Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs

Wilderness • Avalanche • Cadaver • Water • Disaster • Tracking/Trailing

Section 300
Mission–Ready Standards

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Section 300 Mission-Ready Standards

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Table of Contents*
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Section 301

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Overview Statement*
There are numerous skills that are necessary for the search dog and handler team to have in order to perform competently in a given search discipline. ASARD search disciplines include wilderness, avalanche, cadaver, urban disaster, and tracking/trailing. A foundation skills checklist and the mission-ready evaluation series are used to determine if these skills are in place for a given team.
By having a completed checklist, completing the mission-ready evaluation series (field tests), receiving a positive review (passing grade) from the evaluators and being approved by the board-of-directors as mission-ready for that discipline, the team will have met the ASARD standard.
The checklist is used as an accounting of skills and training that are important to search preparedness but that can be accumulated over time. All items need to be approved by evaluators. However, documentation that proves that the skill or training has been acquired will preclude the need for further demonstrations.
The purpose of the mission-ready evaluation series is to provide the dog and handler team the opportunity to demonstrate successful finds with alerts and that they have and can use the skills and ability necessary for mission readiness. When (grading) the mission-ready evaluation series, the evaluators should view the field tests as a whole, with particular attention given to the demonstration of abilities that affect over-all search preparedness,
By conducting the mission-ready evaluation series, the evaluators make the best determination they can as to the mission readiness of the team being evaluated. It is the responsibility of the evaluators to decide if the field test setting and environment meet the written guidelines and purpose of the tests. It is the evaluators' duty to be honest and fair in their assessment of the demonstrations given by the dog and handler team. It is their duty to grade the evaluation series such that the BOD can, with confidence, approve or disapprove the team as mission ready.
The following is a guide to help ASARD teams reach "mission-ready" or "operational" status within ASARD. It outlines how teams will be evaluated for mission readiness and the criteria used in assessing a team's qualifications and skills. It is intended to help evaluators in conducting fair, valid and reliable evaluation series and to help teams as they prepare for mission readiness.

Section 302

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Overview of Search Preparedness*			
ASARD maintains search preparedness and Mission-Ready Evaluation Series in the following areas:			
	Wilderness: Section 307	Urban Disaster: Section 310	(To Be Completed in 2010)
	Avalanche: Section 308	Tracking/Trailing: Section 311	
	Cadaver: Section 309		

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Time Chart*
This time chart will help individuals better understand and develop as a team to a Mission-Ready Evaluation Series. ASARD understands individual teams will bring with them strengths and weaknesses that will determine an individual rate of development along this continuum. However, it is still recommended that Training Status only last for an eighteen month time period. Although a team may take longer than eighteen months, that is the target time (or goal) a dog team will use to reach a Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.

	Month 0	Dog Team becomes Support Member in ASARD.
		Dog Team becomes familiar with organization and observes training policies and practices of other dog team members.
		Dog Team starts basic problems, obedience and temperament training.
	Month 6	Dog team becomes a Training Member in ASARD and given 18 months to become an Operational Member by passing a Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.
		Handler has chosen an alert and is focused on the dog clearly communicating the location of human scent.
	Month 9	Handler is working towards completing the Handler Foundation Checklist.
		Team is focused on short training problems building on consistency, repetition, and a solid alert.
		Team is working on obedience and socialization.
	Month 12	Team is extending the length of their problems and has incorporated blind problems with consistent success and a solid alert.
		Team has been socializing with both familiar and unfamiliar dogs and individuals, chaos training, and using a variety of obstacles and equipment to increase agility.
		Team may start considering completing the dog's Foundation Skills Evaluation in obedience, temperament, agility, swimming, transport, and sociability.
	Month 18	Team is extending the length of their problems to longer periods of time (i.e. Wilderness problems that last over 1 hour) building search endurance with consistent success and solid alerts.
		Handler has successfully completed Handler Foundation Skills to become Field Support or is actively pursuing such completion.
		Upon successful completion of Handler Foundation Skills, handler is actively gaining experience becoming involved in large scale trainings and appropriate searches.
		Start completing evaluations for the dog's Foundations Skills in obedience, temperament, agility, swimming, transport, and sociability.
	Month 24	Attempt a Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.
		Move to Operational Status upon successful completion or consider asking for an extension to further refine skills and work towards another Evaluation Series.

