

Investment Justification (IJ): Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Canine Team

Problem Statement

Soft targets and mass gatherings remain among the most vulnerable to terrorist and transnational criminal threats involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Sporting events, concerts, houses of worship, festivals, and transportation hubs often lack permanent protective measures, leaving large concentrations of people exposed. The DHS National Terrorism Advisory System and FBI intelligence assessments consistently identify explosives as a preferred attack method of both foreign terrorist organizations and domestic violent extremists.

Current security measures in **(insert jurisdiction)** are not sufficient to provide rapid, wide-area explosive detection coverage at high-risk events. While technology-based systems are valuable, they cannot match the mobility, adaptability, and deterrence capability of properly trained EOD canine teams. This gap leaves communities at risk during large-scale events where mass casualties could result from a single successful IED attack.

The **(Canine Team Name)** was formed in **(YEAR)**. **(Canine Team Name)** is seeking **\$(TOTAL)**. The **(Canine Team Name)** is part of the **(Agency Name)**, a certified Georgia law enforcement agency. **(Canine Team Name)** services a population of **(City/County population)**. In 2024, the **(Canine Team Name)** responded to **(number)** incidents within **(jurisdiction)** and responded to **(number)** of requests for assistance or special events as a member of GEMA/Homeland Security EOD Canine Program within Georgia.

Project Description

The proposed project will **(establish or sustain)** an Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Canine Program to enhance protection of soft targets and mass gatherings statewide. The program will fund the acquisition, training, certification, and sustainment of EOD canine-handler teams to provide rapid detection and deterrence at high-visibility special events.

EOD canines are uniquely suited to operate in crowded, dynamic environments where screening large numbers of people, vehicles, or cargo is required. These teams will be deployable statewide in support of local law enforcement, emergency management, and federal partners. They will also integrate into existing bomb squad and tactical response operations, increasing interoperability and force-multiplication capabilities.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Enhance security at soft target and mass gathering venues.

- Objective 1.1: Deploy certified EOD canine teams to detect explosives and deter threats at priority events.
- Objective 1.2: Integrate canine teams into venue security plans for sporting events, religious gatherings, concerts, and civic festivals.

Goal 2: Increase statewide preparedness and response capability.

- Objective 2.1: Establish a deployable EOD canine capability available to local and regional partners.
- Objective 2.2: Ensure canine teams participate in joint exercises with law enforcement, emergency management, and DHS partners.

Goal 3: Sustain long-term capability.

- Objective 3.1: Maintain canine health, certification, and operational readiness through grant-funded sustainment.
- Objective 3.2: Provide continuing education and training to ensure compliance with national EOD detection standards.

Evaluation and Performance Measures

Program effectiveness will be measured through:

- Number of canines trained and certified to national EOD detection standards.
- Number of deployments to soft target and mass gathering venues.
- After-Action Reports (AARs) and improvement plans following special events and exercises.
- Increased deterrence and community confidence as measured by post-event assessments.
- Demonstrated interoperability with local, state, and federal partners during joint operations.
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Alignment with National Priorities

This project directly supports DHS/FEMA SHSGP priorities:

- **Protecting Soft Targets and Crowded Places** by providing a proactive, deployable detection capability.
- **Combating Domestic Violent Extremism and IED Threats** by addressing a high-probability attack method.
- **Enhancing State and Regional Preparedness** by establishing a scalable capability that can be shared across jurisdictions.

Funding Request

Funding is requested to support: **(select for below and include funding amount requested)**

- Procurement and training of EOD canines.
- Handler training and certification.
- Specialized equipment and safety gear for handlers and canines.
- Travel and participation in exercises and deployments.