

**MHA Advisory on Police Service K9s (PSKs) No. 3**

No. MHA/Police K9/2020/118-136

**Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Police Modernization Division  
(MHA Police K9 Cell)**

HQ NSG, Mehram Nagar, Palam

New Delhi-110037

Dated, the 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2020

To

**Directors General BSF, CRPF, SSB, ITBP, CISF, NSG & AR**

**Subject : Augmentation of K9s by Licensing as per Accreditation Norms (आकलन)**

Sir,

1. K9 Proficiency Evaluation Test (K9 PET) designed to determine the proficiency and reliability of Detection K9s (Dogs) in the task of Explosive and Narcotics Detection is forwarded herewith as MHA Advisory No. 3 to ensure performance standards of Police Service K9s (PSKs), bring in uniformity and interoperability among organizations.

2. It is advised to ensure that audit and assessments (आकलन) of Detection PSKs including Dual Purpose K9s be carried out as per above mentioned advisory in following two phases:

- (a) Internal Assessments of Detection PSKs with immediate effect on six monthly intervals by in-house K9 Experts. Please do share the outcome of assessment in quarterly progress reports with MHA for further review and monitoring.
- (b) Independent or Third-party assessments and certifications be undertaken annually in a gradual manner, to achieve 100% compliance in next two years.

**Encls** : As above



Yours faithfully

  
(Dr PK Chug)  
Consulting Director

**Copy to** :

Chairman, Airport Authority of India  
Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs  
DsG NDRF, RPF, NCB, Director SPG  
Commissioner of Police-Delhi,  
DGPs Chandigarh, J&K and Ladakh  
BPR&D

} For similar action, please.

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**Internal**

**PPS to AS (PM)** : For information, please.

MHA Advisory on Police Service K9s (PSKs) No. 3**Augmentation of K9s by Licensing as per Accreditation Norms (आकलन)**  
**POLICE SERVICE K9 PROFICIENCY EVALUATION TEST (K9-PET) FOR  
DETECTION K9s AND THEIR CERTIFICATION****Introduction**

1. Police Service K9s (PSKs) i.e. Police Dogs are reliable and efficient scent detectors due to their supernatural olfactory capabilities. Several scientific studies have established the dogs' proficiency in locating an extremely wide range of odours. Trained PSKs are considered a formidable 'Force Multiplier' because of the fact that they can significantly reduce the amount of time spent searching for a target object, chemical, or biological species. Adequately trained PSKs are also easy and cheap to train and put into actions that are often more sensitive, reliable, and practical than highly sophisticated electronic scent detection devices. Due to all these advantages, the Detection K9s are considered gold standards in the field of trace element detection technology.

**Types of Detection K9s (PSKs)**

2. The most commonly used Detection PSKs with various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Other Central/State Police and Law Enforcement Agencies are listed as under:

- (a). **Explosive Detection K9 (ED K9)**. It is also termed as Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) or Explosive Detection Dog Team (EDDT). These are the K9s trained to detect explosive substances/presence of bomb/improvised explosive device (IED) in various operational environments and indicate/alert the handler when pressed into service.
- (b). **Narcotics Detection K9 (ND K9)**. It is also termed as Narcotics Detection Dog (NDD) or Narcotics Detection Dog Team (NDDT). These dogs are trained for the detection of narcotics or target drug substances in various operational scenarios and indicate/alert the Handler when pressed into service.
- (c). **Dual Purpose Patrol K9 (Police Utility or General Purpose K9)**. Such K9 Teams would be dual purpose Patrol K9 which are also trained for either explosive or narcotics detection. They would be subjected for proficiency evaluation for the intended purpose i.e. detection aspect as per the scope and protocol of this document. This test will determine the proficiency and reliability of a Dual Purpose Patrol PSK team in the detection of either Narcotics or Explosives. **No K9 team will be dual certified in both Narcotics and Explosives in any circumstances.**

## **Aim**

3. The concept of measuring the proficiency of PSKs in the detection task is very subjective. The very aim of this advisory is to lay down certain performance standards or Minimum Level Operational Capabilities (MLOC) and protocols against which the Detection PSK Teams can be evaluated. In the current scenario, there is a strong need to overrule the prevalent subjectivity involved in ascertaining the proficiency of Detection K9s because of the very fact ***“That gets measured; Gets Done”***.

4. To achieve the above-mentioned objective and to bring in uniformity in the subject, among all security organizations employing Detection PSKs, the K9 Proficiency Evaluation Test (K9 PET) has been designed to determine their proficiency and reliability for the assessment of their capability to detect a variety of target odours from their hidden form. Further, the advisory lays down the guidelines to introduce the well-needed concept of 'Certification' or 'Accreditation' by the competent domain experts' for a stipulated period to ensure credibility of the most trusted tool of detection of explosives and narcotics material.