Section 303

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" style="background-color:#8B0000;color:white">Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – General Guidelines for Evaluations</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Section 303 outlines guidelines evaluators should apply and follow in setting-up, conducting, and debriefing dog team evaluations.</td></tr>
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	The Board of Directors approves who may evaluate ASARD dog teams e.g. operational and senior members.
	There shall be a minimum of two evaluators for each test conducted.
	Each evaluation will be set-up as to allow the dog team to demonstrate their abilities. If an unanticipated variable disrupts an evaluation, the dog team shall not be penalized and another evaluation shall be arranged as soon as possible.
	The evaluators may adjust the parameters of a field test based on their judgment with the goal of meeting the purpose of the test.
	Mission-Ready Evaluations will be valid ~~good~~ for two years.
	Evaluation forms will be completed by evaluators directly following each evaluation. Copies shall be given to the dog team evaluated in a timely manner.
	Handlers may not use excessive or abusive corrections nor will they be allowed to mistreat their dogs. Such instances are cause for immediate failure.
	No dog will be left alone so as to create a hazard to itself or others.
	Any aggressive behavior will result in immediate failure.
	A Mission-Ready Evaluation Series should be completed in a 60 day time period.
	Upon an un-successful Mission-Ready Evaluation Series and at the discretion of the evaluators, a time period for re-attempt will be set.
	A handlers training log-book must document consistent training and performance in the discipline to be evaluated.
	The Board must agree that the dog team is well prepared before a Mission-Ready Evaluation Series may begin.
	Evaluators and those being evaluated must discuss expectations before evaluations begin.
	Problems encountered with the evaluation process will be approached with an effort to improve them.
	A facilitator will be assigned to each evaluation series. The facilitator's role is to organize tests within an evaluation series. The facilitator will schedule the pre and post meetings, the test dates, locations, evaluators, and subjects / articles / and human remains sources. The facilitator may ask for assistance from other ASARD members.

Section 304 and Section 305a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Foundation Skills*
Section 304 outlines the skills all dog handlers (and field support personnel) must demonstrate before proceeding to any Mission-Ready field evaluations.
4.1 Health & Stamina – ASARD personnel must exhibit the physical stamina required for multiple days of searching in a variety of terrain, altitudes, and weather conditions. A letter stating physical readiness may be required from a physician.
4.2 Medical Aid Training – ASARD personnel must hold current certificates in CPR and an approved first responder medical course e.g. WFR, OEC, ETT, WEMT, or Wilderness First Aid.
4.3 Dog First Aid - ASARD personnel shall have training in injury precautions, diet, and emergency care for dogs.
4.4 Radio Communications – ASARD personnel shall have at least four (4) hours of combined training in radio equipment and communications.
4.5 Equipment / Search Pack - ASARD personnel shall carry appropriate gear to be self-sufficient in remote and hazardous terrain.
4.6 Navigation – Map, Compass, GPS - ASARD personnel shall have at least four (4) hours of combined training in land navigation using multiple navigation instruments and tools used in search and rescue operations.
4.7 Helicopter and Boating Safety – ASARD personnel shall have at least four (4) hours of approved combined training aircraft operations, flight safety, and boating operations and safety.
4.8 Scent Theory - ASARD personnel shall demonstrate knowledge and application of scent theory principles.
4.9 SAR Training – ASARD personnel will pass NASAR' SAR TECH III or equivalent coursework.
4.10 ICS – ASARD Personnel will attend four (4) hours of search theory or ICS instruction.
4.11 Field Observation – ASARD personnel will maintain consistent participation in 50% of ASARD's organized trainings and meetings.
4.12 Survival Training – ASARD personnel will have taken a survival training course and/or possess equivalent experience to promote long-term survivability in remote settings and harsh weather conditions.
4.13 SAR Mission Experience – ASARD handlers will participate as support personnel in at least three missions before being eligible for deployment with their dog. Inter-agency trainings may substitute for genuine search missions.
Section 305a outlines the skills all ASARD dogs must demonstrate before proceeding to any Mission-Ready field evaluations.
5.1 Obedience – ASARD dogs will demonstrate a minimum level of obedience taking directions from their handler verbally and visually. ASARD dog teams will satisfactorily demonstrate their obedience skills on the obedience skills checklist.
5.2 Temperament - ASARD dogs will demonstrate a stable and tolerant temperament. ASARD dog teams will satisfactorily demonstrate their temperament on the temperament skills checklist.
5.3 Agility - ASARD dogs will demonstrate a minimum level of agility taking directions from their handler verbally and visually. ASARD dog teams will satisfactorily demonstrate their agility skills on the agility skills checklist.
5.4 Swimming – ASARD dogs will demonstrate an ability to swim in both moving and still H2O.
5.5 Transport Land, Air, H2O – ASARD dogs will demonstrate an ability to be transported by a variety of means including but not limited to helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, snow machines, trucks, boats, chairlift, ATV's, trains, etc.
5.6 Sociability – In close quarters, ASARD dogs will demonstrate tolerance of familiar and unfamiliar dogs and people.

