home Office / Association of Chief Police Officers Dog Trainers Certificate and an expert in the identification of Dangerous Dogs and is the author of various police dog training manuals and police K9 related articles and has appeared on various TV programs including the BBC's Police Dog Academy and Animal Planet. Now retired from the police service, Steve continues his lifelong interest in dogs by breeding & developing working German Shepherds for police & private security services. He is a member of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers and a member of The Association of Applied Dog Behavior and Training.

## **Sgt. Jeremy Anderson – RCMP Royal Canadian Mounted Police Combating the Fentanyl Crisis with Canines**

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 Sgt. Jeremy Anderson**

Jeremy Anderson is a Sergeant with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police currently serving as a Trainer at the national Police Dog Service Training Center. With nearly 20 years of law enforcement experience, he began imprinting puppies for the Police Dog Service while still in Patrol. Subsequently, he became a handler and worked two consecutive multipurpose dogs. He is presently one of five Trainers responsible for instructing handlers from all across Canada in tracking, criminal apprehension, searching, detection, and obedience. He was recently selected to deploy out of country and train several international agencies specifically in fentanyl detection. This training has resulted in their unprecedented operational success in the war on fentanyl.

## ***Hennie Bolster***

### ***From Puppy to Patrol Dog***

Patrol Dog training the Dutch way, from puppy until certified Patrol Dog, Dutch Police/KNPV. Patrol dog class will present the process of selecting and raising a puppy for the KNPV. After certification in the KNPV the testing by the Dutch Police for the use as future patrol police dogs.

### ***From Puppy till Searching/Narcotic/Explosive Dog.***

Searching/Detection Dog training the Dutch way, from puppy until certified Searching (tracking)/narcotic/explosive) Dog. Searching/Detection class will present the process of selecting and raising a puppy for narcotics, explosives, or tracking. Class will cover training of puppies through fully-certified K9's.

## ***Meet Hennie Bolster***

I have been training dogs in the KNPV for over 35 years. I have trialed and certified 15 dogs in the KNPV. In those 35 years, I was an official KNPV decoy, and am now an official KNPV judge. In 2005, I was the KNPV Dutch Champion twice, for both PH II and Object with Beau. I was the Dutch Champion PH II in 2006 also with Beau and Dutch Champion PH I in 2008 with Baron. I have judged 4 times at the Dutch KNPV Championships. And I have judged many trials and competitions in Holland.



I have been in law enforcement for over 37 years, and a police K-9 handler/trainer for 29 years. I am currently a trainer for the patrol dogs in East of Holland for the Dutch Police. Our unit has about 90 dogs, and the Netherlands has a total of about 580 patrol dogs. I am also a judge for patrol dogs in the Netherlands.

Currently, I am a head Patrol K-9 instructor for over 25 handlers and their dogs. Along with teaching basic patrol dog classes for my agency and others, I have taught at numerous police canine training seminars and conferences throughout North and South America. In addition to training, I am currently working with my 6th patrol dog. I have been involved in hundreds of K-9 apprehensions and use of force incidents during my career. I use my experiences to help other patrol dog teams maximize their success, and help them to work their best on the streets with their police dogs.

## ***Ruud Leus***

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## ***Meet Ruud Leus***

I have been training with the KNPV since 1987. Since then, I have trained and trialed approximately 10 dogs in the KNPV. I was an official KNPV decoy and am currently a KNPV judge. In 2004, I was decoy at the National Championships. I judged 3 times on the National Championships and have judged many trials and competitions in Holland. In 2009, I took 2nd place with my malinois, Remco, at the KNPV National Champion ship.



I have been a police officer for 33 years. For 28 years I have worked as a K9 handler for the Dutch Police Force. I have worked over 18 years with many patrol dogs and had hundreds of arrests and apprehensions with my K9's. In Holland, all K9's are single purpose. There are approximately 580 patrol dogs, and 70 specialized searching dogs. The searching dogs (narcotics, tracking, explosives, money, cadaver, USAR, fire accelerant, blood, etc.) work for the National Forensic Science Police Department, and are used specifically for serious crime scenes.

For the last 11 years I have worked as a handler/instructor for the searching dog division of the Dutch Police. Every two years, K9's in Holland (patrol and searching dog) must trial and re-certify to work the streets.

## **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.

**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”.

## **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 (OCPCA). 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.

## ***Jeff Schettler – Tactical/Combat Tracking with MPC (Multipurpose Canines) & Scent Specific Urban Tracking/Trailing***

### **Tactical/ Combat Tracking with MPC’s (Multi-Purpose Canines)**

This course is designed to teach the basics of integrating combat or tactical support teams into K9 Tracking. The five-man team concept is the core of the curriculum with the crux of the training revolving around the K9 Proximity Alert and overall team responsibility as it relates to



the tracking mission. Jeff Schettler's training is used for military and police units throughout the United States, Western Europe, Mexico, and South America. Jeff's tactical tracking course has been California POST certified since 1998 and is currently used by the US Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Jeff's Book Tactical Tracker Teams is the basis for this course.

### **Scent Specific Urban Tracking/ Trailing**

Jeff's class on trailing and tracking is a great primer in to the realm of canine scent discrimination. His course is designed for urban, hard surface tracking work where the ability of the dog to find one human amongst many is paramount. Jeff's trailing/ tracking courses are well known for their excellence and his dogs find ratios are extremely high. Jeff's methodology is currently used by police and military units around the world. His books K9 Trailing; The Straightest Path and The Tao of Trailing will be the basis for this course.

