



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 05/08/2018

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LPPD's K-9's Score as Top Dogs at National Conference

K-9 Officer Barry Groaning
Canine "Huligan"

K-9 Officer Michael Harness
Canine "Sylvester"

Since the 2009 start of La Porte Police Department's (LPPD) K-9 program, the K-9 teams have remained quite active. Narcotic-related arrests and other patrol assistance endeavors have led the division to become an invaluable resource for the agency. In order to keep their skills honed, LPPD K-9 teams train regularly and attend the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA)'s conference each year. This year's NNDDA conference was held in Amarillo, Texas.

The NNDDA conference culminates in various practical narcotic dog competitions. More than 90 K-9 team from around the country participated in this year's competition. As in previous years, a wide range of training and skills competitions were evaluated for each K-9 team, when the event was concluded, LPPD's K-9 Teams proved themselves to be a force to be reckoned with for yet another year.

Among the 90 teams, La Porte Officer Barry Groaning and canine partner "Huligan", placed 2nd overall. La Porte Officer Michael Harness and canine partner "Sylvester" took 8th overall giving LPPD two top ten finishes. Huligan was awarded the *Bark, Bandit, Trooper* for single best score of all K-9s over five years old. Finally, the LPPD received the first place, *Top Team Award* for the highest scoring pair of K-9 Teams from a single agency.

The National Narcotic Detector Dog Association is a professional, nonprofit organization dedicated to the utilization and proficiency of narcotic scent detector dogs. Their purpose is to provide training specifically related to the laws of search and seizure, by utilizing scent detector dogs and methods of certification for court purposes. Training consists of two days dedicated to hands-on classroom instruction, while the final three days of the week are dedicated to skills testing and the individual K-9 team competitions.

The NNDDA 2018 Conference held competitions for patrol duties and narcotics detection. The narcotic contest, in which La Porte's team competed, involved a timed event where the K-9 team was required to locate various types of narcotics within an expansive warehouse setting. Teams also carried the risk of being penalized for improper techniques or if dogs alerted on areas where no contraband was hidden. In spite of these challenges, LPPD K-9 Teams proved up to the task.



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For more information regarding the La Porte Police Department's K-9 program, please contact the Department's Patrol Operations Division at 281-842-3184 or visit the department's website, at <http://laportetx.gov/670/Police-Department>