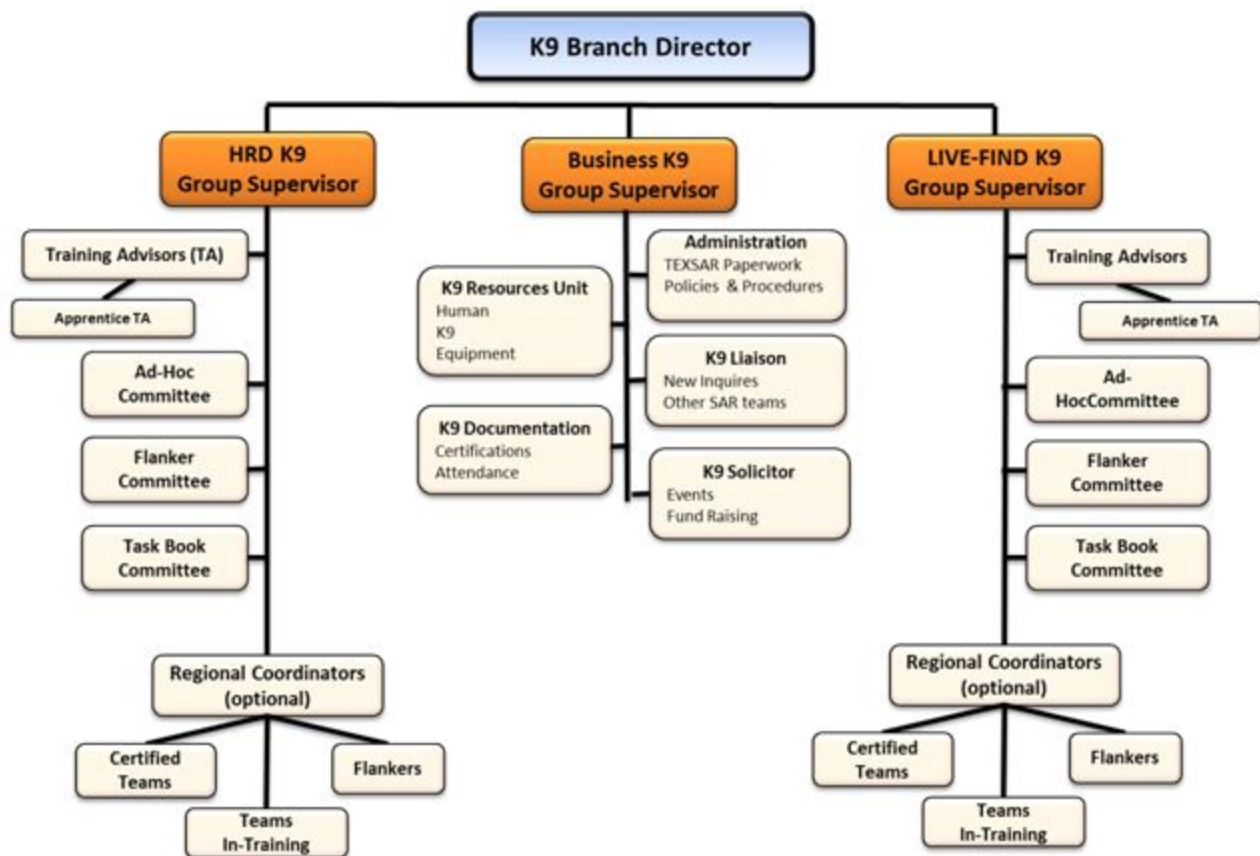




**A TEXSAR K9 team is defined as a specific handler with his/her specific K9 partner.**

The purpose of a TEXSAR K9 team is to assist in search and/or recovery operations as initiated by the TEXSAR Incident Command and executed by the TEXSAR Operations Section Chief. TEXSAR K9 Unit members are an integral part of the larger TEXSAR Team and usually operate as a Strike Team. A K9 Team is most effectively used as an early asset in a search operation where a single K9 must be able to proficiently search and his/her handler navigate and assess an assigned area in a manner that augments human search assets alone. The K9 Unit members will support the overall TEXSAR mission and fellow teammates in all endeavors whether utilizing their canine partner or not. As a unit, our goal is to provide K9 assets who are nationally certified, skilled and competent tools for our organization and the law enforcement agencies (or AHJ) that request our services.