### **Meet Jeff Schettler**

Jeff Schettler is a retired police K9 handler who worked for the City of Alameda and County of Amador in California and was attached to the FBI's Hostage Rescue Teams' K9 Assistance Program for two years. This program was designed to locate and apprehend high-risk fugitives on the run. As an international K9 trainer, he spends 12 weeks a year training throughout Europe, South America, and Asia. Jeff wrote the book on tactical tracking and his program is currently used by specialized American military groups. He is a certified military trainer graduating from the prestigious US Army's Leadership Academy also known as Drill Sergeant School. Jeff has worked hundreds of trailing cases across the USA and is a specialist in the areas of tactical tracking applications. He is considered an expert witness in tracking/ trailing.

Jeff's work has been seen on CNN, ABC, CBS, HLN, Unsolved Mysteries, and Mythbusters. Through the years, he has become a renowned author of the following books on K9 Tracking Work: K9 Trailing, Red Dog Rising, The Tao of Trailing, and Tactical Tracker Teams. Jeff will be teaching two classes:

Tactical/Combat Tracking with MPC (Multipurpose Canines)

Track hard, track safe.! Learn how to use the proximity alert to your advantage and build the tactical team around the tracking dog. Cavete Lupus!

Scent Specific Urban Tracking/Trailing

Tracking in a urban environment is the most challenging deployment for the patrol K9. Jeff' urban tracking system is successfully used by K9 handlers throughout the world.

### ***Scott Clark – Building Search Deployments***



High Drive K-9 has created an honest, explosive, disciplined class dealing solely with K-9 engagement issues, relating to K-9 Bite Building and Problem-Solving strategies dealing with building search deployments. Providing the essential techniques and strategies to properly prepare K-9 teams for building deployments is what this is all about. This course will help each handler to gain a better understanding of how to build, strengthen, and prepare K-9 Teams for real life combat. During this course, you will be provided with advanced training techniques, exercises and a tactical mental approach to succeed under the extreme stress you will face during a K-9 building search engagement. You will be instructed with a positive, open minded approach, providing you with all the necessary tools for success. This course dives into topics such as: Canine Aggression, Muzzles, Hidden Sleeves, Ground Fighting, Combat Training, True Scenario Training and much more. This course will build and strengthen K-9 teams, preparing and providing them with the awareness and skills to deploy with skilled and dependable during any and all building deployments.

### ***Scott Clark – K-9 Officer Down***

“Officer Down”- Two words that evoke discomfort and confusion in any officer’s mind. This is becoming a Trend in today’s world of Policing. A complex scenario has turned into an extreme challenge for the K-9 Handler and back-up officers involved. How will the deployed K-9 team handle this scene that is rapidly unfolding in front of them? This course is devised to train, educate and support both K-9 handlers and all other officers in your agency. This course will cover real life practical applications and scenarios, providing you with a better understanding of the difficulties involved in a K-9 handler down situation. In addition, this course will provide you with numerous options and strategies so that your agency can put a concrete plan in place if this were to occur in your agency. By the end of this course, handlers and officers will be more secure and prepared in the event an “Officer Down” issues arise.

### ***Meet Scott Clark***

Scott Clark, Owner and Founder of High Drive K-9, has been a Police Officer for the City of Coral Springs Police Department, Broward County, Florida since January 1999. Since 2001, he has been assigned to the K-9 Unit where he currently serves as an active K-9 Handler & Head Trainer. He has been working and training patrol and detection dogs since 2002. He is a current certified State of Florida FDLE K-9 Team Instructor and FDLE K-9 Team Evaluator. In addition, Scott is the K-9 Unit Head Trainer, Multi-Jurisdictional K-9 Head Trainer, SWAT K-9 Team Leader, Trainer and SWAT K-9 Handler, Firearms Instructor, HK MP5/MP7 Instructor, Sig Rifle Instructor, and has trained numerous K-9 Teams in South Florida and Across the Country. Scott has a vast knowledge in Canine Behavior, Decoy Development, Bite Building, K-9 Tactics, K-9/SWAT Tactics and has countless K-9 & SWAT Deployments. Scott obtained his Bachelor’s



Degree (B.A.) majoring in both, Criminal Justice and Psychology, from the University of North Florida.

## **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.

### ***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"

## ***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.

## ***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 Lickliger, 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 Lickliger 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 Lickliger 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 Lickliger competed in and won several military K-9 competitions and was as the recipient of numerous service medals.

Upon his retirement in 1993, SMSGT Lickliger formed VLK. SMSGT Lickliger 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 Lickliger 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 Licklider 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 Licklider 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 Licklider 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**

### **2019 Drug Canine Legal Updates**

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.



## **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.

## ***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.

### **Body Worn Explosive Detection**

Understanding the difference between Traditional Explosive Detection Dogs, People Screening Dogs and Mass Pedestrian Screening. The threat of a body-worn explosive attack is current & real. Understanding the types of explosive detection dogs available and their correct use and deployment is key to detection success. This informative presentation takes a detailed look at



the various types of explosive k9 detection & industry advancements, showcasing the 18 month training process behind Vapor Wake® detection canines.

## **Meet Paul Hammond**

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.

## **Dr. Kenneth Furton**

### **K9 Science & Standards: 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.

## ***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.

## **Aaron Peterman**

### **"An Outsider in the Pack"**

Far too often a supervisor with no K-9 experience is thrust to the helm of a unit. This can be a daunting task. There are many dynamics that go with such a specialized unit that is strafed with liability. You are not only in charge of the day to day activities of men and women known for



their type A personalities, but their K-9s as well. This class will specifically address the leading of a K-9 unit with no working K-9 experience. Sergeant Aaron Peterman will give guidance and leadership advice on this dilemma, drawing from on his own unit's past practices from having been in this predicament. You will leave with strategies which foster success, garner respect, and reduce liability.