5. These standards would be benchmarking proficiency levels to ensure inter-operability among various Organizations. Further skills of Detection K9s can always be augmented/sharpened to meet unique requirements of each organization. Similarly, highly specialized drills of mobilization and deployment through different intervention skills also remain unique to each organization which are over and above the performance standards.

## **Threshold of Detection**

6. The working threshold for a dog may be defined by its training history and this may include a minimum and maximum amount to which a dog may respond. The lowest concentration of a chemical vapour that a dog can be trained to detect. In animal psychophysics, this has traditionally been defined as the point at which animal detects a stimulus above the level of chance.

7. Absolute threshold for Detection K9s is the minimum intensity of a stimulus that is detected by a particular dog. In the case of odour it is the minimum concentration of vapour. This threshold varies from dog to dog and is affected by climate and the internal and external environment. Otherwise, it is determined by a statistical average based on the point where a specific compound can be detected 50% of the time. It is a fact that that large and small amounts of the same compound don't necessarily smell the same to the dog. The “absolute” may not be as relevant as it was formerly, because of recent developments and learning on detection science. Notwithstanding, it is significant to ensure that a reasonable quantity of each explosive which should be detected by the Detection K9s.

**TARGET ODOUR SUBSTANCES****Explosive Substances**

8. All the EDDTs must be proficient in the detection of all the 05 basic classes of explosives which are given in Table-1 below:

**Table-1: Classes of Explosives**

Category	Class of Explosives	Examples
Class-I	<b>Aliphatic Nitro</b>	Nitromethane, DMNB
Class-II	<b>Aromatic Nitro</b>	TNT
Class-III	<b>Nitrate Ester</b>	Dynamite containing Nitroglycerin & EGDN, PETN (Semtex, Primasheet) etc
Class-IV	<b>Nitramines</b>	Tetryl, RDX, HMX, CL20
Class-V	<b>Acid Salts</b>	Ammonium Nitrate; Ammonium Perchlorate; Potassium Nitrate (Black powder; PN+charcoal+sulfur) with other explosives added depending on agency needs.

9. These dog teams should be capable in the detection of even the smallest amounts of above types of explosives, either military or commercial or home-made including SEMTEX, HMTD and TATP. Keeping Indian conditions in mind and the trend of IEDs recovered by security organizations across the country in last two decades, a tentative list of explosives which is highly recommended to be included in the training regimen of the EDDTs along with subsequent tests proposed to assess their proficiency i.e. K-9 PET is given at Table-2 below however it may further be more specific for a particular state, location or area of responsibility.

**Table-2: Variety of Explosive Substances**

S. No.	Explosive Training Aids	Remarks
<b>Mandatory Group of Explosives</b>		
(a).	TNT (Tri Nitro Toluene)	Most commonly used solid explosives for military and industrial applications which is safe to handle.
(b).	PEK (Plastic Explosives)	Soft and hand moldable solid form also known as <b>putty explosives</b> . Various types of Composition C explosives and LTPE (Low-Temperature Plastic Explosive).

(c).	RDX (Research Department Explosive)	Also known as <b>cyclonite</b> , <b>hexogen</b> and <b>T4</b> . Contained in C-4
(d).	PETN (Penta Erythritol Tetra Nitrate)	Also known as <b>PENT</b> , <b>PENTA</b> , <b>TEN</b> , <b>corpent</b> , <b>penthrite</b> . Contained mostly in Detonating Cord (Cordex)
(e).	Dynamites containing Ethylene Glycol Di Nito (EGDN), Nitro Glycerin (NG) and Nitro Cellulose (NC)	Mainly used in the mining, quarrying, construction, and demolition industries.
<b>Additional Group of Explosives</b>		
(f).	Gelatin	Also known as <b>blasting gelatin</b> or simply <b>jelly</b> generally dissolved in either <b>Nitroglycerine</b> or <b>Nitroglycol</b>
(g).	Oktogen/HMX (High Melting Explo)	Chemically related to RDX
(h).	Water Gels and Slurries	Emerging Threats
(i).	Ammonium Nitrate Prilled or Powder, Potassium Chlorate, Potassium Nitrate, Sodium Chlorate, Potassium Chlorate, Ammonium Perchlorate	<b>Home Made Explosives (HME)</b> ; Commercially Available Explosive Ingredients or chemicals
(j).	Bicat Cracker Strip	Gunpowder nitrate mixture or an explosive composition contained in various types of sound-emitting crackers
(k).	TATP (Tri Acetone Tri Peroxide) and HMTD (Hexa Methylene Triperoxide Diamine)	<b>Peroxide Based Explosive</b> ; Emerging trend with fair difficulty in detection by EDDTs.

