



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Explosive Operations Detection Dog Joins PCSO K-9 Pack

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN (September 23, 2019): the Putnam County Sheriff's Office has a new addition to the K-9 Division. Niko, a two-year old German shepherd, has joined the pack as the unit's new Explosive Operations Detection K-9. His primary responsibility is to protect the public through explosives detection and evidence recovery. K-9 officers are uniquely suited for detection work often distinguishing multiple scents at one time. Niko is the only agency explosives detection K-9 in the 13th Judicial District.

Sheriff Eddie Farris expects a high level of professionalism and excellence from all members of the sheriff's office. Consistent, reliable training is a proactive staple for the entire department, but this division takes it to heart. Agencies must train sixteen hours a month to retain certification, but Putnam County K-9 Deputies train twice a month for a minimum of twelve hours.

"The Putnam County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division works closely with their dogs to enforce laws and apprehend criminals throughout the county. K-9s and their handlers are such valuable assets to law enforcement and public safety," said Sheriff Farris. "Our K-9 Division has multiple certifications. They are constantly receiving additional certifications to ensure that the dogs and their handlers respond in a professional manner in a variety of situations."

The sheriff's office currently has six K-9 deputies that are divided into four types – explosive detection, narcotics detection, tracking and dual-purpose patrol search/narcotics detection. Major Greg Whittaker, who oversees the K-9 Division, is inspired by the level of excellence the handlers and their dogs display.

"The dedication, continuous training and investment of our K-9 handlers with their K-9 partners is one of the main reasons that our PCSO K-9 Division is successful. The bond between handler and K-9 is essential, and trust must go both ways in order for a K-9 and its handler to do their

"Earning the Public's Trust Every Day!"

job. We are fortunate to have a sheriff who understands the importance of having a well-developed and highly trained K-9 unit.”

#

Media contact:

Laura Hull, PIO

sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

“Earning the Public’s Trust Every Day!”