## **Meet Aaron Peterman**

Sergeant Aaron Peterman began his law enforcement career in 1997 at the Polk County (FL) Sheriff's Office. He held assignments in Patrol, the Tactical Drug and Narcotics Units before his employment at the Lakeland (FL) Police Department in 2000. At the Lakeland Police Department Sergeant Peterman was assigned to the Neighborhood Liaison Unit, SWAT, Street Crimes and Narcotics Units before transferring to the K-9 Unit 2006. Sergeant Peterman worked 3 dual purpose dogs before being promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2013. He currently is the supervisor of Lakeland's 8 dog unit and a handler of a patrol/explosives K-9. Sergeant Peterman is a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) certified K-9 Trainer and Team Evaluator, as well as an FDLE certified General, Driving, and Firearms Instructor. He currently instructs for HITS, Polk State College, IPTM, and SKIDDS. Sergeant Peterman is the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 1 President (encompassing Florida), and a USPCA regional patrol dog and detection judge.

## **Mike Conner**

### **Criminal Patrol**

This intense 4 Hour course is designed for Patrol and Narcotic officers, veterans and newcomers alike. It focuses on the relationship between traffic enforcement and criminal enforcement. Specific techniques are covered to assist officers in detecting criminal activity. In car videos from adjudicated case are used in the presentation. Students will receive extensive instruction in the detection of criminal indicators, roadside interviews and vehicle searches. Students may also participate in mock roadside interviews in an effort to detect deception.

The core course includes:

- Indicators and Detection Methods
- Legal Considerations
- Roadside Interview Techniques
- Professionalism at the Traffic Stop



- Officer Safety

## Hidden compartments

This intense 4 Hour course is designed for Patrol and Narcotic officers, veterans and newcomers alike. It focuses on after-market hidden compartments in vehicles that Drug Trafficking Organizations use to avoid detection by Law Enforcement. Specific techniques are covered to assist officers in locating, identifying and accessing after-market hidden compartments. Videos and photos from adjudicated case are used in the presentation. Students will receive extensive instruction in the detection of after-market hidden compartments and vehicle searches.

The core course includes:

- Vehicle Search techniques
- Types of hidden compartments
- How to identify a hidden compartment
- How to access a hidden compartment to preserve evidence and further the investigation
- Officer Safety

## Meet Mike Conner

Mike Conner Mike Conner is a Sergeant with the Maryland State Police, Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement Team (PACE). He currently serves as the agency Interdiction expert and Interdiction training coordinator. In addition to his duties associated with interdiction, Mike serves as an associate instructor for the State Police Academy. He teaches Criminal Patrol, First line supervisor course, and Fair Impartial Policing. Mike has over twenty-one years of criminal interdiction experience. He is an original member of the most successful criminal interdiction team in the State Police history. Mike has personally seized or contributed to the seizure of millions of dollars in US Currency, as well as hundreds of pounds of cocaine, marijuana, heroin and ecstasy. Mike is an expert in passenger vehicle concealment, specifically with hidden compartments used by sophisticated Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO). Mike has provided training to thousands of law enforcement officers across the United States. The techniques taught by Mike have enable law enforcement officers across the country to seized compartments and arrest major criminals. Mike has taught for Federal Agencies like the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center, Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training, Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network, National Criminal Enforcement Association, Drug Interdiction Assistance Program, El Paso Intelligence Center and





the FBI National Academy. In addition to aforementioned agencies Mike has taught for countless local and state agencies.

## **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.

### **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.

## **Elie Zussman**

### **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 Elie Zussman**

Mr. Elie Zussman is an Explosives Chemist at Signature Science, LLC, where he instructs site exploitation of suspect rogue homemade explosives production facilities. He has expertise in the preparation and properties of homemade explosives (HME) and experience testing field portable sensors and detectors for explosives, small scale sensitivity testing, and larger scale detonations. Mr. Zussman received his Master of Forensic Sciences (MFS) from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. Prior to joining Signature Science, Mr. Zussman was a Visiting Scientist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit. He helped characterize a novel forensic trace air sampler in support of evidentiary gaps in search and rescue canine investigations.

## **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.

### **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.

## Jill Kline

### **Ensuring peak performance of detection dogs through nutrition and management**

The majority of single purpose detection dogs have different nutritional needs compared to dual purpose dogs. Find out how to maximize the potential of these detection only dogs through targeted nutrition and informed management. This presentation will focus on the latest technologies to maximize olfaction performance and health through diet and management schemes.

### **Ensuring peak performance of dual purpose dogs through nutrition and management**

The majority of dual purpose dogs have different nutritional needs and training routines compared to detection only dogs. Find out how to harness their full potential through targeted nutrition and informed management. Focus of the presentation will be on scientific technologies and proper diet selection to support joint health, manage environmental challenges, and preserve the health status of your canine partner.

## 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.

## **Marcella Ridgway**

### **The Biology of Scent Detection**

What happens in the dog's nose and brain to allow the dog to detect and identify odor and locate an odor source? A basic understanding of the structure and function of the dog's olfactory system and factors affecting odor detection can help K9 handlers partner more effectively with their detection dogs. This class covers what happens in the dog to allow odorant molecules to be interpreted as scent and also addresses the diseases, medications and other factors that can interfere with the dog's ability to detect, localize and indicate odor.

