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CANINE PROGRAM AS A COMPONENT OF THE US BORDER PATROL AGENTS' TRAINING

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The article under consideration deals with the issue of the US border patrol vocational training, and canine training as its componential part. The object of the article is the US border patrol canine program; the subject of the article is the structure of the canine program. The aim of the article is to identify main directions and trends of the canine training program; detect its structure and main peculiarities. Received results would play an important role in further research of the US border patrol agents vocational training and serve a good model for other countries in the world in protection their borders.

Key words: border patrol agents, canine program, detection dogs, canine centers, component of training.

Introduction. Today, when world terrorism is constantly developing, people all over the world are looking for new ways and methods of its prevention. The USA as a county that fights against the terrorism can serve a good example of innovative methods against terrorism implementation. The United States Border Patrol is an American federal law enforcement agency. The mission of this agency is to detect and prevent undocumented immigrants, terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the territory of this country. The U.S. Border Patrol is a federal law enforcement agent patrolling the U.S. border to prevent persons from entering or leaving the United States without government permission. Agents detect and prevent the smuggling and unlawful entry of aliens into the United States, along with apprehending those people found to be in violation of immigration laws. Agents work to lower crimes and improve the quality of life in border communities. In some areas, Agents are deputized or have peace-officer status and use it to enforce local and state/territory laws. More than 20,000 Border Patrol Agents safeguard nearly 6,000 miles of land border the United States shares with Canada and Mexico, and more than 2,000 miles of coastal waters [1]. Apart from patrolling and watching, the US Border Patrol has also a special canine program. With the help of special dogs patrolling becomes easier and more efficient. In the aftermath of the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, the realignment of federal agencies and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) thrust the Border Patrol Canine Program into uncharted territory.

The aim of the article is to identify main directions and trends of the canine training program; detect its structure, disciplines, and main peculiarities.

Main Body. In 1986, after an alarming increase in illegal alien apprehensions and narcotics seizures, the senior leadership of the Border Patrol confirmed the necessity of detection dogs along American borders. This realization led to the creation of a pilot program. This program consisted of four canine teams. It was decided that the canines would be trained in the detection of specific narcotics and human beings. It was presupposed that the canines would be trained to alert to either human beings or narcotics in a passive manner to avoid injury to humans and damage to vehicles. These teams were trained at the Global Training Academy, located in San Antonio, Texas. The first four canines were trained to detect concealed humans, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. On April 18, 1987, these canine teams entered on duty. Due to the overwhelming realization of the impact a trained detection canine had on operations, by the end of 1988, the Border Patrol added 75 additional certified canine teams [2].

In order to establish consistency in training and certification standards, the U.S. Border Patrol began to explore the option of establishing its own canine training facility. Due to its central location along the southern border and a climate that is favorable to outdoor training year-round, a location on Biggs Army Air Field in El Paso, Texas was acquired by the U.S. Border Patrol.

On March of 1993, the first instructor course "*Detection Instructor Class I*" began. During the early years of the program different contractors trained both canines and handlers. Dogs working at ports of entry are essentially used as detection devices, but at checkpoints, their skills are absolutely necessary in the development of probable cause, which is required before search and seizure activities can begin. In its turn, training for handlers consists of a six-week program which is both physically and mentally demanding. A series of written tests are required of the handlers as well as continuous evaluation of their skills with the canine. By the end of the year 1993, the U.S. Border Patrol's National Canine Facility (NCF) successfully completed two Detection Instructor/Handler Classes. As a result of these two classes, eleven instructor students and six handler teams graduated. Drawing from ideologies and disciplines from European working dog standards, the training at NCF received accolades and recognition from local, state, federal, and various international law enforcement agencies [4].

As a component of the newly formed U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the U.S. Border Patrol's National Canine Facility NCF continued operating under the same principles that laid the foundation for

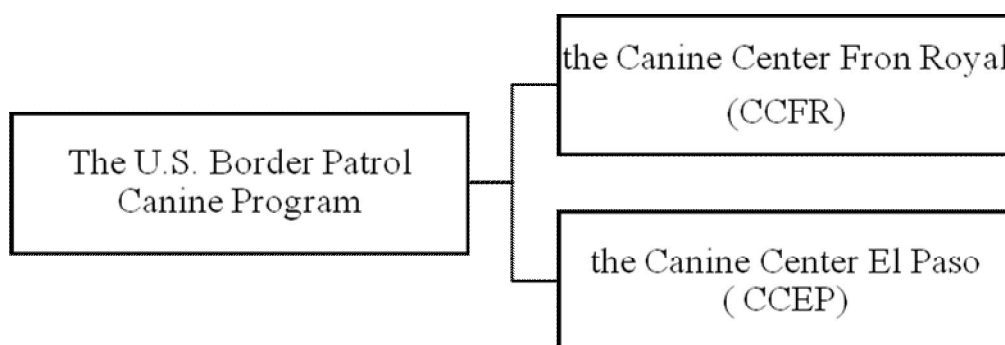
its success: *Honesty, Integrity, Leadership, and Focus* on keeping the United States and its citizen's safe. In the fall of 2005, NCF was consolidated under CBP's Office of Training and Development (OTD) and renamed Canine Center El Paso (CCEP).

