

November 17, 2011

DIRECTOR'S  
NEWS UPDATE



## K-9 Units - Amended Update

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections' K-9 units were established to enhance the department's mission of protecting the public, employee, and offender by preventing the introduction of contraband, assisting in the apprehension of escapees, and assisting outside law enforcement agencies as required. Our K-9s and their handlers have become an invaluable tool for our agency in contraband interdiction with offenders, visitors, and assisting other facilities. Individuals selected to be K-9 officers and the drug/contraband detection dogs receive annual certification and training to maintain this high level of competency. Our facilities with tracking dogs, and on occasion our drug detection dogs, have been used to assist local law enforcement agencies, and this service has proven highly beneficial to the communities and surrounding counties around the facility.

I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize our K-9 officers and their dogs for the hard work they do, and to share with you a recent event that should make all of us proud to be a part of this organization.

John Lilley Correctional Center's K-9 officer, Sergeant Roy Moore, assisted the Seminole Sheriff's Office in the rescue of 4 year old Austin Self.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on October 19, 2011, Interim Warden Kameron Harvanek received a telephone call from the Seminole County Sheriff's department requesting the assistance in the search and rescue of a 4 year old boy missing from Bowlegs; a small town south of Seminole. Sergeant Roy Moore and facility tracking dogs were dispatched to the area and arrived to provide assistance at approximately 6:15 p.m. The young boy had been missing since approximately 1:00 p.m., so the dogs were unable to pick up a track as the trail was five hours old, with very windy weather conditions. Sgt. Moore began driving the roads, looking and listening and shouting the boy's name. A dog was heard barking, and Sgt. Moore exited his vehicle, climbed over a brush pile to discover where little Austin Self was standing crying. He asked the boy, "Austin, are you ready to go home?" At that time the little boy lifted his arms

for Sergeant Moore to pick him up to go home. In Sergeant Moore's words, "It was a glorious day." There were over 90 law enforcement personnel assisting in this search!

Our hats are off to Sergeant Moore, and to all our K-9 officers and dogs! When you see these employees, give them a pat on the back for a job well done.

**Bill Johnson Correctional Center**

Sgt. Danny Bouziden and "Marco" (Belgian Malinois)

**Dick Conner Correctional Center**

Sgt. Brody Kennedy/Sgt. Alan Lewis and "Buddy" (German Shepherd)

**Eddie Warrior Correctional Center**

Sgt. Kenneth Collins and "Valesca" (German Shepherd)

**Howard McLeod Correctional Center**

Sgt. Olen Speer/Sgt. Olin Huskey and "Max" (Belgian Malinois) and a tracking dog team

**Jackie Brannon Correctional Center**

Sgt. Tomas Munoz and "Roxy" (German Shepherd) and Sgt. Tony Hawkins and a tracking dog team

**James Crabtree Correctional Center**

Sgt. Jackie Ekman and "Lexi" (German Shepherd)

**Jess Dunn Correctional Center**

Sgt. David Mealer and "Leo" and "Vincent" (both German Shepherds)

**Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center**

Sgt. Harold Brown, Jr. and "Chloe" (German Shepherd) and a tracking dog team

**Joseph Harp Correctional Center**

Sgt. Dan Stephens/Cpl. Royal Campbell and "Bruno" (Belgian Malinois)

**John Lilley Correctional Center**

Sgt. Roy Moore and "Mikey" (Belgian Malinois) and a tracking dog team

**Lexington Assessment and Reception Center**

Cpl. Chris Cernocky and "Rex" and "Bell" (both Belgian Malinois)

**Mabel Bassett Correctional Center**

Sgt. Julie Holloway and "Katey" (German Shepherd)

**Mack Alford Correctional Center**

Sgt. George Garner and "Rex" (Retired, September 2011)

**Northeast Oklahoma Correctional Center**

Sgt. Richard Palma and "LuLu" (German Shepherd)

**Oklahoma State Penitentiary**

Sgt. Christie Dedmon and "Blackie" (German Shepherd)

Sgt. Jerry Price and "Sam" (Belgian Malinois)

**Oklahoma State Reformatory**

Sgt. James Haynes and "Kyra" (Belgian Malinois) and "Bret" (German Shepherd)

**William S. Key Correctional Center**

Sgt. Ron Hill/Sgt. Dennis Carrell and "Tomba" and "Boomer" (both Belgian Malinois)