### **Breed Predisposition to Disease & Update on Bloat**

This class will provide an overview of the significant breed-related disease problems to which PWD breeds are prone. Knowledge of these breed-related disorders is important for K9 handlers and trainers to allow them to recognize the signs of these health problems when they occur so that treatment can be implemented early in the course of disease. Additionally, an awareness of the potential health problems associated with a particular breed is an important element of the K9 selection process. The class will cover the major health issues of concern in PWD breeds including lumbosacral stenosis, hip dysplasia, degenerative myelopathy and laryngeal paralysis and will conclude with a detailed look at "bloat" – what is "bloat", what to watch for, how to respond when it happens and how to prevent it based on the most current research and focused on practical information that K9 professionals can use in keeping working dogs safe.

### **Practical K9 Anatomy**

A basic understanding of K9 anatomy as it relates to dog gear and K9 handling practices can ensure that you get the optimal result from your equipment and handling techniques while minimizing the risk of injury to your dog. This class will cover applied aspects of K9 anatomy



such as what body structures are impacted by various types of harnesses and collars, what collar placement is most effective for choke versus prong collars, what happens when you “choke out” a dog or use a gag stick, muzzling and other practical aspects of K9 anatomy pertinent to working dog management.

## Meet Marcella Ridgway

Dr. Marcella Ridgway has been a practicing veterinarian for 36 years and is a board-certified specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine with areas of special interest in infectious diseases and canine occupational health. Currently, she holds the position of Clinical Professor in Small Animal Internal Medicine and service head of the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, where she provides specialty veterinary care for dogs and cats in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital; clinical and didactic training in Internal Medicine for residents, interns and veterinary students; and continuing education for other veterinarians. In teaching veterinary students and in her continuing education presentations, she is working to develop veterinarians who have a better understanding of the roles fulfilled by working and performance dogs and thus are better prepared to provide exceptional medical care optimized for the individual dog and the particular demands of the dog’s job. She also provides instruction in K9 field first-aid for law enforcement and SAR K9 handlers. In addition to her professional endeavors, she is a SAR K9 handler (trailing) and competition obedience handler and instructor.

## Sergeant Mark Crane & Captain William Barbetto





## “Utilization of Canines in Corrections”

This course is about the utilization of Canines from initial training to actual fieldwork. The initial question posed, “Can any Canine work in a Correctional setting?” We will discuss how we utilize our teams and the roll that they play in the corrections environment.

### **Meet Sergeant Mark Crane .**

Mark Joined the Virginia Department of Corrections in 1996 and served 3 years inside a facility near Roanoke, Virginia. In those 3 years, Mark was a Field Training Officer, and graduated Strike Force Class (PERT Team).

In 1999, Mark graduated from his first Passive Narcotic Canine School. Over the next 9 years, Mark, along with his Partner, K-9 Davy, proudly served the Western Region of Virginia.

After K-9 Davy’s retirement in 2008, Mark attended and graduated from his second detection school along with his new Partner, K-9 Julia. In 2011, Mark became a certified detection canine Instructor and assumed the responsibility of teaching state-wide monthly detection classes, while continuing his fieldwork with his Partner, K-9 Julia. In 2014, Mark and K-9 Julia were promoted to Sergeant, which required him and his wife to relocate to Richmond, Virginia. Mark continued working the Central Region with K-9 Julia while serving the Canine Unit in the role of Detection Training Sergeant. K-9 Julia honorably and notably served the Commonwealth for 8 years until her retirement in 2016. In 2016, Mark became the Department’s Canine Training and Development Coordinator. Mark continues in this role today where he oversees all Canine Training for the Department and is the Lead Detection Canine Instructor.

### **Captain William Barbetto**

Joined the Virginia Department of Corrections in 1994 and worked 4 years inside Keen Mountain Correctional Center in Oakwood Va.

In 1998, William graduated his first Basic Patrol Canine School with K-9 Ninja. Working K-9 Ninja to respond to emergencies inside the facility and when needed at other institutions.



In 1998, William graduated Strike Force Class (PERT Team)

In 1999, (K-9 Ninja died) William attended his second Basic Patrol Canine School with K-9 Zion. Over the next 8 years worked K-9 Zion inside the facility, responded to facilities across Virginia for emergency situations.

In 2007, Promoted to Patrol K-9 Sergeant at Keen Mountain Correctional Center, Received Basic Patrol Canine Instructor Certification and DCJS General Instructor Certification. (K-9 Zion retired) William attended his third Basic Patrol Canine School with K-9 Izara, over the next 4 years worked numerous situations at different institutions.

In 2008, William graduated TSU (Tactical Support Unit) Class.

In 2011, William graduated his 4<sup>th</sup> Basic Patrol Canine Class with K-9 Blitz, numerous utilizations for 5 years.

2007-2016 Instructed 14 Basic Patrol Canine Schools.

In 2016, Promoted to Statewide Canine Coordinator.

## **Don Blair**

A New Look at Canine Detection Problem Solving

This two-hour course will reveal a new way of observing and deconstructing the chain of behaviors demonstrated during a single “detection” exercise. Utilizing this information will accurately identify the area(s) needing additional training. This gives the trainer/handler a guide for selecting specific training exercises targeting those areas needing improvement. This system is also of tremendous value when training and evaluating new canine detection teams by earlier identification of weak areas or areas desiring improvement. This course has numerous video clips of various detection dogs (explosives, narcotics, cadaver and other) to assist and facilitate learning.

## **Meet Don Blair**

**Donald E. Blair**  
**EXPERIENCE**

**Canine Intelligence Academy (CIA):** Founder and President





1984 – Present

CIA offers consulting, training, seminars and workshops for working and sport K9 teams including 1:1 training, law enforcement / military department level consulting, and weekend/week-long seminars in operant conditioning, detection work, tracking/trailing and protection/apprehension. Chicago Police K9 Contractor for all Vapor Wake K9 Teams and other K9 Government K9 Explosive K9 agencies

**Canine Therapy Corps:** Program Leader/K9 Team Trainer

2011 - Present

Oversee interactive canine physical therapy program with volunteer K9 teams. Train and advise and assist K9 teams with patient activities to facilitate recovery at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago/Shirley Ryan Ability Labs.

