

**MAINE SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS (MESARD)
Standards and Evaluation Procedures
(Revised 02/2009)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These standards are designed to ensure that MESARD operational SAR dog and handler teams and flankers will be professional and competent in their work. These standards meet or exceed the MASAR (Maine Association for Search and Rescue) standards, required for call out by the Maine Warden Service.
- 1.2. Teams wishing to test to the following standards will have demonstrated proficiency in the areas to be tested to the Training Director and/or operational handlers that have achieved evaluator status. When the team has fulfilled requirements for operational status, the Training Director will recommend a team for operational status and apply for MASAR certification of the team.
- 1.3. The SAR dog should be one of the working, herding, sporting or hound breeds of sound physical structure and temperament, and of adequate size and strength to negotiate the terrain encountered in wilderness areas.
- 1.4. The SAR dog handlers and flankers must be reasonably available to respond to search calls. In addition to individual training sessions, each operational SAR dog team will be required to spend a minimum of six hours training a month in SAR work at a formal MESARD training session, or with another operational team, or with an experienced dog handler or trainer. Teams not participating in the formal MESARD training sessions will submit a written description, signed by the attending handler or trainer, of training during that month to satisfy this requirement. An operational team that misses more than three consecutive months of formal MESARD training sessions may be subject to a review of its operational status by the officers. Teams are encouraged to work regularly, on their own, on all phases of training.

2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL OPERATIONAL TEAMS (AIR OR GROUND SCENT)

- 2.1. The handler has current certification in the State of Maine as a basic ground searcher. If not currently required by MASAR, handlers must also complete IS 100.a, IS 200.a and IS 700.a. See <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp> for more information.
- 2.2. The handler has training in basic canine first aid.
- 2.3. The handler keeps clear and accurate training records. Before undertaking any search certification tests, the handler will present their training records for inspection by the Training Director, or designated member, to show that:
 - 2.3.1. If testing for air scent work, the team has completed a minimum of 50 air scent exercises, including basic runaways.
 - 2.3.2. If testing for ground scent work, the team has completed a minimum of 30 tracking/trailing exercises.
- 2.4. The handler shall show that she/he is equipped with the minimum equipment recommended by MASAR or MASAR-accepted standards for a basic ground searcher.
- 2.5. The dog has passed the current version of one of the following temperament/obedience tests. Tracking dogs that work on lead at all times will be exempt from this requirement.
 - 2.5.1. AKC Canine good citizen test.
 - 2.5.2. Schutzhund B and RH.
 - 2.5.3. UKC or AKC or AMBOR obedience title of CD or above.

- 2.5.4. Therapy dog certification.
- 2.6. The dog has demonstrated in the presence of unit members or others the ability to ride quietly in watercraft and/or aircraft.
- 2.7. When tested, the dog must not bite or snap at either humans or dogs, or growl at humans, in the following situations; excepting that a dog that is attacked by another dog will not be penalized for self-defense:
 - 2.7.1. When transported in an unfamiliar vehicle for at least 10 minutes with the handler and at least two other dog teams.
 - 2.7.2. While in a heeling position with the handler and a person approaches and engages in conversation with the handler.
 - 2.7.3. While told to stay in an unfamiliar vehicle, three strangers come up to the dog and pat it while conversing in a pleasant tone of voice. The handler shall be out of sight.
 - 2.7.4. When finding or approaching a stranger in the field.
- 2.8. The SAR dog must, in the presence of the Field Evaluation Team, allow handlers other than the dog's handler to transport and exercise the dog.
- 2.9. The handler must complete crime scene and courtroom testimony training that has been approved by the officers of MESARD.