305b

5.1 Obedience			
	Handler	Teammate	Date Completed
Heel	Off – Lead	On-Lead	
Stand-stay	Off – Lead (30 sec)	On-Lead (15 sec)	
Sit-Stay	Off – Lead (2 min)	On-Lead (1 min)	
Down-Stay	Off – Lead (5 min)	On-Lead (2 min)	
Non-vocal stay: Dog shall be left on a sit-stay as the handler moves to a position about one hundred (100) feet away. (The sit may be a verbal command or a hand signal.)			
Down from 100 feet: Dog shall perform a down from 100 feet away with a hand signal from the handler.			
Recall from 100 feet: Handler can recall the dog to a sit, either in front or at heel using only a hand signal.			
Out of Sight Response: With handler out of sight, dog shall be left on a down-stay with at least two (2) other dogs from the unit in a line for 15 minutes while under constant supervision.			
Preference Response: Multiple meaty bones shall be placed scattered randomly on the ground. Handler shall walk the dog through the area to a position about fifty (50) feet away.			
Preference Response: Dog shall be allowed to play or socialize with one other dog from the unit for one (1) minute. Handler shall then recall dog to sit either at front or at heel.			

5.2 Temperament	Date Completed
Confusion Response: At least three (3) dogs from the unit shall be loaded into the back of one (1) vehicle by their respective handlers. Another handler will then transfer one (1) dog at a time, using a leash, into the back of another vehicle parked about twenty (20) feet away, which shall then be driven a short distance to a designated location.	
Noise Response: After arriving at the designated location, the same handler shall transfer the dogs, using a leash, back into one vehicle and then move off to a position about fifty (50) feet away and in view of the dogs. Handler will then fire two (2) rounds into the air from a shotgun, starter pistol, or equivalent noisemaker.	
Stranger Response: Immediately after the noise and confusion evaluations, the dogs will be reassured by their respective handlers and told to stay. When those handlers have moved out of sight, three (3) strangers will come up to the dogs using pleasant voice tones and touch them.	

5.3 Agility	Date Completed
Body awareness: Dog has demonstrated the ability to navigate through an appropriate section of woods (such as an alder thicket or area of downed trees) under the direction of the handler.	
Jump: Dog has demonstrated the ability to jump over a vertical obstacle about the height of the dogs shoulder.	
Platform: Dog has demonstrated the ability to jump up to a platform raised above the ground.	
Tunnel: Dog has demonstrated the ability to be directed through an extended narrow passage such as a tunnel or culvert.	
Unstable Surface: Dog has demonstrated the ability to walk, sit, turn around, or lay down on an unstable surface raised slightly above the ground.	
Climb: Dog has demonstrated the ability to navigate an open or closed staircase in a deliberate manner under the direction of the handler.	

	Date Completed:	
5.4 Swimming – Dog will demonstrate its ability to swim across a flowing stream and 25 yards in flat water.	Flowing -	Flat -
5.5 Transportation – Dog will demonstrate its ability to be transported by three different modes.		
5.6 Sociability – Dog will demonstrate tolerance of other dogs on three occasions.		

Section 306a

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4" style="background:#8B2020;color:white">Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – General Guidelines for Re-Evaluation</td></tr>
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This section outlines guidelines that should apply to an Operational Team demonstrating proficiency and reliability for continued Mission-Ready Status.
The Board of Directors approves who can re-evaluate ASARD dog teams.
A dog team shall fulfill the re-evaluation criteria in the second year (or season) of their Mission-Ready Status and every two years(or seasons) thereafter.
When teams wish to demonstrate re-evaluation checklist items, teams must indicate such ~~items~~ intent prior to the demonstration.
Within each criterion a minimum of two different evaluators must observe proficiency of the desired behavior.
Each problem shall last a minimum of twenty minutes for items one through five to be considered complete.
Cadaver is the only discipline that can be completed in conjunction with another discipline. For example, wilderness and cadaver re-evaluations could be set up such that multiple problems comprising the two disciplines could be demonstrated, e.g. two wilderness and one cadaver problem.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4" style="background:#8B2020;color:white">Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – Re-Evaluation Checklist</td></tr>
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Purpose: The evaluation checklist outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of continued proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in the discipline identified below. Evaluators should initial and date each skill successfully completed.

In the larger boxes to the right indicate location, conditions, and length of problem for each evaluated problem. (Identify discipline if multiple disciplines are being evaluated.)

1. The dog demonstrates a reliable and readable alert on three separate occasions.	1.	2.	3.
1. 2. 3.			
2. The dog searches independently and ranges appropriately on three separate occasions.	1.	2.	3.
1. 2. 3.			
3. The dog demonstrates eagerness and drive to work on three separate occasions.	1.	2.	3.
1. 2. 3.			
4. The dog takes directions and commands on three separate occasions.	1.	2.	3.
1. 2. 3.			
5. The dog demonstrates sufficient health and stamina on three separate occasions.	1.	2.	3.
1. 2. 3.			
6. A handler will have improved upon their skills within the search discipline through: responding to searches on a consistent basis, continued course work or study within the discipline, course work of study of the ICS system and/or search management strategies, etc. (Attach certificates of completion of coursework, workshops etc.)			
7. The handler has demonstrated consistent availability for call-outs.			
8. The dog re-demonstrates appropriate obedience skills during a mission or training session.			
9. The dog re-demonstrates a stable and tolerant temperament during a mission or training session.			