**Mass Transit Canine Services:** Owner/Partner

2014-2017

Train, maintain and operationally prepare explosive and narcotic K9 detection teams for Amtrak Police Department nationwide.

**Mass Transit Canine Services:** Owner/Partner

2014-2017

Train, maintain and operationally prepare explosive and narcotic K9 detection teams for Amtrak Police Department nationwide.

**Scientific Working Group for Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines**

**(SWGDOG):** Executive Board Member

2008 – 2015

Provided recommendations, oversight and consulting for the development of best practices for world-wide use for detector dogs.

**Strijder Group K9:** Cooper, Texas: Vice President Research & Development

5/2011 – 11/2012

Worked as a consultant to Auburn University's Canine Detection Training Center (Ft. McClellan AL) developing training curriculum, evaluating current policies, and canine evaluation of prospective detective and patrol dogs. Oversaw all aspects of the canine training program and was responsible for evaluating and rehabilitating under-performing dogs, or returned dogs with temperament or behavior issues.

Specialized assignments included

- Developed a Navy SEAL basic canine handler's course
- Development of an advanced course for traditional and vapor way canines
- Oversight of tracking patrol work, detection work and article search work
- Performed annual field certifications for explosive detection dogs



Oversaw training that met certification for US Military Special Forces, US Capital Police, Transportation Security Administration, Federal Protective Services and various state and local agencies.

**US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – Canine Center, Front Royal, VA:**

Canine Training Specialist

7/2007 – 5/2011

Performed a variety of activities including:

- Scientific research study on canine detection of smuggled fire-arms (resulting in a new national training and certification process)
- Environmental enrichment study for kenneled working dogs
- Development of a canine behavior and temperament test
- Advised on a course of study on advanced field training on canine aggression and on canine detection of HU-210 (synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol)
- Human remains detection training and team evaluations
- Oversaw the CPB canine breeding program (GSDs and Labradors)

**Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. Chicago, IL: Canine Training / Consultant**

3/2007 – 7/2007

Provided advice and oversight of US canine operations with regard to narcotics, patrol and apprehension, kenneling, record keeping, training aid storage and handling. Specialized in the development of training protocols and provided trained teams for Chicago's metropolitan train systems. Coordinated over a hundred explosive searches in a variety of environments including Chicago's Soldier's Field, The United Center, several high rise buildings and mass transit environments.

**Canine Associates International, Leland, IL: Managing Director**

12/2004 – 3/2007

Responsible for the development of a proprietary canine training system for detection work. In addition, oversaw canine selection testing, and canine/handler evaluation criteria. Instructed and participated in a variety of training seminars including law enforcement, SWAT and anti-terrorism/narcotics courses. Traveled extensively overseeing CAI global canine operations including the deployment of teams to South Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan and Jordan.

**Customs Border Protection, Nogales, AZ: Canine Branch Chief**

10/2002 – 12/2004

Responsible for supervising and directing the Nogales Canine Section in all



DHS/CBP anti-terrorism inspections and special enforcement operations. Detection work included explosive, narcotic, human, agricultural and chemical. Managed enforcement operations involving off site call-outs and pre-primary, primary and secondary screening and inspection areas for various conveyances and passenger operations. Performed research and development projects and was a technical advisor to CBP and DHS management for Canine Enforcement Program activities. Implemented cost preserving activities that still maintained overall training effectiveness.

**Customs Border Protection/US Customs:** San Luis, AZ: Supervisory Canine Enforcement Officer

3/1999 – 10/2002

Responsible for the supervision and direction of the canine section of CBP inspections and special enforcement tasks including weekly/monthly performance evaluations. In addition, oversaw the conduct of various R&D projects involving temperature testing of ground cover materials and detection assessment of canines in the presence of ozone generators. Generated training courses on K9 selection and evaluation of K9 body language, and procurement protocols and entrance evaluation tests. Was called as an expert witness on canine detection skills, training and application to the US Attorney's office. Canine section in 2001 was the lead in narcotics seizures for the three year tenure.

**US Customs – Canine Enforcement Training Center,** Front Royal, VA:

Instructor/ Course Developer

8/1991 – 8/1999

Responsible for developing specialized training courses for detector dogs and their handlers. Topics included: canine procurement, principles of detector dog training, canine search patterns, developing green canines and handlers, canine department supervision. Was also responsible for monitoring, testing and evaluating field and classroom performance of canine enforcement teams, and assessed and reported on training effectiveness. Provided training to outside agencies in detection (narcotics, human remains, search and rescue, tracking/trailing). Provided training to foreign groups. Received numerous awards for training contributions.

**US Customs,** El Paso, TX: Canine Enforcement Officer

7/1989 – 8/1991

Responsible for inspections, law enforcement and canine handling/training across a variety of environments (airports, railroads, border crossings, etc). Provided technical and behavioral assessments of other teams including problem solving and expansion of training environments to improve effectiveness.



Received multiple awards for narcotics seizures.

**Pueblo County Sheriffs Department, Pueblo, CO: Sheriffs Deputy / Canine Technician**

2/1989 – 7/1989

Responsible for law enforcement activities including handling a patrol/detection dog for narcotics, cadaver, building, article/evidence searches as well as tracking/trailing and apprehension work. Was selected to assist in the training of all department dogs. Generated department Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for canine deployments, use of force policy, specialized training requirements and overall use. Routinely provided testimony in court. Led the region (AZ, WY, CO and UT) for number of narcotics seizures and arrests made.