3. CERTIFICATION TESTING FOR OPERATIONAL STATUS

3.1 Basic Testing Conditions

- 3.1.1 All testing will be of the handler and dog only.
- 3.1.2 Search subjects must be unknown to the dog.
- 3.1.3 Search subjects will be hidden and silent.
- 3.1.4 Search areas must be unfamiliar to the dog team undergoing testing.
- 3.1.5 Dog handlers will be provided with an adequate map.
- 3.1.6 Dog handlers must use a GPS for one of the tests while searching, and may use a GPS for others, with the exception that one of the 40-acre tests or the 160-acre test for Air Scent Wilderness Search must be done without a GPS. GPS "use" includes having the handler explain or demonstrate how their GPS records would be transferred to search management records.
- 3.1.7 Dog teams will not be required to test in conditions other than those in which they would be expected to search.
- 3.1.8 Before beginning the test, the dog handler shall describe to the evaluator the search plan to be used based on the scenario provided him by the evaluation team.
- 3.1.9 Before beginning the test, the dog handler shall describe the dog's alert to the evaluator.
- 3.1.10 A dog team must pass all of the search-specific tests listed for the type of search for which that dog team wishes to be certified. During these tests, as applicable, the handler, in conjunction with his or her SAR dog, must:

- 3.1.10.1 Demonstrate the ability to report clearly on a map the following information after searching an area, demonstrating knowledge of how to evaluate the clues inherent in the dog's alert(s) and behavior:
 - 3.1.10.1.1 Areas and/or routes covered.
 - 3.1.10.1.2 Estimated probability of detection for the dog team based on environmental and terrain conditions.
 - 3.1.10.1.3 Location of alerts.
 - 3.1.10.1.4 Wind direction and other observed environmental factors that may be pertinent to the search effort.
 - 3.1.10.1.5 Location of any clues encountered during the search.
- 3.1.10.2 Demonstrate the ability to plan an efficient search, best utilizing the wind and existing environmental conditions to provide maximum coverage of the terrain.
- 3.1.10.3 Demonstrate the ability to work and control the dog in a variety of areas, terrain and conditions.
- 3.1.10.4 Demonstrate adequate agility for wilderness search.
- 3.1.10.5 Demonstrate that the handler recognizes when the dog is alerting to human scent.
- 3.1.10.6 Demonstrate the ability to judge sweeps of areas as to their suitability to the prevailing conditions.
- 3.1.10.7 Demonstrate that she/he recognizes when either member of the dog team is working ineffectively, and take action to compensate for or remedy the situation.
- 3.1.10.8 Demonstrate that the handler and SAR dog have the ability to work effectively and find a victim with an additional person or persons accompanying the dog team.
- 3.1.10.9 Demonstrate the ability to find the victim, and, in the case of an air scent dog, return to the handler and indicate the find to the handler.

3.2 **Certification Tests for Operational Status for Air Scent Wilderness Search**

3.2.1 **Trail Search**

- 3.2.1.1 The trail shall be between 1/2 and 1 mile in length in moderate terrain.
- 3.2.1.2 The search subject shall be hidden within 30 feet of the trail.
- 3.2.1.3 The search subject shall fulfill one of the following conditions:
 - 3.2.1.3.1 Be hidden upwind of the trail.
 - 3.2.1.3.2 Have walked down the trail and hidden downwind.
 - 3.2.1.3.3 Have crossed the trail and hidden downwind.
- 3.2.1.4 The dog team shall be limited to one pass down the trail and back.

3.2.2 **Heavy Brush Search**

3.2.2.1 Dog team must be able to find one search subject in an area of approximately 40 acres of lightly rolling topography covered with heavy brush.

3.2.2.2 The test shall be completed in 3 hours or less.

3.2.3 **Night Search**

3.2.3.1 Dog team must be able to find one search subject in an area of approximately 40 acres of moderate terrain covered with light to moderate vegetation at night.

3.2.3.2 The test shall be completed in 3 hours or less.

3.2.4 **Large Area Search**

3.2.4.1 Dog teams must be able to find one to three search subjects in an area of approximately 160 acres of moderate terrain.

