Department of Public Safety

Keith Squires
Commissioner

Peace Officer Standards & Training
J. Scott Stephenson
Director

State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT.
Governor
GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

Effective 1 January 2015

Response to a K-9 Program Inquiry

Thank you for your inquiry into the Utah POST K-9 Program. Establishing a state-of-the-art program has been a major effort for the Police Academy. Accordingly, we are very proud of its success. We have been called the most constitutionally-conservative K-9 training center in the USA. A survey in 2009 regarding Narco Detector Dogs revealed that the K-9 Program has been responsible for well over 24 billion dollars of illegal narcotics seizure since its inception in 1989. Many hundreds of felons have been captured and dozens of law enforcement officers' lives have been saved, due to the actions of Patrol Dogs trained at Utah POST.

Utah POST utilizes a "Reality-Based" format for K-9 training. The initial phase of every class deals with the fundamentals of training and as soon as the Handler/Dog are ready, the remainder of the class is conducted in a real-world environment. Likewise, the Officer receives classroom lectures on important lectures and legal issues which are then applied in scenario training later in the courses. The goal is to have a balance of training/deployment technology within the constraints of Constitutionally-established citizens' rights. Accordingly, we have created a training environment that resolves both concerns.

The basic course presented here is for Patrol Dogs/Handlers. The curriculum corresponds to internationally-accepted standards, with unique supplemental skills necessary in the American culture. Options are available for agencies with higher intensity/volume of Patrol Dog needs, as well as those agencies who may deploy less often. Each skill level consists of the following skills: tracking/trailing of suspects/victims, criminal evidence recovery with a passive indication that does not contaminate its evidentiary value, obedience/agility, and criminal apprehension. Of particular value is the fact that we are able to teach the dogs to discriminate between a fleeing or hostile suspect and a surrendering suspect or innocent person. In other words, we teach the dogs to discriminate the level of force to exhibit when encountering an individual. Two common K-9 "capture" philosophies of Patrol Dog training/deployment exist in America. These are most commonly identified as: FIND/BITE and FIND/BARK. Either philosophy, or even both, may be taught here (at the Handler's option) to the same dog. The Utah Police Academy teaches the DISENGAGE behavior to all varieties of Patrol Dogs. The DISENGAGE is a "shut-down" command which may be issued when an exigent circumstance arises during an apprehension. In addition to Patrol Dogs, we offer training courses for Narcotics Detectors, Explosive Detectors, and other categories of Detector Dogs. Tactical Deployment (SWAT) Dogs are trained here also, upon demand from requesting agencies. A Police Search and Rescue Dog (PSAR) course has been developed to aid in that unique function. In addition to K-9 and Handler training, POST offers advanced

training for K-9 Instructors, Judges, and Unit Administrators. An Instructor acquires specific knowledge and develops skills necessary to train K-9's and Handlers from entry level to certification. A Judge acquires knowledge and skill in the evaluation process for certification of "Streetworthiness." An Administrator acquires knowledge on managing the day-to-day operations according to administrative and legal constraints. Simply stated, the K-9 is the "Tool," the Handler is the "Operator," the Instructor is the "Mechanic," the Judge is the "Inspector," and the Administrator is the "Coordinator."

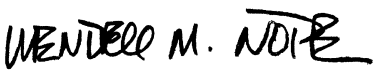
Utah POST is operated by legislated funds and other designated monies. No tuition fee is assessed to In-State officers of any government level. A service fee of $300.00 is assessed for each Out-of-State officer attending each training/deployment class (Patrol, Narco, etc.). There is no fee for In-State or Out-of-State officers attending the K-9 Supervisor course.

Patrol and Detector Dog courses are eight (8) weeks duration. POST has a dormitory facility (801) 256-2300) and Hotel/Motel accommodations are also available close to the Police Academy. K-9's can be housed at the POST kennel facility at no charge, first-come-first-served. Only six Out-of-State dogs are allowed to reside at the POST K-9 Kennel during any course.

The K-9 Program training is quite intensive due to the condensed course duration and quantity of information to be learned. To best serve the student/agency, POST emphasizes training the Handler how to train his/her own K-9. The graduating Handler becomes autonomous upon graduation and may complete the K-9's training at home if necessary. Most K-9's can be trained within the course duration. Additionally, the Handler is trained on the procedures to conduct In-Service (maintenance) training after leaving POST. As a point of clarification, POST adheres to the law enforcement consensus of recommending four hours of In-Service training per discipline per dog.

