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information
BULLETIN
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New York – Task Force 2 (NYTF-2) Takes Top Honors in K-9 Search & Rescue Competition.

Four members of the NYTF-2 USAR Team and their K-9 partners recently participated in a week long competition and training evaluation. The Teams of Greg Gould & Kura, John Stewart & Lani, Bill Simmes & Bonnie, and Jason Geary & Marsi, along with K-9 Search Team Manager Tony Santulli, participated in the competition. K-9 Team Manager Santulli coordinated the NYTF-2 teams response and operations at each event. Tony's participation and coordination was cited as one of the reasons why the NYTF-2 K-9 Teams functioned so well.

The scenario was a typhoon that had hit the area trapping several people and flooding the area. The simulated catastrophe created several sink holes, mass building collapse and a Navy Destroyer over-turning. Teams were transported by the Coast Guard out to the destroyer where teams had to search all levels for trapped crew members. Teams were transported by a county sheriff's department helicopter to conduct safe boarding and flight operations. Large warehouses, abandoned motel/resort and seminary dorms, classrooms and a chapel slated for demolition were used for building searches. The local county fire training academy was set up for a large area search including tunnels, sink holes, piled up vehicles, chemical storage, rubble piles, and high-rises buildings. Operations started at 5:00 am and continued through 6:00 pm. Approximately two hours were allotted for each location including travel time.

Points were given for:
Safety,
Briefing information collected from witnesses on scene,
Search Team Manager strategies,
Team work,
Victims found,
Canine health and care.

Four teams participated representing Nevada, Southern California, Central California and New York State. New York's Teams took top honors in points.

"The fact we continue to train twice a week and have a Search Team Manager that has taken the canine handler course and team manager's course and knows the characteristics of the dogs and handlers, is what got us to where we are." Said team member, Bill Simmes.

Congratulations to all of the K-9 Teams for an excellent showing!

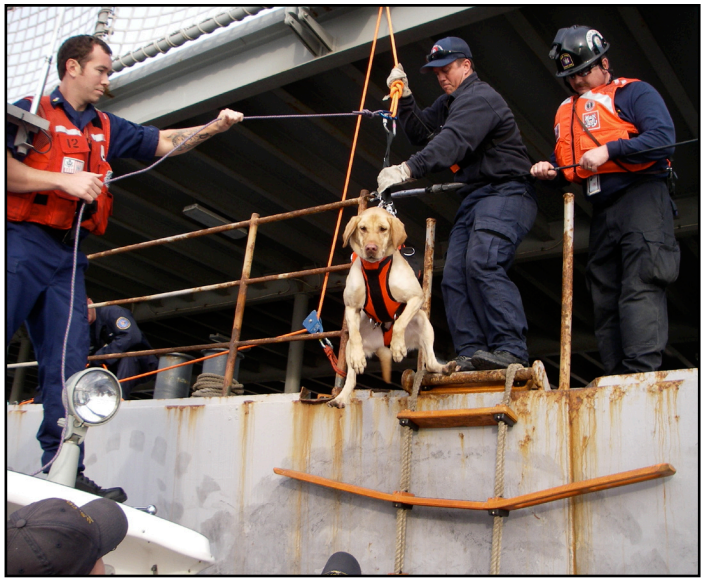
NYS Department of State
OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL

phone 518.474.6746
fax 518.474.3240
email fire@dos.state.ny.us

Greg Gould & Kura on Pallet Pile searching for victim

John Stewart and Lani coming off pallet pile from finding victim

Bill Simmes and Greg Gould aboard Coast Guard boat heading out to the Destroyer USS Foster



Bonnie being lowered to Coast Guard boat from destroyer

Kura, Bonnie, Lani and Marsi taking a break after searching for victims aboard the Destroyer USS Foster, Greg Gould is background at railing.