



# GAK9

## PROFESSIONAL TRACKER SCHOOL

EXPERIENCE A TRACKING  
SCHOOL LIKE NEVER BEFORE,  
LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL EDISTO  
ISLAND, SC





# INTRO TO GAK9'S PROFESSIONAL TRACKER SCHOOL

This school is truly the first of its kind in the United States. Never before has there been a full time training program specifically designed for law enforcement tracking. Unlike many other programs that concentrate on a variety of K9 disciplines, primarily detection, the Georgia K9 NTC Tracker School is pure tracking, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Our program is dedicated to the tracker and we don't do it part time or on request; we live and breathe it. Georgia K9 NTC produces and develops proven man-hunters and our clients are our best advertisement. There is no other K9 Trainer in the world today that trains more professional military and police K9 trackers than we do. We are the "Go To" source for specialized combat tracking for our military as well as tactical support operations for Law Enforcement SWAT.







# BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAILING COURSE

## BASIC TRAILING COURSE

- This course is designed for the new trailing handler just starting out with scent discrimination and long distance trailing. We teach you the basics of scent article production, preservation, and protection, (The Three P's), trailing equipment, and basic handling techniques.
- This class is five days. Day one morning is scent theory classroom with videos and slide shows. The afternoon is handler and K9 evaluations. Days 2-5 are all hands on fieldwork in the areas of K9 trailing and visual tracking.
- 6 Student minimum for "off-site" training; 1 Trainer to 6 Student Ratio. We require a classroom with AV capability including a projector.
- Edisto Island Tracker School Training is a maximum of 1-3 students. We offer on site handler's quarters that include room and board for handler's and K9's. We have large 40X40' out door dog runs as well as indoor kennels for inclement weather.
- Our handler's quarters are in a completely refurbished 200 year old cabin with a loft, screened in porch, kitchen, bathroom, and satellite TV.
- \*\*Each Student will receive a copy of Jeff's 200 page training manual: K9 Trailing; The Straightest Path. Alpine Publications, 2010.

## ADVANCED TRAILING COURSE

- This class takes over where the basic course left off. We teach the student how to handle urban scenarios and begin to work on trailing tactics.
- This is a five-day course of all fieldwork. No down time in the classroom other than review of personal training video.
- We offer on site handler's quarters that include room and board for handler's and K9's. We have large 40X40' out door dog runs as well as indoor kennels for inclement weather.
- Our handler's quarters are in a completely refurbished 200 year old cabin with a loft, screened in porch, kitchen, bathroom, and satellite TV.





# TTTK9 TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY

This course is designed to teach SWAT teams the fundamental elements of successful long-range, high-risk fugitive manhunt ops. Our program includes command post operations, tactical tracking K9 team field craft, and support unit applications.

Our cadre is comprised of military and law enforcement trainers with actual field experience in combat K9 operations and law enforcement high-risk fugitive manhunts. We have not simply trained in these techniques we have lived by them. Ambush Exercise With Officer Extraction and Tactical Trail.

Concept:

Georgia K9 NTC's Tactical Tracker Teams Program has been in existence since 1999. We began this program after numerous high-risk K9 trailing/ tracking operations in various parts of the United States. Recognizing that there are inherent risks and advantages to a good trailing dog in these scenarios, we developed a concept that works effectively to minimize operator risk while maximizing the possibility of suspect capture.

This program was no easy task as there were never any real modern law enforcement models to learn from. We teamed up with combat veterans from a very specialized US Army occupational specialty named "Combat Tracker Teams", (CTT), who had utilized tracking/ trailing dogs to great advantage in the jungles of Viet Nam. We were so impressed with the combat record of these incredible handlers and team members that we used their operations model and gave it a modern law enforcement application. Our CTT veterans are integral elements to our cadre.

Our TTTK9 Program is designed to "train the trainer". The goal of TTTK9 is for our students to take this high-risk fugitive manhunt model to their respective agencies and develop a program that fits within their respective MOU's and use of force policies.

