NATURAL AWARENESS TRACKING SCHOOL, LLC STANDARD 7400

TYPE 3 - OPERATIONAL TRACKER

Speiden, et al

This is based on the final document submitted to and approved by the Virginia Search and Rescue Council and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. It presents the training standard for credentialing as a Type 3 – Operational Tracker. It is accompanied by NATS, LLC F.A.S.T. Training Standard 7100 and Tracking Credentialing Standards 7200, 7500 and 7600.

7400   This standard establishes a certification named "Type 3 - Operational Tracker" (herein called Operational Tracker) and outlines all applicable requirements for achieving this certification.

7401   **Scope:** These standards were developed to define the minimum qualification requirements necessary for certification as an Operational Tracker by the Natural Awareness Tracking School, LLC

7402   **Purpose:**

7402.1   Outlined in the following standard are all the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) expected at the Type 3 - Operational Tracker certification level.

7403   **General:**

7403.1   The Operational Tracker is willing to perform the following functions in the general environment any time of the year, day or night, and in most weather conditions and terrain. In order to accomplish this, the Operational Tracker will be able to:

7403.2   Search for missing persons in wilderness, rural, suburban and urban areas, using the rudimentary art and skills associated with awareness, signcutting and tracking addressed in this standard and NATS, LLC Standard 7200, as a member of a ground search and rescue team.

7403.3   Assist, when needed, in missing person investigations on searches to help obtain necessary signcutting and tracking information.

7403.4   Demonstrate familiarity of crime scene preservation procedures and techniques.

7403.5   Interface with and instruct other searchers, search staff and local agencies on the abilities of Trackers, and tracking team tactics that might be utilized.

7403.6   Demonstrate the ability to explain to other searchers and staff on being clue, sign and track aware and the importance of each.

7403.7   Navigate accurately on land, day or night in most weather and terrain conditions.

7403.8   Sustain personal operations for eight (8) or more hours in the field.

7403.9   Survive an unexpected wilderness emergency.

7403.10   Perform other activities which may be required based upon the Tracker's knowledge, skills, abilities, training, experience and base's needs including, but not limited to, working in base, working with other ground teams, and assisting ground rescue teams in the evacuation of the search subject(s).

7404   **Definitions:**

7404.1   The definitions used by this standard are listed and defined in NATS, LLC Standard 7100. They may or may not reflect the definitions used by other individuals, groups, agencies or publications.

7405   **Prerequisites:**

7405.1   Personnel must be at least 18 years of age or older.

7405.2   Though it is not a requirement, it is recommended that candidates be currently certified as a either a search field team member, NASAR SARTech II or equivalent.

7406   **Requirements:**

7406.1   Successful completion of the written test with a minimum score of seventy percent (70%).

7406.2   Successful completion of the field evaluations for Operational Tracker

7407 **Forms**:

7407.1   Application for Certification: Type 3 Tracker - Operational Tracker

7407.2   Operational Tracker Position Task Book

7408 **Certification / Recertification / Reciprocity**:

7408.1   Initial certification will be accomplished by completing all prerequisites and requirements outlined in this standard.

7408.2   Certification will be for a period of three (3) years.

7408.3   Recertification will be accomplished by completing the Position Task Book (7407.2), and all co-requisites outlined within.

7408.4   Reciprocity – Scoring from the field evaluation stations may count towards the Virginia Department of Emergency Management tracking evaluation stations since they will be set up and conducted the same way.

7409 **Testing:**

7409.1   Testing will include written and practical exam stations and will be conducted within the scope of the knowledge, skills and abilities conveyed in the Foundations for Awareness, Signcutting and Tracking Training Standard 7100.

7409.2   The tracking candidate must demonstrate a working understanding of the items listed under each subject and must be able to demonstrate the ability to perform and/or discuss the skills delineated in Tracking Standard 7100. Specific written and field tests have been designed to evaluate the candidate's knowledge and performance skills.

7409.3   Each candidate will be individually evaluated on the following field evaluation stations:

7409.3.1   Tracking Tools Station

7409.3.2   Sign Squares Station

7409.3.3   Signcutting Station

7409.3.4   Sign Interpretation Station

7409.3.5   Aging Station

7409.3.6   Known / Unknown Station

7409.3.7   Point Last Seen / Last Known Point (PLS/LKP) Station

7409.3.8   External Sources - The tracking candidate will have opportunity to submit tracking report(s) and recommendations in support of his/her evaluation.

7409.4   Candidates will be evaluated on ten (10) categories (with subcategories) as delineated in Table 1.

Table 1. Category list of Knowledge, Skills and Abilities assessed for a Tracking certification and associated ratio of sore contribution from respective evaluation stations.