**TEXSAR Unit K9 Structure**



***Eligibility for any of the K9 Leadership Position Requires***

- A. A current TEXSAR Member in good standing for at least 6 months.
- B. Dedication and commitment to TEXSAR and to the K9 Unit.
- C. An ongoing interest and commitment in promoting TEXSAR in a positive manner within the K9 discipline, both within the team and abroad.

**1. K9 Branch Director (K9-BD)**

- Position requires a leader who is knowledgeable about K9 operations and familiarity with capabilities of current TEXSAR K9 Teams.
- This position requires a candidate to have extensive NIMS/ICS experience and up-to-date and relevant certifications.
- Position to be filled by a TEXSAR Member in good standing who is nominated or self-nominated for the position and then voted on and confirmed by the TEXSAR Board of Directors.
- The K9 Branch Director will be responsible for and oversee all aspects of the TEXSAR K9 teams.
- In the case that a K9 handler with certified dogs in training wishes to join the K9 team and waive the six-month eligibility requirement, the K9 Branch Director and/or Group Supervisor may submit a written appeal to the Board for approval.
- The K9 Branch Director will be reviewed and re-voted on every two years, falling on even numbered years. There will be no term limits. Vacancies can be filled at any time.
- Represent the TEXSAR K9 Team as an Advisory Board Member on the TEXSAR Board of Directors

**2. K9 Group Supervisors (K9-GS): Live-Find & HRD**

- Position requires a leader who is well versed in K9 operations and very experienced in K9 training methodologies.
- This position is considered the technical expert in their relevant discipline.
- Must have or have had a nationally certified K9 in the Live-Find or HRD disciplines.
- Position will preferably be an evaluator for a K9 National Certification Agency (i.e. NASAR, NASDN, NSDA, NAPWDA, INBTI, NNDDA, USPCA).
- This position requires a candidate to have extensive NIMS/ICS experience and up-to-date and relevant certifications.
- Position to be filled by a TEXSAR Member in good standing who is nominated or self-nominated for the position and then voted on and confirmed by the TEXSAR Board of Directors.
- The K9 Group Supervisor will be reviewed and re-voted upon every two years, falling on odd numbered years. There will be no term limits. Vacancies can be filled at any time.



- K9 Group Supervisor Yearly Duties
  - Coordinate Ad Hoc committees as needed to conduct obligated or compelled general duties to maintain the functioning of the TEXSAR K9 Unit.
  - Reviews National K9 evaluation agencies and certifications for approval of use by TEXSAR
  - Reviews, and modifies as needed, SOGs and all other K9 Unit Policies & Procedures
  - Organizes K9 Seminars
  - Reviews outside K9 SAR teams for eligibility for mutual aid training agreements
  - Conducts a yearly TEXSAR K9 team progress assessment of all unit members
  - Other duties as needed and assigned by the K9 Branch Director, TEXSAR Incident Commander, or Board of Directors
  - Oversees K9 Training Advisor , K9 In-house Testing, and K9 Flanker program
  - Assign Regional Coordinators (all three Group Supervisor)
  - Assign K9 Flanker Program Leads (discipline specific Group Supervisor)

### 3. Ad-Hoc Committees & Members

- In-house ad-hoc committee assigned by the Group Supervisors(s) (GS) as needed
- Reports to K9 GS as assigned
- Committee term requires a defined start and end date from 1 to 365 days; not of exceed the term of the appointment of the Group Supervisor forming the committee.
- **Committee Service**
  - Committee tasks are vital to the functioning of the K9 Unit and we expect all K9 Unit members to participate in as a team to assure that these tasks are accomplished.
  - All K9 Unit members will be available for committee assignments
  - Service will be assigned by the appropriate discipline Group Supervisor (Business, Live-Find and HRD)
  - Committee service is voluntary; however, repeated refusal to serve on assigned committees constitutes cause for removal from K9 Unit
  - Committee leads will be assigned by the Group Supervisor
  - Committee leads will strive to accommodate committee member schedules, but must not sacrifice timely completion of committee assignment in order to do so
  - All K9 Unit members will strive to do their best to complete tasks assigned to them while serving on a committee
  - Chronic failure to complete assigned tasks while serving on a committee constitutes cause for removal from K9 Unit



