

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia*



*Friday, May 6, 2016*

## MPD'S K-9 UNIT PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL CANINE COMPETITION

On April 30, 2016 the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Canine Unit vied for top dog with six other police departments in the region during the United States Police Canine Association's (USPCA)–Region Three competition in Alexandria, Virginia. The competition included K-9 handlers from the MPD, Alexandria Police Department, Prince William County Police Department, Charles County Police Department, Manassas Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, and Maryland Department of Corrections. Officers Daniel Jones and Terrance Liddell represented MPD at the competition.

"MPDs K-9 Unit provides a very extensive training for our handlers and their dogs. After 13 weeks of a complex curriculum, our teams are ready for the street," said Sergeant Scott Siegel, MPDs K-9 Unit supervisor. "This competition is just one of the many ways MPD keeps our team prepared for the unexpected."

MPDs K-9 training and the competition include many of the same trials. During the competition K-9 units are scored in five areas: including Agility, Obedience, Suspect Search, Article Search, Criminal Apprehension with a Weapon (Gun) and Criminal Apprehension without a Weapon.

First up was the Agility trial, where the handler directs the dog through an obstacle course for accuracy. Then participants move to the Obedience trial, which showcases the dog's ability to follow their handler's commands. Next up was the Suspect Search and Article Search trials. During these trials dogs search for articles of evidence and the human odor of a suspect who is hiding in one of six boxes. Finally, the Criminal Apprehension trial the dogs pursue, stay and discontinues pursuit of a fleeing suspect upon their handler's commands.

Canine Cado, a German Shepherd breed, is a single purpose Patrol K-9. He belongs to Officer Jones a 26 year MPD veteran and president of USPCA Region Three. They have been training together for about a year. Overall, they finished in seventh place out of 15 competitors. They took home second place in the Obedience trial and fifth place in the Suspect Search trial.

"Officer Jones has been a K-9 handler for over 22 year. He really knows what he is doing out there," said Sgt. Siegel. "He has previously won thirteen Triple Crown Awards." A Triple Crown Award indicates the team is certified in Detection, Patrol and Tracking.

Canine Messy, a Belgium Malinois breed, is also a single purpose Patrol K-9 and belongs to Officer Liddell. Liddell is a 26 year MPD veteran. Liddell and Messy have been training together



*K-9 handlers from the Metropolitan Police Department, Alexandria Police Department, Prince William County Police Department, Charles County Police Department, Manassas Police Department, Montgomery County Police Department, and Maryland Department of Corrections participate in the United States Police Canine Association's (USPCA)–Region Three competition.*



*Officer Daniel Jones and Canine Cado participate in the United States Police Canine Association's (USPCA)–Region Three competition.*

for two years. They finished in sixth place, overall, with an individual first place in the Suspect Search trial, third place in the Obedience trial and first place in the Agility trial. He is currently training six bomb detecting dogs for MPD's Bomb Squad. One of the most important aspects of the competition is the K-9's scent work during the Suspect Search and Article Search trials.

"The K-9 Unit is important to MPD because it provides a unique crime fighting tool to assist in locating dangerous suspects that pose a risk to the citizens of the District of Columbia," said Officer Jones. "This is very capable because of the K-9's very keen sense of smell."

MPD's Special Operations Divisions K-9 Unit currently has a total of 35 dogs in service. They locate suspects, track missing persons, recover weapons and evidence, and sniff out drugs. These are just some of the duties K-9's and their handlers perform. The Special Operations Division supports patrol operations by developing special tactics and deploying specially trained personnel in unusual law enforcement situations and events.

Officers Jones and Liddell, and their K-9s continue to improve their skills so they can better protect the communities they serve. They have participated in several Region Three competitions with the goal of making it to Nationals. Region Three includes Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, Delaware, and West Virginia police departments. The USPCA's National Trials is held in a different location every Year. Participants from 26 Regions are scored in the same five categories as the regional competitions.

"Competition is one of the best ways to showcase how great you and your K-9 work together as a team," said Siegel. "Practice only makes them better, which lead to more drugs seized, missing persons located, violent offenders apprehended and a safer community."



*Officer Terrance Liddell and Canine Messy participate in the United States Police Canine Association's (USPCA) – Region Three competition.*

#### NEWS & NOTES

### Also Noteworthy

**Join the MPD Reserve Corps.** The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

**Tell Us How We're Doing.** MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your

thoughts on our service – positive or negative – through MPD's email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

**Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline.** Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-843-5678 or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

**Preventing terrorism is everybody's business.** If you SEE something, SAY

something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

#### Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at [kaylin.castelli@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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