

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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NEWS RELEASE
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NMCD Graduates First Ever K-9 Handler International Cadets

Santa Fe-Ten Mexico corrections officers will complete training for the first ever NMCD K-9 Handler Academy. These cadets have been tasked with learning everything they can within a 7-week course regarding safety, dog psychology, principles and conditioning, drug detection, and patrol aspects of K-9 handling in a prison. The K-9's will return to Mexico with their handlers to work inside the prison walls, a first for Mexico's federal prisons.

Twenty-six corrections officers from Mexico are also training at the New Mexico Corrections Department Training Academy to become academy instructors. These new trainers will return to Mexico to conduct courses on basic corrections to other corrections officers.

Since 2009, the NMCD Training Academy has been one of the locations chosen by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to provide training in best correctional practices. This training is conducted under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NMCD and INL.

The 36 cadets are currently working as correctional officers for the Mexican Federal Penitentiary system in various cities in Mexico. Graduation is scheduled for November 18, 2011 at 10:30 am.

As of Friday, the NMCD Training Academy will have graduated 418 cadets from Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras.

The K-9's and handlers are being trained in conjunction with Ruidoso Malinois.

Note: For security reasons, neither photography nor videotaping of the graduating officers' faces is allowed. Reporters planning to attend the ceremony must contact Rosie Sais in advance.

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