Handlers and K-9's may submit to an examination and receive a corresponding certification. A Handler student must attend with a K-9. An Instructor and/or Judge student may attend with or without a K-9. Certifications are effectual as follows: K-9's for 12 months; Handlers for duration of their assignment; Instructors for 36 months; and Judges for 36 months. Re-certification when the respective certificate has expired is available upon request. Some officers may have prior K-9 training or certification at facilities other than Utah POST. If an officer seeks to receive credit for prior training, merely submit documentation so POST may evaluate the possibility of waiving a portion of a training course. The minimum amount of time a student is allowed to participate in any course is 40 hours, regardless of the extent of prior training. For further information, please contact: Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training, K-9 Training Supervisor, 410 West 9800 South, Sandy, UT 84070, telephone 801-209-5790 or e-mail address wnope@utah.gov or the official Utah POST K-9 Program website which may be accessed at http://publicsafety.utah.gov/post/inservice/k9info.html .

Sincerely,



Sgt. Wendell M. Nope
K-9 Training Supervisor
801-209-5790 cell
wnope@utah.gov email

Utah Peace Officer Standards & Training
K-9 Program
Description of K-9 Classes

Patrol Dog: 6 Apr - 28 May 2015; 19 Oct - 10 Dec 2015

A training course for K-9's, Handlers, Instructors, and Judges of Patrol Dogs. The curriculum is founded in Reality-Based training concepts and includes in-depth instruction for Handlers training their own Patrol Dogs, Instructors training Patrol Dogs or Handlers, and Judges training Patrol Dogs, Handlers, or Instructors and also evaluating/certifying Dogs, Handlers, and Instructors. Handlers are supervised closely as they train their own dogs, allowing the Handlers to be autonomous upon graduation. Instructors are supervised closely as they train Handlers and their Patrol Dogs, providing considerable "student teaching" opportunities. Judges are supervised closely as they evaluate Patrol Dogs, Handlers, and Instructors throughout the course. All three skill levels are taught simultaneously via an innovative "Tiered Skill Level" training environment. Considerable time is spent in report writing and preparation for criminal/civil court testimony. Certification may be acquired in each of these skill-sets via Single-Blind examinations.

As of 10 April 2006, the Handler may choose to train his/her Patrol Dog in either the Detaining concepts, Handler Control concepts, or may teach both skills to the same Dog. This new protocol is intended to provide a wider variety of options for Agencies and Officers in their Patrol Dog applications.

Detector Dog: 12 Jan - 5 Mar 2015; 27 Jul - 17 Sep 2015

A training course for Handlers, Instructors, and Judges of Detector Dogs. The curriculum is founded in street-realistic training concepts and includes in-depth instruction for Handlers training their own Detector Dogs, Instructors training Detector Dogs or Handlers, and Judges training Detector Dogs, Handlers, or Instructors and also evaluating/certifying Dogs, Handlers, and Instructors. Handlers are supervised closely as they train their own dogs, allowing the Handlers to be autonomous upon graduation. Instructors are supervised closely as they train Handlers and their Detector Dogs, providing considerable "student teaching" opportunities. Judges are supervised closely as they evaluate Detector Dogs, Handlers, and Instructors throughout the course. All three skill levels are taught simultaneously via an innovative "Tiered Skill Level" training environment. Detector Dog categories include Narcotics, Explosives, and other categories when sufficient requests are received. Enrollment in multiple categories is by permission only. Certification may be acquired in each of these skill-sets via Single-Blind examinations.

SWAT Dog: 3-6 May 2015

A certification course for SWAT Dogs, Handlers, Instructors, and Judges. The curriculum is founded in street-realistic training concepts and includes in-depth instruction for Handlers training their own SWAT Dogs, Instructors training SWAT Dogs or Handlers, and Judges training SWAT Dogs, Handlers, or Instructors and also evaluating/certifying Dogs, Handlers, and Instructors. Handlers are supervised closely as they handle their own dogs, allowing the Handlers to be autonomous upon graduation. Instructors are supervised closely as they train Handlers and their Dogs, providing considerable "student teaching" opportunities. Judges are supervised closely as they evaluate Dogs, Handlers, and Instructors throughout the course. All three skill levels are taught simultaneously via an innovative "Tiered Skill Level" training environment. Skill sets include the following:

1. Tactical Heeling while Moving in a Team Formation;
2. Engagement Maneuvers while Moving in a Team Formation;

3. Vertical/Horizontal Movement Displayed by Handler and Dog;
4. Physical Endurance Displayed by Dog;
5. Perimeter Control During Tactical Operations;
6. Tandem Apprehension of Multiple Suspects;
7. Discrimination of a Targeted Subject;
8. Disruption of a Targeted Subject;
9. Stealth Entry, Team Movement, and Clearing High-Risk Areas;
10. Forced Extraction of a Non-Compliant High-Risk Subject; and
11. Forced Capture of a Non-Compliant High-Risk Subject.