3.2.4.2 The handler will be told how many search subjects are in the area prior to the test. All must be found.

3.2.4.3 The test shall be completed in 8 hours or less.

3.2.5 **Basic Wilderness SAR Dog Cadaver Test**

3.2.5.1 Test area will be 5 acres of moderate terrain with one large sample (1 cup or more of decayed blood, tissue, aged body fluids, or fluid soaked soil samples) hidden under light cover, not accessible to the dog and less than three feet off the ground.

3.2.5.2 The area may be contaminated but will not contain false hides.

3.2.5.3 The test has a one hour time limit.

3.2.5.4 The sample will be placed 2 to 6 hours prior to testing.

3.2.5.5 Other testing criteria may apply (8.4.4 Testing Criteria).

3.2.5.6 No food reward will be provided to the dog at or on the testing site.

3.3. **Certification Tests for Operational Status for Basic Tracking/Trailing**

3.3.1. **Basic Day Track/Trail**

3.3.1.1. The dog shall track/trail a subject over a trail 1/2 to 1 mile long.

3.3.1.2. The trail shall contain at least one major change in terrain.

3.3.1.3. The dog shall bring the handler to the search subject.

3.3.1.4. The track/trail shall be in an uncontaminated area.

3.3.1.5. The track/trail shall be a minimum of 30 minutes old.

3.3.1.6. Three cloth or leather articles, one large (garment size) and two smaller (glove or shoe size), will be laid directly on the track in plain sight by the tracklayer.

3.3.1.7. The handler will be given a scent article to start with if he/she requests one.

3.3.1.8. When the PLS is presented to the handler, no direction of travel will be given.

3.3.2 Basic Night Track/Trail

- 3.3.2.1 The same track and requirements as 3.3.1, but run at night.
- 3.3.2.2 For this track, the dog team may be provided with an experienced back up person who will be able to help keep track of their location and help the team to return to any location on the track which the handler requests.
- 3.3.2.3 The back up may know where the track has been laid, but cannot use this knowledge to help the handler.

3.3.3 Scent Discrimination Track/Trail

- 3.3.3.1 A track 1/3 to 1/2 mile long will be laid which starts at a highly contaminated location, like where the training group has parked its vehicles. Care must be taken that the tracklayer has not left or traveled through this location before the track is laid.
- 3.3.3.2 The tracklayer will leave a scent article with only his/her scent on it for the tracking team to start with.
- 3.3.3.3 The track will be one to two hours old and have three smaller (glove or shoe size) cloth or leather articles laid in plain sight on the track by the tracklayer.
- 3.3.3.4 Without being given a direction of travel, the dog team must start from within or around the contaminated area, follow the track and the dog must lead the handler to the tracklayer.

4. EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. Evaluator's must meet the following criteria:

- 4.1.1. Be certified for two years in the discipline being tested.
- 4.1.2. Have ten deployments at actual searches.
- 4.1.3. Shadow a qualified evaluator for two certifications.
- 4.1.4. Approval of the Training Director or President.

4.2. Evaluators are responsible for the following:

- 4.2.1. The search subjects are properly dressed for the conditions.
- 4.2.2. The search subjects have adequate food, water, and other necessary equipment to remain for the duration of the test, and are able to contact the evaluators by radio in an emergency.
- 4.2.3. The search subject shall be placed in the search area prior to the arrival of the dog team and shall be located such that the dog team should search a substantial portion of the area before the subject is located.

- 4.3. The evaluator shall terminate the test if in their opinion it becomes hazardous to any of the participants.
- 4.4. The evaluator shall have discretion in the administration and evaluation of all portions of the test.
- 4.5. During the initial certification no one evaluator shall perform more than 2 of the required certification tests of any one team.