The TTT Crest is a K-9 Paw over Crossed Kukris Swords. The kukris are the famous edged weapons of the world renowned Ghurka warriors who have served in the British armed forces over the last two centuries. The crest symbolizes the warrior's tenacity and K-9 skill to cut a track or path. The five man silhouette symbolizes the five man K-9 team tactical concept.

Georgia K9 NTC offers Tactical Tracker Training at our facility or off site.

We offer field exercises in an area several thousand acres in size to maximize the quality and intensity of the training. Our five-day Tactical Tracker Seminar features field exercises in actual mock manhunts utilizing tracking trailing dogs to locate "subjects".



## **Training Curriculum:**

1. TTT Deployment Scenarios/ 5-man Team Concept
2. Visual Tracking training and FTX
3. TTT Formations and tactical movement.
4. Patrol techniques
5. Command Post Ops
6. Sniper & REACT
7. Land navigation
8. Counter-ambush
9. K9 Proximity Alerts
10. Manhunt Field Training Exercises

## **Final Test & Certification at the end of the course**

**\*\*This course is a high-drive program held almost exclusively in the field. Exceptional physical fitness and endurance is a requirement. Students must be prepared for any environmental conditions and very long hours in the field in inclement weather.**

Because the nature of our program is related to officer safety, we purposely minimize web site content and photographs.

Sworn law enforcement officers and their administrators:

Our TTT program is currently California POST certified. Please contact our law enforcement TTT trainers for course outline and hourly distribution.

LE Liaison:

We have a secure Web Photo Gallery of actual TTT training of SWAT operators in action. This gallery is available only to sworn law enforcement officers and US Military. Please contact us for a username and password and then click on the TTT Photo Gallery Link.



# TTT CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

This evaluation is designed to effectively evaluate a particular K-9 team's ability to track or trail a person through scent discrimination practices. The evaluation only tests a K-9 team's ability to identify and utilize a particular human scent to find that unique individual. The evaluation does not test any other form of K-9 work to include obedience, protection, or area search techniques.

The tests are in three separate levels to encourage more training and achievement in the areas of scent discrimination tracking/ trailing. Level 1 must be passed before continuing to the next level of testing. Each level is result oriented and does not evaluate a dog's behaviors or mannerisms while tracking/ trailing. It is simply a test of the dog's ability to get from point A to point B and find the correct person.

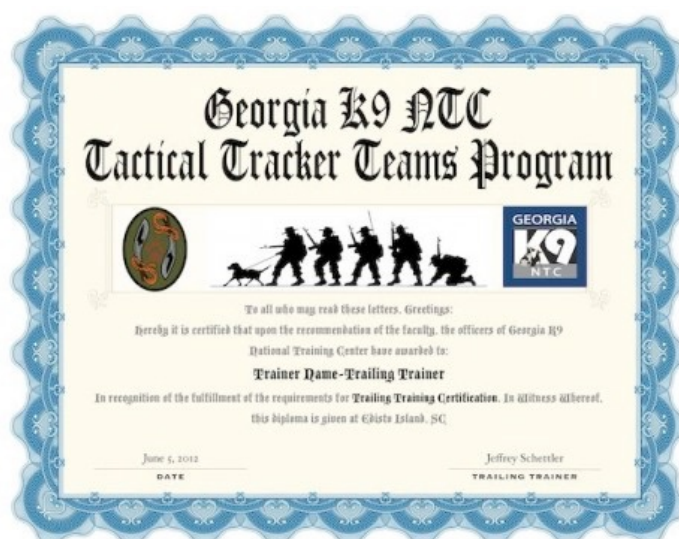
K-9 teams are not required to stay directly on the path or trail or the "suspect" as scent patterns may change depending upon conditions. However, the team must run in a generally parallel direction to that of the trail. Area search patterns are not permitted.

