



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Sheriff K-9s Retire

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the official retirement of two of the department's K9s, "Rico" and "Arco".

Rico, an 8 year old Belgian Malinois, was born in Holland. He began his career as a law enforcement service dog with the Sheriff's Department in January of 2003.

Arco, also an 8 year old Belgian Malinois, was also born in Holland and began his career as a law enforcement service dog with the Sheriff's Department in December of 2003.

During their careers with the Sheriff's Department, both K9s were extremely effective, having several hundred deployments and numerous felony suspect apprehensions.

Both K9s were also utilized on numerous Explosive Ordinance Detail sweeps for Executive Protection Details including those for President George W. Bush and Marine One, Senator John Kerry, Governor Schwarzenegger, as well as sweeps for the California State University Governing Board, the new Federal Courthouse, the new 5th District Court of Appeals, and Fresno Yosemite International Airport. They also conducted sweeps at venues for high profile entertainers including the Rolling Stones, Madonna, Britney Spears and the Dixie Chicks.

Rico and his handler, Deputy Jenifer Evans were the first K9 team to train with and be utilized by the Sheriff's SWAT Team as the designated SWAT K9 team.

Both Rico and Arco were retired from active service due to age related infirmities.

Rico will enjoy his retirement with his handler, Deputy Jennifer Evans and her family in Fresno County, and Arco will enjoy his retirement with his handler, Deputy Brad Gattie and his family in Clovis.