

Unraveling the Fundamental Misunderstandings and Misconceptions about Scent Training Aids

Why a good *Pseudo* is better than *Real*

What is odor? What does a K-9 actually smell within explosives, narcotics, firearms or cadaver? How does the nose work? Even with these unanswered questions, there is an institutionalized understanding that real materials make the best scent training aids for the imprinting and maintenance training of detector K-9s. However, recent findings from our laboratory and field data indicate that most of the shortcomings observed within the actions of operational detector K-9s (e.g., false alerts, ignoring large hides, generalization of items during detection) are actually caused by the use of these real materials, and of their misconceived, misconfigured analogues, as scent training aids (for example, real materials mixed with inert materials), and brings to question the viability of using these real materials as gold standards for their own detection.

Using scientific data, user videos, operational feedbacks, and client testimonials, this class will discuss the properties of real materials that can cause non-desirable shortcomings within detector K-9s, and provide insights on how the use of next generation chemically formulated training aids, CFTAs, (aka pseudo) can circumvent these problems, and provide detector K-9s with scent-and-detect capabilities that are superior to those of K-9s trained on real materials.

This is scent detection at its most fundamental, and presented in a way that brings a new understanding to the essential characteristics of ideal scent training aids, clarifying some of the misconceptions found in some published scientific papers and reports, and is a must-attend class for all active trainers and handlers!

*David Adebimpe, DSc, PhD, CChem,
ScentLogix*

Dr. David Adebimpe is a research scientist, philosopher and inventor who uses his singular cross disciplinary skills and expertise to solve unique problems that require the convergence of different scientific and technical disciplines. An ex-Professor of Organic Chemistry with over 26 years of combined experience in research, academia and industry, he is a subject matter expert and world leader in the development of scent detection training aids and practical tools that enhance the operational capability of search and detect K-9s. Using a combination of his unique theories pertaining to mammalian olfaction and the mechanisms of scent generation from materials, David developed the first and only official inert replacements to the United States Navy's MN01 and MN 76 Canine Kits for Explosives Detection. He later invented the world's first non-hazardous TATP, HMTD, Dynamite, PETN/ETN, Nitrocellulose, Nitroglycerin, EGDN, PCP and MDMA detector K-9 scent training aids and then developed the ScentLogix™ K9 ScentKit Collection – which currently stands as the broadest collection of operationally-tested non-hazardous explosives and narcotics training aids ever produced for the imprinting and training of scent and detect K-9s. These ScentLogix™ ScentKits are now regarded as the “gold standard” of training aids for explosives and narcotics detector dogs and are currently used within numerous elite military, law enforcement and private working dog programs worldwide.

Dr. Adebimpe has attended a number of FBI and U.S. DOJ certification programs in explosives detection and terrorist preparedness and serves as a consultant to numerous agencies including the U.S. Navy, U.S. Special Forces, the Federal Police (Brazil), The Department of Justice (Australia), Department of Customs (Indonesia), the State Police (Mexico), and the DEA, in matters pertaining to detector K-9 scent kit utility and training

protocols. Additionally, he is a member of IABTI, serves on numerous national and international advisory boards, and is a guest scientist at NIST and NASA.

David's qualifications include a Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) Degree, an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, and a B.Sc. with Honors in Biochemistry with Psychology. His current professional interests include the investigation of scent engineering principles and their applications to biological olfaction, the fabrication of electronic noses, and increasing the portfolio of tools and procedures available for efficient detector K-9 imprinting and maintenance training.

ScentWire™, which is his most recent collaborative effort in developing next-generation, best-of-industry scent training aids, is specifically designed to enhance detector K-9 programs built and reliant on the use of traditional training aids.

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High Risk K-9 Patrol Operations and K-9 SWAT Deployment – S.K.I.D.D.S./CATS

For those that have a misconception as to how beneficial K-9s can be in a high risk patrol operation or to a SWAT team, this class is for you. We encourage all patrol officers, military, SWAT and supervisors to attend this class. You will learn how to utilize your dog to find the suspect quicker, yet safer, while maintaining your tactical advantage and officer safety.

We will discuss what to look for during your selection of a tactical patrol dog or SWAT dog as well as the handler. Learn how a properly trained patrol dog and the handler can be utilized during a high risk patrol deployment or SWAT operation when it comes to tracking, barricaded suspects, approaches, entries, blind corners, room clearing, hallways, stairs, attics, crawl spaces, vehicle assaults, arrest techniques, and even in a gas environment.

