



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 10, 2005

CONTACT: KAREN ALEXANDER  
931.294.4107 (OFFICE)  
800.747.8868 (TOLL FREE)

## STATE TRAINING ACADEMY HAS GONE TO THE DOGS - LITERALLY

NATIONAL K-9 RE-CERTIFICATION EXERCISE HELD IN BELL BUCKLE

**Bell Buckle, TN.** – Canine teams from all across the United States have descended upon the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA) to participate in a required annual re-certification exercise.

Approximately 85 dogs and their handlers from state and local law enforcement jurisdictions are seeking to obtain accelerant and explosive training and certification through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

State Fire Marshal Paula A. Flowers is pleased with the partnership between the Academy and ATF. "This is another perfect example of an agency that chooses to utilize a facility as versatile as the Academy," said Flowers. "The Academy is a great regional asset, and we want to maximize its use by local, state and national agencies."

ATF enforces federal laws and regulations relating to alcohol, tobacco, firearms, explosives and arson. As part of the Justice Department, ATF makes a vital contribution to American efforts against terrorism. The canine training includes recognition in explosives and arson detection and they produce a viable tool to assist law enforcement with their war on violent crime.

"Whenever there is a crisis, we don't hesitate to call in the dogs", stated ATF Special Agent in Charge James Cavanaugh of the Nashville Field Division. Cavanaugh is very familiar with accelerant and explosive K-9's. "ATF explosive and accelerant K9's are vital to the ATF mission of protecting the public, reducing violent crime and in the war on terrorism. These specialty canines are trained to detect a variety of explosives, accelerants and even firearms that are used by violent bombers and hardened criminals. ATF is fortunate to conduct a variety of training at the Tennessee Fire and Codes Enforcement Academy because of the partnership that exists between the Academy and ATF."

2161 UNIONVILLE/DEASON ROAD  
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE 37020  
931.294.4111

ATF trained and certified canines learn explosives and accelerant odor recognition through food and praise reward conditioning. This training methodology allows for a canine to be repeatedly exposed to various explosive odors daily, thus reinforcing these odors to the canine continually. Many times, the threat from explosives are hidden from human detection. As part of the exercise for re-certification, the canines are required to identify various components of arson or explosives, as they would in a true life scenario.

“The Academy is pleased to be a part of such a vital training exercise.” States Roger Hawks, TFACA’s Executive Director. “This a great resource for any agency in need of a site that offers not only indoor areas for training but outdoor areas as well.”

The ATF Canine Re-certification Training is taking place through Friday, May 13, 2005. In attendance are teams from the middle Tennessee region and from 40 states across the nation.

The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy is located 15 miles south of Murfreesboro. The campus offers the latest in training technology, state-of-the-art equipment and a full spectrum of courses to emergency service first responders and to codes enforcement personnel.

###