



MEDIA RELEASE

Homeland Security

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OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY PRESENTS EXPLOSIVE-DETECTION CANINE TO THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

COLUMBUS – Cleveland State University (CSU) has enhanced safety on campus and in the surrounding area with the introduction of Rex, the university's newest officer and explosive-detection canine. Funding for the canine and its ongoing care is provided by Ohio Homeland Security (OHS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), through a federal grant and OHS budget funds.

“To protect the people that we care about most, there’s probably no better way I can think of than through preventative measures,” said ODPS Director John Born. “The fact that we can not only respond to threats, but clear areas before events that could be targets, will be lifesaving.”

After 10 weeks of training, Rex, a male German Shepherd, is ready to patrol CSU alongside his handler, Patrol Officer Ed Stoltz. A nine-year veteran of the Cleveland State University Police Department, Officer Stoltz spent the past five weeks training with canine Rex in Columbus. While his primary duty is on the CSU campus, Rex is available to assist local law enforcement if called upon.

"I want to thank Ohio Homeland Security and the Department of Public Safety for their support in providing Rex to the Cleveland State University Police Department. He and Officer Stoltz will provide a valuable resource to the campus and the surrounding community," said CSU Police Chief Craig Stone. "Here is another example of how collaboration on the local, state and federal levels, can increase the safety of our students, faculty, staff and citizens of northeast Ohio."

In addition to Cleveland State University, Kent State University, the University of Toledo, Central State University, and Ohio University were selected to receive canines during this round of university deployments. Bowling Green State University, Ohio State University and Youngstown State University received explosive-detection canines in June 2014. OHS created the program earlier this year to aid in response to potential bomb threats at Ohio universities and their surrounding communities.

Federal grants and budget funds through OHS cover the expense of the purchase, training, veterinarian bills and other equipment necessary for the program's success. The cost for each canine is \$12,767.

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