



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Some of Monterey County's K-9s and handlers on a break from their monthly training program. (l-r) Deputy Mark Lilga and Bond, Deputy Shaun Moran and Argos, Deputy Dustin Hedberg and Spur, Deputy Jorge Perez and Kilo.

County Notes

- > Bagels and baked goods and ice cream – oh my! Be sure to check the [Employee Giving Event Calendar](#) for tasty fundraisers happening in county offices!

The K-9s of Monterey County

They are highly trained, highly intelligent and have a real 'nose' for law enforcement work. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office is fortunate to have six K-9 units, a team of a deputy and a dog with specialized abilities.

For a deputy to become a K-9 handler, he or she must go through a lengthy vetting process, interviews and reviews. The dogs often come from specialized breeders, sometimes from Europe, which is why many law enforcement dogs take commands in other languages.

These dogs are an incredible asset to the Sheriff's Office. They are able to be a force multiplier in a hostile situation, can detect bombs or drugs and then be a patient subject at community events or school visits. The artwork in this article depicting each dog is from stickers made about each dog to share with students at local schools.

Meet all six of the county's canine officers and their handlers.



KILO

Handler: Deputy Jorge Perez

How long have you been working together? Two years

What language do you use to command the dog? Czech

About Kilo: Kilo is three years old, a Belgian Malinois, trained for suspect apprehension, narcotic detection, human tracking, SWAT/SKIDDS and evidence detection.

Describe a typical work day. Assisting other deputies with their calls for service. Outside agencies like the California Highway Patrol ask for assistance in narcotics sniffs or suspect apprehension.

When your dog is not working, what are his favorite activities? Kilo's favorite activity is to run freely in his favorite park, particularly with a tennis ball.

Does your dog live with you/your family? Kilo lives with my family and has a strong relationship with my nine-year old daughter. They play dress up and she reads to him.

Share an experience which shows what a valuable asset Kilo is for Monterey County. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team conducted a search warrant involving a suspect who was considered armed and dangerous and who had barricaded himself in a tri-plex apartment. The suspect created holes in the walls, giving him access to all three apartments and the attic space. Kilo was deployed into the apartment complex with the SWAT Team and located the suspect hiding in a barricaded room. This saved SWAT Team members from entering that room, avoiding a potential confrontation with an armed suspect.

What would you like Monterey County residents to know about you and Kilo? K-9 Kilo and I enjoy working together. If you see us at a park or cruising through your neighborhood, please say hello.





ARGOS

Handler: Deputy Shaun Moran

How long have you been working together? Three years

What language do you use to command the dog? A mix of Czech and English.

About Argos: Argos is four years old, a Belgian Malinois/German Shepard Mix trained for narcotic detection and suspect apprehension.

Describe a typical work day. General patrol in North Monterey County and responding to requests for canine for both the Sheriff's Office and allied agencies.

When your dog is not working, what are his favorite activities? He likes to roll a ball under a piece of furniture which he knows he cannot get under, then bark and cry until someone comes and helps him get the ball... after which he again rolls the ball under the same piece of furniture.

Does your dog live with you? Yes.

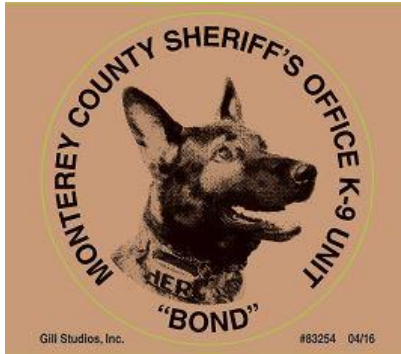
Share an experience which shows what a valuable asset Argos is for Monterey County. K-9 Argos was used to search a business which had been burglarized. An hour had passed since the crime and it was unknown if any of the suspects were still in the building. Argos found the burglar hiding in a spot that was out of sight and out of reach. It's very likely the spot would have never been checked and the burglar never found without Argos' nose.



Deputy Shaun Moran works with Argos during a training exercise. Handlers and dogs train monthly, often using empty spaces at the county facility at Schilling Place.

What would you like Monterey County residents to know about you and Argos? Argos and I are very friendly and approachable and are always willing to meet new people. Feel free to ask to meet K-9 Argos if you see us around. However, if it appears we are actively working, please let us work and give K-9 Argos some space.





BOND

Handler: Deputy Mark Lilga

How long have you been working together? Two years

What language do you use to command the dog? Czech

About Bond: Bond is three years old, a German Shepard/Belgian Malinois mix trained for narcotics detection, suspect apprehension, tracking and article searching.

Describe a typical work day. Patrolling and responding to calls for service in south Monterey County.

When your dog is not working, what are his favorite activities? Fetching a toy, running in the yard or playing in his pool.

Does your dog live with your family? Yes.

Share an experience which shows what a valuable asset Bond is for Monterey County. Bond apprehended a suspect who was fighting with multiple police officers and deputies. Bond also recently tracked a stolen vehicle suspect who ran into the riverbed from Soledad Police Officers, resulting in his arrest.