**Ignacio Police Department, Ignacio, CO: Police Canine Officer**

10/1988 – 2/1989

Served as the sole canine officer in the department responsible for law enforcement. Generated SOPs for canine applications, use of force policies and training/deployment. Actively deployed in narcotic, human remains and building searches; tracking/trailing and search and rescue activities. Received Letter of Commendation for currency and drug seizure.

**Durango Police Department, Durango, CO: Police Canine Officer**

1/1988 – 10/1988

Served as the sole canine officer in the department. Coordinated the start-up of a narcotics detection program and oversaw training in narcotics, cadaver, obedience, article search, tracking/trailing and apprehension. Generated department SOPs. Worked as an Assistant Instructor with Colorado State Patrol/Drug Enforcement Administration in the Criminal Interdiction Program. Qualified and competed in the National Police Dog Championships placing 11<sup>th</sup> out of 126 teams.

**La Junta Police Department, La Junta, CO: Police Canine Officer**

12/1984 – 1/1988

Served as a canine officer responsible for law enforcement. Was selected to assist in the training of the department's canines eventually serving as the head trainer. Developed and implemented a complete Police Dog Training Program. Assisted the Durango Police Dept in the creation of their canine program. Served as an Assistant Child Abuse – Sexual Assault Investigator and handled special investigations. Qualified and served as a member of the Special Weapons Team. Received several awards and letters of commendation.

## **EDUCATION**



Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado

- Some College Coursework Completed
- 20+ Credits 1982-83
- Major: Fish and Game Wildlife Management

Trinidad State Jr. College, Trinidad, Colorado, Certification, 4/85

Attended and graduated from the Colorado Peace Officers Academy

### **RELEVANT COURSEWORK, LICENSES and CERTIFICATION**

- Certified Professional Dog Trainer Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA)
- AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator
- International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, Attendance 4/2013; Dogs of Course, Warwick, RI
- Clicker Expo: Attendance 4/12; Karen Pryor Nashville TN
- Contemporary Animal Training and Management Workshop Certification, 12/2011, Natural Encounters Inc. Winter Haven, FL
- Advanced Animal Training and Operant Conditioning Workshop with Bob Bailey Certification, 05/2010
- Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, Sequim, WA
- Advanced Animal Operant Conditioning Workshop on Discrimination, Certification, 12/2009
- Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, Sequim, WA
- Advanced Animal Operant Conditioning Workshop on Cueing: Certification, 12/2009
- Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, Sequim, WA
- Advanced Animal Operant Conditioning Workshop on Criteria Certification, 12/2009
- Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, Sequim, WA
- Advanced Animal Training and Behavior Course, Chicago, IL; Certification, 3/2008: 40 hours of advanced lecture and hands on training and live examples with Ken Ramirez on animal intelligence, human emotion and anthropomorphism, basic operant conditioning, informal interactions, husbandry training, social groups, advanced training techniques, aggression, advanced, training games, problem-solving techniques and complex training.
- Advanced Animal Training and Behavior Course, Munich, Germany: Certification, 12/2007 40 hours of advanced lecture with Ken Ramirez on animal intelligence, human emotion and anthropomorphism, basic operant conditioning, informal interactions, husbandry training, social groups, advanced training techniques, aggression, advanced, training games, problem-solving techniques and complex training.
- Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Grafton, MA Certification,



9/2007

- Tufts' Canine and Feline Breeding and Genetics Conference
- Advanced Animal Behavior North American Veterinary Services, Orlando, FL, Certification, 7/2005
- Attended a 75-hour course (lecture and hands on training) on Advanced Animal Behavior and Training hosted by North American Veterinary Services.
- U.S. Customs Basic Academy (Canine Enforcement Officer): Front Royal, VA, Certification, 8/1989; Attended and graduated with Honors
- U.S. Customs Course Developer/Instructor Canine Academy, Front Royal, VA Certification, 9/1992
- U.S. Customs Firearms Instructor Academy, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Brunswick, Georgia, Certification, 12/1992 Attended and graduated with Honors.
- U.S. Customs Basic Instructor Course, Brunswick, Georgia, Certification, 4/1993

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

- Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines Executive Board Member
- United States Police Canine Association- Member
- California Narcotics Canine Association- Member
- Animal Behavior Society- Member

#### **AWARDS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 2010: Best Practices and Innovation Award from the (A) Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, David Aguilar for a research and development project on dogs detecting currency and firearms.
- 2009: received a cash award for work done on Customs and Border Protection Canine Breeding Program.
- 2008: received a cash award for work done on the Customs and Border Protection Canine Breeding Program and Kennel Design project.
- 2007 received two "Dinner for Two" awards and a \$1,000.00 dollar cash award for work done on the breeding program and canine procurement.
- In 2005 and 2006 received salary bonuses from Canine Associates International for the ground up development and management of the canine training center in Leland, IL and my management work in the U.S. and overseas. Received additional individual project awards for work in Iraq, several contracts for training and international demonstrations.
- 1989 – 2004: received numerous written awards and certificates from US Customs Service including 6 Special Act/Service Awards and 12