5. RE-CERTIFICATION

- 5.1. MESARD Teams that have reached Operational Status in air scent or tracking must re-certify every year. The date the team's first re-certification is due will be one year from the teams' initial certification date by MASAR. After the first year, the re-certification due date will be one year from the last re-certification test that was passed by the team.
- 5.2. The Basic Testing Conditions (3.1), which apply to certification tests, apply to re-certification tests except that 3.1.2 (subject unknown to dog), 3.1.4 (search areas unfamiliar to the team) and 3.1.5 (map) may be waived at the discretion of the Training Director or President.
- 5.3. Re-certification tests for air scent teams will consist of a 40 acre area test with one victim and an evaluator following the team, and repeating the Basic Wilderness SAR Dog Cadaver Test.
- 5.4. Re-certification for tracking/trailing teams will consist of a Basic Day or Night track or the Search and Rescue Tracking/Trailing Test with an evaluator following the team.
- 5.5. Teams that have been on leave more than 6 months must also re-certify according to the guidelines above.
- 5.6. Any team that has a find of a victim at a search may waive their re-certification tests for the year the find is made. Finds must be witnessed or authenticated by other MESARD or user agency members. The following year's certification date will be one year from the date of the find.
- 5.7. Teams that fail to re-certify within three months of their re-certification date may be subject to a review of their operational status by the officers.

6. LIMITED CERTIFICATION

- 6.1. Due to increasing age, sickness or injury, personnel or canines may not be capable of the full range of activities in areas they previously certified in. In this case, the Training Director, with the consent and advice of the officers, may issue a Limited Certification that will delineate what MESARD will allow the team to do at search operations, and if needed, what tests should be passed to restore the team to operational status.
- 6.2. In true emergency situations, the team may be fielded until more qualified teams arrive and take over the functions.

7. SPECIALTY TRAINING

7.1 Search and Rescue Tracking/Trailing Dog - Test Description

- 7.1.1 The track shall be 3-6 hours old.
- 7.1.2 The track shall be 1 to 1-1/2 mile in length.
- 7.1.3 The track shall be laid through woods and fields and shall cross one road.
- 7.1.4 One half mile or more from the start the track shall be contaminated by two fresher cross tracks.
- 7.1.5 The track shall have one scent pool where the search subject stops for 10-15 minutes.
- 7.1.6 The search subject shall lay one or two false (backtracked) trails.
- 7.1.7 The track shall cross one small stream.
- 7.1.8 If the track is laid along an obvious path, the search subject must leave the path at least once.
- 7.1.9 The search subject shall leave five scent articles on the trail. The larger items may be hidden from the handler, but the smaller items will be placed in plain sight directly on the trail.

- 7.1.10 Of these articles, three shall be small items like a wallet, set of keys, or mitten, while the other two shall be large items such as a pack, shirt, or jacket.
- 7.1.11 The tracklayer shall remain at the end of the track unless called in by the evaluator.
- 7.1.12 Given an uncontaminated scent article, the dog team will start the track in a contaminated area (area contaminated by two other persons besides the search subject).
- 7.1.13 The dog team must find and make a positive identification of the search subject.
- 7.1.14 The dog shall indicate on at least three of the five articles left on the trail by the search subject.
- 7.1.15 Teams attempting this test must have previously completed the Basic Tracking/Trailing tests.

7.2 Article Search/Clue Detection - Test Description

- 7.2.1 Teams testing must have obtained MESARD operational status as an air scent or tracking dog team. Senior members may request an exemption from this requirement. All requests must be in writing and exemptions will require unanimous approval of the MESARD officers. Criteria for approval will include, but are not limited to, years of service as a certified MESARD dog handler, search call-out response and operational needs of the team.
- 7.2.2 The search area shall be 50 yards by 50 yards.
- 7.2.3 Five scent articles as described in 8.2.10 shall be placed in the search area, 1-3 hours before the test.
- 7.2.4 The scent articles shall be hidden from sight.
- 7.2.5 The dog team will be allowed only one sweep through the area.
- 7.2.6 The dog team shall locate at least three of the scent articles hidden in this area.