*Terry Anderson,
National Police Canine Association*

Sergeant Terry Anderson retired in 2014 after 28 years in law enforcement from the Pasadena Police Department, Texas. Sgt. Anderson is the supervisor for the Special Operations Division, which covers K-9, SWAT and EOD. Sgt. Anderson has been on SWAT since 1994-2014. He has been an operator on the primary assault team and a K-9 SWAT handler. He was eventually promoted to SWAT tactical Supervisor.

Sgt. Anderson has been a canine handler/trainer since 1991. He worked a dual-purpose patrol and detection dog for 15 years and spent five years in narcotics working a dual-purpose canine. Since 1994 Sgt. Anderson has been President of N.P.C.A., National Police Canine Association. He is also an executive board member for SWGDOG and NEDCAB.

How Environmental Factors Affect Odor

To enable a working canine to detect a target odor on which it has been trained, it must locate the source of the scent. You, as a handler, are in a position to assist the canine by making an assessment of the environmental conditions and deploying your canine in the most productive locations. By understanding how odor is effected under what conditions, you are in a position to better locate the target scent. Without this understanding, you risk missing a potentially locatable find. Are you confident you fully understand how odor is affected by the environment?

*Rick Ashabanner,
NAPWDA President*

Rick Ashabranner offers 35 plus years of continued operational working dog experience. A 30-year career as a law enforcement officer, reaching the highest level of chief of police, and a past member of the National Association of Chiefs of Police. Rick was a dual purpose canine handler for 23 years and the K-9 commander for ten years. He was also a 3-year member of the departments EOD team.

Rick currently is the national elected President of the North American Police Work Dog Association, (NAPWDA) one of the largest K-9 associations in the country with over 3500 members and former nationally elected Trustee (6 years). He is a nationally accredited master trainer in Explosive/Narcotic Detection and Patrol with NAPWDA, where he has certified 800 plus canines to the high standards set forth by NAPWDA that are recognized by all courts at all levels.

Rick has spent the last five-plus years imprinting/training explosive detection canines that have deployed to the Middle East to support our military and has deployed on two separate occasions to Afghanistan as an FSR (Field Service Representative) and part of an MTT (Mobile Training Team) for the British Military. He has worked on two LOE's (Limited Objective Experiments) for the Office of Naval Research on HME's (Homemade Explosives) developed and instructed the class, *Introduction to Explosive Odor*, that was taught to many USMC K-9 handlers that were deploying to the Middle East. Rick instructed, *How Environmental Factors Affect Odor*, at multiple seminars and for law enforcement officers from around the country, has spent 1000's of hours instructing/teaching/training K-9's and handlers all around the country, and has consulted with many agencies across the country to establish their first K-9 divisions.

Website: napwda.com

Advanced Tactical Training Methods: Obedience and Aggression Control

Through expanded video examples, this class will discuss how to create tactical obedience skills that are used in police K-9 deployments. The student will learn how to break down obedience routines and skills into component mini skills and how to master the proper reinforcement of these mini skills. A variety of methods will be explained including proper use of verbal and clicker markers, how to use toy rewards including a magnet ball system and a tug reward system. A modern and clear method of e-collar integration (both positive punishment and negative reinforcement styles) will be explained and when and why to use each. Different brands of e-collars and qualities of stimulation will be discussed, and how it applies to differing dog temperaments. Training techniques including applying a heeling stick as a boundary, developing directional control, and how to achieve high performance of aggression control (out/guard, out/recall, recalls, drive capping,) under extreme levels of distraction and while the dog is fighting subjects will be discussed.

*Jerry Bradshaw,
Tarheel Canine Training*

Jerry Bradshaw is the Training Director and President of Tarheel Canine Training, Inc. in Sanford, North Carolina. Tarheel Canine Training Inc. is a nationally renowned training facility for police service dogs and has placed trained police dogs at federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally since 1993. Jerry is often a featured speaker at national police K-9 conferences and travels extensively giving seminars to police departments, the U.S. Military, and sport trainers across the United States. Jerry recently returned from China where he spoke to their national canine conference of police K-9 handlers and trainers. Jerry has written a book, *Controlled Aggression*, which is rapidly becoming the standard text for understanding the fundamentals of canine aggression training for police service, personal protection and competitive dog sports. Jerry also maintains a free blog at tarheelcanine.com along with a media area filled with free articles.

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Keeping it Cool: Overcoming Heat and Hydration Challenges in the OpK-9

Unfortunately, heat injuries are one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in K-9s. The good news is that, together, we can change this statistic. Learn the real-world details of managing heat and hydration challenges in a variety of working conditions. We will cover awareness and prevention strategies that keep your K-9 safe and highly effective. We will review emergency treatment/transport techniques you need when time is of the essence. Education Saves Lives. Make sure you are prepared to support your K-9 in this essential class.