K-9 Unit Manager: 9-10 February 2015; 24-25 August 2015

A training course for Mid-Level Management Personnel which will include training in the supervision of various aspects of Canine/Handler Selection, Canine Medical Care, Legal Authority and Constraints, Current Case Law, Record-Keeping, Policy-Procedure-Practices, Establishing Training/Deployment Standards, Handler/Canine Certification, Quality Control, Auditing, and Use of Force Review Processes.

Utah Peace Officer Standards & raining
K-9 Program
Training Course Information

Participation in any of the following K-9 training courses requires that the student is a bona fide government officer. There is no tuition for participation, except that a service fee of $300.00 is required for Out-of-State students. An on-site cafeteria is available at the POST complex. An on-site kennel facility is provided for student dogs at no charge, first-come-first-served. All dogs must be vaccinated for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, coronavirus, kennel cough, should be receiving heartworm preventative, and have a parasite examination prior to enrollment. Dogs with stable temperaments that tolerate strangers and children are favored in this program. Dogs with overly aggressive tendencies are discouraged.

Patrol Dog Courses

Please bring the following with you to class: (1)duty gear including uniform; (2)full-body bitesuit if available; (3)agitation muzzle if available; (4)undercover sleeves if available; (5)50 - .22 or .38 caliber blanks with handgun; (6)other apprehension equipment if available; (7)obedience training equipment if available; (8)tracking leash if available; (9)seasonal clothing for rugged training and sturdy footgear; (10)towels and toiletries; (11)dog food; (12)signed waiver of liability.

Detector Dog Courses

Please bring the following with you to class: (1)duty gear including uniform; (2)substances to be trained on if available; (3)airtight substance storage containers and also training aids if available; (4)fifty bills of uncirculated currency which has been handled only by bank personnel and then sealed in an airtight container; (5)seasonal clothing for rugged training and sturdy footgear; (6)towels and toiletries; (7)dog food; (8)signed waiver of liability.

SWAT Dog Courses

Call/email for specific information related to this class. Contact Wendell Nope (801) 209-5790.

Utah Peace Officer Standards & Training
K-9 Program
Accommodations

POST Dormitory

The POST dormitory is often available for housing during a K-9 Program class. Telephone 801-256-2300 and ask for the dormitory reservations personnel to make reservations.

Area Hotels/Motels

The Hotels/Motels listed below (alphabetical order) are very close to the Utah Police Academy K- 9 complex and have been used by students attending training courses here.

1. Budgetel Inn, 2229 West City Center Court, West Valley City, UT 84119
   Telephone 800-428-3438

2. Country Inn & Suites, 3422 S Decker Lake Drive, West Valley City, UT 84119
   Telephone 800-456-4000

3. Crystal Inn, 2254 West City Center, West Valley City, UT 84119
   Telephone 888-977-9400

4. Extended Stay America, 2310 W. City Center Court, West Valley City, UT 84119
   Telephone 800-398-7829

5. Hampton Inn - Murray, 606 West 4500 South, Murray, UT 84123
   Telephone 800-426-7866

6. Quality Inn, 4465 South Century Drive, Murray, UT 84201
   Telephone 800-228-5151

7. Rodeway Inn and Suites, 3540 South 2200 West, West Valley City, UT 84119
   Telephone 800-228-2000

8. Sleep Inn, 3440 South 2200 West, West Valley City, UT 84119
   Telephone 800-627-5337

Utah Peace Officer Standards & Training
K-9 Program
Application for Course Enrollment

