



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

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The Dogs of War: From Afghanistan to L.A. County, Tula and Ruby Protect Lives

Tula and Ruby just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan, each sniffing out dozens of IEDs while saving countless lives and limbs.

"She's been deployed to Afghanistan approximately 3 times, and has over 50 IED finds," Sheriff's Deputy Guillermo Loza said.

With the downsizing of the Marine Corps Dog program, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was able to acquire Tula and Ruby as part of the new County-wide Services Division.

Sergeant Mark Jennings, County Services Bureau team Leader explained. "They are downsizing the Marine Corps Dog Program from 480 to 180. So I got a call one day that they are offering to local police departments across the country."

Tula and Ruby are expert passive-focused alert dogs who will both indicate if they find either explosives or gun powder and other weapons. Sergeant Mark Jennings, County Services Bureau team Leader explains their importance. "Our dogs are the only ones that were trained to be off lead, and we're very fortunate to have them, because we know they're vetted. They have found bombs, and we have that tool to send them out away from the handler."

With a smell approximately 10,000 times better than a human, Tula and Ruby are making the County an even safer place to live and work. On any given Tuesday morning, the dogs sweep the Board of Supervisors hearing room for explosives. "Her job here at the County is to respond to any suspicious or unattended packages, and cause of bomb threats, whether it be County buildings, colleges, or parks," Sergeant Jennings said. "The deterrent factor, we'll never know. But the safety factor for people knowing that the dogs are there, it's not measurable, I don't