Top 10 Substance Exposures for OpK-9 ... And What You Can Do About Them

The duties of a working K-9 put them in potentially dangerous environments every day. Do you work a narcotics K-9 with exposures to Fentanyl (and a myriad of other drugs)? What about field exposures to rattlesnakes, bees and other critters? What about the hazards that might be lurking in your home or even in your own Go-Bag (like Xylitol)? There are many things that K-9s can get into, and so this lecture will review how to recognize and avoid some of the most common substance exposures. As for those things that your K-9 still gets into...? We'll cover how to decontaminate and provide treatment to your K-9.

*Jo-Anne Brenner,
K9 MEDIC*

Jo-Anne Brenner is the Executive Director and Founder of K9 MEDIC™, the leading multi-disciplinary team of Veterinary, Special Operations, EMS, K-9, SAR and education experts. Jo-Anne and her team have taught over 100 agencies domestically and overseas for the past 10 years. She is a frequent speaker across the country and a member of the K9-TECC Working Group and ACVECC VetCOT Prehospital Sub-Committee. She brings a broad spectrum of experience to her classes; previously, she deployed to Hurricane Katrina as a tactical medic and K-9 handler, hiked across the arctic circle, was a former wilderness medicine subject matter expert, an NREMT-I, and certified Protection Specialist. She has been invited to teach a wide range of students from local police department K-9 handlers to EMS agencies to paramedic teams. Throughout her multiple education careers, she has taught more than 10,000 students in 14 countries, and in five languages.

K9 MEDIC™ has an epic vision to change the world for every Operational K-9, ensuring that they have access to the same pre-hospital care as their human counterparts. To join our mission, e-mail us info@K9MEDIC.com, visit us at K9MEDIC.com, or friend us at [Facebook.com/K9MEDIC](https://www.facebook.com/K9MEDIC)

K-9 Officer Down

“Officer Down!” Two words that evoke discomfort and confusion in any officer’s mind. This is becoming a trend in today’s world of policing. A complex scenario has turned into an extreme challenge for the K-9 handler and backup officers involved. How will the deployed K-9 team handle this scene that is rapidly unfolding in front of them?

High Drive K-9 has the answer. We have created a clear cut training course that will remedy this stressful and chaotic event. This course is devised to train, educate and support both K-9 handlers and all other officers in your agency. This course will cover real life practical applications and scenarios, providing you with a better understanding of the difficulties involved in a K-9 handler down situation. In addition, this course will provide you with numerous options and strategies so that your agency can put a concrete plan in place if this were to occur in your agency. By the end of this course, handlers and officers will be more secure and prepared in the event an “Officer Down” issues arises.

*Scott Clark,
High Drive K-9*

Scott Clark, Owner and Founder of High Drive K-9, has been a police officer for the City of Coral Springs Police Department (FL) since January 1999. Since 2001, he has been assigned to the K-9 unit where he currently serves as an active K-9 handler. He has been working and training patrol and detection dogs since 2002. He is a current certified State of Florida FDLE K-9 Team Instructor and FDLE K-9 Team Evaluator. In addition, Scott is the K-9 Unit Head Trainer, Multi-Jurisdictional K-9 Head Trainer, SWAT K-9 Team Leader, Trainer and SWAT K-9 Handler, Firearms Instructor, HK MP5/MP7 Instructor, Sig Rifle Instructor, and has trained numerous K-9 teams in South Florida and across the country. Scott has a vast knowledge in canine behavior, decoy development, bite building and K-9/SWAT Tactics. Scott obtained his Bachelor’s Degree (B.A.) majoring in both, Criminal Justice and Psychology, from the University of North Florida. He is a current and active writer for *Police K-9 Magazine*, where numerous articles of his have been published. Scott serves as an instructor for the Broward College Institute of Public Safety, National Instructor for the Law Dog Conference, K-9 Cop Magazine, and Police K-9 Magazine Conferences.

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Boost Your K-9 Athlete’s Performance

K-9 Healthcare from Kennel Environment to Nutrition

In this class you will learn how what happens off duty can affect your dog’s performance on the street. We will discuss appropriate kennel management for working K-9s including the right cleaning schedules, cleaners, environments, and “watch outs” for your dog while in the kennel or a crate. Also, we will discuss easy fixes to improve a working K-9’s diet, when to feed, how to feed, and how to prevent diarrhea and common skin issues. After this class, you will know how you can improve his care with a few small changes to make him healthier, easy to get along with, and better at his job.

