



AIRSCENT CERTIFICATION

Test: Airscent

Search Capabilities: Capable of searching large areas in wilderness terrain. Capable of searching large areas of approximately 120 acres search for multiple victims, and search smaller areas at night, approximately 30 acres.

Task Book: All items in Airscent Certification Task Book must be demonstrated for certification.

TESTING STANDARD

Type I Airscent:

Testing standard the same as a Type II Airscent test. Prior to taking test team must have already be classified and officially Typed member of a Type I Wilderness Search and Rescue Team, as defined by NIMS, capable of self-sustained operations for 72 hours. SARDUS does not certify the ability of a team to be self-sustained for any amount of time; this designation must come from another official organization that is recognized by the search authority with official documentation and presented prior to the test for authentication.

TYPE II AIRSCENT:

LARGE AREA- 120 ACRES OR EQUIVALENT AREA TO BE SEARCHED IN TWO HOURS BY QUALIFIED TEAM GIVEN LOCAL TERRAIN, VEGETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS. CAPABLE OF SELF-SUSTAINED OPERATIONS FOR 48 HOURS.

1. 120 acres (or equivalent) in terrain the team would normally asked to search
2. One to three subjects that are unknown to dog



3. Scent article provided upon request
4. Search perimeter clearly indicated
5. Team must successfully navigate through test area.
6. Dog must alert on subject(s) resulting in Handler finding subject.
7. Team may not miss more than one subject and must find at least one subject to pass.
8. Team has 30 minutes to two hours to finish test.
9. Team must be self-sustaining and able to search for 48 hours

NIGHT- 30 ACRES OR EQUIVALENT (¼ AREA SEARCHED IN LARGE AREA TEST.)

1. 30 acres (or equivalent) in terrain the team would normally asked to search
2. One to two subject that are unknown to dog
3. Scent article provided upon request
4. Search perimeter clear indicated
5. Team must successfully navigate through test area.
6. Dog must alert on subject(s) resulting in Handler finding subject.
7. Team may not miss more than one subject and must find at least one subject to pass.
8. Team has thirty minutes to two hours to finish test.

TYPE III AIRSCENT

1. Same as Type II except capable of searching and self-sustaining for 24 hours
2. Size of Large area test is 60-120 acres
3. Size of Night Test area is 15-30 acres.



GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION:

Type I and Type II Airscent test should use an area approximately 120 acres (night search approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the daytime evaluation) should be used, terrain permitting. The area should be typical of the environment in which the team will normally work. Size of search area should reflect what a qualified dog team could cover in approximately two hours. The factors that influence actual size should be terrain, vegetation, and environmental factors. A detailed description of the search area with maps and details of the environmental factors should be provided with documentation of the test. Area test should be no smaller than 40 acres for day tests and 15 acres for the most difficult terrain or environmental factors.

Type III Airscent test utilize an area no less than half the size of a Type I or Type II test. The designation of the Typing for the test will be determined prior to the test by the evaluators.

Evaluators shall map where the subjects entered into the search area, location of trail laid by subjects, wind conditions and approximate the scent cone created by subjects during the search.

The evaluators shall place one to three (one to two for night) subjects in the search area. The evaluators must clearly tell the subjects what they are expected to do (walk, sit, or lie down) during the evaluation. Care should be taken to avoid having the Handler observe the subject before the dog has a chance to locate the subject. Should the Handler observe the subject before the dog locates the subject, the Handler must indicate the visual find immediately. The evaluator will direct the team to proceed in a manner that puts the dog team in a position to make a find. During this time the Handler may not in any way support their dog in making the find by directing the dog, eliciting any type of alert behavior, or influencing the final response. It is up to the discretion of the evaluator to count this scenario as a find or to remove the subject from the total number of subjects available to be found in the test or a failure, if the dog is unable to locate subject.

The handler will be given a scenario, scent clues (optional) and a map of the search area. He/she must describe to the evaluators how the area will be searched based on terrain, wind direction, detectably and any other pertinent factors.

The Handler must describe to the evaluators how the dog will alert when it detects humans scent. During the actual search, each time the handler observes the dog alerting he/she must clearly inform the evaluators.

The evaluation must last at least thirty minutes from the start of the actual search and a maximum of two hours. Evaluators may extend the time limit as the discretion of the evaluators, should an otherwise successful test require more time to finish The evaluators may terminate the search at any time if the unsafe conditions exist or if they have observed enough to determine that the team has/will not pass. All evaluators must agree upon a termination of a test.

During the evaluation the dog must make a clear, unassisted find and refind (or other alert sequence or final response) on at least one subject in the search area. Should the dog team locate individual



that are not placed subjects, the evaluators may count those as official finds for the test if they meet all of the guidelines of the test.

At the end of the search the Handler will debrief the evaluators and will indicate areas searched on the map, areas not searched, wind characteristics, alerts, clues located, estimated Probability of Detection (P.O.D.) for the area a searched and any other pertinent information.

Determination of duration of self-sustainability will be made in Task Book.

Evaluators- One evaluator necessary for first test, either day or night, and tow evaluators for second test.

Retesting- If any of the field tests is scored “Unsatisfactory”, that test may be repeated once that same day at the discretion of the evaluators,

If the second attempt is also “Unsatisfactory”, the entire field evaluation must be repeated.

Recertification- Certification expires after two years, with a one-year grace period to achieve recertification. Recertification test consists of either the day or night test as determined by evaluator. Only one evaluator necessary.

Copyright 2009/2014/2017 Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States



Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States
Airscent **Certification Evaluation (CE) Scoresheet**



Date: _____

Name of Handler: _____ Name of Canine: _____

Team: _____ Location: _____

Evaluator (print): _____ Evaluator (signature): _____

Evaluator (print): _____ Evaluator (signature): _____

Site Type: Area Night Site description (veg. type):	Site Size (acres): Temp: Wind: Humidity:
Duration of self-sustained searching:	Type 1 Type 2 Type 3
# Of Subjects Placed:	# Of Subjects Found:
Time start: Time end:	Pos. Neg. Comments
Ground Rules:	
No abuse of canine	
No aggressive behavior to humans or other canines by canine	
Canine under control at all times	
	Subject 1 Subject 2 Subject 3 Subject others
	Pos. Neg. Pos. Neg. Pos. Neg. Pos. Neg.
Canine indicates on subject with articulated response	
Handler locates subject	
Additional Skills: Ability to formulate and articulate an appropriate search strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate interview of witness or briefing with Incident Command <input type="checkbox"/> Handler demonstrates proper navigation skills <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate debriefing to Incident Command <input type="checkbox"/> Provides accurate map of search area/P.O.D. / holes/location of subjects(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	