### Narcotics Substances

10. The basic narcotic odours (including their derivatives) that should be tested are given as under:

**Table-3: Variety of Narcotics Substances**

S. No.	Narcotics Compound	Remarks
<b>Mandatory Aid for the PSK Team to Detect in All Scenarios</b>		
(a)	Marijuana	TetraHydroCannabinol (THC), Hashish/Hash, Cannabis Resin / Hemp/ Synthetics, Ganja
(b)	Cocaine	Coke, C, Charlie, Flake Snow, Powder, Toot, Blow, Nose Candy, Liquid Lady, White Lady, White Dust, Star Dust, Speedball, Crack, and Rock

<b>Other Narcotic Aids for the PSK Team to Detect</b>		
(c)	Heroin	Opium, Opioids/Opiates, Morphine, Naswar
(d)	Methamphetamine	METH/Amphetamine / Khat
(e)	MDMA	3,4-MethyleneDioxyMethemphetAmine, Ecstasy, Molly
(f)	PCP (Phencyclidine)	PhenylCyclohexyl Piperidine (PCP) Angel Dust, Boat, Hog, Love Boat, Wack, Ozone, Peace Pill, Dust, Embalming Fluid, Rocket Fuel, Super-Grass, Super-Weed, Whacko Tobacco, and Killer Joints

## **K-9 PET: TEST CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES**

### **Quantity of Training Aids**

11. **Explosive Training Aids.** The maximum weight of the explosive training aid used shall not be limited; however, a minimum quantity is dependent on the type of training aids. The aids used in testing will be of a size and composition that would simulate what is generally found in the field with a minimum quantity of 100 gm in the case of explosives and no limits to the maximum quantity. Few explosives odour substances are, as it is, available in very low quantities like RDX, HMTD, TATP etc for which the PSK assessor should use his/her reasonable judgement and experience in case of such constraints. Barring these scarcely available substances, there should be an attempt to use a reasonable amount like 100 to 500 Gm of target substance for testing the detection K9s for explosives. Total 12 training aids would be used for evaluation with each area tested to contain 2 to 4 aids (explosive training aids) with each aid being from different class as given in Table-1 above. Preferably, each aid be hidden twice during testing. The Dog Handler will not be told the number or type of explosive aids they are searching for.

12. **Narcotic Training Aids.** The artificial narcotic aids will not be used for the purpose of certification tests. The maximum weight of the narcotics training aid used shall not be limited; however, a minimum quantity is dependent on the type of narcotics aids. The aids used in testing will be of the size and composition that would simulate what is generally found in the field (on street) with a minimum quantity of 1 gm in case of narcotics substances however PSK assessor should use his/her reasonable judgement and experience in case of any such constraints. There should be an attempt to use a reasonable amount like atleast 10 gm of narcotics, wherever possible. Total 12 training aids would be used for evaluation with each area tested to contain 2 to 4 narcotics training aids with each aid being from different class as given in Table-3. There are first two group of narcotics as given in Table-3 are compulsory to be tested in each testing scenario and each aid to be hidden twice during testing. As a general rule these narcotics training aids used should range between 10-28 Gms per hide. The Dog Handler will not be told the number or type of explosive/narcotic aids they are searching for.

**Testing Scenarios**

13. The EDD or NDD Teams must be proficient in the detection of target substances hidden in maximum possible scenarios of real-world and therefore commonly encountered 7-8 set-ups are recommended to be provided for testing through this K-9 PET. The EDDT team will be tested in all the mandatory four (4) scenarios which comprises of 'Building', 'Vehicle' and 'Open Area' and 'Baggage' as given in Table-4.

**Table-4: Evaluation Testing Scenarios**

S. No.	EDDT		NDDT		Remarks
	Mandatory	Optional	Mandatory	Optional	
(a).	Building	Aircraft	Building	Area	Minimum 04 scenarios are obligatory for the test. Optional Scenarios can be added as deemed fit based on the requirement.
(b).	Vehicle	Watercraft	Vehicle	Lockers	
(c).	Open Area	Person Borne	Baggage	Person Borne	
(d).	Baggage	Train or Metro Rail		Train or Metro Rail	

14. The optional search scenarios will include, but not limited to the Aircraft, Watercraft, Train, Metro Rail etc. or some other specialized transport vessel of interest to the organization. Detection K9 Teams would only be tested in optional test scenarios when it is a requirement of the host organization. The optional testing scenario would be over and above the four mandatory scenarios however, the total 12 training aids can be split at the scale of 2-4 training aids in each scenario.