*Jill Cline, PhD,
Royal Canin*

Dr. Jill Cline has published papers and spoken around the world on topics ranging from kennel management to cognitive function in dogs. Her passion for working dogs stems from

an interest in the interaction between humans and dogs and its influence on plane of nutrition and conditioning. Dr. Cline’s current role as Nutritional Insights Manager at Royal Canin U.S. allows her to interact with key influentials in the working dog, veterinary, and consumer sectors.

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Part - One: Operational Based EDD Training & Importance of Search Intel

Paul has just completed a two-year advanced EDD study at AMK9’s Academy in which 100 plus EDD dog teams were tested on an operational based training and intel gathering exercise across multiple agency EDD teams. The results will surprise you and reinforce why this speaker session is a must to attend. Correct operational based training and use of task intelligence is the number one factor for EDD team success during operational tasks.

Part - Two: Vapor Wake Dogs – Body Worn Explosive Detection

Understanding the very latest K-9 technology in body worn explosive K-9 detection. The Vapor Wake® science, developed and patented by Auburn University, the training breakthrough, genetic breeding program, environmental conditioning, and the operational requirement to fill a current domestic terrorism security gap, against the new terror threat.

*Paul Hammond,
AMK9 Vapor Wake*

Paul Hammond has 26 plus years of working dog experience, 22 years of which seen continuous canine operations in hostile environments; eight years directing canine programs in support of high-profile government organizations including the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Defense in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Paul has 15 years of continuous canine operations in Northern Ireland deployed with the British Military Army Dog Unit during some of the most challenging and hostile times in its history; completing 2,342 recorded operational explosive detection tasks, against live devices.

Paul completed six years as a working dog adviser in support of the British Government Defense Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) and more recently worked alongside Auburn University’s Canine Research & Development Program on various U.S. canine defense and research projects.

Website: vaporwake.com

Detector Dog Behavior

Ken Licklider has dedicated his entire life to the betterment of dog training. He is not just an ordinary dog trainer, but also a philosopher of canine behavior. Ken’s success in this profession has resulted in international acclaim. Ken will cover a variety of topics such as his theories on dog’s drives and character traits, how dogs learn, odor – what it is, odor contamination and imprintation, variable reward and why it’s important. Seminar content will also include: interior/exterior vehicle searches, search patterns: advantages and disadvantages, environmental factors, recognition of physical internal stress, problem-solving: methods and distractions, enhancing response, storage and maintenance of training aids, and the importance of record keeping.

*Ken Licklider,
Vohne Liche Kennels*

Ken Lickliger, SMSGT, USAF (Ret) is the Owner and Chief Trainer of Vohne Liche Kennels, Inc. Mr. Lickliger has thirty-four (34) years canine experience, including seventeen (17) years serving in the United States Air Force in the canine field. Upon retirement in 1993, he formed Vohne Liche Kennels, Inc. Ken is world renowned for his scent work, which has been copied by trainers worldwide to include Dutch Customs, and he has traveled around the world teaching his methodologies. He has been instrumental in the development of the passive response detector dog and has aided agencies around the world in not only training their dogs, but also developing their programs. Selected as a charter member of Scientific Working Group on Dog & Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG), Ken is one of only two private trainers allowed on the panel of 50 plus top trainers in the United States. Ken designed and developed the current K-9 program for U.S. Special Forces for all four branches of the military. He conducts seminars worldwide and has been cadre for several years at the two largest K-9 seminars in the U.S. (K-9 Cop Conference and Police K-9 Conference)

Ken has developed kennels and kennel support in Holland and Brazil, with branches in Turkey and South Africa. He has trained/worked with over 2,500 dogs in his career. VLK trains more than 500 dogs per year for local, state, federal and private organizations. He currently has dogs in over 800 law enforcement agencies to include the National Security Agency (NSA), Pentagon Police, U.S. Secret Service, over 48 states and more than 20 countries, including hundreds of teams in Afghanistan and Iraq with recently deployed teams to Brazil.

Website: vohneliche.com

Introduction to Improvised Explosive Formulations

This class will give an overview on precursor's used in the formulation of peroxide based explosives, as well as a host of other energetic materials. Are you and your K-9 prepared for this threat?

*Ryan Morris,
Tripwire Operations Group*

Bomb Technician Awareness

The bomb technician awareness class will give the attendee a better understanding of the tools and protocols utilized by bomb technicians. The opportunity to try on a bomb suit as well as learn about EOD/K-9 integration techniques will be covered.

