



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five Officers Graduate from Basic K-9 School

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . Five police officers – three from the Prince William County Police Department, and one each from the Alexandria Police Department and the Winchester Police Department – graduated today from the Basic K-9 School along with their canine partners.

“Those who complete training programs such as this one hit the street knowing how their dog will act and react, how to read their dog’s body language and bark, and be able to communicate with one another,” said Captain Alfred Miller, director of the Prince William County Criminal Justice Academy during the graduation ceremony. “Officer safety for the handler and the officers they support may depend on the deep relationship and mutual respect developed over 17 weeks of dog and handler learning to be an interdependent team.”

The K-9 teams learned basic patrol work during the 17-week training course. Prince William County Master Police Officer Wayne D. Stewart, the lead trainer for the course, said that detection training is a separate set of skills that many police dogs and their handlers can take later. Corporal Steven S. Spaid of the Winchester Police Department, the assistant trainer, added that in the class that graduated today, three of the K-9 handlers are new and two are experienced.

Those who graduated today are:



**MPO Kevin L. Jennings
and K-9 Diesel**

Prince William
County Police



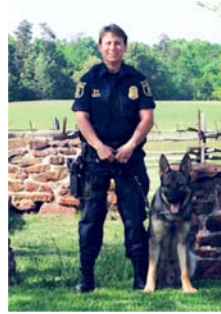
**Cpl. Brittney N. Neer
and K-9 Kota**

Winchester Police



**1st Sgt. Gregory
A. Pass
and K-9 Audie**

Prince William
County Police



**Sgt. Cindy L. Scott
and K-9 Gage**

Alexandria Police



**Officer Jarrod G. Yost
and K-9 Dante**

Prince William
County Police

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