15. Due to paucity of obligatory real narcotics training aids, the NDDT may be certified for specific narcotics aids as an exception, if it meets the requirement of the host organization however, the same would be specifically endorsed on the certification document by accrediting agency/assessor. In any case 12 training aids should be hidden for the search in obligatory test scenarios irrespective of availability of number of narcotics training aids to ascertain their proficiency in search.

## Testing Conditions

16. A total of 12 training aids would be hidden at the scale of 2-4 aids in each scenario. The assessment would be restricted by using the real explosives only and the 'PSK Assessor' certifying the team will have to approve all testing aids before use. It would be strongly recommended if fresh/independent training aids are provided/used to ensure purity and to avoid using the training aids previously used by the host organization. In exceptional circumstances, few artificial training aids may be used, however only after the approval of 'PSK Assessor'. There would be no evaluation/certification entirely based on artificial training aids without the use of real explosive/narcotics substances. Notwithstanding, the safety of the detection K9 will be the sole responsibility of the handler, (such as overdose in case of narcotics).

17. **All testing will be done on a pass/fail basis.** As defined by the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA), National Narcotics Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) and Swiss Mine and Explosive Detection Dogs Society (SMEDDS), Certification rules, the minimum acceptable level required to pass the test is 91.66%. The proficiency requirement of the US DoD is 95% detection rate. **These certification requirements should generally meet or exceed the expected 90-95% confidence intervals used in forensic science for instrumental methods and legal conclusions requiring "beyond a reasonable doubt"**. As per International Forensic Research Institute/National Forensic Science Technology Center, minimum 90% or greater pass rate for target compounds is required for detector dogs ("IFRI/NFSTC Detector Dog Certification Guidelines", 2005).

18. If a team fails in one test area, only that area failed will need to be retested at a later time. It is recommended that testing be done over a two (2) day period (or more if inevitable). However, this is only a recommendation and the final decision shall rest with the 'PSK Assessor' who could be Officer-In-Charge or other Master Trainer of the K-9 unit in the case of 'In-house' or 'Internal Assessment/Audit' and an independent PSK Expert in the case of third party Evaluation/Certification. All aids will be placed at least thirty (30) minutes before testing. No detonating devices will ever be placed with the explosive aids used in testing. If an aid has to be moved to a new location, the previously used area must be removed as a testing site. All aids will be hidden in a manner to prevent direct contact by the PSK. Conflicting odours like masking and distracting agents should be present in all testing areas to make the evaluation as realistic as possible. All search scenarios will include a minimum of two (2) blank uncontaminated areas to be searched, e.g. vehicle, room, baggage, area, etc. All testing will be done by the qualified and approved 'PSK Assessor' (OIC/Master Trainer in the case of internal assessments) for the EDDTs or NDDTs.



19. Before the first detector team entering the test scenario, a man with his dog will be walked through the testing area. Each Dog Handler shall brief the 'PSK Assessor' clearly as to the dog's alert response and additional response signs to the training aids before testing and each indication to an aid by the dog should be clear and obvious to the 'PSK Assessor'. The 'PSK Assessor' shall, before each phase, explain every problem that will be encountered by the handler, such as boundaries, time, starting point, etc. The 'PSK Assessor' should explain the test conditions and guidelines to the candidate EDDT or NDDT and also clarify the certification process and associated questions raised by the teams including to conclude the search in the reasonable time frame.

### **Certification Requirements**

20. **The certification will be based on pass or fail (miss) of the hidden training aids by the PSK Team**, conducted by the qualified 'PSK Assessor' authorized to conduct Detection K9 Team certifications. For successful certification, the team CANNOT miss more than one (1) aid in all phases of testing that means the EDDT or NDDT must pass in 11 out of 12 proposed tests (91.66%). A "team miss" is defined as any incorrect response by the dog team. Similarly, the team cannot exceed more than one false response in a test environment. In this regard, please refer Table-5 and 6. If a team fails in a test environment, they may be given the option to re-test in one environment only, if they have not failed in any other of the test environments combined. Ruling of the 'PSK Assessor' certifying the PSK Teams would be final in any dispute.

**Table-5: Terms and Conditions of Evaluation**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Test Outcome</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
(a).	<b>Team Miss</b>	Any failure for a PSK to alert on a hidden training aid, or failure of the handler to recognize the change of behaviour/ response and call the alert. Walking over the aid.
(b).	<b>False Response</b>	PSK alerting at a non-hide location.
		The handler calling an alert, even if the PSK did not alert, at a non-hide location.
		PSK alerting to fringe odour that the certifying assessor determines to be too far away from the actual hide site.
		An aggressive alert response by scratching, biting, or excessive nudging at the site of hide (for EDDT only).
		Attempts to retrieve or retrieves the aid or the packaging concealing the aid in case of EDDT only.
		Continual passive alerts like sitting, pinpointing, barking, or looking at the handler for confirmation of a find at a non-hide site.

