

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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September 22, 2010

MEDIA ADVISORY

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State Corrections K-9 Units Receive Armored Vests

- Who:** Susie Jean of Vest 'N Police Dog Protection Inc. and the New Mexico Corrections Department.
- What:** Presentation of ballistic/stab resistant vests to the department's K-9 Unit.
- When:** Thursday, September 23, 2010, 10:00am.
- Where:** At the Penitentiary of New Mexico, Hwy. 14, 10 miles south of Santa Fe.
- Why:** For the enhanced protection of the department's working K-9s.

(Santa Fe)- Vest 'N Police Dog Protection Inc. is donating three ballistic/stab resistant K-9 vests to the Penitentiary of New Mexico and one ballistic/stab resistant K-9 vest to the Guadalupe County Correctional Facility in Santa Rosa, NM. Each vest has a retail value of \$1,500.00.

As an integral part of the department's public safety mission, the K-9 unit performs drug interdiction and assists probation and parole officers in field calls and special operations. The K-9 unit also assists local law enforcement. Within the past year, the K-9s' have been the target of two attempted assaults at the Penitentiary of New Mexico in Santa Fe and one assault at the Guadalupe County Correctional Facility in Santa Rosa. New Mexico statute 30-18-13 provides a sentence of up to 18 months imprisonment for the injuring or killing of a law enforcement K-9.

Vest 'N Police Dog Protection Inc. is operated by Susie Jean of Socorro, NM, and was established in 2002 as a non-profit organization dedicated to providing protection for working dogs in law enforcement and public safety agencies. She has provided 550 vests to agencies in 40 states, including 18 in New Mexico. The New Mexico Corrections Department received three vests in March of this year for use by prison K-9s Fito, from Central Office, and Larry, and Artrax at Central New Mexico Correctional Facility in Los Lunas. Jean donates an average of 150 vests per year.

The vests are manufactured by Point Blank Body Armor Inc. located in Florida. Vests 'N Police Dog Protection Inc. buys them from Uniform Sales of America in Georgia at a reduced rate using private donations made to the organization.