#### 4. K9 Training Advisors (K9-TA)

##### Live Find & HRD

- Disciplines
  - Live-Find: Area & Trailing
  - HRD: Human Remains Detection – Land & Water
- Positions to be filled based on need as determined by the Branch Director and Group Supervisor(s).
- Positions filled by upgrade from Apprentice Training Advisor(s)
- Eligibility based on one of the following certifications options by TEXSAR approved National certifying agencies
- Preferred:
  - A) 2 dogs certified in the same discipline at the highest level
  - B) 1 dog with 2 certifications at the highest level in one discipline from the same or different certifying agencies
- Optional:
  - C) 1 dog with 2 certifications in one discipline from the same certifying agency
- Oversees K9 team selection
- Oversees Apprentice Training Advisors
- Oversee appropriateness of training scenarios
- Organizes larger Field Training Exercises (FTX) with other TEXSAR disciplines
- Approves training schedules
- Advises on training techniques and scenario set-ups
- Tracks certification currencies (i.e. expiration dates) and personnel availability
- Monitors SIMS Database to ensure that handlers have uploaded required certs to database
- Works closely with K9 Flanker committee
- Tracks logistical need for the K9 unit
- Reports to K9 Group Supervisor
- Assigns a **Site Manager** for each training site
- **Site Manager**
  - Assigned at training on day of training
  - Oversees completion and filing of ICS 214 (Activity Log) by each person attending training
  - Oversees completion and filing of ICS 211 (Check-in List) by each person attending training
  - Assure gate closure, monitor removal of trash, any site damage, monitors positive owner contact
  - Reports to the Regional Coordinator or Training Advisors on site
  - Rotates daily amongst the personnel



**5. Apprentice Training Advisors (App-TA) K9 or Flanker**

Positions to be filled by automatic upgrade of the K9 Certified Handler or Flanker which have achieved a canine or flanker certifications of from a TEXSAR approved national certifying agency Will assist Training Advisor(s) in all aspects of training the K9 Unit (Handlers and Flankers) Upon approval from overseeing Training Advisor, will run some training scenarios at official trainings Reports to K9 Training Advisor(s)

**6. In-house Testing Committee**

In-house ad-hoc committee appointed by discipline specific Group Supervisor and Branch Director as required

- Positions to be filled by TEXSAR Training Advisor and Certified Handler as needed
- Positions filled by random draw of all qualified personnel available on test date

Oversees and schedules in-house evaluations

**Consists of:**

	In-Discipline		Out-of-discipline		
	TA	CH	TA	CH	
PERFERRED ->	2	1			
2nd	1	2			
3rd	2		1		
4th	1	1	1		
5th	1		2		ROR
6th	1		1	1	ROR
First seek out In-discipline TA's from other regions then, if no other In-discipline TA is available, in order to get the discipline started in the region:					
7th	1				
8th		3			
TA = Training Advisor					
CH = Certified Handlers - Handler which currently has or has had a certified K9 in that discipline at that level					
HIT = Handler In-Training					
ROR = right of refusal if in-discipline TA thinks no qualified personnel available					

Members be appointed for a 1 to 30 day appointment

All committees require a defined start and end date and will be discipline specific

Reports to K9 Group Supervisor



## 6. Regional Coordinator (RC)

- Position to be filled by a TEXSAR Certified Handler or K9 Flanker who have been with TEXSAR at least 1 year and have attended the majority of trainings during that time
- Optional position dependent on the size and expertise availability within the regional unit
- Rotates yearly amongst the qualified personnel in the region as assigned by the three Group Supervisor at year's start
- All qualified personnel should be rotated through this position in series
- Helps with the scheduling of the weekly training of the regional K9 Unit
- Helps with the administrative and owner contact work associated with training site use
- Actively seeks new sites for training
- Helps with the coordination of the K9 Flanker program training in the region

## 7. Certified Handlers (CH)

- Position filled by a handler which currently has or has had a nationally certified SAR K9.
- Shall give the proper respect and care to his/her K9 partner at all times.
- Shall give the proper respect and care to other team member's K9 partner at all times.
- Shall be a TEAM PLAYER
- Shall serve on committees as assigned by the Group Supervisor
- Shall participate in the training of all HIT
- Shall assist Training Advisor in the weekly training of all K9 Unit members
- Shall actively participate in the planning and execution of the setup of training scenarios
- Shall come to each training with ideas of training scenarios and after approval of scenario from Training Advisor, shall help in the running of said scenario for all other handlers
- Shall share with other handlers any training devices or HRD sources that are appropriate for their level of training.
- Shall respect and treat with extreme care the training devices and sources shared by other handlers.
- When in attendance at training, shall attend for the full length of the training the majority of time.
- Chronic lack of full length attendance constitutes cause for removal from K9 Unit.
- Reports to K9 Training Advisor.