**Table-6: Conditions for Failure of PSK Team**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Outcome of the Test Result for the Failed Team</b>
(a).	Two Misses in any one of the test scenario
(b).	Two False responses in any one of the test scenario
(c).	One Miss each in any two of the test scenarios
(d).	One False response each in any two of the test scenarios

**Team Evaluation**

21. Most scenarios should not take more than 15-20 minutes however a maximum time limit of thirty (30) minutes will be allotted for each phase of testing. The time will be kept by the 'PSK Assessor' doing the testing and will start when the handler and dog leave the start point. The time will stop when the handler reports back that his search is complete or the time expires. Conversation between tested teams and untested teams will not be allowed while testing is in progress. The integrity of the test process would be maintained in all circumstances. The Detection K9 Teams will be evaluated for the following abilities:

- (a). **Dog Handler.** The handler will be observed for Presentation of the site, Search Pattern adopted, Environmental Considerations, Interpreting the K-9 partner for Change of Behaviour, Timing of Correction (Assistance), Reward/Reinforcements, Cueing (stall, jack voice tones, Repeat-presentations), Voice Tones Modulation, Leash Handling etc.
- (b). **Detection K-9.** The K9 partner will be observed for the Alertness, Retrieving Drive, Focus, Indication, Confidence, Responsiveness to the handler, Non-Productive Response/ False Indication, Distractions and Undesirable activities in the search area like urinating in the search area, digging/disturbing the target (in case of EDDT).
- (c). **Team.** Overall the Detection K9 Teams would be analyzed for the Complimenting Team-work, Intensity, Efficiency, Agility and the ability to pinpoint the location of aid.

22. The purpose of the testing is to observe the teams' ability to locate a hidden target odour substance. It should be noted that all aids might not be pinpointed to source due to height, wind current or placement of the aid. The PSK Assessor should exercise reasonable judgment with experience and the handler for consideration should note all the changes of dog's behaviour.

23. The Assessor can discontinue the evaluation process if a team is heading towards a negative direction without chances of any positive outcome. Assessor may ask the team to indicate general "areas of interest" they observed during the search before leaving the search area. The Assessor may use his discretion to permit the Detection K9 Team to re-check these specific areas.

24. The Assessor is required to explain their evaluation to the handler on completion of the evaluation and those handlers who are not satisfied with the evaluation or any other grievance would be allowed to appeal against the evaluation or certification under a written request giving a brief of the complaint. Certification agency i.e. MHA Police K9 Cell, PM Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India for all the CAPFs and other central police and law enforcement agencies can ascertain the complaint based on the merit of the case and can order re-certification on a subsequent date by different evaluator.

25. All aids used in testing should be of recent manufacture and in separate containers. It shall be the responsibility of the host organization or the 'PSK Assessor' or the concerned certification agency to provide the testing aids. Strict safety measures shall be upheld during K-9 PET. No smoking will be allowed in any of the test areas.

<b>MINIMUM LEVEL OF CAPABILITIES:DETECTION K9s</b>	
<b><u>Basic/Tactical Obedience &amp; K9 Control Skills</u></b>	
Heel, Sit, Down, Stand, Stay, Move Out	
Heel Walk (With & Without Leash)	
Obedience commands on & off leash	
Recall from not less than 10 ft	
Battle Inoculation with simultaneous obedience commands (Can perform skills around gunfire)	
Refusal of food & Obstacle clearance (Optional)	
<b><u>Basic Training Skills</u></b>	
Habit of Sniffing, Sniffing Temperament	
Search Behaviour, Speed of Sniffing	
Identification of Explosive Odours	
Alert Response – Passive by Sitting (EDDT); Passive or Barking (NDDT)	
<b><u>Scenario Based Searches (Mandatory)</u></b>	
<b>EDDT</b>	<b>NDDT</b>
Baggage/Parcels	Baggage/Parcels
Building/Room	Building/Room
Motor Vehicle	Motor Vehicle
Open Area	
<b><u>Additional Test Areas (Based On Requirement)</u></b>	
Aircraft/ Watercraft search	
Mass Transit Vehicle like Train/Metro	
Large Cargo Configurations	
Person/Crowd Search	
<b>Minimum Certification Score &gt; 90%</b>	
<b>Certification Validity – 12 Months</b>	
<b>MANDATORY GROUP OF TARGET SUBSTANCES</b>	
<b>EDDT</b>	<b>NDDT</b>
TNT, PEK, PETN, Dynamite/NC/NG, RDX/C-4, AN, Gun/Black/Smokeless Powder	Marijuana, Cocaine
<b>ADDITIONAL TARGET SUBSTANCES</b>	
<b>EDDT</b>	<b>NDDT</b>
Water Gel/Slurries, BP Substitutes, Blasting Agents, Cast Boosters, Nitromethane, Photoflash/fireworks/pyrotechnic powders, Plastic Explosives, Tetryl, HMX, TATP/HMTD, Potassium Chlorate, Potassium Nitrate, Sodium Chlorate, Potassium Chlorate, Ammonium Perchlorate	Heroin, Opium, Opioids/Opiates, Morphine, Naswar, Ecstasy, Molly, Methamphetamine, MDMA, PCP, Angel Dust
<b>Minimum Quantity of Target Substances</b>	
100 Gms (Preferably 500 Gm, if possible)	1 Gm (Preferably 10 Gm, if possible)

