



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Richard Pierce, Sheriff
News Release

March 25, 2003

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**FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DETECTION CANINES**

Sheriff Richard Pierce is unveiling his Department's newest tool in the fight against crime – three canines that are dual trained for patrol and explosive ordnance detection.

In addition to their regular patrol duties, these new EOD canines are trained to detect over twenty different odors commonly associated with explosives and explosive devices. The dogs will be used to enhance the current Explosive Ordnance Detection unit.

The EOD canines have been trained to detect numerous odors related to explosives and explosive devices. During a deployment or search, the canines will signal to their "handlers" that they are in close proximity to a source odor by giving an "alert". This "alert" is characterized by a passive sit by the dog with an intense stare at the location of the odor. When the "handler" has detected an alert, the K9 team will withdraw from the area and turn the scene over to the EOD unit. The need for additional searching will be determined after the EOD team has been deployed and completed their operation.

The new EOD canines were born and raised in Holland. It was there that they received their initial patrol training. From there, the dogs were sent to a vendor in Florida where they received additional training in odor detection. The Department K9 handlers were then sent to Florida where they under went several weeks of intense training with their new canines.

**Members of the media are invited to a press conference
regarding this new crime-fighting tool.**

**Thursday April 3, 2003
10:30 P.M.**

**Fresno County Sheriff's Department Administration Building
2200 Fresno St.
2nd Floor Training Room**