

Explosives Detection Canines

Active Shooter Response Research & Development



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

PROTECTING THE HOMELAND

The Department of Homeland Security Science (DHS) and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Detection Canine Program has extensive and ongoing interaction with first responders through the program's Regional Explosives Detection Dog Initiative (REDDI) events and other outreach. In response to first responder requests, S&T's Detection Canine Program is conducting a pilot demonstration integrating explosive detection canine teams with responder police, fire, and EMS personnel to explore the potential of developing a more effective response to active shooter incidents.

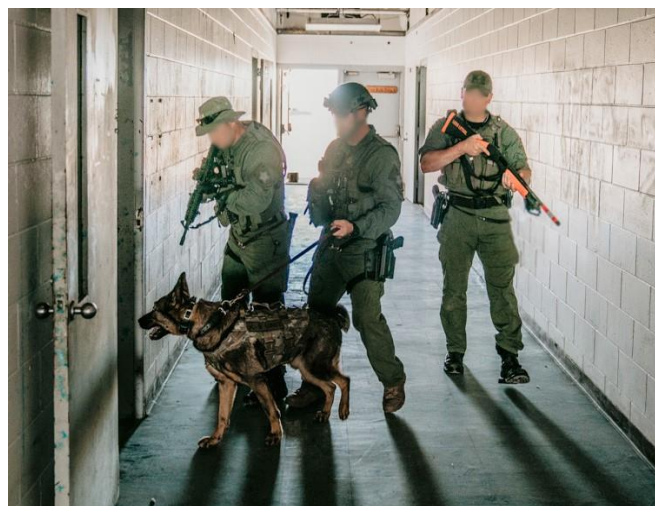
OUR MISSION IS YOUR SAFETY

The mission of the Detection Canine Program is to provide the tools, techniques and knowledge to better understand, train and use detection canine teams, including those specially trained to counter explosive threats. Our customers are the federal, state and local law enforcement end-users of detection canine teams throughout the Homeland Security Enterprise.

The Detection Canine Program is taking a pioneering approach to incorporate the use of explosive detection canine teams into the initial tactical response to active shooter incidents to clear an area of potential explosive threats. Using canine teams in conjunction with law enforcement response will also help facilitate a secure zone for responding fire/EMS assets to rapidly attend to injured victims and affected infrastructure.

The program's partnerships with Battelle Memorial Institute and the [Counterterrorism Advanced Training Center](#) (CTATC) in Immokalee, Florida, provides law enforcement agencies with access to subject matter expertise and a venue uniquely suited to a variety of real-world, operational scenarios.

In these events, first responder participants from the law enforcement, fire, and EMS communities will conduct a roundtable exercise discussing each participant's role in an operationally relevant active shooter exercise, and how detection canine teams can enable a safer and more effective response. Scenarios will include mock encounters with "assailants" as well as "victims" in need of immediate first aid.



Law enforcement personnel participating in an active shooter training drill at the Counterterrorism Advanced Training Center in Immokalee, Florida

"The explosives detection canine is one of the best, most versatile mobile detection tools available for protecting the Homeland from the explosive threat," says Don Roberts, S&T Detection Canine Program Manager. "We are very interested to explore how this detection platform can be best integrated in an active shooter response scenario, to help establish the most effective concept of operations and deployment schemes for detection canines."

The DHS S&T Detection Canine Program is holding two proof-of-principle pilot sessions at CTATC on September 10-12, 2019 and September 17-19, 2019.