## 8. K9

- The K9 should be in good physical condition, agile, friendly, responsive to the handler, trained to crate, and possess the drive obligatory to a successful working dog.



- The K9, regardless of discipline, must have the self-confidence to efficiently range and search an area to locate and indicate the designated live or deceased target odor independent of handler influence.
- The K9 must have the nerve strength and focus to conduct search operations during the stress, protracted time, and turmoil surrounding a mission.

### 9. Handlers In-Training (HIT)

- A handler which has never certified K9 in a K9 SAR discipline.
- Shall give the proper respect and care to his/her K9 partner at all times.
- Shall give the proper respect and care to other team member's K9 partner at all times.
- Shall give full effort and commitment to the team and to training their K9 partner.
- Shall share with other handlers any training devices or HRD sources that are appropriate for their level of training.
- Shall respect and treat with extreme care the training devices and sources shared by other handlers
- When in attendance at training, shall attend for the full length of the training the majority of time
- Chronic lack of full length attendance constitutes cause for removal from K9 Unit
- Reports to K9 Certified Handler and Training Advisor

### 10. K9 Flanker Committee

- Positions to be filled by TEXSAR Certified Handler and in-house certified K9 Flankers (after program is off the ground)
- Two Lead K9 Flankers will be assigned (a Live-Find and an HRD ) by the appropriate discipline Group Supervisor
- Lead K9 Flanker term requires a defined start and end date from 1 to 365 days; not of exceed the term of the appointment of the Group Supervisor forming the committee.
- Lead Flanker will make committee assignments and set training goals upon approval of Group Supervisor
- Oversees and schedules needed in-house SARTECH II trainings
- Oversees and schedules needed in-house K9 Flanker trainings
- Tracks training completions and issues in-house certifications
- Tracks certification currencies (i.e. expiration dates) and personnel availability for missions
- Works closely with K9 Training Advisors
- Tracks logistical need for the flanker unit
- Reports to K9 Group Supervisor



### 11. K9 Flankers (KF)

- A TEXSAR ground searcher which has undergone specialized training by the K9 Unit in order to flank for a K9 team in the field

### 12. K9 Team Deployment Authorization

- Determined jointly by the Branch Director and the Group Supervisor based on National certifications, in-house testing, current training success and mission type.

### 13. K9 Business Group Supervisor

- Position requires a leader who is knowledgeable about K9 operations and familiarity with capabilities of current TEXSAR K9 Teams.
- This position requires a candidate to have NIMS/ICS experience and up-to-date and relevant certifications.
- Position to be filled by a TEXSAR Member in good standing who is nominated or self-nominated for the position and then voted on and confirmed by the TEXSAR Board of Directors.
- Position will be responsible for all business components associated with the TEXSAR K9 Team, including but not limited to:
  - Answering all potential member inquiries regarding TEXSAR K9 Team Membership
  - Represent the TEXSAR K9 Team as an Advisory Board Member on the TEXSAR Board of Directors in the absence of the K9 Branch Director
  - Responsible for the upkeep and change management of the TEXSAR K9 SOGs.
  - Responsible for assisting with coordination of team trainings, seminars, meetings, fundraisers and callouts when necessary.
  - Responsible for recommendations and upkeep of TEXSAR K9 Team equipment and supplies.
  - Tracks certification currencies (i.e. expiration dates) and personnel availability of missions
  - Monitors SIMS Database to ensure required certs are current
- Responsible for all documentation regarding K9 certifications and K9 handler certifications, as well as training, seminar or callout documentation.
- Serve as TEXSAR K9 Team liaison to organizations outside of TEXSAR, including other SAR/K9 Teams, govt agencies, the private sector and community events.





#### 14. K9 team requirements

- Potential K9 Unit members must join TEXSAR and attend two regular team meetings /trainings prior to observing any K9 trainings.
- All TEXSAR members who wish to become a K9 Unit Team must be a member of TEXSAR a minimum of 6 months in order to have their K9 evaluated for acceptance into the K9 Unit
- All K9s must be evaluated using the suitability evaluation by TEXSAR Group Supervisor (or Training Advisors assigned by the Group Supervisor) prior to acceptance into the K9 Unit.
- TEXSAR members with prior K9 Team National certifications wishing to join the K9 Unit immediately must be approved by the K9 Branch Director and Group Supervisors, as well as have their K9s evaluated by TEXSAR Group Supervisor (or Training Advisors assigned by the Group Supervisor) prior to acceptance into the K9 Unit.