Name		Birth Date
Department		Today's Date
Full Address		
Work Phone	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Other Phone	Email	
Supervisor's Name/Rank		Supv Phone
Emergency Contact		Emerg Phone
Name/Breed of Dog		Whelp Date
Prior Training/Certification of Officer		
Prior Training/Certification of Dog		
Circle Course Attending Patrol Dog Narco Dog Explo Dog SWAT Dog K-9 Manager		
Circle Skill Level Attending Handler Instructor Judge Administrator Other		
Reserve Kennel Space Yes No		

Utah Peace Officer Standards & Training
K-9 Program
Waiver of Liability

Full Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Emergency Contact _____

Telephone _____ Relationship _____

I, the undersigned, hereby hold harmless and waive any claim for damages against Peace Officer Standards and Training for any injury I may directly or indirectly sustain as a result of an accident that occurs without any legal fault on the part of any of the persons or entities just identified, in the course of my participation in any part or phase of the training, instruction, evaluation, or competition of K-9s in the Peace Officer Standards and Training K-9 Program.

_____ _____
Applicant Date

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

The above was SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____ day

of _____, 20_____.

My Commission Expires _____

_____
NOTARY PUBLIC

_____
Residing at

Utah Peace Officer Standards & Training
K-9 Program
Health Record

A K-9's participation in any of the Utah POST K-9 training courses requires that the K-9 to be trained is up to date on the following immunizations. Fill in the dates, as they are listed below, to verify that all inoculations are current.

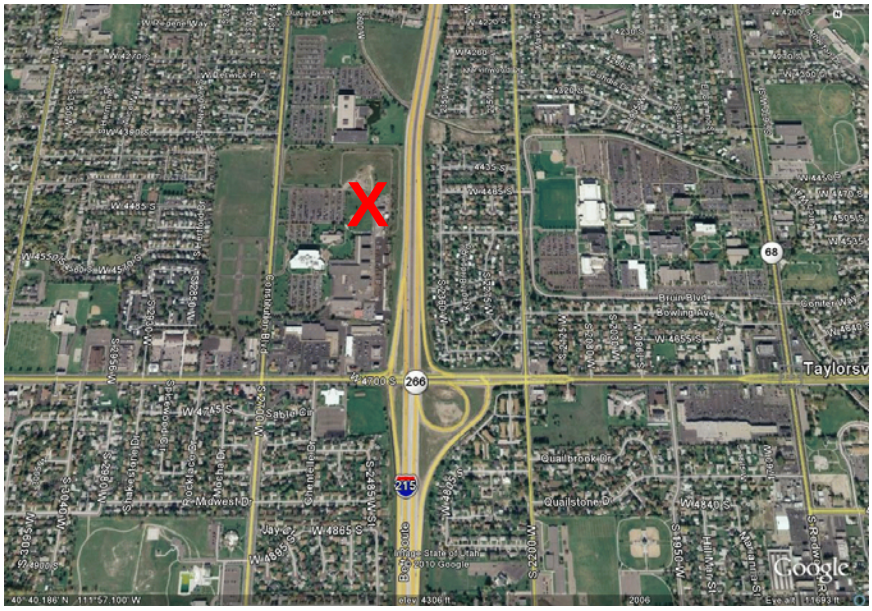
Immunization/Preventative	Date Received	Date Due	Veterinarian
Rabies			
Distemper			
Hepatitis			
Leptospirosis (optional)			
Parainfluenza			
Parvovirus			
Bordatella			
Coronavirus			
Heartworm			
Roundworm			
Hookworm			
Whipworm			
Tapeworm			

I hereby affirm that the Immunization and Preventative information listed above is accurate and that all Immunizations and Preventatives are current and in effect.

