

Detection Canine Program Regional Explosives Detection Dog Initiative



Science and
Technology

THE CHALLENGE

The Homeland Security Enterprise maintains more than 4,000 explosives detection canine teams across the federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement community. These teams are a demonstrated effective resource, protecting our nation's people and infrastructure; still, some teams face training-related challenges, such as limited resources, time, and/or access to key materials and concepts. To help, DHS Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Detection Canine Program designed, developed, and continues to support the Regional Explosives Detection Dog Initiative (REDDI®), an effort aimed at advancing the knowledge and capabilities of our nation's explosives detection canine teams.



A participating team works one of the event's operational scenarios.

MULTIFACETED SOLUTION

Through REDDI®, S&T is providing a series of regionally based events for detection canine teams in the law enforcement community. The events include classroom instruction covering topics such as recent events, best practices, search tactics, training aid considerations, and information sources. Other event elements, like basic odor recognition trials, yield fundamental understanding, while the operational search scenarios challenge the teams in real-world conditions against real-world threats. These activities provide the individual handlers with valuable insight on their strengths and weaknesses and provide S&T with data that can be used to inform future research investments. Multiple opportunities for training on the event's materials in the event's setting(s) also exist for participating teams.

ARE YOU REDDI®?

REDDI® kicked off in Lee County, Florida in March 2017, and has since reached over 550 explosives detection canine teams spanning 200-plus departments. The S&T team seeks to continue to bring REDDI® to the community at locales around the nation.

"This is an opportunity for S&T's Detection Canine Program to provide further outreach and assistance to the larger regional law enforcement canine community," said Guy Hartsough, S&T Program Manager. "It also provides participants, through demonstration and knowledge sharing, a venue to validate what they are doing right, and identify potential focus areas to strengthen the capabilities of their teams. At the same time, by observing trends, the program will gain additional insights on how to best meet the needs of the whole of the detection canine community."



Basic odor recognition trials are also an event component.

PERFORMERS/PARTNERS

REDDI® is funded by S&T's Detection Canine Program and is supported by subject matter experts from Battelle Memorial Institute.

To learn more, please visit the S&T Detection Canine Program website [at this link](#).

DHS S&T is currently seeking hosting departments for this year's events. To inquire about hosting a REDDI® event for local teams, please contact the S&T Detection Canine Program at stk9@hq.dhs.gov.