7.3 Water Search Dog Team - Certification Requirements

- 7.3.1 Teams testing must have obtained MESARD operational status as an air scent or tracking dog team. Senior members may request an exemption from this requirement. All requests must be in writing and exemptions will require unanimous approval of the officer's. Criteria for approval will include, but are not limited to, years of service as a certified MESARD dog handler, search call-out response and operational needs of the team.
- 7.3.2 For a team to be utilized for water search from shore, only the Shoreline Test must be passed. To be utilized for water search from a boat, both the Shoreline and Boat Test must be passed.
- 7.3.3 Any team with a verifiable find of a drowning victim in a search which takes place under circumstances equal to or exceeding those of these tests will be certified for that application. The find must be verifiable by another MESARD handler or member of a user agency able to describe the complete situation. When multiple dogs are used to confirm an initial alert, only the team that initially called the possible find will be automatically certified. However, the situation may be used as a test if a suitable evaluator is present while the succeeding teams work. If the body of water is a small pond with less than 500 feet of shoreline, teams may search other small ponds nearby to fulfill the shoreline requirement.
- 7.3.4 Prior to the actual testing process:

- 7.3.4.1 The team will demonstrate safe boating and water safety practices. Evaluators may ask handlers questions about water safety practices (river shores piled with ice, swift currents, etc.). Handlers must wear PFD's appropriate to the circumstances. The dog must be calm and tractable in the type of boat commonly used for water searches. This is normally a motorboat with a motor of 5 hp or more. A motorized canoe may be used if it is the only type of watercraft available during the test, but the dog must have shown that it can successfully work out of larger craft during other training exercises.
- 7.3.4.2 The handler must describe to the evaluator the type of alert behavior exhibited by the dog for the type of test being conducted.
- 7.3.4.3 The handler will describe his or her search pattern and strategy.

7.3.5 **General Evaluation Criteria:**

- 7.3.5.1 The handler will indicate to the evaluator once they are sure the dog is alerting or reacting to the scent of the diver or cadaver material. Once the handler does this, the handler must remain silent and not give any commands or encouragement to the dog as long as the dog is working on its own. If the dog stops working and looks to the handler for guidance or gives an indication that requires acknowledgment by the handler, the handler may then give limited commands and praise. However, the alert or indication by the dog must come from the dog alone and not as a result of the handler's commands or praise. The handler may also reward the dog if that is required by the circumstances. It will be up to the evaluator to decide if praise or commands are excessive and the dog cannot work or alert without them. If the evaluator is in doubt, the team will not pass the test.
- 7.3.5.2 The handler may give commands to the dog while it is working, but these commands may not be excessive. Any dog that shows a lack of understanding of the work or an inability to focus on the work for sufficient amounts of time will not pass the test.
- 7.3.5.3 The dog's jumping out of the boat is an obvious alert behavior, but it is not a safe practice and should be discouraged. Handlers should take action to discourage the dog from jumping out of the boat. However, no team will be failed for the dog jumping out of the boat unless the dog proves unmanageable and a danger to others in the boat.
- 7.3.5.4 "False buoys" or other floating, anchored objects about the size of a buoy will be present in the search areas.
- 7.3.5.5 Evaluators may be utilized as boat handlers. The evaluator will accompany the dog handler.
- 7.3.5.6 Teams will not be allowed to make an unlimited number of passes through the search area. If, in the opinion of the evaluator, the search area is covered more than twice without an indication from the dog, the evaluator may end the test. If the search pattern outlined by the handler degenerates significantly so that the search is no longer effective and drags on, the evaluator may also end the test. It is recommended that the evaluator utilize a GPS to keep track of search patterns.

