

Frequently Asked Questions: Firearms Detection Canine Teams



To mitigate the rising active shooter threat, organizations must embrace a comprehensive and layered security posture. While technology continues to serve as a valuable component of every security program, industry experts agree: no innovation rivals a properly imprinted and trained canine. MSA Security®, An Allied Universal® Company, recently expanded its world-renowned Explosive Detection Canine program to include Firearms Detection Canine (FDC) Teams. Here are answers to a few frequently asked questions about this new service.

1. What is MSA Security's new Firearms Detection Canine solution?

MSA's FDC Teams offer a unique and dynamic solution to the rising active shooter and workplace violence threats. FDC Teams are trained to detect odors associated with firearms, identifying their presence in restricted facilities. They serve as a strong deterrent to bad actors who intend to cause harm and empower security teams to proactively respond to any unauthorized firearms.

2. How many FDC Teams does MSA Security currently deploy?

MSA Security deploys more than 50 FDC Teams across the country, in addition to 800+ Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) Teams. With a rapidly growing footprint, new teams complete training each month.

Frequently Asked Questions: Firearms Detection Canine Teams (cont.)

3. In what environments can FDC Teams be deployed?

FDC Teams are deployed in a variety of environments to deter and detect the presence of firearms, while maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for employees and guests. Common sites include:

-  Commercial Real Estate
-  Shopping Malls
-  Landmarks
-  Schools
-  Healthcare Settings
-  Sports Venues
-  Theaters, Museums and Cultural Institutions

4. How are Firearms Detection Canines different from Explosive Detection Canines?

All FDCs are first trained as EDCs at one of MSA's 10 regional training sites. They learn to detect all five families of commercial and military grade explosives, including gunpowder and homemade explosives.

FDC Teams then complete additional training to detect odors associated with firearms, whether or not previously fired. These odors include cleaning solvents, oils, holster materials and more. All FDC Teams are trained in odor tracking so they can identify a firearm on a moving person and follow the scent to the source, even in crowded venues.



5. Can FDC Teams also be trained to detect other contraband, such as narcotics?

MSA Security canines operate as single-purpose only, trained solely for security detection work. The resolution process for detecting narcotics or other contraband is different from that of explosives or firearms indication. With a single-purpose canine, the handler and client know without question that the substance detected is a firearm or explosive that poses a potentially imminent threat to individuals in the vicinity, unlike that of narcotics.

6. What breeds are used for firearms detection?

MSA canines are all sporting and herding breeds. This includes German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Labrador Retrievers. Clients that prefer a strong visual deterrent for their facility often elect for pointy eared breeds, such as the Shepherds or Malinois. Those requiring a more approachable presentation typically choose to utilize Labrador Retrievers. All MSA canines are carefully vetted to meet rigorous health, temperament and obedience standards. They are well socialized and trained to optimal operational proficiency levels.

Frequently Asked Questions: Firearms Detection Canine Teams (cont.)

7. Are MSA FDC Teams trained for patrol/bite work?

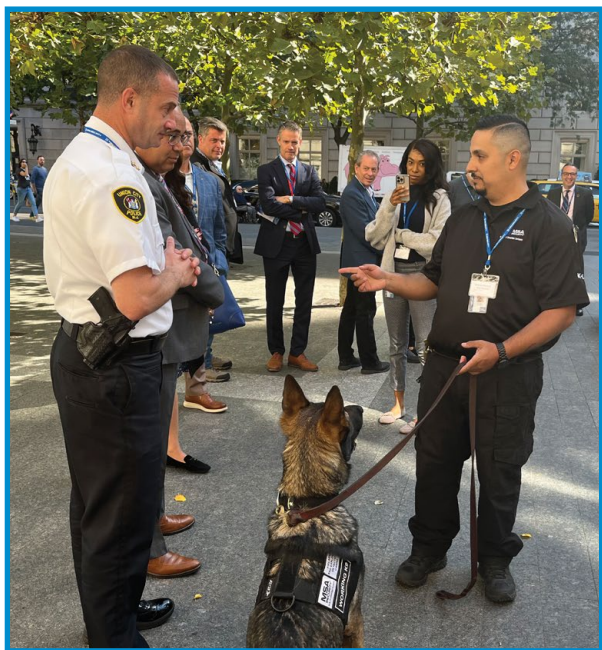
No. MSA's Firearms Detection Canines are single-purpose detection canines. Canines are evaluated for their sociability before they enter our program and on an ongoing basis thereafter.

8. How do weather conditions affect canine operations?

FDC Teams can operate in a wide range of environmental conditions including rain, snow or heat. Canines are highly motivated to work and remain undeterred by adverse conditions that might limit technology. In extreme conditions, such as severe snow, rain or heat, handlers closely monitor their canine's behavior, adjusting the pace of work to provide adequate rest in climate-controlled environments. MSA's single handler methodology ensures each handler is responsible for the health and welfare of his or her canine partner.

9. What is the accuracy rate for MSA's FDC Teams?

Detection canines carry a 50-year track record for accuracy and success. MSA's canines are trained to a proficiency standard of 90% or above. They are independently evaluated annually and required to regularly meet these high standards to remain operational. When a canine alerts, the handler is confident in a potential threat.



10. How close must a canine be to indicate on a firearm?

FDC Teams can perform accurately without close contact, or intrusive or invasive searches. For indoor settings, canines can effectively screen individuals who are up to six to 10 feet away. In outdoor settings, their precise ability can vary based on weather conditions such as wind, rain and snow.

11. Do the dogs alert on the handler's firearm?

MSA canines are trained to operate in accordance with their handler's direction. They will not alert on an odor unless they are actively searching, as directed by the handler. They are trained to ignore the persistent scent associated with their handler's firearm and are only rewarded when alerting to a weapon on another individual while actively searching.

12. What is the resolution process once a canine indicates the presence of a firearm?

Once a canine alerts on someone carrying a firearm, the canine is removed from the scene and information is relayed to the client's security representative for resolution in a manner consistent with their standard operating procedures. MSA works collaboratively with clients at the start of each new contract to determine appropriate standard operating procedures and step-down processes associated with canine indications.



13. Can I integrate FDC Teams if my personnel are afraid of dogs?

Yes, with the right introduction and socialization process, canines can successfully perform services even around reticent employees. MSA has successfully integrated canines into security programs around the world, in many areas where cultural factors limit employee and patron comfort around dogs. All MSA canines are highly social and can operate without interference to existing operations. Additionally, MSA's operations team will work with an organization to introduce the FDC Team to personnel and patrons so they can slowly acclimate to the dog's presence in a progressive manner.

14. How are MSA canines treated at home?

To ensure the welfare of each canine and strengthen performance in the field, all MSA FDC Teams operate on a single-handler basis. This model builds and reinforces a special workbond between the handler and canine. Dogs are never kenneled. They live at home with their handler and family, which provides a comfortable, stable, loving and fun environment, just like any family pet.

15. How much notice is required to secure FDC services?

MSA Security is growing its pipeline of trained FDC Teams each month. For full-time teams, there is an approximate two- to three-month lead time for new clients. Special event requests can be accommodated on an expedited basis when resources are available.

16. Is there an opportunity to see the canine team demonstrate how they would operate within our facility and security program?

Yes. MSA Security is happy to schedule demonstrations for existing and prospective customers. For more information, contact your account manager or info@msasecurity.net.