



# Glendale K9 Unit

## 2018 - A Year in Review



2018 was a very busy and productive year for Glendale's K9 Unit! The unit, which is currently comprised of 3 dual-purpose dogs and one single-purpose narcotics dog, was deployed in **105 incidents** in 2018, which led to the arrest of **76 criminals!** Check out what your K9 unit has accomplished in 2018 and get a preview of what's to come in 2019.

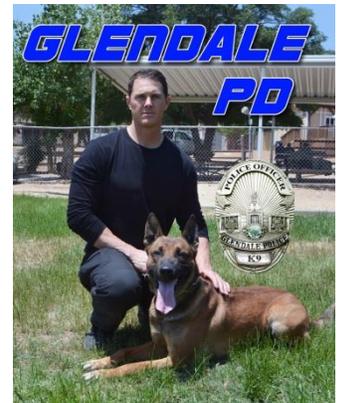


Retired K9 Duke

### Retirement of Duke Leads to Newcomer Eddie

With the unexpected retirement of K9 Duke came the welcoming of the unit's newest recruit-K9 Eddie. A back injury took Duke out of service life, but after corrective surgery paid for by a private donor, he is enjoying his retirement at home in comfort with his handler, Officer Matt Wilson. During the three months of 2018 prior to his retirement, K9 Duke was involved in ten deployments in search of suspects and narcotics. These deployments led to the arrest of 9 criminals. Ofc. Wilson and his new K9, Eddie, graduated from school in July of 2018.

Eddie is a 3 year-old Belgian Malinois from the Netherlands. He is currently certified as a patrol dog, and is in the process of being cross-trained in narcotics detection. In just 5 months of his rookie year, Eddie had fifteen deployments and was involved in the search and arrest of thirteen violent criminals.



Ofc. Wilson and K9 Eddie

### Guns, Drugs, and Bad Guys Taken Off the Streets by Glendale K9s

The use of K9s in law enforcement drastically increases the efficiency and safety of tasks performed by their human partners. A K9's incredible sense of smell allows it to locate drugs, guns, explosives, and suspects who might otherwise be undetected by human officers. Furthermore, allowing a K9 to work ahead of a search team will give the human officers the tactical advantage of time and distance when an armed or otherwise dangerous suspect is located by the dog. The following deployments are examples of how our dogs kept Glendale and our police officers safe in 2018:



Ofc. Meyer and K9 Jeff

- In February, K9 Jeff and handler Officer Eric Meyer were called to assist the US Marshals Regional Task Force in the apprehension of a fugitive wanted for a rape charge. The fugitive barricaded himself in a motel room and refused to surrender peacefully. After an hour of unsuccessful negotiating and a warning that a K9 would be used, K9 Jeff was deployed into the room and quickly apprehended the suspect before he was able to arm himself with a knife that was within his reach.
- In April, Narcotics Detection K9 Petey alerted to four fire extinguishers during a search warrant. Each fire extinguisher was cut open and found to contain 3 pounds of methamphetamine. An additional 5-6 pounds of meth was located by Petey on an upper shelf of a closet, for a total seizure

of approximately 18 pounds of methamphetamine. Later on in the year, Petey located narcotics in unusual places such as hollowed-out lightbulbs, spare tires, and speaker boxes.



Narco K9 Petey

- In June, K9 Jeff was used to search for an attempt murder suspect who fled into a neighborhood to elude police. K9 Jeff located the suspect hiding in a shed and assisted officers with safely taking the suspect into custody. A handgun was found next to where the suspect was hiding.
- In July, K9 Jeff was used to search for a burglary suspect who was possibly armed with a gun. K9 Jeff located the suspect under a house, where the suspect barricaded himself for 8 hours before ultimately surrendering to police.
- In October, the driver of a vehicle, who was a gang member and a convicted felon, was found to have a bullet in his pocket. K9 Idol and K9 Jeff were used to search the car for a firearm and both alerted to the dashboard. A loaded 9mm handgun was found in a hidden compartment of the dash.



K9 Idol Training with SWAT

- In December, Glendale K9s assisted in the search of five armed robbery suspects who fled into a neighborhood following a dangerous vehicle pursuit. K9 Eddie located and apprehended one suspect in a carport, K9 Jeff located and apprehended one suspect hiding in a trash bin, a third suspect was apprehended by a K9 from another agency, and the final two suspects surrendered peacefully in order to avoid the dogs.

- K9 Idol was used for 6 explosive detection searches throughout the year following bomb threats to various locations, including a 1000-unit storage facility, a home improvement store, a theater, a college, and two elementary schools.

- The K9 Unit participated in 34 demonstrations for various schools, groups, and clubs, including popular Glendale events such as Cruise Night and the Glendale Police Department's Open House. The K9 Unit continues to be a diplomat to the community, promoting a healthy relationship between the police department and the people we serve.



Ofc. Heinbechner and K9 Idol

## **K9 Unit Rings In the New Year with Removing 3 Commercial Burglars Off the Street**

A busy 2018 is leading right into a busy 2019! This month, the Glendale K9 Unit assisted in the arrest of 3 suspects who broke into a business and removed the safe. One suspect was immediately captured by the officers who observed the crime as it occurred. The other two suspects fled into the darkness of the night. Six neighborhood blocks were placed on lock down while the dogs searched systematically, yard-by-yard, for the two outstanding suspects. After a four-hour search, both suspects were located blocks away from each other by Glendale K9 search teams and surrendered peacefully to officers.



Jager (ret), Idol, and Branko (ret)

## **The Glendale K9 Unit Continues to be Funded by the Community**

Since the inception of the Glendale K9 Unit in 2005, all the costs associated with the purchase of dogs, equipment, training, vet care, and other associated supplies and services are funded through the generous donations from members of the community, as well as fundraising events. All donations are tax deductible and routed through the Glendale Police Foundation, a 501(c)3

organization. Please visit [www.gpf.org](http://www.gpf.org) for more information about donating to the K9 Unit or sponsoring upcoming fundraising events.

## 2018 Costs of the Glendale K9 Unit

In 2018, the cost of the K9 program totaled \$57,295, which included the purchase of K9 Eddie, back surgery for K9 Duke, other veterinarian services, equipment, training, boarding, and other supplies and services associated with the K9 unit. Because of the generosity of our community, these costs were covered through donations and fundraising. As a result, our K9 program continues to thrive and successfully keep our city and officers safe.



**The Glendale K9 Unit** (from left to right) includes Ofc. Matt Wilson and K9 Eddie, Ofc. Kyle Heinbechner and K9 Idol, Ofc. Eric Meyer and K9 Jeff, Detective Alex Rolando and K9 Petey (not pictured), and K9 Supervisor Sgt. Shawn Sholtis (not pictured).