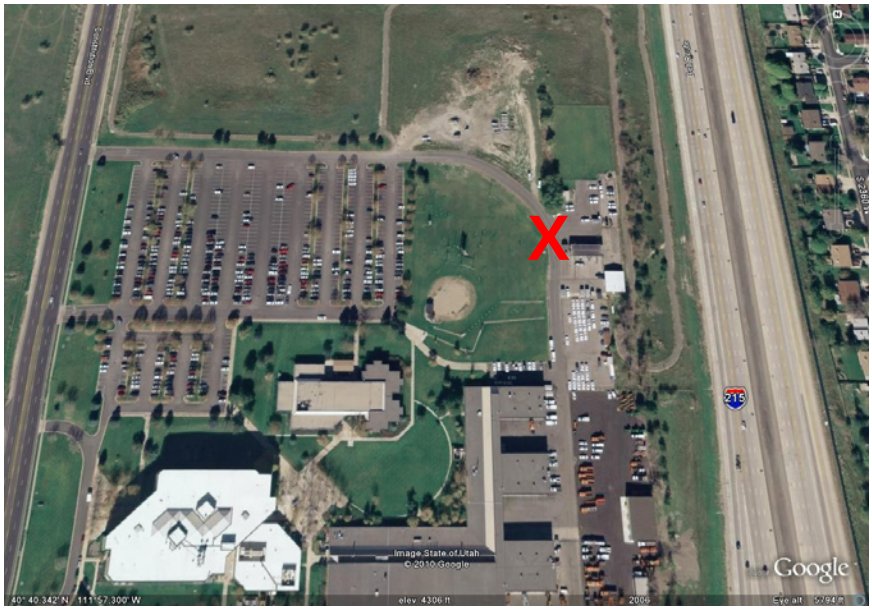
_____ _____

Veterinarian Signature Date

Aerial view of the K-9 Facility and its proximity to I-215 & 4700 South



Closer view of the K-9 Facility on the Calvin Rampton Complex

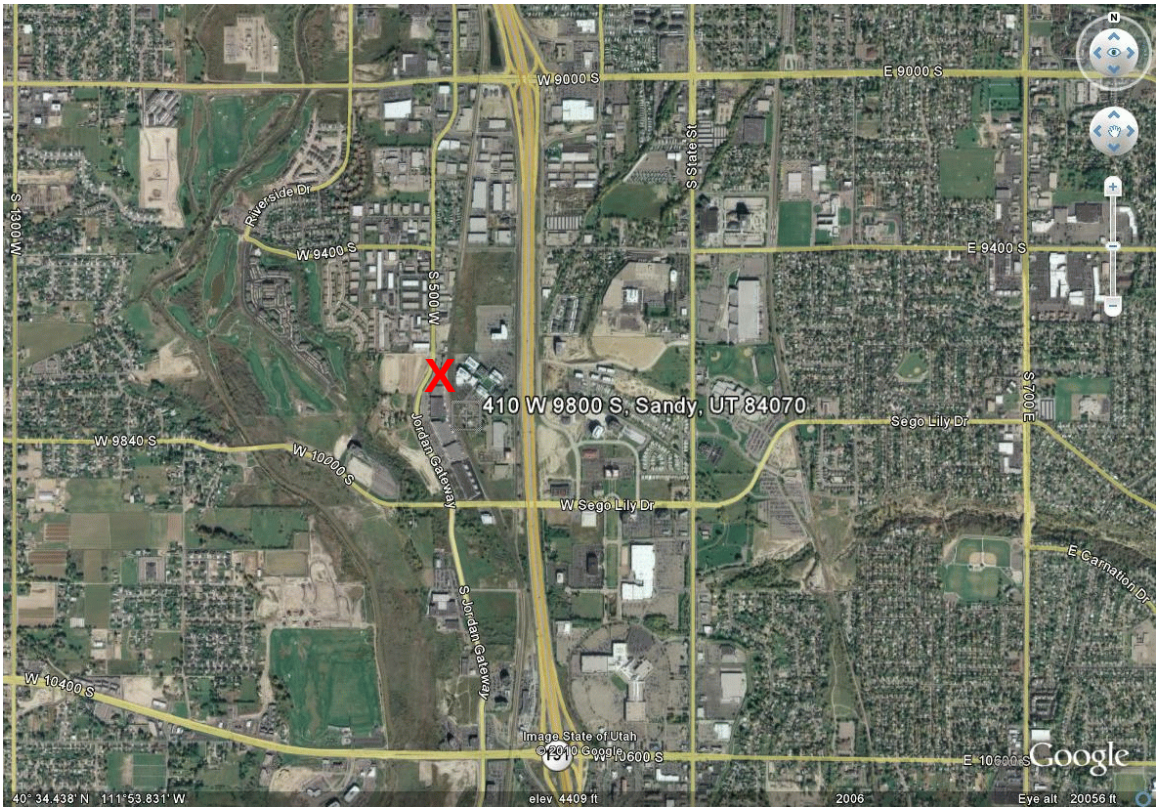


X marks the spot of the K-9 Building

Notice the K-9 Units parked near the K-9 Kennel

High altitude image of the POST dormitory facility.

The GPS is:
40º 34.499 North
111º 54.194 West



Low altitude image of the POST dormitory facility

"X" marks the spot