



For Immediate Release
03/10/2014

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Harrisonburg Police K9s Receive Top Honors

On February 26, the Harrisonburg Police Department's K9 Unit received commendations from the Virginia Police Canine Association (VPCA) in Culpeper, Virginia. The VPCA is a law enforcement group that trains and supports police canines and handlers for member law enforcement agencies. Police canine teams can be certified in narcotics detections, explosive detection, cadaver detections, and patrol/utility. Patrol/Utility canine teams are certified in criminal apprehension, tracking, article searches, building searches and area searches. Member agencies consist of police departments and sheriff's offices across northern and central Virginia.

The VPCA reviewed several K9 cases that were submitted from the association's member agencies and selected the best K9 deployments for 2013. The Harrisonburg Police Department was awarded two "Case of the Year" awards in the category of Patrol Utility.

Officer Tim Wright and K9 partner Rocko were awarded "Case of the Year" for tracking a bank robbery suspect that assisted in the apprehension of the offender.

Officer Chris Ray and K9 partner Spartan were awarded "Case of the Year" for tracking an armed robbery suspect of a convenience store that led to the non-physical apprehension of the offender.

These cases are prime examples of the dedication that HPD has to its K9 program and the type of high level resource the department provides to our community.

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Pictured above: Officer Chris Ray (*left*) and Officer Tim Wright (*right*)