*Ryan Morris,
Tripwire Operations Group*

Ryan Morris has been a police officer for 17 years as well as a Bomb Squad Commander/Bomb Technician during most of his career. Ryan is also the owner of Tripwire Operations Group located in Gettysburg, PA. Tripwire is federally licensed as a HazMat Carrier, Importer, Exporter, Dealer and Manufacturer of Explosive Materials as well as a Federal Firearms Dealer (Class 3 SOT and Type 10). Tripwire provides some of the country's premier training courses for military and first responder personnel in addition to the explosive and firearm sales.

Website: tripwireops.org

Apprehension Work Beyond the Bite Suit

This course will detail training scenarios to ready the canine for street apprehension with an emphasis on muzzle training and civil agitation.

*Jim O'Brien,
K2 Solutions, Inc*

Jim O'Brien has been handling and training police canines for over 12 years and was a police officer in New Hampshire for 15 years. Jim is experienced in all facets of law enforcement K-9 training and has conducted nationwide seminars, courses, and classes for law enforcement officers.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Norwich University in Vermont and is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. He was a Region 9 United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Champion in 2009. Jim is currently a law enforcement K-9 instructor focusing on Multi-Purpose Canines for K2 Solutions, Inc.

Website: k2si.com

K-9 Legal

A dynamic and interactive class on the law affecting canine operations. Topics covered will include:

Session 1: A.M. Session

- 4th Amendment Search and Seizure Overview
- Vehicle Sniff Issues
- Tracking Evidence
- Use of Force in Deployment of K-9
- Pre-Deployment Warnings
- K-9 After the Legalization of Marijuana

Session 2: P.M. Session

- Mutual Aid Agreements Involving K-9
- Failure to Train Issues
- Supervisory Liability – Case Study: Campbell v City of Springboro
- Avoiding and Defending the Civil Lawsuit
- K-9 and Public Relations – Why It Matters

*John M. Peters,
Attorney at Law*

John M. Peters is an attorney who has been practicing police liability law in the state and federal courts for more than thirty years. When not in court, John participates in decoy work, tracking, aggression and obedience for sport and at the many police canine workshops he attends. John's legal and canine backgrounds led to requests for him to serve as an author, instructor and legal adviser to the police canine community where his canine legal seminars are in high demand.

Email: caninelawyer@gmail.com.

The Future of Detection Dog Training

An Examination of Methods for Creating Better Detection Dog Teams

In an age where illegal drug trafficking is at its all time high and smugglers are using state of the art equipment to mask their activities, it is important for law enforcement and government agencies to have the best available resources to assist in their drug interdiction efforts. Another harsh reality of our global society is that we are all faced with the ever increasing threat to physical security from acts of terrorism and as a result, explosives detection dog reliability is at its peak of demand. In addition, defense

attorneys are learning progressively more about the operations of narcotics detection dogs and are learning new ways to defeat K-9 related cases.

This class takes an in-depth look at techniques and methods for improving the overall reliability of detection dogs. This class examines the steps of developing reliable detection dogs from imprinting through the processes of proofing and effective handling to eliminate many of the common problems faced by detection dog teams.

As a canine handler, one of our biggest concerns is not what contraband we are finding but what we are missing. This class will identify training methods and opportunities to greatly reduce what you and your dog leave on the streets. If you have ever questioned the capabilities of your detection dog, this is the class you must attend.

*Jason Purgason,
Highland Canine Training*

Jason is the Training Director of Highland Canine Training, LLC which was founded in 2006 and is located in Harmony, North Carolina. Having earned his Police Canine Instructor's Certification in 2003, Jason has been training dogs for over 20 years. He has trained canines in the areas of narcotics detection, explosives detection, human detection, police patrol, scent discrimination tracking / trailing, termite detection, mold detection, human remains detection, allergen detection, bat guano detection, urban disaster, wilderness search, and rescue. Jason has trained over 600 working dogs and handlers for detection, police patrol and search and rescue. Jason's work in the K-9 detection training and patrol dog training has qualified him as a subject matter court expert.

Jason has been a sworn police officer since 1995 and served Reidsville Police Department in North Carolina for over 10 years as a police canine handler, a k-9 unit supervisor, vice narcotics/ interdiction unit supervisor and an operator on the SWAT team. Using his professional background, Jason conducts police canine handler courses and seminars throughout the United States including police and military personnel at NASA and the Pentagon as well as for special forces units of the United States Military and for foreign military and police departments. Jason has been an instructor/speaker at both the Police K-9 Conference and the K-9 Cop Conference on an annual basis for several years. Additionally, Jason provides oversight of all other trainers' courses offered at Highland Canine Training, LLC.

