

Harrisonburg
VIRGINIA



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News Release

The Harrisonburg Police Department announces the retirement of K9 Spartan and welcomes the newest addition to the canine unit, K9 Vader. K9 Spartan originated from the Netherlands and was brought into the states and began his work with the Harrisonburg Police Department in 2008. K9 Spartan served his community as a dual-purpose police dog who was trained in narcotic detection and patrol utility (tracking, article searches, building searches, and apprehension work).

K9 Spartan has been instrumental in the investigation of numerous narcotic and criminal cases during his service with the Harrisonburg Police Department. In 2011, the Virginia Police Canine Association awarded K9 Spartan and his handler, MPO Ray, the case of the year award for his involvement in recovering 3lbs of marijuana along with \$38,000 in US Currency. In 2013, the Virginia Police Canine Association again awarded K9 Spartan and his handler, MPO Ray, for case of the year for a track and non-physical apprehension of an armed robbery suspect. The service K9 Spartan has provided over the past seven years has been invaluable to the citizens of Harrisonburg and surrounding communities. K9 Spartan has been relinquished to his handler for retirement.

K9 Vader will be replacing K9 Spartan as the newest member to the Harrisonburg Police canine unit. K9 Vader is a 16 month old German Shepherd from the Czech Republic. K9 Vader recently completed a rigorous 10 week canine school and is certified through the Virginia Police Canine Association. K9 Vader is certified as a dual purpose police dog in narcotic detection and patrol utility work and is handled by MPO Hummell.

All follow up interviews and/or photo request should be coordinated through Sgt. Carl Cline of the Special Operations Division Canine Unit. He can be reached at 540-437-2695.