On October 1, 2009, the CBP Canine Program was created, merging CCEP with the Office of Field Operation's (OFO) Canine Center Front Royal under the direction of the newly established CBP Canine Program Headquarters.

In October of 2009, the unified CBP Canine Program was instituted with two training delivery sites, the Canine Center Front Royal (CCFR), formerly OFO's Canine Enforcement Training Center, and the Canine Center El Paso (CCEP) (see table 1) [3].

Table 1.

The U. S. BP Canine Program



CBP took the best practices from the OFO and USBP canine programs, each rich with history, tradition, and success, and combined them into one standardized curriculum containing identical training philosophies and methodologies geared toward individual agency operational requirements. This compatibility strengthened CBP's ability to effectively deploy manpower to meet operational requirements regardless of mission and/or operational component; in effect, multiplying CBP's canine force through unification. originally, the centers only trained detective dogs to identify concealed humans and narcotics. Today the program includes several disciplines:

1. Concealed Human and Narcotic Detection

Training and certification in all aspects of canine behavior, along with handling, training and employing a passive response detection canine. Canines are taught to detect concealed humans and the odors of controlled substances, which include:

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Methamphetamine
- Hashish

- Ecstasy

Both the Officer/Agent and the canine are taught proper search sequences when searching private and commercial conveyances; freight, luggage, mail and premises. This commonality brings with it the opportunity to seamlessly interchange staff to further integrate the CBP Canine Program.

2. Search and Rescue

The Search and Rescue canine teams are trained in three disciplines: obedience, tracking/trailing and large area search. The student candidates hone their land navigation skills during the training of the large area search. The students must demonstrate the proper procedures for using topographic maps, compasses, and global positioning systems. The canine teams are introduced to and receive training in rappelling for helicopter operations; backtracking, and deployments in various environments (snow, desert, forest, and mountains).

3. Tracking

An outgrowth of human detection training, this course involves the handler and canine being taught to follow the route of a person or persons. This discipline is used in the apprehension of persons and as an evidence-gathering tool during criminal investigations, and is operations-specific.

4. Canine Instructor

This is an advanced technical training course for CBP Canine Instructors responsible for managing the Canine Program at the Sector/Port of Entry level. The objectives of this course are to train experienced agents/officers to function as canine instructors for their respective units. Training includes assisting the CBP Canine Program training site instructor staff in the systematic development and progression of canine teams undergoing training in basic detection, search and rescue, human remains, currency/firearms and special response disciplines. Using existing outlines, lesson plans, and text materials, officers/agents are taught to present blocks of academic and field instruction relating to the training and proficiency of the detection canine team to classes undergoing basic instruction.

5. Special Response (Patrol)

The Special Response (Patrol) Canine Program was initiated to address several issues that included:

- Post-9/11 response in support of the War on Terror; increasing levels of violence along the border;
- an increase in assaults against border agents and illegal aliens; and
- enhancement of operational effectiveness and officer safety.

The Special response canine trained in human detection/tracking and the physical apprehension of violent subjects is singularly suited for this need.

6. Canine Currency/Firearms Detection

Canines are taught to detect concealed U.S. currency and firearms. Both the Officer/Agent and canine are taught the proper search sequences when searching vehicles, aircraft, freight, luggage, mail, passengers and premises.

7. Human Remains Detection/Cadaver

A regimen added to the search and rescue capability, canines are trained in the mission of locating the remains of persons who have expired in remote, barren areas due to exhaustion, exposure and dehydration. This skill is also used in missing person and suspicious death investigations.

Speaking about the canines, it should be mentioned that canines are currently purchased by the Service originate in Europe and are provided by a vendor under contract to the Service. The canines include: Belgian Malinois, Dutch Shepherds and German Shepherds. Once delivered to the NFC each dog is tested. Only those canines that pass all phases of testing are retained for training [5].

Conclusions. So, to draw the conclusion it is necessary to admit that today, the training staff at CCFR produces some of the best detection canines, certified canine instructors, and canine handlers in the world. CCER is an intrinsic part of the success of the Border patrol canine program, supplying the highest quality canines and training to BB agents. CCFR employees continue training canine teams in various disciplines, for multiple law enforcement agencies, with the capability of CBP's global mission; protecting the United States.

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