Website: tacticalpolicek9training.com

Power Biting

Power Biting is a combination of training techniques which has been systematically designed to enhance your K-9 partners while greatly reducing the risk of injury during intense training for the dog as well as the decoy. There are many benefits to employing this system such as; increased depth and bite pressure, reduction/elimination of handler conflict, stops transfer bites, greater speed of entry, reflex response to pressure, improved targeting, and tremendous cardiovascular conditioning.

*Justin Rigney,
K-9 Services Unlimited, LLC*

Justin Rigney has been a law enforcement officer for 15 years. He and his recently retired K-9 partner Bosko have been a team with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for seven years. During this time they have been responsible for hundreds of arrests and apprehensions of violent felony offenders and he has been instrumental in the recovery of numerous articles of valuable evidence.

Post retirement, Bosko obtained his brevet in French Ring Sport. Justin begins a new chapter in his career with K-9 Zeke. Zeke is a three-year-old GSD who has been raised from a puppy by Justin and is showing great potential as a police service dog.

Justin is a corporal and trainer for his agency, who has 60 dogs department wide. Justin is a former member of the Davie Police Department and their K-9 unit where he was the handler for K-9 Vader; who was produced from his own breeding program. Justin has been training dogs professionally for nearly 25 years and is the head trainer for K-9 Services Unlimited LLC. (k9servicesunlimited.com)

During his professional dog training career he has trained with hundreds of police K-9 teams, competed in Schutzhund, Ring Sport and other dog sports. He has also trained dogs for celebrities, professional athletes, and thousands of pet dog owners. Justin has recently graduated and been awarded a diploma in the NePoPo® Gold training system, the modern language of dog training by Bart Bellon. Justin is currently the President of the Florida Law Enforcement Canine Association (flecak9.com) and was one of the founding members. He is also a judge and instructor for FLECA.

Justin has recently been retained as an expert witness in K-9 training and deployment, which marks a new chapter in his career. He has had the opportunity to certify and train hundreds of police K-9 teams. Justin continually pursues further knowledge of dog training in many different applications by training with some of the top canine trainers in the world.

K-9 Aggression and Decoy

This course will cover the basic fundamentals of aggression in working K-9s and address common principles and issues with bitework training.

The following topics will be covered:

- How to properly select a dog for your program
- How to properly select and develop a decoy for your program
- Body language (both K-9 and human)
- Drive and how relates to bitework (myths and truths)
- Training the correct bite behavior
- Transitioning from training to the real world
- Trouble shooting issues and outing properly

*Mike Ritland,
Warrior Dog Foundation & Trikos International*

Police K-9 Training Fundamentals

How to apply the basics fundamentals of operant conditioning and how it relates to police dog training.

*Mike Ritland,
Warrior Dog Foundation & Trikos International*

Mike Ritland was born in Waterloo, IA and served 12 years as a U.S. Navy SEAL in Operation IRAQI Freedom and multiple special forces missions. He served as the Naval Special Warfare Multi Purpose Canine (MPC) Trainer 2011/2012. After his service he began Trikos International which specializes in providing private protection K-9s to government agencies and high-net-worth individuals. Trikos International has grown to a global brand and has gained notoriety for its unique training approach and proven success.

Ritland has trained hundreds of working dogs for combat and specializes in private protection dog training, military dog training and police dog training. He has over 18 years experience in importing, breeding, raising, and training multiple breeds of working dogs.

He is the author of three New York Times Best Selling books: *Trident K9 Warriors*, *Navy SEAL Dogs* and *TEAM Dog*.

Mike Ritland has provided private protection K-9s for celebrities, private individuals and government agencies:

- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)
- Private Individuals
- *Other Government Agencies

He is an active content contributor for numerous journals, blogs and publications such as *S.O.F.R.E.P*, *Men's Journal*, *Police K-9 Magazine*, and *K-9 Cop Magazine*. He has been a key-note speaker at Purdue University's Discovery Lecture Series, Book TV C-SPAN2 Live, and has been interviewed on dozens of media affiliates such as CBS 60-Minutes, ABC, NBC, FOX and PBS.

Mike and Rico (his personal K-9) recently collaborated with the Xbox crew to create the latest iteration of "Call of Duty: Ghosts." The video game brings lifelike characters and immersive worlds together on a new, next-generation engine. The dog in Call of Duty works together with his team to fulfill missions. The official release was November 5, 2013.

