

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Senior Transit Security Officer Henry Solis with trophy-winning K-9 Officer Nakita. Officer Solis had something to do with it, says the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, organizers of the Ventura County Police K-9 Trial held July 10, 11 in Camarillo.

Metro's Own Transit K-9 Earns Top Dog Honor

- Metro has a new top dog and her name is Nakita.

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Sept. 3, 2009) The 4-1/2 year old black Labrador brought home three trophies including one for best overall bomb sniffing dog in this year's Ventura County 4th Annual K-9 competition.

Nakita's handler Senior Transit Security Officer Henry Solis couldn't be prouder of his energetic four-footed partner.

Solis, a 22-year-Metro employee who enjoys competing, says when he first teamed up with Nakita his objective was to challenge her into becoming among the very best K-9 officers.

"I like to compete. I like the competition. I like to push her to the edge so that way I know what we're capable of doing. And if we could do it in trials, I know we can do it out in the field, and that's what really counts," he said.

In this impromptu demonstration in the Metro Headquarters plaza, Nakita identifies a suspicious package and stays at attention while her handler determines a course of action.

*Photos:
Gayle Anderson*



Sorry, Alameda

Nakita competed against some 60 other four-footed K-9 officers including dogs from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, who at the onset of the July competition, boasted they would take top honors.

Unfortunately for them, they left empty handed while Nakita received 1st place in the overall event and vehicle search, and 2nd place for the container search. Two years ago, Nakita brought home four trophies in the same competition.

This year, the competition involved scenarios including one where dogs had to sniff out explosives in a mock-up of President Barack Obama's motorcade. The objective was to search four cars and locate explosives in only 3-1/2 minutes.

"We ended up finding two explosives, one in the president's vehicle, and one in the chase car," Solis said.

Nakita was also given a five minute window to sniff through 500 lockers, and just a few minutes to search for explosives through punctured paint cans.

Hard work and pride

Solis said he was elated with Nakita's abilities, but not entirely surprised because he trains with her regularly on both Metro buses and trains, and during training exercises with other law enforcement agencies.

"I'm invited by other law enforcement agencies to train with other types of explosives. Basically, we're well rounded. We get to play with everybody's explosives so she works really good in all sorts of environments," he said, recalling how his first dog - General Grant - was also a good bomb sniffing dog.

General Grant, a chocolate lab, was retired from active duty in 2006 for medical reasons and now lives with the Solis family.

Solis said he's looking forward to showing Nakita's skills at an international competition in Las Vegas this fall and is optimistic about the final results.

"This is going to be pretty serious. I know we'll do good," he said, "I take personal pride in my dog and in our canine team. And being the officer in charge of our canine program, I have a lot of personal pride in my unit, and I want to make sure that we're top notch."

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)