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Metro Security Officer Gustavo Lozano and Napoleon. Photo by Perry Williams.



'Napoleon' Joins the Metro Security Force

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(Oct. 11, 2005) A new employee can be seen walking around at Metro, but the difference is this new addition to Metro has four legs.

Napoleon, a black Labrador retriever, was "hired" three months ago to serve as an "alert" to any type of explosives in the vicinity of Metro-operated lines. Walking through facilities with Metro Security Officer Gustavo Lozano, Napoleon can be seen carrying out his daily responsibilities.

A graduate of Masters Canine School, Napoleon has been trained since birth to specialize in detecting bombs and explosives.

About his new partner, Lozano says, "Security is changing and we are becoming more aware of terrorist tactics and preparing ourselves for anything that comes our way."

The majority of Napoleon's work will be patrolling through bus and rail lines, staying alert to anything remotely close to an explosive.

"His home base is Gateway, but Napoleon is educated and anything transit-related with an M on it, he takes care of," says Lozano.

Dedicated to Metro

Solely dedicated to Metro, Napoleon has been welcomed into his new family through many gestures ranging from smiles to rubs. Public affection doesn't prevent the new "employee" from handling assigned tasks.

At 2 years old, Napoleon is still a puppy, but with his formal training he's focused on doing his required job.

"We've already been visiting and doing rounds and Napoleon has been so eager I have to tell him to calm down," chuckled Lozano.

Whether walking Union Station or riding the Metro Red Line, Napoleon is carrying out the skills he learned through rigorous training.

Lozano welcomes employees who stop and say a few words, but he says people must remember, "Napoleon is not a pet, he's a working dog."