Handler's Name:	Dog's Name:	Re-Evaluation Start Date:
Operational Discipline:	Dog's DOB:	Re-Evaluation End Date:

Section 307a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Wilderness Mission-Ready Criteria*

Section 307a outlines the skills wilderness dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.

1. The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on subjects and articles in a wilderness environment.

2. The dog demonstrates a willingness to work for an extended period of time.

3. The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.

4. The dog responds to handler's commands both verbal and nonverbal.

5. The dog searches independently and ranges appropriately.

6. The dog has the ability to handle the terrain.

7. The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.

8. The handler is able to identify and describe the alert and body language their dog exhibits.

9. The handler does not prompt the dog for alerts.

10. The handler gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, implements the plan, and makes appropriate adjustments to any search strategy based on a variety of variables including: search area, terrain, weather, resources, etc.

11. The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.

12. The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.

13. The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation.

14. The handler navigates the terrain - e.g. map, compass, GPS, radio.

15. The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.

16. The handler has appropriate equipment and/or a twenty-four (24) hour ready pack.

17. Dog Handler will understand and demonstrate the practice of Probability of Detection (POD).

18. The dog team will locate subject(s) / articles(s).

Section 307b

Purpose: Section 307b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in wilderness (large area) searches for lost and missing persons. ASARD dog teams must demonstrate consistent ability and complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with an average combined score of 3.0. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0. Articles used in the wilderness evaluations shall be of average size (sweatshirt, jacket, pants, etc.), be well saturated with human scent which is unfamiliar to the dog. Subjects used in the evaluation shall be unfamiliar to the dog. Neither subjects nor articles shall be observable by the handler from a distance of twenty feet. All subjects will be placed into the wilderness environment in accordance with ASARD safety practices. Distractions shall occur throughout the series.

Additional: N/A	

Evaluation 7.1 – Detection and Alert: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate its ability to detect and communicate the location of a person in a wilderness environment.

Description	A twenty acre wilderness area shall be utilized. One unfamiliar subject will be placed into the area 30-60 minutes prior to the start of the evaluation. The dog team has thirty minutes to conduct the search.

Evaluation 7.2 – Corridor Search: The purpose of this test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to detect and communicate the location of a person adjacent to a trail or roadway.

Description	A suitable one mile trail or roadway running through a wilderness setting shall be utilized. An unfamiliar subject will be placed no more than 100 feet from the trail 30-60 minutes prior to the start of the evaluation. The subject should be placed so that a dog team can detect a scent source (either from the subjects trail or air scent) without leaving the trail system. The dog team has one hour to conduct the search.

Evaluation 7.3 – Article Search: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of human scented articles in a wilderness setting.

Description	A suitable eight acre wilderness area shall be utilized which can include footpaths, right-of-ways, streams, lakes, structures, etc. Three human scented articles will be placed into the area about one hour prior to the start of the evaluation. The dog team has one hour to conduct the search.

Evaluation 7.4 – Large Area Search: The purpose of this test is to conduct a large area search, implement a search strategy appropriate for the area, detect and communicate the location of a subject after searching for three hours, and then finally evaluate the search strategy and coverage with the dog team establishing an appropriate POD.

Description	A suitable one hundred and sixty acre wilderness setting will be utilized. Two unfamiliar subjects will be placed in the area about one hour prior to the start of the evaluation in widely separate locations. Multiple clues may also be placed in the area (tents, packs, clothing, etc) for the dog team to locate and use to help focus or adjust the search strategy. The dog team has four hours to conduct the search but if both subjects are located within the first two hours, a third subject will be placed into the search area. The dog will not be encouraged to locate the third subject until after the third hour of searching. If the third subject has not been located after three hours and forty-five minutes of searching, the dog team will be taken to their general vicinity for the dog to demonstrate an alert and conclude the large area search. This test is conducted in a scenario format with a simulated search base.

Section 307c

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Wilderness Mission-Ready Evaluations Series Score Card*

Section 307c outlines the skills wilderness dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average score of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   1 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST			
DOG		**HANDLER**	
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.		8. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.	
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.		9. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.		10. Plans and implements effective search strategy.	
4. Takes directions and commands.		11. Demonstrates proper care of dog.	
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.		12. Reports the presence of clue's.	
6. Dog can handle the terrain		13. Works effectively with stressful situations.	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.		14. Able to navigate through the terrain	
		15. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.	
		16. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.	
		17. Handler articulates appropriate POD .grade on scale	
		18. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject(s) grade on scale	
Combined Score		Combined Score	

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
		Date:	

Section 307c

Section 307c outlines the skills wilderness dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average score of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   1 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	CS	HANDLER	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	CS
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.						8. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.					
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.						9. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.					
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.						10. Plans and implements effective search strategy.					
4. Takes directions and commands.						11. Demonstrates proper care of dog.					
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.						12. Reports the presence of clue's.					
6. Dog can handle the terrain						13. Works effectively with stressful situations.					
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.						14. Able to navigate through the terrain					
						15. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.					
						16. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.					
						17. Handler articulates appropriate POD.					
						18. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject(s) **grade on scale**					
Combined Score						Combined Score					

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

Combined Score

We recommend _____ for Mission Ready Status in Wilderness.