	Category and Subcategory	Evaluation stations (7409.x.x) and scoring ratio (percentage) e.g. 3.1 below refers to line 7409.3.1
1	**TOOLS**	3.1 (80%), 3.7 (20%)
2	**INTERVIEWING**	3.7 (100%)
3	**PLS /LKP**	3.7 (100%)
4	**DETECTION / AWARENESS**	
4.1	TRACK DETECTION	3.3 (30%), 3.2 (30%), 3.7 (30%), 3.6 (10%)
4.2	CLUE AWARENESS	3.3 (60%), 3.7 (40%)
5	**INTERPRETATION**	
5.1	HUMANIMAL	3.3 (10%), 3.4 (80%), 3.7 (10%)
5.2	IDENTIFICATION	3.6 (80%), 3.7 (20%)
5.3	AGING	3.7 (20%), 3.5 (80%)
5.4	DIRECTION OF TRAVEL	3.2 (70%), 3.3 (10%), 3.7 (20%)
6	**RECORDING/DOCUMENTATION**	
6.1	PHOTOGRAPHING	3.6 (50%), 3.7 (50%)
6.2	DRAWING	3.6 (50%), 3.7 (50%)
6.3	CASTING	3.7 (100%)
6.4	REPORTING	3.8 (100%)
7	**TRAILING**	3.7 (100%)
8	**CLUE MANAGEMENT**	3.7 (100%)
9	**PROFESSIONALISM**	3.1 (10%), 3.3 (10%), 3.7 (10%), 3.8 (70%)
10	**COMMUNICATION**	3.1 (20%), 3.3 (20%), 3.7 (60%)

7409.5   Scores from each evaluation station will contribute to an overall score for each category based on the respective ratios listed in Table 1.

7409.6   The candidate's certification will be based on an overall score averaged and weighted from all of the individual category and subcategory scores.

7409.7   All field tests must be completed within twenty-four (24) months of certification/ recertification submission date.

7409.8   If the candidate wishes to change their score on record, s/he may retake the relevant evaluation station(s) according to evaluators' availability.

7409.9   Any time a candidate completes an evaluation station, the score achieved in the latest station that s/he completed for evaluation will be the score on record for that person.

7410   Certification

Candidates that meet or exceed the minimum scoring below, in addition to completing the prerequisites and requirements above, will be certified as a Type 3 - Operational Tracker.

7410.1   Candidate scores an eighty percent (80%) or higher on the written test. Candidates must wait a minimum of three (3) months between test taking opportunities if they wish to retake the test.

7410.2   Candidate achieves a minimum score in the following categories (with subcategories) as shown in Table 2 according to scoring described in NATS, LLC Standard 7200 – Criteria for Field Evaluations.

Table 2. Listing of Knowledge, Skill and Ability categories, subcategories and minimum score for achieving certification.

	Category and Subcategory	Minimum Certification Score
1	**TOOLS**	N/A
2	**INTERVIEWING**	1.0
3	**PLS /LKP**	2.0
4	**DETECTION / AWARENESS**	N/A
4.1	TRACK DETECTION	2.0
4.2	CLUE AWARENESS	2.0
5	**INTERPRETATION**	N/A
5.1	HUMANIMAL	1.0
5.2	IDENTIFICATION	2.0
5.3	AGING	2.0
5.4	DIRECTION OF TRAVEL	2.0
6	**RECORDING/DOCUMENTATION**	N/A
6.1	PHOTOGRAPHING	N/A
6.2	DRAWING	1.0
6.3	CASTING	N/A
6.4	REPORTING	N/A
7	**TRAILING**	2.0
8	**CLUE MANAGEMENT**	1.0
9	**PROFESSIONALISM**	2.0
10	**COMMUNICATION**	1.0

7410.3   Candidate achieves a combined overall score of 3.0 or higher on all of the field evaluation stations in 7409.3 according to scoring described in NATS, LLC Standard 7200 – Criteria for Field Evaluations.

7410.4   Candidate is allowed a score of 0 to 0.9 in up to (and no more than) two (2) categories from the following list: 1, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4. A score of 0.9 or less in three (3) or more of the aforementioned categories prevents the candidate from being certified as a Type 3 - Operational Tracker, even if s/he has achieved an overall evaluation score of 3.0 points or more.

7410.5   Candidate must achieve a minimum score of 1.0 points in each of the following categories: 2, 5.1, 6.2, 8 and 10. A score of less than 1.0 points in any of those categories prevents the candidate from being certified as a Type 3 - Operational Tracker, even if s/he has achieved an overall evaluation score of 3.0 points or more.

7410.6   Candidate must achieve a minimum score of 2.0 points in each of the following categories: 3, 4.1, 4.2, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 7 and 9. A score of less than 2.0 points in any of those categories prevents the candidate from being certified as a Type 3 - Operational Tracker, even if s/he has achieved an overall evaluation score of 3.0 points or more.

7410.7   A tracking candidate may challenge or take the written test and/or field evaluation stations at any time that they are offered.