



Highlands County Sheriff's Office

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K-9 Members Sport New Protective Vests



SEBRING -



Highlands County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Danley looks pleased for the new protection for his K-9 partner Varik.

This past month Highlands County Sheriff's K-9 Patrol dogs got just a little safer through the generosity of the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida. Through their Retired Law/Police K-9 Vest Program, this group paid for K-9 body armor for each of the four patrol dogs in the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit. Deputy Steve Worley and his partner Ozzie, Deputy Corey Tomblin and his partner Remco, Sergeant Kyle Albritton and his partner Mico and Deputy Dan Danley and his partner Varik were very thankful for the added protection provided by these vests.

The Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida is a non-profit organization located in Port Charlotte, Florida whose goal, according to their website www.retiredle.us/k-9.html, is to provide protective bullet and stab resistant vests for all Police K-9's in Southwest Florida that do not already have protective vests. The vests retail for \$1,500 each and are lightweight making them perfect for the hot and humid Florida weather. They also are easy to put on and can be donned in less than two minutes. According to the Point Blank Body Armor website, the K-9 tactical vests were designed by a Police K-9



Sergeant Kyle Albritton checks the fit of Mico's new K-9 protective vest.

handler for his own service dog. The vest is fully adjustable and may be deployed for searches, tracking, extractions and more. The vests are made of a durable, abrasion resistant outer shell with adjustability at the chest for a secure fit. They will deflect stabs and bullets as well as protect the K-9's from injury from vegetation.

Sheriff Benton greeted three representatives of the association, President Ray Hubbert, Vice-President Bob Marron and Treasurer Bob Flor who were on hand to present the vests. She introduced them to the K-9 Unit members and gave them a quick tour of the facilities here in Sebring. "We are most appreciative of the efforts of the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida and all their contributors. We love our K-9 members and want to take every opportunity to keep them safe as well," she said.



Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton points out members of the K-9 Unit to the representatives from the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida (white shirts) as the dogs receive their new protective vests.



Sheriff Susan Benton shakes the hand of Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida Vice-President Bob Marron as President Ray Hubbert. and Treasurer Bob Flor look on.

Highlands County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit members assemble sporting their new vests along with their handlers, Retired Law Enforcement Association officials and Sheriff Susan Benton.