We recommend _____ continue to train and attempt another Evaluation Series in _____.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

Section 308a

<table>
<tr><td colspan="1" style="background:#8B1A0A;color:white">**Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs –** *Avalanche Mission-Ready Criteria*</td></tr>
<tr><td>Section 308a outlines the skills avalanche dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.</td></tr>
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1. The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on live subjects and articles located under the snow.
2. The dog demonstrates a willingness to work for an extended period of time.
3. The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.
4. The dog responds to handler's commands both verbal and nonverbal.
5. The dog searches independently and ranges appropriately.
6. The dog has the agility and strength to handle the terrain.
7. The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.
8. The dog can be directed to conduct a fine search following the handler's finger, pointer or other tool.
9. The handler is able to identify and describe the alert and body language their dog exhibits.
10. The handler does not prompt the dog for alerts.
11. The handler gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, implements the plan, and makes appropriate adjustments to any search strategy based on a variety of variables including: search area, terrain, weather, resources, etc..
12. The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.
13. The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.
14. The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation with appropriate behaviors.
15. The handler is proficient with avalanche recovery tools such as avalanche transceivers, probes, shovels, RECCO detector, etc.
16. The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.
17. The handler has appropriate equipment and/or a twenty-four (24) hour ready pack.
18. Dog Handler will understand and demonstrate the practice of Probability of Detection (POD).
19.The dog team will locate subject(s) / articles(s).

Section 308b

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Avalanche Mission-Ready Evaluation Series*

Purpose: Section 308b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in avalanche search and rescue. ASARD dog teams must complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with an average combined score of 3.0. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0. Articles used in the avalanche evaluations shall be of large or moderate size (sweatshirt, jacket, pants, etc.) and be well saturated with human scent. Subjects used in the evaluation shall be unfamiliar to the dog and buried in accordance with ASARD's Avalanche Training Policy and safety practices. Distractions will occur and the handler will demonstrate proficient use of avalanche transceivers, probes, and shovels throughout the evaluation series.

Additional Pre-requisite Item: Handler shall have attended an approved avalanche hazard and evaluation course, have a working knowledge of avalanche safety practices, and be able to minimize their risk navigating through mountainous avalanche terrain. The handler can proficiently use avalanche transceivers, probes, and shovels. Avalanche Transceiver Test: Handler will demonstrate the ability to locate at least two avalanche transceivers buried at a depth of two and three feet in a 30yrd x 30yrd area within six minutes. The transceivers will be put in a large duffle bag and be probed within the time allotted. The area used should be a flat to moderate slope and should have the consistency of avalanche debris. The Easy Searcher Unit system may be substituted for buried duffle bags.	

Evaluation 8.1 – Detection and Alert: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate its ability to detect and communicate the location of human scent in the snowpack.	
Description	A suitable snow berm or snow field, 35 x35 yards, shall be utilized and the area shall be well disturbed. Three articles shall be buried about 12 inches deep, 30-60 minutes prior to the start of the evaluation. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.

Evaluation 8.2 – Search Endurance: The purpose of this test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to detect and communicate the location of human scent in the snowpack after searching for sixty minutes.	
Description	A suitable snow berm or snow field shall be utilized to allow a dog team to search for sixty minutes. The areas to be searched may or may not have scent sources throughout. At sixty minutes, the dog team will be directed into a smaller, well disturbed area where a large sized, well scented article is located. The article will be buried twelve inches deep, about one hour prior to the start of the evaluation. The dog team will have twenty minutes to search for the last article.

Evaluation 8.3 – Large Area Search w/clues: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of a person buried 3 feet in the snowpack with the utilization of clues.	
Description	A suitable snow field 70 x70 yards with a 10-20 degree slope angle shall be utilized and the area shall be well disturbed. An unfamiliar subject will be buried just prior to the start of the evaluation and the area shall have multiple (relevant) useful clues placed about (skis, packs, clothing, etc). The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.

Evaluation 8.4 – Large Area Search w/out clues: The purpose of this test is to gather pertinent information, plan a search, and then detect and communicate the location of a person buried 3 feet in the snowpack when no clues are available.	
Description	A suitable snow field 70 x70 yards with a 10-20 degree slope angle shall be utilized and the area shall be well disturbed. An unfamiliar subject will be buried just prior to the start of the evaluation and the area shall have multiple items placed about (skis, packs, clothing, etc). These items will not be relevant to the location of the subject. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.

