

BOMB DOGS ADDED TO PORT SECURITY FORCES

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(SAN PEDRO, CA) – Enhancing its considerable security presence in the Port of Los Angeles, the Port Police have added two bomb-sniffing dogs to the ranks. These new canine officers join two drug-sniffing dogs already with the department. This is the first time that bomb-sniffing dogs have been employed by the Port of Los Angeles.

As security issues at ports have risen to new levels, it is important to note that the Port of Los Angeles is the only port in the nation to have a solely dedicated police presence. The Port of Los Angeles takes security very seriously. The addition of the bomb dogs is testament to that fact.

“Safety is our number one priority here at the Port of Los Angeles,” commented Port Executive Director Larry Keller. “We will do what it takes to secure the interests of the customers, property and visitors. We are proud to have these dogs on the team. They are an invaluable resource,” stated Keller.

The dogs are specifically trained to sniff out explosive materials. Their primary assignment at the Port will be patrolling cruise ships and the World Cruise Center Terminal. Each embarking and disembarking cruise vessel is checked, as are all provisions brought onboard while in the Port. As a customer service, these bomb-sniffing dogs are also made available to all Port customers.

Following a practice of inter-departmental cooperation, the dogs will also be

made available to other local law enforcement agencies in an emergency situation.

The two-year-old German Shepherds were brought to the United States from Holland. They were partnered with Detective Leo Stekkinger and Officer William Yocham for a 10-week intensive training program at a world-renown training center.

Truly partners, the dogs live and work with their human counterparts. When asked about his dog Rex, Detective Stekkinger said, “He is a workaholic. There is nothing he likes better than to be working and looking for bomb materials.”

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