Mike Ritland also founded the Warrior Dog Foundation, a non-profit special operations K-9 retirement foundation. The Warrior Dog Foundation is dedicated to serving working military K-9s, special operations community and their families. With the foundation's state of the art kennel facility, these dogs are given the opportunity to live out the rest of their lives with dignity and grace and attended to with compassion to both their mental and physical rehabilitation for the rest of their lives.

Ritland currently resides in Dallas, TX and dedicates his time daily to working with his K-9s at Trikos International and the Warrior Dog Foundation. When he is not traveling on business he enjoys spending quality time with each of his dogs, staying fit, and perfecting the art of BBQ.

Website: trikos.com

Website: wariordogfoundation.org

Tactical Area Search (Off-Lead)

Many K-9 teams have pondered the idea of a true off-lead K-9 team, but lack the skills and or department backing to work toward this endeavor. This lecture will give the handler and K-9 supervisors a perspective on how to conduct off-lead area and building searches and why they should. This class branches off of Tactical K9's *Introduction to the E-Collar* lecture. The class will review basic training methods used to develop the off-lead K-9, while incorporating these skills during actual field searches. Focus will be on developing the canine as well as the handler and K-9 team. E-collar techniques will be discussed on how to take a K-9 team from the basics to advanced levels of direction and control. This lecture will cover basic concepts in the area of off lead search tactics, problem-solving, developing and maintaining the hunt, hand signals, prey toys used to hone in off lead tactics, choke off vs verbal outs and many other areas of concern.

*Doug Roller,
Tactical K9*

E-Collar: Off Leash Control & Canine Problem Solving

This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to the E-collar for the Police Service Dog (PSD) and Military Working Dog (MWD). The e-collar was originally designed to enhance already learned behavior with working canines, providing a means of communicating with the canine in an off-leash capacity. Although e-collar training is aversive in nature, the instruction provided will take great measures to instill the positive methods of dog training, providing proper introduction of the e-collar to the canine's already known commands. This was how the e-collar was originally designed to be utilized. In the past, many police departments and military K-9 programs have misused the tool, leaving the untrained trainer/handler with a negative outlook on the device. The system used by Tactical K9 is one that was developed by the Los Angeles Police K-9 Platoon. The LAPD has utilized the e-collar for longer than any other police agency in the country. Over the years, coinciding with the e-collar's development, methods have been fine-tuned to provide the best industry methods for the e-collar's introduction as well as advanced tactical canine training for law enforcement and military communities. This class will also cover problem-solving issues that most frequently arise with police and military service dog teams. Topics will include: outing issues, search and ranging problems, handler canine conflicts, balancing the e-collar with conventional training methods, developing a solid shooting platform while working your canine, and other common problems.

*Doug Roller,
Tactical K9*

Sgt. Doug Roller was the Chief Trainer for the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) K-9 Platoon, Metropolitan Division for 17 years, until he retired in March of 2013. He is a nationally recognized expert in K-9 tactics, perimeter containment and search techniques, with over 6,500 K-9 deployments. Sgt. Roller is a court qualified K-9 expert and has testified in numerous K-9 litigation cases. In 2010, Doug started his company Tactical K9 LLC. His company has conducted countless seminars throughout North and South America, as well as Asia. Doug is also a California POST Certified AICC Instructor.

Website: tacticalk-9.com

Imprinting Scent Specific Tracking Dogs

This is a must see class in a long line of Jeff Schettler seminars since 1998. Jeff is the number one go to author/source for tracking/trailing work in the world today. No other training entity trains more tracking dogs than Georgia K9 NTC. Jeff's scent specific tracking program is currently being taught for police, border patrol, and military groups throughout the U.S.A. and these NATO countries: Germany, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Finland, Estonia, Slovakia, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Poland. This class is specifically designed to identify the qualities of a solid tracking dog and the imprinting stage of training necessary to create a top man hunter. If you want urban, street appropriate, tracking training that escapes the unrealistic, uncontaminated fields of traditional sport tracking, then this could be your best start possible.

*Jeff Schettler,
Georgia K9 NTC*

Tactical Tracking: The Four Stages of the Proximity Alert – Learn Them and Live!

Do you hunt criminals with your tracking dog? The threat to police officers is worse now than ever before. The daily headlines

seem to show a new story of an officer killed each and every day. Tracking work is the single most dangerous K-9 deployment possible. No other deployment produces more unknown variables than tracking. Similarly, no other deployment has produced more harm to handlers and their dogs than tracking. The simple reason is complete lack of proper training for closing the deal and reading the proximity alert. Jeff Schettler pioneered tactical tracking training in the United States with his first classes on the subject in the 1990s. His course has been refined and has evolved into a practical process to make tactical tracking safer and the key to that process is learning the four stages of the proximity alert. Jeff currently trains police departments throughout the world in this life saving program. He is also considered the number one source for trailing and proximity alert training for our military.

