



## **FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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Chief of Police

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### **\*PRESS RELEASE\***

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Andrew A. Kendl  
**Fort Bragg Police Department's K9 Takoda to receive body armor**

#### **CIRCUMSTANCES:**



Fort Bragg Police Department's K9 Takoda will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Takoda's vest is sponsored by LuAnn Bellantoni of Cos Cob, CT and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Town of Greenwich CT Parks & Recreation Dept. Staff". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 2,000 protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 1.7 million dollars. All vests are custom made in the USA by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.

The program is open to dogs actively deployed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$1,050.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,795 – \$2,234 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org) or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.

Takoda is a 2 year old German Shepard and has been working with the Fort Bragg Police Department for the past 6 months. As a K9 team, Officer McGregor and K9 Takoda have made a positive impact on the department and community in a short amount of time. As a young team they have apprehended suspects and helped remove dangerous narcotics off the streets of Fort Bragg. Look for Takoda and his new body armor from Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. soon. Thank you to Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. for your continued support of the K9 community.

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