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PAWS FOR CELEBRATION: CHP WELCOMES SIX NEW K-9 TEAMS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – After several rigorous months of training, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) proudly introduces six newly graduated K-9 officers into our force. The ceremony at our canine training facility in West Sacramento signifies the beginning of a noteworthy public safety collaboration for K-9 units and their respective handlers.

The CHP congratulates one Explosive Detection Canine team and five Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams for the successful completion of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements. The newest crime-fighting duos include one German Shepherd and five Belgian Malinois. The CHP now has 49 K-9 teams deployed throughout the state.

“Our canine teams are critical to the CHP’s mission to protect and serve the public. The specialized training and strong bond between each handler and their canine partner allow us to detect threats better and apprehend suspects safely,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “Today’s graduation celebrates the dedication of these teams and their vital role in enhancing our department’s capabilities. We proudly welcome them as part of our commitment to keeping California’s communities safe.”

A K-9 handler plays a crucial role in the training and development of a K-9 dog, as they are responsible for guiding the dog's learning process. Both the handler and the dog must establish a strong bond built on trust and communication. The handler must learn to interpret the dog's behavior and signals, ensuring effective training techniques are applied. Additionally, the handler is responsible for reinforcing commands and behaviors through consistent practice and patience. Ultimately, the success of a K-9 in learning new skills heavily depends on the handler's ability to adapt to their dog's unique needs. Once deployed, the K-9 teams receive ongoing training to prepare for evolving threats and challenges. Monthly, the canine team completes at least eight hours of maintenance training, including odor detection, obedience, and master protection/apprehension.

The CHP has 36 Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams, eight Patrol and Explosive Canine teams, and five Explosive Detection Canine teams deployed throughout the state. Within these teams, CHP K-9s often participate in public demonstrations and community events to promote safety and foster positive relationships.

All K-9s are paired with a seasoned CHP officer with at least three years of professional experience. K-9s aid the CHP by performing various functions, including detecting human scent, contraband, and explosives. The officers represent the CHP’s geographic regions of Protective Services Division, Northern, Valley, Golden Gate, Southern, and Border Division.

Join the CHP and pursue your career as a K-9 handler. You will experience a rewarding career that combines teamwork, service, and the opportunity to work with highly trained K-9 partners. If you are passionate about law enforcement and want to make a difference, we invite you to visit www.CHPMadeForMore.com to apply and become part of our dedicated team. Together, we can protect and serve our communities while forging lasting connections with our four-legged partners.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

B-roll footage of the K-9 [Graduation](#) and an [interview](#) with CHP Officer Jeff Bosnich is available for download and use by the media.



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