Jeff Schettler,
Georgia K9 NTC

Jeff Schettler is a retired police K-9 handler who worked for the City of Alameda and County of Amador in California and was attached to the FBI's Hostage Rescue Teams' K-9 Assistance Program for two years. This program was designed to locate and apprehend high-risk fugitives on the run. Jeff has worked hundreds of trailing cases across the United States and is a specialist in the areas of tactical tracking applications. He is considered the foremost authority on tactical tracking.

He was a certified military trainer, graduating from the prestigious U.S. Army's Leadership Academy, also known as Drill Sergeant School. He currently trains police officers, military, and search and rescue handlers around the world in the art of K-9 trailing. Jeff raises and trains manhunter K-9s that are working for law enforcement agencies across the U.S.A. They are famous for their human find rates and are much sought after.

Jeff writes for law enforcement and military K-9 magazines, *K-9 Cop Magazine*, and *Police K-9 Magazine*. He is also the author of these popular books: *Red Dog Rising*, *K9 Trailing: The Straightest Path*, *Tactical Tracker Teams*, and *The Tao of Trailing*.

Website: gak9.com

Reality Based Detection Training

This reality based detection training class serves as an essential phase for the modern police K-9 handler in today's training and deployments. The class will cover a five pronged approach to successful deployments in the following areas with masking agents: food distractors, animal odors, open areas, vehicles, and changing environments.

Rodney Spicer,
Gold Coast K9

K-9 Stress Inoculation Prior to Deployments

This reality based apprehension training class addresses stress and the effects caused by stressful encounters during actual deployments. Training exercises and how inoculating the K-9 to doses of stress through reality based training exercises will increase the K-9's confidence and effectiveness in overcoming a greater challenge/fight. The course will also cover muzzle utilization, physical apprehensions, focus on the suspect and how to prepare for suspect opposition through proper training exercises.

Actual deployments illustrating the importance and the benefits of stress inoculation training will be examined and discussed during the lecture and video presentation.

Rodney Spicer,
Gold Coast K9

Rodney Spicer is the owner and training director of Gold Coast K9. He is recognized nationwide for providing challenging reality based training scenarios and utilizing contemporary canine training techniques. Rodney began training working sport dogs in 1985 and soon after began training police service dogs in patrol and detection. Rodney is directly involved in the selection and training of police service dogs in patrol and detection. Rodney enjoys the unique position of being a certified working dog judge in four different organizations and being a certified agitator in five different working dog organizations as well as a California K9 POST Evaluator. He also personally conducts over 300 detection sniffs per year.

Website: goldcoastk9.com

Transferring Bite Work to the Reality of the Street

This class looks at patrol dog aggression and real street bite issues. The class defines the "ideal" bite, highlights why dogs may not engage a suspect, and guides you through proven step-by-step training principles that transition the dog from training to reality. Having worked the street as a K-9 handler for 30 years, this instructor has lived the reality of the street. This class will present facts rather than theory.

Steve Sprouse,
Broward County (FL) Sheriff's Office

Steve Sprouse has been in law enforcement for over 30 years and a police K-9 handler/trainer for 27 years. He is currently the patrol dog trainer for the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Southeast Florida. The Broward County Sheriff's Office is the largest accredited sheriff's office in the country with 3,000 sworn deputies and over 40 work dogs within the agency. Steve is a Florida Department of Law Enforcement K-9 Instructor and K-9 Team Evaluator. Along with teaching basic patrol dog classes for his agency and others, he has taught at numerous police canine training seminars and conferences throughout North America and the Caribbean. He has had several K-9 training articles published in various police canine publications since the mid-1990s. He has also been employed to testify as a K-9 use of force expert in civil court proceedings. Steve has placed as high as first place in several regional and national police K-9 competitions, but strongly believes preparing for real deployments should be a priority.

In 1989, Steve was shot and seriously wounded during a K-9 deployment because training fell short of reality. Since Steve's shooting, he has been passionate about helping others utilize the skills needed to transition training to reality for canine use of force situations. In addition to training, Steve is currently working his 6th patrol dog and has been involved in hundreds of K-9 apprehensions and use of force incidents during his career. He uses his experiences to help other patrol dog teams maximize success.