Section 308c

Section 308c outlines the skills avalanche dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   1 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG		HANDLER	
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.		9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.	
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.		10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.		11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.	
4. Takes directions and commands.		12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.	
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.		13. Reports the presence of clue's.	
6. Dog can handle the terrain		14. Works effectively with stressful situations.	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.		15. Demonstrates use of avalanche recovery tools.	
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.		16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.	
		17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.	
		18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.	
		19. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject(s) **grade on scale**	
	Combined Score		Combined Score

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

Combined Score

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

Section 308c

Section 308c outlines the skills avalanche dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   1 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	CS	HANDLER	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	CS
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.						9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.					
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.						10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.					
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.						11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.					
4. Takes directions and commands.						12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.					
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.						13. Reports the presence of clue's.					
6. Dog can handle the terrain						14. Works effectively with stressful situations.					
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.						15. Demonstrates use of avalanche recovery tools.					
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.						16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.					
						17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.					
						18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.					
						19. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject(s) grade on scale					
Combined Score						Combined Score					

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

Combined Score

We recommend _____ for Mission Ready Status in avalanche.

We recommend _____ continue to train and attempt another Evaluation Series in _____.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	Date:

Section 309a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Cadaver Mission-Ready Criteria*

Section 309a outlines the skills cadaver dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.

1. The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on a variety of human decomposition material above or below the ground.
2. The dog demonstrates willingness to work for an extended period of time.
3. The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.
4. The dog responds to handlers commands both verbal and nonverbal.
5. The dog searches independently and ranges appropriately.
6. The dog has the ability to handle the terrain.
7. The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.
8. The dog can be directed to conduct a fine search following the handler's finger, pointer or other tool.

9. The handler is able to identify and describe the alert and body language their dog exhibits.
10. The handler does not prompt the dog for alerts.
11. The handler gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, implements the plan, and makes appropriate adjustments to any search strategy based on a variety of variables including: search area, terrain, weather, resources, etc..
12. The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.
13. The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.
14. The handler possesses crime scene preservation knowledge.
15. The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation with appropriate behaviors.
16. The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.
17. The handler has appropriate tools and/or pack.
18. Dog Handler will understand and demonstrate the practice of Probability of Detection (POD).
19. The dog team will locate source(s).
20. The handler demonstrates the use of Universal Precautions when working with decomposition material.

HUMAN REMAINS DOG ALERT

Search dogs are recognized by their trained behavior to reliably "alert" and communicate the presence of human scent. Depending on the search discipline this trained, reliable, and readable behavior can look very different. For a human remains alert, the dog performs a re-find, barking alert, or passive alert. The dog should not mouth, attempt to eat, or harm the material at anytime.

Section 9a outlines the additional skills ASARD dogs teams must demonstrate proficiency for their H2O endorsement.

1. The dog will demonstrate a reliable and readable alert on a variety of human decomposition material located in moving and flat water.
2. The dog demonstrates comfort and ease in a moving boat.

3. The handler practices good boating safety techniques.

Section 309b

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Cadaver Mission-Ready Evaluation Series*

Purpose: Section 309b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in cadaver search and recovery. ASARD dog teams must complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluations Series with an average combined score of 3.0. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0. All cadaver scent material will be placed in a suitable container that prevents the dog from coming in physical contact. The handler must "call" the location of a scent source in the allotted time. Scent sources should not be placed higher than four feet above ground level or covered by field material to a depth of two inches. The handler will be made aware of all search boundaries.

Additional Pre-requisite Item: Handler shall have at least twelve hours of approved coursework or individual study of cadaver search to include as a minimum: handling training aids, human decomposition, search methods, scent transmission, and evidence/site preservation.	

Evaluation 9.1 – Detection and Alert Demonstration: The purpose of this assessment is to give the dog an opportunity to demonstrate its ability to detect and communicate the location of human cadaver scent.

Description	A grass field or parking lot approximately 25 x 25 yards, flat and open area shall be utilized. A variety of non-cadaver scented empty containers should be placed in the area. The cadaver scented material will be placed in the area thirty minutes prior to the evaluation. Twenty minutes will be given for this assessment.

Evaluation 9.2 – Wilderness Setting: The purpose of this assessment is for the ASARD team to detect and communicate a cadaver source in a moderately wooded area.

Description	A moderately wooded area approximately two acres shall be utilized. The cadaver scent material will be will be placed in the area twelve to twenty-four hours prior to the evaluation. Thirty minutes will be given for the assessment.

Evaluation 9.3 – Urban Setting: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate a cadaver source among man-made structures.

Description	A building, row of vehicles or debris shall be utilized. The cadaver scent material will be will be placed in the area 1 hour prior to the evaluation. Thirty minutes will be given for the test.