#### Performance Awards.

- 1999-2004: received six Superior Achievement Awards for work at the San Luis, Lukeville and Nogales Ports of Entry.
- 2002 awarded extra leave for participation in the San Luis POE “Bring Your Child to Workday”.
- 2002: used as canine subject matter expert at the U.S. Customs Canine Enforcement Training Center to instruct a basic CEO Course and perform an advisory role for the Director on canine procurement, instructional issues and the breeding program.
- 2000: Letter of Acknowledgement from the Director, U.S. Customs Academy John McKay for “Distinguished Academic Performance” at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- 2000: attended a newly developed 7-week Inspector Course at FLETC for Canine Field Managers and was noted as an Academic Honor Graduate of the class.
- 2000: received a Letter of Appreciation from Port Director McNamara for Instruction of a Supervisory Customs Inspector Canine Supervisors Course, Front Royal, VA.
- 2000: received a Letter of Appreciation from Assistant Commissioner of Customs, for Outstanding Contribution on the Process Improvement Teams.
- 2000: Received Letter of Appreciation from Director, Office of Field Operations for my involvement with the National Training Plan Task Force, Washington, DC.
- 1999: selected to be an Advisor/Mentor to all Process Improvement Teams in the Southern California and Caribbean Customs Management Centers.
- 1999: received a Letter of Appreciation from the Director, Arizona Department of Corrections Samuel Sublett for continued support and canine assistance with correctional contraband sweeps.
- 1998: received a Letter of Appreciation from the Commissioner, U.S. Customs Service, Raymond Kelly for Outstanding Service in the Canine Enforcement Program.
- 1998: received a Letter of Appreciation from the Vice Admiral U.S. Navy, J.B. Perkins, for Canine Demonstration and Public Relations performed for the U.S. Drug Czar W. MaCaffrey.
- 1996: received a Letter of Recognition from the Office of Treasury Reinvention for my Leadership and Instructional abilities in the areas of Government Reinvention and Process Improvement.
- 1996: received two Recognition Awards from U.S. Customs Commissioner George Weiss, for work with Treasury Reinvention and Business Process



Improvement Instruction to the Customs Management Centers.

- 1996: received the Secretary of Treasury Award, presented by Robert Rubin for work done on Canine Procurement Process Improvement Team, reinventing the Government.
- 1996: received the U.S. Customs Commissioners Unit Citation, for work on the Canine Procurement Process Improvement Team.
- 1994: received Instructional Recognition and Award for instructing the Canine Supervisors Course in Venezuela, given by the Guardia Nacional, Venezuela.
- 1994: received an Instructional Recognition and Award for instructing Canine Supervisors Course in Venezuela, given by the Colombian National Police, Bogota, Columbia.
- 1991: received a cash award and Letter of Recognition from the El Paso District Director for Exceptional Enforcement Skills and Effort with my U.S. Customs Canine Blitz.
- 1989: received Distinguished Service Award for Excellency in job performance for Police Canine Narcotics Interdiction from the Kiwanis Club International.
- 1989: received USPCA Letter of Commendation and 2nd place Quarterly Award for Canine Narcotics search and seizure of 70 pounds of marijuana and \$3,000.00 in currency.
- 1989: received a Letter of Commendation USPCA for Canine Narcotics search and seizure of 100 pounds of marijuana.
- 1988: received a USPCA Letter of Commendation and 3rd place Quarterly Award for Canine Narcotics search and seizure of 130 pounds of marijuana and \$3,000.00 in currency.
- 1988: received a Letter of Commendation USPCA for Canine Narcotics search and seizure of 19 pounds of marijuana.
- 1987: received a Letter of Commendation from the Governor of Colorado, Roy Romer for Outstanding Service and Representation of the State of Colorado for service and competition with my police canine Ranger.
- 1987: 2 year Safe Driving Award, La Junta Police Department.
- 1986: USPCA Region 14, 4th Quarter Canine Award Best Find for locating two drowning victims in a lake with my police canine Ranger.
- 1986: 1 year Safe Driving Award Letter, La Junta Police Department.
- 1986-87: USPCA Special Award for Highest Combined scores in Criminal Apprehension and Suspect Searches
- 1986: received a Letter of Commendation from the La Junta Police Department for excellent performance in canine competition.
- 1985: Letter of Appreciation from the Lion's Club International for numerous canine demonstrations and service to the community.





- 1985: USPCA National Police Dog Championship received a Certificate of Excellence.

### **IPO and Police Trial Awards**

- 2006 won High in Trial; High Schutzhund III in a United Schutzhund Club of America sponsored trial with handler owned trained (HOT) dog Chico.
- 1988: USPCA Narcotics Detector Dog Trials, 3rd overall, perfect score (100 points) in vehicles.
- 1988 USPCA National Police Dog Championship; member of the 1st place National Team from Region 14 Colorado.
- 1988 USPCA National Police Dog Championship placed 11th out of 126 Teams and again received a Certificate of Excellence.
- 1988 USPCA Regional Championship 4th place overall from a field of 38 Teams. 1st place suspect search, 2nd place evidence search, 3rd place criminal apprehension, 5th place agility.
- 1987: USPCA Region 14 4th Quarter Award Best Find for locating and apprehending two burglars in a large bakery warehouse.
- 1987 USPCA Narcotics Detector Dog Trials, 2nd overall, perfect score (100 points) in vehicles.
- 1987: USPCA National Police Dog Championship, placed 27th out of a field of 141 Teams, received a Certificate of Excellence (this is the highest ranking given) and 3rd place overall scent work.
- 1987 USPCA Regional Championship 1st place overall from a field of 47 Teams. 1st place suspect search, 2nd place agility, 3rd place criminal apprehension and I received a Certificate of Excellence.
- 1986: USPCA National Police Dog Championship (qualified but could not compete for family reasons) also received a Certificate of Excellence.
- 1986 USPCA Regional Championship 3rd place overall from a field of 34 Teams. 1st place suspect search, 2nd place evidence search, 3rd place

## **Justin Rigney**

### **NePoPo**

By attending the NePoPo® class, you will be armed with tools and techniques on how to connect with your K9 partner on a deeper level, install a desire and passion in the animal who will



execute learned behaviors under high distractions in the real world. The techniques learned in this class can be applied to any phase of dog training as well as any Police K9 application.

