



MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN



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NEWS RELEASE

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SHERIFF ANNOUNCES NEW K-9 TEAM TO CONTINUE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

Mercer County: In a continuing effort to fight crime, Sheriff Shaun Golden is pleased to announce the newest team to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit. Sheriff's Officer John Traynor and his K-9 partner Axe, a one-year-old Labrador Retriever, recently graduated from the New Jersey State Police K-9 Scent Academy Class #40 following 14 weeks of intense training in explosive detection.

"It's an honor to welcome this highly trained K-9 team to our unit. S/O Traynor and his partner Axe will prove to be a great asset to Monmouth County and our local law enforcement partners," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "K-9 teams are extremely essential when it comes to strengthening homeland security capabilities by playing a vital role in protecting our county against criminal and terroristic threats, combatting the proliferation of drugs, as well as assisting in the apprehension of suspects and missing person searches."

While at the academy, the K-9 team was exposed to extensive classroom instruction and practical scenario-based training involving explosive detection operations in a variety of environments and conditions, conducted in accordance with the State of New Jersey, Office of Attorney General guidelines. The program is widely recognized as both physically and mentally demanding, requiring handlers and K9s to demonstrate professionalism, discipline, and consistent performance throughout the duration of the course. The academy also focused on case law, crime scene preservation, basic obedience, agility, environmental training and socialization with crowds.

“This has been an incredible experience for Axe and me and I’m grateful to the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office for providing us with this opportunity,” said S/O John Traynor. “K-9s are extremely useful in fighting crime and I’m proud to be a part of our explosive detection team.”

The Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Unit presently consists of nine handlers and ten K-9s, including five explosive teams, three tracking teams and two narcotics teams. They are called on year-round to assist local police departments with narcotics detection, explosive detection and criminal or missing person searches, continuing to serve as an asset in the fight against crime.

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