



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **January 22, 2008**

Bomb Dog Demonstration

WHO: Newport News Sheriff's Office
WHAT: K-9 Unit Demonstration
WHEN: Wednesday, January 23
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
WHERE: Dutrow Elementary School
60 Curtis Tignot Rd.; Newport News

On December 11, 2007, the Newport News Sheriff's Office received a bomb threat. Within forty minutes, the threat was cleared and the docket resumed. Considering Newport News has three courthouses and thirteen courtrooms, that was fast work. The swift return to normalcy was due to the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office established a K-9 Unit in 2006 as a way to address two major challenges: drugs in the jail and bomb threats in the courts.

K-9 Units are nothing new for full service sheriff's offices. But in a city like Newport News that has both a police department and sheriff's office, the aggressive approach taken by the NNSO is unique. The NNSO no longer has to rely solely on police and fire department dogs. We have a tool of our own. One that can respond more quickly and be shared with our public safety partners.

Bomb threats, while random, can cripple a court's docket. Deputy Tyson is trained to detect explosives. In addition to Tyson, the NNSO has two narcotics dogs. They run random searches of the jail and act on tips of criminal activity.

On Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00, students at Dutrow Elementary School will watch as K-9 handler Deputy M. Hanks and his bomb dog Tyson demonstrate how they search for explosives. The demonstration is meant as a teaching tool for students, but the media is also welcome to attend.

While the school program might be "soft," it can be the platform from which to tell a hard news piece. Media representatives, please contact the Newport News Sheriff's Office and arrange for a chance to follow a canine sweep of the jail.

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For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.