The age and distance of the trails are not exact as it is difficult if not impossible for a "suspect" to travel an exact distance in realistic conditions. The distances and ages are guidelines and will be adhered to as conditions dictate.

Trailing is generally a K9 search method employing harness and long leads, (10-20'), however, it is clear that it is not the harness and the long lead that make the trail a success. Handlers may employ whatever tack or lack thereof necessary to work their own individual K9. Handlers may also employ whatever methodology, (other than area search), they choose to engage the K9 on the trail. Force techniques such as running the lead under the dog's leg to force the nose to the ground are highly discouraged.

In each of the trailing certifications listed below, the evaluator charged with administering these tests will not be allowed to see the laying of the trail. GPS with "bread crumb" capabilities will be employed by the trail layer subject should the trail or subject need to be found if the K9 fails. The evaluator may carry a mated GPS to the subject's and the handler will not be able to see the GPS until after the test.

One observer of the K9 teams' choosing may accompany the K9 team at the approval of the evaluator. The observer may act as a "cover man" and assist the K9 handler with obstacles, distractions, and dangerous situations. The observer may not communicate with the handler in regards to search strategy. Though the cover man may at times be needed to strategize with the handler and handle the K9 in real world situations, he or she will not be allowed to do so for the purposes of these tests.





# TTT TRAINING LEVELS

## Level I

### 1) Scent evidence collection and use

A) The handler is shown a mock crime or search scenario. The handler must correctly identify and collect scent article to start the K-9.

B) The article may be fixed or moveable and must have been handled or touched by the subject.

C) The handler must ensure the article was uncontaminated or take appropriate counter-measures if it was.

D) The handler may use the K-9 in an evidence search mode in order to obtain a scent article.

### 2) Starting the K-9 on the scent material

A) The K-9 must actively scent from the material by a handler-articulated activity, such as a hand-sweep.

B) The handler must give a search command when the K-9 takes scent.

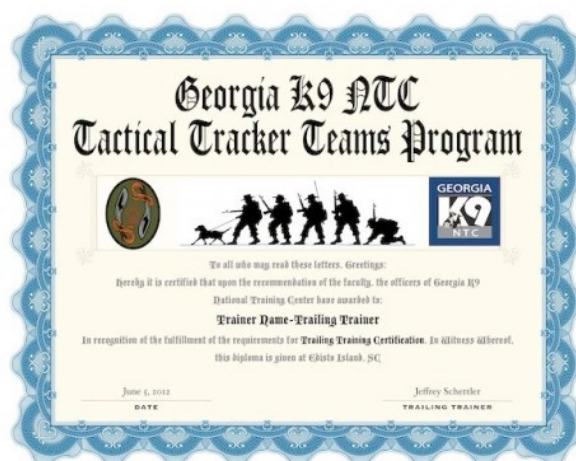
### 3) The track/ trail

A) The trail will be on soft surface at least 600 yards with 2 turns and subject hiding and unmoving at the end. The age of the trail will be approximately one hour old.

B) The wind will not be in the K-9's favor. The subject will be up-wind.

C) Prior to trail commencement, the handler must articulate what the dog does when it finds the correct person.

D) 20 minute time limit for successful trail completion.





## Level II

Article collection and use is the same as with level I.

### 1) The track/ trail

A) The trail will be at least 700 yards and not more than ½ mile of at least 2 different surfaces; dirt, grass, concrete, gravel, black-top, etc. At least 1 change of surface will occur coupled with 3 turns. There will be at least one obstacle that the K9 team will have to negotiate or bypass. The age of the trail will be no more than four hours old.

B) The subject will be up-wind and hiding.

C) The handler must articulate the dog's ID.

D) One distraction will be placed on the trail, either another animal or human. The dog must ignore the distraction or briefly check it and go back to work.

E) 30 minute time limit.

## Level III

Article collection and use is the same as with Level I.

### 1) The track/ trail

A) The trail will be approximately 850 yards with hard and soft surfaces in a urban type environment. There will be at least three hard turns. The age will be approximately 2 hours old.