7.3.6 Shoreline Test

- 7.3.6.1 The team will locate in water, without current, a scent source placed in at least 2 feet of water approximately 6 to 30 feet from shore. Locating means that the dog will indicate on the rising scent by swimming out to the area or by indicating from the shoreline. The handler must be able to tell the evaluator where the scent source is within 50 feet of the scent source if the source is more than 20 feet off shore; and within 30 feet if the source is 10 to 20 feet from shore; and within 20 feet if the source is less than 10 feet from shore.
- 7.3.6.2 The area to be searched will be 500 feet of shoreline, with the wind direction approximately on shore and not blowing away from shore. The area boundaries will be clearly marked on shore.
- 7.3.6.3 The scent source can be cadaver scent, a diver, or cadaver scent placed in a scent pump. If a diver or skin diver is used, rocks, stumps, weeds or other objects should be utilized to hide the diver from the handler.

7.3.7 Boat Test

- 7.3.7.1 The dog handler will be expected to direct the search pattern of the boat and give directions to the boat driver.
- 7.3.7.2 The evaluator will tell the handler what the area to be searched will be and where the handler must begin.
- 7.3.7.3 The search must take at least 10 minutes before the diver or scent source is encountered. To do this, the handler should be given an area without a diver to work in before the actual search area is encountered. The dog must work more or less continuously during these 10 minutes.
- 7.3.7.4 The dog must indicate on the diver or scent source once the scent is encountered.
- 7.3.7.5 The handler may direct the boat to enhance the dog's alert or to help locate the scent source.
- 7.3.7.6 The handler must record the location of the dog's alert using a GPS Unit.
- 7.3.7.7 The area to be searched will not be less than 5 acres.
- 7.3.7.8 If cadaver scent is used, it should produce a strong scent comparable to that of a diver.

7.3.8 Cadaver Search Dog Team - Certification Requirements

- 7.3.9 Teams testing must have obtained MESARD operational status as an air scent or tracking dog team. Senior members may request an exemption from this requirement. All requests must be in writing and exemptions will require unanimous approval of the officer's. Criteria for approval will include, but are not limited to, years of service as a certified MESARD dog handler, search call-out response and operational needs of the team.

7.3.10 Basic Wilderness SAR Dog Cadaver Test

- 7.3.10.1 Test area will be 5 acres of moderate terrain with one large sample hidden under light cover and not accessible to the dog and less than three feet off the ground.
- 7.3.10.2 The area may be contaminated but will not contain false hides.
- 7.3.10.3 The test has a one hour time limit.
- 7.3.10.4 Other testing criteria listed below may apply (8.4.4).

7.3.11 Advanced Wilderness SAR Dog Cadaver Test:

- 7.3.11.1 Teams must pass the Basic Wilderness SAR Dog Cadaver Test to qualify for the Advanced Wilderness SAR Dog Cadaver Test.
- 7.3.11.2 The test area will be approximately three acres (300 by 400 feet or equivalent) of easy terrain with moderate vegetation.
- 7.3.11.3 Two or three scent sources will be placed in the test area, concealed no deeper than three inches under light cover, or, if above ground, no higher than six feet.
- 7.3.11.4 The testing team must find all of the scent sources.
- 7.3.11.5 The test will have a one hour time limit.
- 7.3.11.6 The handler must correctly identify the location and number of all the cadaver scent sources present. Identifying animal remains as a cadaver source will result in a failure.
- 7.3.11.7 Each test area shall be contaminated by the following:
 - 7.3.11.7.1.1 Animal remains.
 - 7.3.11.7.1.2 Fresh human and/or animal tracks.
 - 7.3.11.7.1.3 Disturbed ground areas
 - 7.3.11.7.1.4 False hides (scent neutral containers)
 - 7.3.11.7.1.5 Scent samples will be from more than one source, and one of the samples must be a "fresh" scent source (less than 48 hours).
 - 7.3.11.7.1.6 The scent sources for advanced testing shall be placed in the test area at least 1 hour prior to the test.
 - 7.3.11.7.1.7 Scent sources will consist of:
 - 7.3.11.7.1.8 Contaminated soils collected from a cadaver site. Samples will consist of about a cup of soil.
 - 7.3.11.7.1.9 Human bones, teeth, hair, or tissue, approximately 1 to 3 ounces.
 - 7.3.11.7.1.10 Clothing contaminated with blood or cadaver soil.
 - 7.3.11.7.1.11 A gauze pad (2 X 2 or larger) 3/4 soaked in scent fluid (aged blood, cadaver, fluids from a cadaver).