Evaluation 9.4 – Search Endurance: The purpose of this test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to detect and communicate the location of human scent after searching for 60 minutes.

Description	A suitable moderately wooded area will be utilized to allow a dog team to search for sixty minutes. The areas to be searched may or may not have cadaver scent sources throughout. At sixty minutes, the dog team will be directed into a small area, approximately 25 by 25 yards, where a cadaver scent source has been in place for twelve to twenty-four hours. One hour and thirty minutes will be given for the test.

To proceed to the H2O search endorsement, the cadaver Mission-Ready Evaluation Series listed above must be successfully completed. To receive the H2O search endorsement ASARD dog teams must complete the following H2O Mission-Ready field evaluations with an average combined score of 3.0. All cadaver scent material will be placed in a suitable container that prevents the dog from coming in physical contact with it. The handler must "call" the location of a scent source in the allotted time. The handler will be made aware of all search boundaries.

Evaluation 9.5 – Moving H2O along a shoreline: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of human scent in moving H2O.

Description	An appropriate source of moving H2O with 200 to 400 feet of shoreline shall be utilized. Two scent sources will be placed two hours prior to the evaluation several feet from shore. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search.

Evaluation 9.6 – Flat H2O from a boat: The purpose of this test is to detect and communicate the location of human scent in flat H2O utilizing a watercraft.

Description	An appropriate source of flat H2O shall be utilized. A scent sources will be placed two hours prior to the evaluation in four to ten feet of water. The dog team has twenty minutes to conduct the search and mark an area for "divers to search" taking into account wind speed and water current directions.

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Cadaver Mission-Ready Evaluations Series Score Card*

Section 309c outlines the skills cadaver dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   2 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG		HANDLER	
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.		9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.	
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.		10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.		11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.	
4. Takes directions and commands.		12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.	
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.		13. Reports presence of clue's.	
6. Dog can handle the terrain.		14. Describes crime scene preservation practices.	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.		15. Works effectively with stressful situations.	
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.		16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.	
		17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.	
		18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.	
		19. Describes or demonstrates use of Universal Precautions.	
		20. Team Locates Source(s) grade on scale	
ADDITIONAL WATER CRITERIA			
H2. Demonstrates comfort and ease in a boat. (for H20 endorsement)		H3. Demonstrates boating safety practices. (for H20 endorsement)	
	Combined Score		Combined Score

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

TEAM STRENGTHS OBSERVED:

TEAM WEAKNESSES OBSERVED:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

Section 309c

Section 309c outlines the skills cadaver dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   2 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	CS	HANDLER	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	CS
1. Demonstrates readable dog alert.						9. Interprets alert and/or body language accurately.					
2. Demonstrates willingness and drive to work.						10. Handler does not prompt dog for alert.					
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction.						11. Plans and implements effective search strategy.					
4. Takes directions and commands.						12. Demonstrates proper care of dog.					
5. Searches independently and ranges appropriately.						13. Reports presence of clue's.					
6. Dog can handle the terrain.						14. Describes crime scene preservation practices.					
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.						15. Works effectively with stressful situations.					
8. Dog can be directed by finger / pointer.						16. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina.					
						17. Appropriate equipment / 24 hour pack.					
						18. Handler articulates appropriate POD.					
						19. Describes or demonstrates use of Universal Precautions.					
						20. Team locates source(s). grade on scale					
ADDITIONAL WATER CRITERIA											
2H. Demonstrates comfort and ease in a boat. (for H20 endorsement)						3H. Demonstrates boating safety practices. (for H20 endorsement)					
	Combined Score						Combined Score				

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

TEAM STRENGTHS OBSERVED:

TEAM WEAKNESSES OBSERVED:

Combined Score

We recommend _____ for Mission Ready Status in cadaver.

We recommend _____ continue to train and attempt another Evaluation Series in _____ .

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
		Date:	

Section 311a

Alaska Search & Rescue Dogs – *Tracking/Trailing Mission-Ready Criteria*
Section 311a outlines the skills tracking/trailing dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series.
1. The dog will demonstrate a dedication to the track throughout its length by remaining scent specific working through contamination and variable surfaces.
2. The dog indicates the direction of travel at the start by following the tracklayer's scent.
3. The dog can be re-directed to work after distraction whether intentional or unintentional.
4. The dog responds to handler's commands both verbal and nonverbal.
5. The dog actively searches for and works the tracklayer's scent.
6. The dog has the ability to physically handle the terrain.
7. The dog has the health and stamina to complete the task.
8. The handler is able to identify and describe the body language their dog exhibits.
9. The handler requests an article from the subject, gathers initial information, articulates a search plan, and implements a plan.
10. The handler gives dog the opportunity to stay on the track by backing up, casting, re-scenting, watering, resting ~~or giving the dog a break~~, etc…
11. The handler demonstrates care for the safety and well-being of the dog. e.g. watering, resting, and praising dog appropriately.
12. The handler is "clue" conscious and reports the presence of clues in the search area whether intentional or unintentional.
13. The handler will work effectively when in a stressful situation.
14. The handler has the health and stamina to complete the task.
15. The handler has appropriate equipment and/or a twenty-four (24) hour ready pack.
16. The dog team will locate subject(s) / articles(s).

