



## NEWS

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## **Bomb-Detecting K-9 Teams Begin Patrolling Transit Systems**

*Two new teams are being added to help deter and prevent crime  
on Orange County's transit network*

ORANGE – Two new K-9 teams were introduced today as part of a joint effort of the Orange County Transportation Authority and Orange County Sheriff's Department to ensure the safety of the county's transportation systems.

Jack, a 3-year old labrador retriever mix and Kori, a 3-year old Hungarian vizsla, will aid the Transit Police Services unit in protecting transit passengers. The teams will patrol throughout Orange County, sweeping transit centers and Metrolink stations as well as respond to suspicious packages.

"Jack and Kori are being added to our team just in time for the holiday season, when the threat of attacks is at an elevated level," said Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens. "The canines and their handlers will be highly visible and we encourage the public to aid law enforcement by reporting any suspicious behavior. Remember, if you see something, say something."

Each dog is paired with a handler and completes a 10-week explosives-detection canine program through the Transportation Security Administration at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Both deputies paired with the K-9s are federally-certified bomb technicians with more than eight years of experience on the Orange County Sheriff's Department bomb squad.

"Ensuring the safety of our passengers is a top priority for OCTA," said OCTA Chairman Paul Glaab, also the mayor of Laguna Niguel. "Our bus system is exceptionally safe and we hope to never encounter an emergency situation, but in the event we do, it's critical we are able to respond in the most effective way possible."

The teams are being launched with the help of a \$600,000 federal grant to cover the first five years of the K-9 program, and will further the Homeland Security mission in Orange County.



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During the past five years, more than \$23 million in grant funding has gone toward implementing Homeland Security measures, including:

- Adding a Counter Terrorism Team to the Transit Police Services unit
- Installing security cameras on buses and at rail stations
- Increasing patrols, personnel, exercises and training
- Enhancing communications
- Improving emergency plans and assessments
- Implementing physical security measures at transit bases and facilities

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