## **TEAM ASSOCIATION AND BASIC TRAINING SKILLS**

### **Team Association**

26. Each handler shall demonstrate a minimum level of obedience and control of their K9 partner by displaying basic/tactical obedience exercises as per established practice. This will consist of off-leash exercises like Heel-walk, 1-minute sit/stay, a 3 minute down/stay, and recall to the handler from a distance of no less than 10 feet. Such association must not be affected in the wake of gun-shot fire/battle inoculation. Remaining team association exercises are not obligatory in nature like food refusal or obstacle clearances etc. The PSK team should not lack in these capabilities and must pass such test.

### **Basic Training Skills**

27. The PSK team should also demonstrate the basic training skills comprising of Habit of Sniffing, Sniffing Temperament, Reward Appraisal, Identification of Basic Target odours in its simplest form, Search Behaviour, Alert Response, Sniffing Speed. Carousel Wheel or Odour Recognition Boxes can be used to ascertain such basic skills in the K9 team. The PSK team should not lack in these fundamental detection skills and must pass such test.

## **SPECIALIZED TEST SCENARIOS**

### **Building Search**

28. The building search will consist of a minimum of four rooms and a maximum of six rooms. The testing area should be ranging a minimum of 500 square feet to a maximum of 1500 square feet in the building. Each separate search area shall comprise of at least 100-150 square feet area and have some type of furniture in it. Only one aid may be placed in each room. One or more search area should contain no aid(s). One aid must be placed high. The aid may be placed anywhere from ground level to maximum 6 feet height. The aids will be placed so the dog cannot retrieve the same. Cabinet doors, desk drawers, closet doors, etc, may not be opened by the dog handler in the case of EDD whereas it can be attempted to open in case of NDD (if required).

### **Vehicle Search**

29. Minimum eight (08) vehicles with a maximum of sixteen (16) vehicles, of any type or model including pickup trucks, may be used. The vehicle will be parked in a parking configuration (such as a parking lot) to allow the team to have access to each vehicle. The aid will be placed so the dog cannot retrieve the same.

30. Only one aid may be placed on or in each vehicle. In the case of EDD, the vehicle would not be opened or the search would be conducted without altering the vehicle condition, however, in the event of NDD, the vehicle can be opened to let the dog enter inside of the vehicle (if required). One aid must be placed inside a closed engine compartment. Additional aids will be placed at the discretion of the PSK Assessor and may not be only limited to:-

- (a). The exterior of the gas tank or filler pipe.
- (b). The drive shaft.
- (c). Interior of closed trunk.
- (d). Passenger compartment (closed).
- (e). Underside and outer body.

### **Open Area Search**

31. Open area search shall be defined as the exterior of buildings, open fields, wooded area or any other outside area not covered in the earlier descriptions. Area to be no larger than 10,000 square feet and no smaller than 2500 square feet or any configuration thereof. Aids will be placed at the discretion of the PSK Assessor and in the case of EDD, can be placed anywhere buried just under the surface to a maximum of six feet above surface level. For buried explosives, type and quantity should be reasonable. In the event of NDD evaluation, the area tested should be comparatively small ranging between 1000-2500 square feet with no buried narcotic aids.

### **Baggage Search**

32. Baggage shall be defined as hard and soft shell suitcases, attaché cases, clothes bags briefcases, golf bags, kit bags, rucksacks, duffel bags and boxes etc. Fifteen (15) bags minimum with a maximum of twenty-five (25) bags may be used. All aids will be placed inside the bags in a manner such that the dog cannot retrieve the same. The bags would be laid out for the search with ample room between each bag to allow the K9 team to freely move around each article.

### **Aircraft/ Train/Metro/Specialized Transport Vessel Search**

33. Common sense shall rule as to the size of aircraft, design of metro/train to be used which will be at the discretion of the PSK Assessor. Availability will be the ruling factor in such testing. The entire search shall include the interior and exterior of the vessel along with all ground support equipments. One aid must be placed on the inside of the aircraft/or other transport vessels. Additional aids will be placed at the discretion of the Assessor. This can be either inside the vessel or outside. This testing phase is not limited to just one aid inside the vessel. All aids will be placed so the dog cannot retrieve the same.