7.3.12 **Testing Criteria:**

- 7.3.12.1 Evaluators must have certified in cadaver search to the MESARD advanced standard or an equivalent acceptable outside standard.
- 7.3.12.2 The same evaluator may not conduct both tests of a given team or conduct the first recertification of a team they originally evaluated.
- 7.3.12.3 The handler being tested will not be told how many scent sources are hidden in the test area.
- 7.3.12.4 Search area shall have clearly delineated boundaries or be marked by flagging.
- 7.3.12.5 The handler will explain to the evaluator what pattern or strategy he or she will use to search the area prior to the start of the test.
- 7.3.12.6 The testing handler will describe the dog's indication behavior prior to the start of the test.

7.3.12.7 At the conclusion of the test the handler must correctly identify the locations of all scent sources present.

7.3.12.8 Handlers rewarding their dogs during testing will not unduly disturb or contaminate the area, especially with food rewards.

7.3.13 Recertification Requirement:

7.3.13.1 Teams certified under the MESARD cadaver standards: Basic shall be retested every year; Advanced teams shall be retested every two years. A cadaver find on any search during the year may count as a recertification, subject to approval by the MESARD officers.

7.3.13.2 Teams that have passed a non-MESARD cadaver standard test and seek certification under MESARD shall be reviewed by the officers of MESARD as to the acceptability of the standards and testing. MESARD will accept any other standards that include field evaluation testing equal to or exceeding those above. These teams may be asked to take a field test.

7.4 Disaster Search Dog Team - Certification Requirements

7.4.1 The team will have met some nationally accepted standard for Disaster Search.

7.5 Avalanche Search Dog Team - Certification Requirements

7.5.1 The team will have met some nationally accepted standard for Avalanche Search.

8 OPERATIONAL LEADER

8.1 MESARD Operational Leaders shall be responsible for the deployment of MESARD teams at search scenes and serve as the MESARD representative to the search command.

8.2 MESARD Operational Leaders shall be the leader of MESARD members at search scenes.

8.3 Qualification Requirements:

8.3.1 A minimum of three years experience as a certified handler.

8.3.2 Participation in a minimum of 10 searches.

8.3.3 Demonstrated ability at MESARD training sessions to define search areas and assign teams to those areas.

8.3.4 Operational Leader status requires approval by a majority vote of the membership at a business meeting.

8.3.5 In the absence of an Operational Leader, MESARD members present at a search incident will designate an acting Operational Leader for that search.

9 SUPPORT PERSONNEL

9.1 **Flankers** - The position of flanker is intended to provide trained, direct support and assistance to MESARD dog teams during searches and trainings. Flankers shall be Affiliate Members of MESARD and shall not train a dog with MESARD.

9.1.1 Operational Status Requirements for Flankers:

9.1.1.1 Maintain MASAR Ground Searcher Certification.

- 9.1.1.2 Demonstrate navigation proficiency sufficient to navigate for a K9 team at a search incident (GPS, map & compass).
- 9.1.1.3 The flanker must complete crime scene and courtroom testimony training that has been approved by the officers of MESARD.
- 9.1.1.4 The flanker shall show that she/he is equipped with the minimum equipment recommended by MASAR or MASAR-accepted standards for a basic ground searcher.
- 9.1.1.5 Demonstrate proper radio communication skills.
- 9.1.1.1 Attend a minimum of six MESARD monthly training sessions each calendar year.

10 APPENDIX 1 - Evaluation Forms and Check Off Sheet

Revised: 02/2009