B) The subject will be down-wind and hiding.

C) The handler must articulate the dog's ID.

D) 1 human or animal distraction will be part of the testing environment.

E) 45 minute time limit.

## Level IV

Article collection and use is the same as with Level I.

### 1) The track/ trail

A) The trail will be approximately 1500 yards and hard surface only coupled with 3 turns. There will be at least two obstacles the K9 team must negotiate or bypass. The age will be approximately 4 hours old.

B) The subject will be down-wind and hiding.

C) The handler must articulate the dog's ID.

D) 1 moving human or animal distraction should be part of the testing environment.





# TACTICAL & TRAILING EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Comfortable dog harness
- Long lead 20-30 foot
- Stout dog collars
- Portable water containers, camel packs are best
- At least two pairs of boots you can run in
- Loose pants that can take some abuse
- Rain gear
- Personal first aid kit
- Sunscreen
- Flea and tick products
- Small red lens flashlight or headlamp. LED is best
- Brimmed hat
- Gloves that allow you to shoot
- At least one box of sterile 4X4 gauze pads
- At least one box of zip-lock baggies.
- Shooting glasses clear or amber.
- Any medical item you might need in the field
- Knife or utility tool.
- Small spool of para-cord.
- Small fire starting kit or wet/dry matches.
- Protein bars or similar fast snack with calories
- Communications gear if you plan on operating as a team without hand and arm signals.



**Boots need to fit the environment.** Training areas with lots of water or swamp land will mean that your feet will get wet. If your boots cannot drain, they will need to be changed frequently to avoid blisters and other foot problems. If you are not used to trailing long distance, keep in mind that you will be walking and jogging from 4-12 miles per day. Make sure your boots are broken in and comfortable for this type of activity. You cannot simply test wear boots on the street for a day to know this. It is important to run and walk long distances on uneven surfaces to know this. This is the most important part of the equipment list. Your feet will not forgive you if you use the wrong boots or shoes.

### **For All Tactical Field Work Training:**

- Please wear a camouflage type uniform for field exercises of a woodland or jungle background. Black, Urban grey/ blue cammo is not suitable. Keep in mind that you will be a target in FTX's and if you stand out like a sore thumb, you will probably get hit.
- Because the FTX's will be "live fire" absolutely no personal firearms or live ammunition are to be carried in any manner in the field except by TTT trainers or staff. You may wear your holsters on duty web gear, helmets, or any other normal equipment that you might have during rural manhunts.
- Take the time to check all your gear for serviceability prior to FTX's. We recommend that all shiny surfaces be dulled with tape or paint. All loose and noisy accoutrements on any web gear need to be fastened down or taped together to reduce noise. If you can jump up and down with your web gear on and you jingle, you have some work to do. Check your dog's gear for the same noise making items. If your dog's gear makes noise you will give your position away on FTX's.







# EDISTO ISLAND LODGING

Lodging on site is either at our 200 year old modernized cabin that can sleep two comfortably or our Off The Grid Prepper house that houses one or a couple. Both are decked out with everything anyone would need for a vacation stay.

Cabins include:

- Satellite TV with all the channels
- WiFi
- Kennels (provided upon request.)
- We have three other cabins off site for larger groups.

We are the only K9 training facility that offers first class Bed & Breakfast style living quarters for not only the handler, but family members as well. Furthermore, Edisto Island is a vacation paradise. We are conveniently located only five miles from Edisto Beach, 2 miles from Botany Bay, and Edisto Island offers some of the best fishing and hunting available in the US.

Train hard all week and spend your weekend with your family fishing or kayaking. If you are a hunter, book a guided boar, turkey, deer hunt with one of our local outfitters. Train here with us once and you will come back again and again.

## ADDRESS:

**GAK9 South Carolina | 8261 Manse Rd | Edisto Island, SC 29438 | (843) 822-1315**





# CONTACT

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