



No real genuine **search** qualifications or apprenticeships (here in the UK) even exist and searching for contraband or explosives, is still often seen as a bolt-on to other 'recognised' security assets, especially in the Dog search world (K9).

It took the IRA terrorist Brighton Bombing in 1974 in the UK to start to realise the need for standards and civil cohesion, direct links with Intelligence and command structures. Thankfully in the De-mining world IMAS was born and ALL must now comply and operate to those standards worldwide. UK K-9 Search sector can't even agree here in our tiny Island? **It's time for some strong leadership.**

A number of Dog and Explosives search "Associations" and think tanks, or even self-proclaimed centres of excellence do exist. Good bad and indifferent. Some use numbers of members as a badge of their quality? Some claim exclusivity of their membership as their claim to quality? Some advisory panels simply invite an Ex-Police or Military K9 trainer or inspector to advise and think that covers the civilian K9 sector needs. The sad fact is...You pay's your money and you takes your chances.

DESA's own standards section simply claim, we will remain none political...None profit making and standardise, liaise, learn from and wherever possible make all its knowledge and techniques available worldwide.

All other associations and organisation and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's) are **welcome to contribute and or join our efforts.** We will be open to single individuals that may work from home, right up to major Police or Military units, academics and some of the many NGO's that are now used as private security in many of the world's conflict zones long after Military forces have been withdrawn.

By Autumn/Winter of 2018 DESA hope to be ready to open its doors truly internationally and worldwide. To recognise and develop as a body that supports and promotes "excellence" in the noble art of SEARCH. I have been privileged to have met, been challenged by, or supported by some truly brilliant and experienced searchers in the last 40 years in this industry. It is time to give younger or new blood the recognition, rewards, from our platforms to practice or share our knowledge and skills to help fight world terrorism and the criminality that seeks to harm decent men women and children in their own pursuit of wealth, or for misguided beliefs.

We are here to help, why not join us in open forum, or propose yourself to become a member or supplier?...But leave your politics and prejudices at the door. The standards we set though for all, or any, will and need to be exceptionally high.

Our **licensing** and **standards** procedures and a complete suite of awards from level 1 to 5 and entry level degrees for Security or facility Managers will hopefully be ready for our global launch. Our data base of consultants and practitioners and K-9 establishments and providers or centres for learning, are all welcome to submit material for consideration, requests or LOI's now.

No more room for Drug dog handlers being used as explosives searchers! Or expected to do 12 hour shifts with just a few short breaks for their dogs? Moving from vehicle search roles, to people screening and even route search, with no real specialism knowledge.

Yes it is still happening out there... I met one just a few weeks ago and employed by one of the biggest contractors in the world (August 2018) and paying just minimum wage. No regulations? No genuine or compulsory minimum standards?



Best regards
Jim Vernon (Snr) Projects Manager

Drugs and Explosives Search Association.
UK Dog CT-Search
Premier Standards Setting Organisation

www.desasearch.com

News item: *Work on our new European specialist explosives search training centre is scheduled to begin this autumn in Kosovo.*

Ready Now; A Totally Independent Specialist K-9 QA Licensing Body

*DESA's K9 Quality Management System (QMS with CAPA built in)
A Quality & Licensing Agreement (QLA) Dogs and or Handlers as a team (DESAs equivalent... DSTL COD's testing is separate)*

The CET 4 Teaching (old was the PTTLs) and IQA are mainstream QCF awards with our DESA search units embedded, if already held by students training as Instructors there will be just the DESA search units to take... as a top up.

*CT search K9 **Instructor level 4** (includes CET4 & IQA 4)
CT search-K9 **Trainer level 4** (includes CET4 & CAVA 3)
CT- search K9 **Handler level 3-4** (Narcotics @3 Explosives @4)
Canine **Odour Testing Officer** Level 3 (x3 units @ level 3 includes CAVA 3)
Canine **Odour Discrimination Technician** (x3 units@ level 3)
Canine UAV (Dog 'drone' **familiarisation** unit, level 2 & Handler/operator Courses Level 3)*

*DESA Approved Centres/K9 Supply Vendors applications being taken/ or COD's test station "packs" (As per DSTL)
(still being drafted... final will be after feedback and input from the first few Instructor Cohorts).*

Various EOD (level 3 initially) and Bomb Countermeasures, ERW, De-mining, etc. To be delivered by our International and UN approved EOD Instructors.

Other IMAS approved Awards at various stages and levels are available on request. These from Highly Qualified SMEs mostly ex EOD Royal Engineers etc (not by the DESA 'Canine' Instructors). Most of these courses and the K9 Explosives demonstrations and handling etc will be held at our new Euro HQ training facility... due mostly to the UK's explosives restrictions on use and storage.

General Abbreviations List:

K9	Prefix for Dogs (Canine)
QMS	Quality Management Systems
CAPA	Corrective Actions Preventative Actions
COD's	Canine Odour Discrimination (testing)
QLA	Quality Licensing Agreement
DSTL	Defence Science & Technology Laboratory
CET 4	Certificate of Education & Training level 4
PTLLS	Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector
IQA	Internal Quality Assurance
QCF	Qualification Credits Framework
CT	Counter Threat
CAVA 3	Certificate of Assessing Vocational Achievement
EOD	Explosives Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosives Remnants of War
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian De-mining