## **Meet Justin Rigney**

Justin Rigney has over 25 years of professional dog training experience and was a Law Enforcement Officer for 17 years, 10 of which he spent as a K-9 handler and trainer. His unique background and experience in civilian dog training as well as Police service dog training sets him apart from other trainers in his field. Justin's passion for dog training is evident as he has assisted thousands of pet dog owners in enhancing their relationship with their dogs, bridging the gap of communication with their beloved four-legged family members. Justin utilizes a proven, reliable, humane and clear, real world training system, which produces results and a dog who knows its job and loves its job. During his Law Enforcement career, Justin was fortunate enough to have been able to work three patrol dogs. Justin is a former member of the Davie Police Department and their K-9 unit where he was a handler for K-9 "Vader", a Belgian Malinois who was produced from his own breeding program. Going from watching Vader take his very first breath in life, to becoming a productive K-9 partner was extremely rewarding. K-9 "Bosko", an all black GSD (German Shepherd Dog) was responsible for hundreds of arrests and apprehensions of violent felony offenders and has been instrumental in the recovery of numerous articles of valuable evidence. Post retirement, Bosko obtained his Brevet in French Ring sport. His last patrol dog K-9 "Zeke" is a sable GSD who has been raised from a puppy by Justin and his wife Alison. Zeke was a proven, JUSTIN RIGNEY vigilant and tenacious police service dog during his career. Most notably defending his handler during a deadly force encounter and officer involved shooting. Zeke will continue to work and compete in civilian dog sport. Justin was a Corporal and trainer for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, which had 60 dogs department wide. During his professional dog training career he has trained with hundreds of Police K-9 teams, competed in Schutzhund, Ring Sport and other dog sports. He has also trained dogs for celebrities, professional athletes and thousands of pet dog owners. Justin graduated and has been awarded a diploma in the NePoPo Gold training system, the modern language of dog training by Bart Bellon. Justin was formerly the President of the Florida Law Enforcement Canine Association ([www.flecak9.com](http://www.flecak9.com)) and was one of the founding members. He was also a judge and instructor for FLECA. Justin has also been retained in civil litigation as an expert witness in K-9 training, use of force and deployment. He has had the opportunity to certify and train hundreds of Police K-9 teams. Justin continually pursues further knowledge of dog training in many different applications by training with some of the top canine trainers in the world.

## **Joe Oberding**



## **The “Trinity” of Suspect Apprehension... Patrol, Air Support and K9!**

We'll discuss how to effectively integrate Air Support during K9 and other tactical based missions. We'll talk about when Air Support should be requested, what information they'll need while en route, what to expect once they are on scene, and how all three components of suspect apprehension become exponentially more effective when they are working together with the common goals of officer safety and suspect apprehension at the foresight. You'll get a “view” from the TFO's perspective into Air Support's abilities and limitations in assisting K9, Patrol and other department entities in resolving high-risk calls for service. Finally, we'll talk about setting up perimeters, suspect psychology, and current suspect trends.

In addition to stuffing a few more tools in every handler's tool box, this is a great class for handlers of agencies who utilize Air Support from other jurisdictions, for supervisors who are responsible for requesting and managing resources during dynamic or high-risk calls for service, and for anyone who is required to provide in-service training on these topics to their department's officers.

### **Meet Joe Oberding**

Joe Oberding retired from the Henderson Police Department in 2019 with 24 years of law enforcement service and experience. He has been a Police K9 Decoy since 1997, a Police K9 Handler of Patrol, SWAT, and Detection based police service dogs from 2003 to 2015, and he was the Head Trainer of the department's 10-dog K9 Unit from 2007 to 2015. Finally, Joe spent the last 2½ years of his career operating as a full-time Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) for Las Vegas Metro's Air Support Section.

Joe Oberding is a 2-time Medal of Valor recipient, and he was also recognized as Officer of the Year on two separate occasions (2009 and 2012), with each award citing his work and efforts within the Police K9 community as a predominant reason for the recognitions. He was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from VFW National in 2013 for Law Enforcement Services. Joe has been a Police K9 Trial Judge since 2009, and a Certifying Official with CNCA since 2010.



## **Gary Knutson**

### **Unintentional Canine Bites**

Whether you're a K9 handler or supervising a canine unit, the risk for an unintentional canine bite is an ever-present risk. An unintentional canine bite, causing injury could lead to civil litigation, handler prosecution or disbanding of a department's canine unit. The potential for an unintentional K9 bite can be reduced through proper dog selection, training and a comprehensive canine policy. Being prepared for the inevitable and understanding how to handle an unintentional bite will help mitigate the liability to your canine program.

Through several case studies this course will present how to investigate and properly document an unintentional bite incident, in addition to conducting a supervisory and administrative review. After the review process is completed recommended corrective actions will be presented including training and discipline. Properly and promptly handling an unintentional bite incident will help reduce your department's civil liability exposure and ensure the longevity of your canine unit.

### **Meet Gary Knutson**

Lieutenant Gary Knutson is a twenty four-year veteran of the Orange County Sheriff's Department in California and is currently assigned to the Custody Operations Division. During his career he spent over eleven years as a dual-purpose K9 handler assigned to Patrol Operations, where he trained and deployed three police service dogs. After promoting to Sergeant, he supervised the Custody Canine Unit for two years and the Patrol Canine Unit for three years.

**MORE TO COME!!!!!!**



