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December 20, 2013

**Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission
Technical Memorandum 2013-18**

TO: Criminal Justice Training Schools

FROM: Director Jennifer C. Pritt *KSG for JCP*
Criminal Justice Professionalism

SUBJECT: Implementation of New Canine Courses Pending Rule Promulgation

Specialized Course 1198 Canine Team Training Course and Specialized Instructor Course 1199 Canine Team Training Instructor Course were rewritten in 2012 and approved by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission with an effective date of November 7, 2013. The new courses incorporate the latest training techniques and instruction on legal issues related to the use of canine in criminal justice activities. New rules necessary for implementing these courses are related to instructor certification, instructor-to-student ratio, performance standards, remediation, canine certification, handler qualifications, equivalency training, new CJSTC forms, and other topics. The revised rules were approved by the Commission on November 7, 2013, but final promulgation of the rules is not expected until mid-2014.

During the interim period between CJSTC approval and final adoption of the rules, when delivering this course, training centers must observe all requirements as stated in the course. However, training centers may not fail students based on the new proficiency and certification requirements, and instructors are required to use the CJSTC forms currently in effect to document the course delivery and performance evaluations.

For consistency, instructors may also use the revised forms that match the new curriculum, including Canine Team Performance Evaluation form CJSTC-83, Canine Team Instructor Performance Evaluation form CJSTC-20 (new), and Canine Team Certification Application form CJSTC-70A (new), which were approved by the Commission on November 7, 2013.

The revised courses, including an explanation of all canine team, evaluator, and instructor requirements are available through ATMS. FDLE will notify training schools via a Technical Memorandum when the new rules become final.

For further assistance, please contact Field Specialist Donna Suereth at 813-267-7144 or donnasuereth@fdle.state.fl.us.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission