

Department of Homeland Security  
Transportation Security  
Administration

National Explosives Detection Canine Team  
Program



Welcome  
Vietnam Dog Handlers  
Association

Lackland Air Force Base  
San Antonio TX

October 24, 2008

## **Mission Statement**

**The National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program (NEDCTP) exists to deter and detect the introduction of explosives devices into the transportation system. In addition, bomb threats cause disruption of air, land and sea commerce and pose an unacceptable danger to the traveling public and should be resolved quickly. Explosives Detection Canine Teams are a proven reliable resource to detect explosives and are a key component in a balanced counter-sabotage program. The use of highly trained Explosives Detection Canine Teams is also a proven deterrent to terrorism directed towards transportation systems and provides a timely and mobile response to support facilities, rail stations, airports, passenger terminals, seaports and surface carriers.**



## **Vision Statement**

**To provide premier explosives detection canine team capabilities nation-wide, through partnerships established with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and to provide technical assistance on a global basis.**

## **History**

**The NEDCTP was established in 1972 as the Explosives Detection Canine Team Program within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Civil Aviation Security. The program, initially operating under the Law Enforcement Assistance Program and was designed to place certified canine teams at strategic locations throughout the nation so that any aircraft receiving a bomb threat could quickly divert to an airport with a canine team. The program at this point was managed by the FAA, U.S. Air Force and the Military Working Dog School at Lackland AFB, TX until the middle 90's. Prior to 9/11 the program was re-designated ownership from FAA to TSA and then as a result of the events of September 11, 2001, the canine program was transferred to the newly developed Department of Homeland Security under the authority of the Aviation Transportation Security Act (ATSA) the following November.**

**The NEDCTP has expanded significantly over the years as a result of recommendations by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, the Security Baseline Working Group of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and the events of September 11, 2001. The White House Commission agreed that an increase in the number of well trained dogs and handlers would make a significant and rapid improvement in security, while the Security Baseline Working Group recommended placing at least six canine teams at all of the nation's largest airports. After September 11, 2001,**

**TSA received supplemental funding to help expand the program again. For the first time in the program's history, TSA-certified explosives detection canine teams are stationed at each of the nation's largest airports.**

**Current events again have expanded the NEDCTP. With the terrorist attacks in Madrid, Spain on March 11, 2004, concern of terrorist incidents associated with mass transit transportation systems has increased. As a result, the NEDCTP's role has expanded to include partnering and establishing canine detection teams in mass transit transportation systems located throughout the U.S.**

**With cooperative agreements, NEDCTP provides TSA-certified canines, training for canines and handlers, training aides and explosives storage magazines, monetary reimbursements for providers to offset costs, and annual on-site certification of the canine teams.**

**The NEDCTP Canine Training & Evaluation Branch (CTEB) is responsible for the initial thru advanced training of all canines and handlers entering service. We are proud to present our program to you, enjoy you stay!**



**“Thank You for Your Service” and  
“Welcome Home”**