#### 15. New Candidate member probationary period:

- All new candidate K9 Unit handlers and flankers shall have a 6 month probationary period.
- During this time commitment to the K9 Unit will be assessed based on criteria such as:
  - o Temperament as a team player
  - o Attendance and commitment to TEXSAR
  - o Completion of K9 flanker certifications
  - o Deployment on searches without a K9, in flanker or other Incident Command positions
  - o Etc.
- The candidate members should complete as many requirements as possible during this time.
- Shall regularly attend K9 team trainings and become familiar with and help train the K9s as "rabbits" etc.
- After 6 months, the K9 Branch Director and Group Supervisors will evaluate whether full membership into the K9 unit is warranted.
- This probationary period does not affect membership of TEXSAR, only the K9 Unit.

#### 16. K9 Unit Teams

- All K9 Handlers must obtain GSAR 1 within 12 months from joining TEXSAR. Exceptions must be approved by the TEXSAR K9 Branch Director and Operations Section Chief.
- There are two operational TEXSAR K9 Unit team types:

##### **Active Team:**

- o A K9 team that has met in-house field book and national certification requirements, as well as all other TEXSAR and K9 Unit requirements.

**In-Training Team:**

- ○ A K9 team that has been accepted into the K9 Unit, but that does not currently hold a National certification or whose certification has expired. The team must be maintaining training participation and attendance requirements for the K9 Unit until certification or recertification.
- K9 Handlers must be physically capable of performing the activity level equivalent to K9 discipline:
  - **Trailing** – must be able to keep up with K9 for extended distances at a jog or run (1+ miles).
  - **Area Search** – must be able to walk extended distances (up to 160 acres).
  - **HRD Land** – must be able to deal with human decomposition
  - **Water** – must have a FAST1
- All K9 teams must complete an annual field book with skills sign-off at the TEXSAR STATE-K9 trainings by members of the in-house Field Book Committee. Two members must sign for each skill.
- Training will be primarily by positive reinforcement. Electronic collars will not be permitted for odor detection training nor mission deployments.
- All K9 handlers must maintain training logs and present these logs upon request to the K9 Branch Director or Group Supervisors.
- All K9 handlers must fulfill handler, flanker and team requirements put forth by the K9 Unit within the time constraints required.
- Potential removal of a K9 Handler from the K9 Unit will be by majority vote of the members of the Group Supervisors, Branch Director, and the TEXSAR Board Officers.
- Any new K9 teams must obtain a National certification within 24 months after starting K9 training. Candidates whose time limit falls within a month where either missions or weather preclude testing, the team will not be penalized and allowed to test at first available testing. Any other reasons require petition by the handler to the in-house review committee for extensions.
- An experienced handler (have previously nationally certified a K9) may work multiple K9s at training as described: 1) An experienced handler working two or more certified K9s may work one uncertified K9 at trainings; 2) An experienced handler working only 0-1 certified K9 may work up to 2 uncertified K9s at training.
- First time K9 handlers (no previously nationally certified K9) may train only one K9 in one discipline to full certification. After certifying one K9, the handler may bring another uncertified K9 to training.
- Shall fulfill all flanker and team requirements put forth by the K9 Unit.



For example:

- Bloodborne Pathogens
  - Crime Scene Preservation
  - Navigation with Map & Compass
  - Radio communications
  - ICS basics
  - High drive working K9s vs pet dogs
  - K9 Orientation
  - K9 SAR disciplines
  - Basic Canine Behavior
  - First aid/CPR (preferentially Wilderness First Aid)
  - Proper Handling, Restraint and Transport of injured K9s
  - K9 1st Aid
  - Haz-Mat Awareness
  - GPS capabilities
  - Scribing for the K9 Handler
  - Introductions to K9 SAR
  - K9 Learning Theory
  - Scent Theory
  - K9 Search Tactics & Strategies
  - How to approach a K9
  - Rewarding the K9: intensity and safety issues
- K9 teams may be allowed to specialize in water recovery, cold cases, or evidence as the K9 team develops and specialty certifications become available, especially applicable to aging dogs.

### 17. K9 Unit Attendance Requirements

- The K9 Unit will conduct TEXSAR STATE-K9 trainings (trainings for all members arranged by K9 Group Supervisors) once per month and TEXSAR REGIONAL-K9 trainings (trainings arranged locally by regional coordinators) for the remaining three to four weekends out of the month.
- K9 Unit members must attend a minimum of two TEXSAR STATE-K9 trainings per quarter (every 3 months). This is 8 STATE-K9 trainings per year. K9 Unit members must attend at least 50% of the remaining weekly regional trainings.
- Some trainings may be rescheduled or cancelled due to official TEXSAR events and mission.
- The Regional Coordinator, in coordination with local K9 Training Advisors and Certified Handlers, will arrange local REGIONAL weekly trainings.
- TEXSAR REGIONAL-K9 trainings will be scheduled on days when STATE training is NOT occurring and requires prior scheduling approval by the K9 Group Supervisor.
- It is highly recommended that new handlers attend all trainings offered and attend training with Certified Handlers in their chosen discipline present.
- Any TEXSAR K9 Unit member may attend any approved TEXSAR K9 Unit training in any region of the State.
- Completion of an ICS 214 & 211 is required for each training and should be electronically transmitted (may be a clear picture or scan of the document) to the K9 Group Supervisors after training and prior to the next training. The assigned Site manager is responsible for this task.



- Time and location (City) of STATE & REGIONAL trainings must be announced in advance to all K9 team members. All members planning to attend should notify the organizer of their intention to attend prior to the scheduled training time.
- Any deviation from the required attendance dates must be preapproved by written appeal to the Business K9 Group Supervisor. Its merit will then be considered and voted on by the Branch Director and Group Supervisor at their next scheduled meeting.
- TEXSAR Team FTX or missions may be substituted if determined appropriate by the K9 Branch Director and Group Supervisor.
- Attendance for the full training day is required for attendance credit at STATE-K9 trainings.
- Failure to meet minimal training requirements (evaluated by the K9 Business Group Supervisor every 6 months) shall result in suspension or removal from the K9 unit.

**18. National K9 Certification Agencies**

- All teams are expected to pass a National certification within 2 years of joining the K9 Unit. Inability to accomplish this goal will result in a re-evaluation of the team’s appropriateness for the TEXSAR K9 Unit.
- The following National certifications are currently accepted by the TEXSAR K9 team – (Note: Please go to the agency websites to review the standards and prerequisites required).

**NASAR** – National Association for Search and Rescue Area; Humans Remains; Trailing; Water; Disaster – Live & HRD

**INBTI** – International Bloodhound Training Institute Trailing

**NAPWDA** – North American Working Dog Association HRD; Trailing

**NASDN** – North American Search Dog Network Area; Trailing

**FEMA** – Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Live & HRD

**SUSAR** – State Urban Search and Rescue Disaster Live & HRD

- It is the responsibility of the handler to seek out an appropriate TEXSAR accepted national certifications and to certify their K9 in a timely manner.
- K9 teams are certified as teams. A certified K9 may not work on a mission with another handler unless they hold a certification together as a team.
- Disaster HRD certifications are not adequate for HRD land deployments.
- A K9 team is considered each individual dog and the handler. Handlers with multiple dogs must make minimum training and certification requirements for each dog and discipline.
- Documentation of all certificates shall be filed electronically with the TEXSAR SIMS database prior to receiving approval for deployment status.



- Certification does not mean suitability for a mission. Suitability for a mission will be determined by the K9 Branch Director and Group Supervisors.

### 19. Field Book Skills Assessment

- This is an in-house assessment of the continuing operational status of mission deployable K9 teams.
- It assess both the K9 and handler skills and judgment. Note: the "team" may fail due to handler error even with a skilled K9. Missions are a team effort and poor judgment by a handler can be as detrimental to a successful find as an unskilled K9.
- By January 15th of each year, each K9 team (Active and In-training) shall turn in a self-evaluation that includes their perceived strengths and weaknesses. The Field Book committee will use this input to help develop an annual field book skills list (5 to 8) for that team for the year. The team must then be signed-off on each skill by December 15th of that year (This will constitute completion of the field book for that year).
- The field book skills may change annually as needed dependent on the team's level & discipline.
- Sign-off can only occur at the STATE-K9 trainings and each task requires signatures by two members of the field book training committee.
- In-house Water field book skills will conducted in the summer months only.
- K9 teams may be allowed to specialize as the K9 team develops and specialty certifications become available in disciplines such as water recovery, cold cases, or evidence or small area searches (such a buildings etc). This is especially applicable to aging dogs that have previously Nationally certified at higher levels.

