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## Gen. Grant Gets 'Medical Discharge' from Metro Security Force

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 29, 2006) General Grant – a chocolate Labrador bomb-sniffing dog – retired, Friday, after a year of exemplary service with Metro Security.



Senior Security Officer Henry Solis and General Grant have been a team for the past year.  
Photo by Bill Heard.

The friendly canine, who has won the heart of his handler Senior Security Officer Henry Solis and everyone he's come in contact with, is suffering from arthritis and dysplasia, a painful and degenerative disease in the elbows of both front legs.

General Grant gained the admiration of security officers for his uncanny ability to sniff out a variety of explosives during training exercises. He and Solis frequently deployed to conduct security sweeps for VIPs, including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Homeland Security Chief Michael Chertoff.

Solis is adopting General Grant and will keep him as a pet, although he plans to continue with occasional bomb-dog training.

"He's so used to dealing with explosives," says Solis. "It's in his blood; it's what he lives for."

General Grant can retire with pride in the fact that he helped arrest a burglary suspect.

While on patrol at Union Station with Solis last August, the dog became suspicious of a man carrying a large backpack. Recognizing the man as a suspect in the burglary of a Metro Green Line ticket vending machine, Solis and another officer apprehended the man.

Solis begins training, Oct. 9, with a new dog – Shane, a yellow lab – but General Grant will occupy a big place in his heart.

"He's quite a dog," Solis says proudly. "I love him."