Section 311b

Purpose: Section 311b outlines the skills that will demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency and reliability for ASARD dog teams used in tracking/trailing searches for lost and missing persons. ASARD dog teams must demonstrate consistent ability and complete the following Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with an average combined score of 3.0. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0. Articles used in the evaluations shall be of small to average size (gloves, hats, t-shirt, wallet, etc.) and be well saturated with human scent. Subjects used in the evaluation shall be unfamiliar to the dog. Both subjects and articles shall not be observable from a distance of twenty feet. All subjects will be placed into the environment in accordance with ASARD safety practices.

Additional: N/A	

Evaluation 11.1 – Scent detection and specificity: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate understanding and the ability to follow a specific individual's scent.

Description	Three to five individuals shall congregate in one location then disperse. After allowing the track to age 2-4 hrs, the handler will be given an article which has been scented by one of the individuals, and a point last seen (PLS) will be reported. The dog will discriminate and follow the specific tracklayer who's article the dog is given over a distance of 100 yards.

Evaluation 11.2 – Scent specificity: The purpose of this test is for the dog to be able to detect and follow a specific individual's scent from a highly contaminated area.

Description	One subject will leave a public active area (eg: store, barbecue, baseball game, theater), and the track will be allowed to age for 1-2 hours. A scent article and a PLS or general direction of travel will be provided to the handler. The dog will follow the tracklayer over a distance of 200 yards.

Evaluation 11.3 –Urban environment: The purpose of this test is for the dog to follow a specific individual's scent across variable surfaces through urban distractions.

Description	This track will be laid in an area that includes surfaces such as gravel, pavement, wood, and metal grating. Grass or dirt surfaces may also be included. The track may include an article from the subject somewhere along the route. The track will be aged 4-6 hrs, A scent article and a PLS will be presented to the handler. The dog will be expected to follow the tracklayer over a distance of about 440 yards.

Evaluation 11.4 – Wilderness environment: The purpose of this test is for the dog to demonstrate endurance in following a specified individual's scent on an aged track traversing a wilderness environment.

Description	A track about a mile long will be laid through a wilderness environment. One or two articles may be left along the route by the tracklayer. The track will be aged 12-18 hrs. A scent article or a reliable PLS will be presented to the handler.

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Section 311c

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG		HANDLER	
1. Demonstrates dedication to track		8. Interprets body language accurately	
2. Dog scent discriminates at start		9. Plans and implements effective tracking strategy	
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction		10. Handler gives dog opportunity to stay on track	
4. Takes directions and commands		11. Demonstrates proper care of dog	
5. The dog works the scent		12. Reports the presence of clues	
6. Dog can handle the terrain		13. Works effectively with stressful situations	
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina		14. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina	
		15. Appropriate equipment	
		16. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject **grade on scale**	
	Combined Score		Combined Score

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

Combined Score

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	
			Date:

Section 311c

Section 311c outlines the skills tracking/trailing dog teams must demonstrate proficiently during their Mission-Ready Evaluation Series with a completed and combined average of 3.0. Scores from the four evaluations will be averaged together and the combined average will be used as the final score. A dog team will not pass the Mission Ready Evaluation Series if any one criteria has an average score less than or equal to 2.0.

4 – Outstanding   3 – Good   2 – Fair   2 – Poor   0 – Very Poor   ND – Not Demonstrated

CRITERIA CHECKLIST

DOG	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	CS	HANDLER	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	CS
1. Demonstrates dedication to track						8. Interprets body language accurately					
2. Dog scent discriminates at start						9. Plans and implements effective tracking strategy					
3. Dog can be re-directed to work after distraction						10. Handler gives dog opportunity to stay on track					
4. Takes directions and commands						11. Demonstrates proper care of dog					
5. The dog works the scent						12. Reports the presence of clues					
6. Dog can handle the terrain						13. Works effectively with stressful situations					
7. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina						14. Demonstrates sufficient health and stamina					
						15. Appropriate equipment					
						16. Team Locates Article(s) / Subject(s) **grade on scale**					
Combined Score						Combined Score					

Overall test comments, performance and narrative.

AREAS OF STRENGTH OBSERVED:

AREAS OF WEAKNESS OBSERVED:

Combined Score

We recommend _____ for Mission Ready Status in Tracking/Trailing on this date _____.

We recommend _____ continue to train and attempt another Evaluation Series in _____.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / CONTINUED TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Evaluation:	Dog:	Location:	Participants: (E) evaluators, (O) observers, (S) subjects
Handler:	Dog Age:	Weather:	