Board of Trustees

MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY

**PATROL CANINE (K-9) TEAM CERTIFICATION**

# Specification S-17

The following requirements are specified for the certification of Patrol K-9 Teams. A PatrolK-9 Team will consist of a Patrol K-9 Handler and K-9 that together, as a team, have been certified by the Board of Trustees under the guidelines set forth in Specification 17 as described below. A K-9 will be considered certified for law enforcement use if the K-9 and the handler meet the requirements of Specification 17.

A Patrol K-9 Team is a certified K-9 Team consisting of a Handler and K-9, trained as a team in the following areas: Obedience, Agility, Tracking, Officer Protection, Building Search, Article Search, Criminal Apprehension and Other Related Areas.

**General Requirements:**

1. K-9 Advisory Committee (K-9AC)

1. The K-9AC and its Chair will be appointed by the Academy Director and will consist of the following five (5) members who are either a MCJA Certified K-9 Trainer or Assistant Trainer, who must represent the following criminal justice agencies:

1. Maine State Police K-9 Training Unit.
2. Maine Warden Service K-9 Training Unit.
3. Law Enforcement Dogs of Maine.
4. Maine Specialty Dogs (Accelerant) Training Unit.
5. All Points Maine Police Canines
6. A non-voting Academy Training Coordinator.

2. The K-9AC will meet annually and whenever necessary to review the Patrol and Detector K-9 Team Specifications. Specifically, the K-9AC will:

1. Review all the field competency tests and written exams for each K-9

 discipline (patrol and detector) and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair.

1. Review the K-9 Team certification requirements and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair.
2. Review the K-9 Team In-service Training content and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair on updates.
3. Forward to the Academy Director all recommendations of the K-9AC, regarding changes to the Patrol or Detector K-9 Team programs.
4. The Academy Director will forward all certification recommendations to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

# Certification:

1. Be employed as a certified law enforcement or corrections officer and have completed a basic training course for a full-time law enforcement or corrections officer.

B. Be designated by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee of the criminal justice agency as a K-9 Handler.

C. A new Patrol K-9 Handler and new K-9 must successfully complete a Board approved basic Patrol K-9 training course with a minimum of four hundred and thirty (430) hours. Of these four hundred and thirty (430) hours, two hundred and eighty (280) hours must be completed as a Patrol K-9 Team.

D. An experienced Patrol K-9 Handler with or without an experienced K-9 and who has previously held an active K-9 certification from MCJA in the last four (4) years as a Patrol K-9 Team must successfully complete a Board approved basic Patrol K-9 Team training course with a minimum of two hundred and eighty (280) hours.

E. Must successfully pass a written test on Patrol K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.

F. Must successfully pass a Patrol K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

# Recertification:

1. Recertification shall be required annually, by December 31st of each calendar year.
2. The Patrol K-9 Team shall annually, successfully complete a field performance test for Patrol K-9 Teams approved by the Academy Director.
3. The Patrol K-9 Team shall annually complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of supervised classroom or field in-service K-9 training per quarter in Patrol K-9 related training. Quarterly Patrol K-9 in-service training shall be supervised by a Board-certified K-9 trainer.

D. Quarterly Patrol K-9 in-service training requirements or field performance testing may be extended in individual cases by the Academy Director for extenuating circumstances. Any K-9 Handler given an extension of these requirements must submit a written plan to the Academy Director for approval and then must complete the missed training and/or field performance test.

E. The Patrol K-9 Handler, with the permission of the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee, shall submit the proper documentation on the appropriate MCJA reporting forms to the Academy indicating the Patrol K-9 Team has successfully completed the Patrol K-9 in-service training and the annual Patrol K-9 Team field competency test.

F. The Academy Training Coordinator will review the documentation at the end of the calendar year and make the appropriate recommendations to the Academy Director, as outlined in Specification 17.

G. The Academy Director will forward all certification recommendations to the Board.

Adopted: 01/01/2005

Revised: 11/13/2020

Review Date: 09/12/2022

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Richard R. Desjardins, Director Brian R. Pellerin, Chair

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