### 20. K9 Team Deployment Authorization

- Deployment of a particular K9 Team on a K9 mission is determined jointly by the K9 Branch Director and the K9 Group Supervisor based on National certifications, field book completion, current training success and mission type.
- All properly trained and credentialed K9 handlers may respond to ANY TEXSAR search as a flanker, ground component or Incident Command staff (per training) regardless of the status of their K9 unless otherwise noted.
- All K9 unit members are welcome and expected to attend any TEXSAR mission whether utilizing their K9 partner or not as long as they meet all TEXSAR qualifications for deployment.
- K9 Team deployment status may be withdrawn if required documentation expires (e.g. Rabies, certifications).



## 21. Deployment Procedure

- 1) When a mission is called in, the point of contact for K9 deployment will be the K9 Branch Director and/or K9 Group Supervisors, who will evaluate the mission requirements per the Operations Section Chief and/or Incident Commander and select appropriate K9 teams for deployment.
- 2) Appropriate K9 teams will then be contacted by the K9 Branch Director or the K9 Group Supervisor and availability will be determined.
- 3) Once availability is determined, the K9 Branch Director or the K9 Group Supervisor will contact the Operations Section Chief and/or Incident Commander and give a list of available resources, their specific skills and deployment capabilities, and estimated time of arrival (ETA).
- 4) If neither the K9 Branch Director nor the K9 Group Supervisors are available in a reasonable amount of time then the Operations Section Chief may contact certified handlers directly to determine availability.
- 5) Handlers with operationally Active dogs that are not being requested for the specific mission at hand, but who are planning to deploy in a non-K9 handler capacity may choose to bring their dog with them. However, they should not sign the dog into the incident unless requested to do so by the K9 Branch Director and Group Supervisors. This may negate the need for them to return to get their dog on long deployments, should the need for their particular K9 arise.



**TEXSAR K9 UNIT ETHICS STATEMENT**

**As a TEXSAR K9 handler I agree to the following: (please initial each in the space provided)**

- \_\_\_ I have read and understand the TEXSAR K9 Unit Standard Operating Guidelines.
- \_\_\_ I will not self-deploy on missions and will follow the chain of command at all TEXSAR events.
- \_\_\_ I will not deploy my K9 on TEXSAR missions without prior approval.
- \_\_\_ I understand that Certification does not necessarily mean Mission suitability.
- \_\_\_ I understand that any mission that I field my dog in may result in a court case and agree to maintain my records in accordance with court expectations and TEXSAR rules.
- \_\_\_ I understand I may be a member of multiple teams, but TEXSAR business is not for discussion with other teams and agree to uphold the confidentiality involved with the organization.
- \_\_\_ I will train my K9 weekly (certified or not), including odor detection, obedience and agility etc.
- \_\_\_ I will not use TEXSAR to promote or solicit business for personal gain.
- \_\_\_ I will accurately represent my experience, qualifications, limitations, legal standing and other relevant information.
- \_\_\_ I understand that TEXSAR supports the ethical, humane treatment and training of our canine partners. No abuse or neglect of animals will be tolerated.
- \_\_\_ I agree to uphold the mission of TEXSAR.
- \_\_\_ I shall represent myself in a professional manner, in appearance and actions, exercising discretion and tact and conducting myself in an honest and trustworthy manner.
- \_\_\_ I will treat the general public and fellow TEXSAR teammates with respect.
- \_\_\_ I will uphold TEXSAR policies, procedures, standards and practices of TEXSAR at all times.
- \_\_\_ I will obtain TEXSAR permission before and use discretion when posting on social media concerning training and/or deployments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Location (City & State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
K9 Unit Candidate (print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness (print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
K9 Group Supervisor or Branch Director (print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature



**Texas Search and Rescue**  
**is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (84-1644603)**

[www.texasar.org](http://www.texasar.org)

**Business Calls: (512) 956-6727**

**Emergency Activation or Agency Calls: (512) 994-4727**

**Mailing: P.O. Box 171258 | Austin, Texas 78717**

[info@texasar.org](mailto:info@texasar.org)