## **K-9 PET CERTIFICATION**

34. **The Dog Handler and K9 will be considered as one team and it is the team who will be certified. If the dog changes handlers, a new team comes in existence and this new team will need to be re-tested for fresh certification.** Each certification shall be valid for one year from the date of the test. The EDDT or NDDT should have completed requisite prior specialized training of explosive/narcotics detection before being considered for certification (this shall comprise of Basic Dog Handlers Course from reputed Dog Training Institutes in the Country). There should a sincere effort to certify the 'Detection PSK Team' in the beginning itself when they pass out of their respective Police Dog Training Centers. The successful passing out and simultaneous accreditation of these specialized PSK Teams would then make a sound basis for acceptance of their testimony in the court of law. **All tests given by the EDDT will be on a pass/fail basis.** The PSK Assessor will determine if the team will be certified upon the completion of the test. The detail **validation proforma is given separately at Table-7 and 8 for recording the observations by K-9 expert evaluator** quantifiable based on scenario-based detection skills required to perform the specialized job for EDDT and NDDT respectively. **The teams displaying overall more than 90% pass rate are only recommended for certification.** Each certification issued according to these rules will remain valid as long as the composition and responsibility of the PSK Team does not change. The certification of such Detection PSK Teams expires if the specific handler and dog, originally paired at the time of certification, cease to perform specialized K-9 team functions together or if the function for which the team was certified changes.

35. **It is recommended that teams are evaluated and subjected to third-party certification by an independent evaluation on an annual basis with internal (in-house) assessment in the middle after six-months.** This certification will be valid for one year from the date of testing and a record to this will be maintained both at the organization level as well as with certifying agency along with detailed remarks of the Assessor for each PSK team. It should be noted that even after certification, normal training and retraining must be conducted to maintain performance and enhance the PSK team's capability.

36. Many organizations require even more specialized training or skills over and above laid down in this document. **It is for everyone to understand that these are benchmarking/obligatory Minimum Level Operational Capabilities (MLOC) and organizations are free to further build on this foundation to achieve their specific objective which may be different for each organization.** Example is NSG or other Special Force Elements of CAPFs/State Police which are additionally competent to participate in special operations or missions through various other skill-sets. This includes various modes of induction to overcome difficulties such as slithering, rappelling or abseiling etc.

37. A panel of PSK Experts from various CAPFs/Central & State Police and Law Enforcement agencies who are qualified in specialized basic 'Dog Training Course' and have adequate experience of the subject of training and employment of K9s (over 10 years minimum) would be entrusted the task of carrying out independent or third-party certification. Such experts would first undergo specialized training for 'PSK Audit and Certification' under the guidance of the Dr PK Chug, Consulting Director, Police K9 Cell, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to fully understand the evaluation process (including hands-on training and mock exercises on K9 PET), before being duly granting others the role of a qualified PSK Assessor for PSK audits and third-party certifications. There would be no fee charged for such certification testing, however fee may be charged/paid to recover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary, which can be paid out of the appropriate budget heads of the organizations for professional services.

## **CONCLUSION**

38. A Detection Dog Team, whether an Explosive Detection Dog Team (EDDT) or Narcotics Detection Dog Team (NDDT) is comprised of a detection dog and its handler who have completed the requisite prior training and demonstrated the performance skills required by the K-9 Proficiency Evaluation Test (K-9 PET). It is obligatory on the part of each security organization to assure proficiency of the specialized detection dog teams employed for most sensitive task of detection of explosives or narcotics from its hidden form. Specialized training standards have been established as performance objectives which relate to the actual duties and tasks to be performed on the specialized assignment.

39. Performance objectives represent the goals of the training and are used to determine if the training has been successful by indicating whether trainees/handlers have achieved what is intended. In addition to the training/MLOC/performance standards established herein, the security organizations representing various arms of the Government holding specialized 'K-9 units' or 'Teams' should establish clear policy and issue standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the use of specialized dog teams. The detailed policy specific to each organization, which provides practical guidelines for PSK employment for a specific task like explosive detection or narcotics detection, establishes a system which will assist in ensuring the effective use of PSK teams. The K-9 PET for Detection PSK Teams (EDDTs/NDDTs) is an endeavour in this direction and designed to determine the proficiency and reliability of a detection dog team in detection and recovery of these substances based on the global norms which can bring in the desired change in accepting uniform MLOC and inescapable need of certification (accreditation) of this highly specialized task force.