What would you like Monterey County residents to know about you and Bond? Our K-9s are invaluable resources to the communities we serve, helping to both prevent crime and locating criminals and evidence after crimes have been committed.



KOA

Handler: Deputy Mike Davis

How long have you been working together? Two years

What language do you use to command the dog? English

About Koa: Koa is four years old, a Labrador Retriever trained for single purpose narcotics detection.

Describe a typical work day. Assist with search warrants and probation searches.

When your dog is not working, what are his favorite activities? Koa's favorite toy is a tennis ball and he enjoys running around the backyard with my kids.

Does your dog live with you/your family? Yes

Share an experience which shows what a valuable asset Koa is for Monterey County. Koa has assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) with cases that resulted in the seizure of hundreds of pounds of narcotics and thousands of dollars in cash. The seizures played a part in disrupting major drug trafficking organizations.

What would you like Monterey County residents to know about you and Koa? Every day when I get home from work, my kids ask if Koa located any narcotics. They cheer for him when I tell them arrests were made thanks to Koa's work.



Koa finds the hidden scent during training exercises.



SPUR

Handler: Deputy Dustin Hedberg

How long have you been working together? 3 1/2 years

What language do you use to command the dog? Czech

About Spur: Spur is 4 1/2 years old, a Belgian Malinois trained for patrol and narcotics.

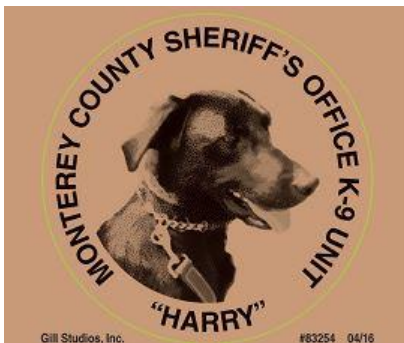
Describe a typical work day. Responding to calls for service, assisting other units and other agencies when requested, training.

When your dog is not working, what are his favorite activities? Spur likes to play ball.

Does your dog live with you/your family? Yes. He loves to play with my children.

Share an experience which shows what a valuable asset Spur is for Monterey County. I am proud of Spur for all of the times he has assisted us and made our job safer for the deputies/officers involved.

What would you like Monterey County residents to know about you and Spur? I would like them to know what a valuable asset the K-9's are and how much safer they make our jobs.



Harry

Handler: Deputy Ana Hernandez

How long have you been working together? 3 months

What language do you use to command the dog? English and Russian

About Harry: Harry is 18 months old, a Labrador Retriever trained as an explosive detection dog - he is trained to find bombs.

Describe a typical work day. Harry and I are assigned to patrol and respond to various calls for service such as burglaries, domestic violence incidents and thefts. Harry goes with me to all my calls for service. When time permits, I place 'hides' for Harry to find. We also attend community events such as National Night Out. We will soon visit local schools where children can meet us and learn more about what we do.

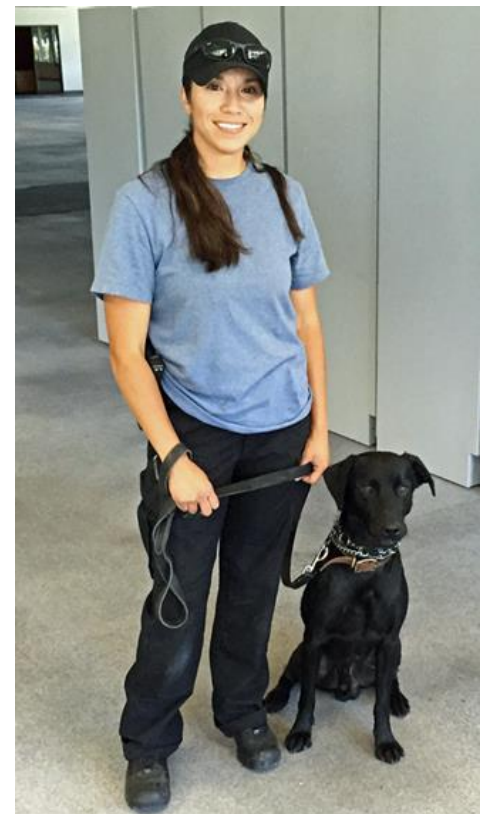
When your dog is not working, what are his favorite activities? Harry enjoys playing in the backyard and walks on the beach.

Does your dog live with you/your family? Yes

Share an experience which shows what a valuable asset Harry is for Monterey County. Harry and I were training together and he was conducting a search of a classroom. A hide was placed inside of a cabinet which was located over a counter top. Harry jumped on the counter top and



Harry working a suitcase during a training session (above). Deputy Hernandez and Harry (right).



located the hide without being prompted to jump up; and in fact, he had not been trained to do this. Needless to say I was very impressed and proud of him.

What would you like Monterey County residents to know about you and Harry? Harry and I are constantly training to maintain a high skill level. This is to ensure we do our job to the best of our ability and keep the community safe.