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<b>Table-7 : K-9 PET (PROFICIENCY EVALUATION TEST)                      VALIDATION PROFORMA OF EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOG TEAM (EDDT)</b>						
Organization		Unit		Location		
No./Name of ED Dog :		Microchip No.			Reference No. & Date of Evaluation	
No./Name of Dog Trainer :						
Date of Last Evaluation:						
Team Association		To Display Satisfactory Response			Team Score	
	Heel		Sit		Down	Pass/Fail
	Stand		Stay		Move Out	
	Heel Walk with leash		Heel Walk without leash		Recall > 10 ft	
	Obedience Commands on & off leash		Refusal of Food		Obstacle Clearance	
	Battle Inoculation with simultaneous obed cmds					
Basic Training Skills		To Display Satisfactory Response			Team Score	
	Habit of Sniffing		Sniffing Temperament		Reward Appraisal	Pass/Fail
	Identification of Basic Explosive odours		Search Behaviour		Alert Response	
	Carousal Wheel Trg		Sniffing Speed			
Scenario Based Skills (Total 12 Aids) (2-4 Aids weighing ≥ 100 Gms; 30 minutes before test in each scenario)		Max Score (60) for 04 specialized scenarios; Score of 5 will be awarded for every correct indication			Max Score (60)	
	<b>Area Search</b> (2500-10,000 sq ft area)	(Aids hidden from under the surface to 6' height)			Score Obtained :	
	<b>Building Search</b> (500-1500 sq ft area)	(4-6 rooms with furniture; from ground upto 6' high)			Percentage Score :	
	<b>Vehicle Search</b> (Diff types of Vehicle)	(08-16 vehicles in parking configuration)			Certification:	
	<b>Baggage Search</b>	(15-25 baggage; different types of baggage)			Pass/Fail	
	<b>Aircraft/Train/Metro/ Spl Tpt/Human Body</b>	<b>(if required for; specialized purpose)</b>				
<b>Remarks (Observations)</b>						
<b>Overall Grade</b>	Score Obtained:		Percentage Score:		Certification: <b>Pass/Fail</b>	
	<b><u>EDDTs SCORING ABOVE 90% ARE ONLY CERTIFIED</u></b> Poor (<70%)/ Satisfactory (70-80%)/ Good (80-90%)/ Outstanding (>90%)					
<b>Evaluated By (Accrediting PSK Assessor)</b>		<b>Sig</b>		<b>Sig of Dog Handler</b>		<b>Date of next Evaluation</b>



<b>Table-8: K-9 PET (PROFICIENCY EVALUATION TEST)                      VALIDATION PROFORMA OF NARCOTICS DETECTION DOG TEAM (NDDT)</b>						
Organization		Unit			Location	
No./Name of ND Dog :				Microchip No.		Reference No. & Date of Evaluation
No./Name of Dog Trainer :						
Date of Last Evaluation:						
Team Association		To Display Satisfactory Response				Team Score
	Heel		Sit		Down	Pass/Fail
	Stand		Stay		Move Out	
	Heel Walk with leash		Heel Walk without leash			
	Obedience Commands on & off-leash		Refusal of Food		Obstacle Clearance	
	Battle Inoculation with simultaneous obed cmds					
Basic Training Skills		To Display Satisfactory Response				Team Score
	Habit of Sniffing		Sniffing Temperament		Reward Appraisal	Pass/Fail
	Identification of Basic Explosive odours		Search Behaviour		Alert Response	
	Carousal/Wheel Training		Sniffing Speed			
Scenario- Based Skills (Total 12 Aids) (2-4 Aids weighing ≥ 1 Gm Narcotics Compound; Min 30 minutes before test)		Max Score (60) For 04 specialized scenarios; Score of 5 will be awarded for every correct indication				Max Score (60)
	<b>Area Search</b> (1000-2500 sq ft area)	(Narcotic aids hidden from surface to 6' height;				Score Obtained :
	<b>Building Search</b> (500-1500 sq ft area)	(4-6 rooms with furniture; from ground upto 6' high)				Percentage Score :
	<b>Vehicle Search</b> (Diff types of Vehicle)	(08-16 vehicles in parking configuration)				Certification:
	<b>Baggage Search</b>	(15-25 baggage; different types of baggage)				Pass/Fail
	<b>Aircraft/Train/Metro/ Spl Tpt/Human Body</b>	<b>(if required for; specialized purpose)</b>				
Remarks (Observations)						
Overall Grade	Score Obtained:		Percentage Score:		Certification: Pass/Fail	
	<b><u>NDDTs SCORING ABOVE 90% ARE ONLY CERTIFIED</u></b>					
	Poor (<70%)/ Satisfactory (70-80%)/ Good (80-90%)/ Outstanding (>90%)					
Evaluated By ( Accrediting PSK Assessor)		Sig		Sig of Dog Handler		Date of next Evaluation