



# OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 5, 2014

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### SHERIFF'S OFFICE K-9 "TOMMY" RETIRES

SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO – Summit County Sheriff's Office K-9 "Tommy" was retired on February 28, 2014, after seven years on the job. Tommy and his handler, Sergeant Brian Smith, are relocating to Tennessee, where Smith will be pursuing new career opportunities.

A nine-year-old Dutch Shepherd, Tommy was named after past County Commissioner Tom Long. He was acquired from the Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, Indiana, a nationally known training kennel for police dogs. Tommy joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office in 2007 after a six-week training period with his handler. His duties included narcotics identification, tracking, building searches and criminal apprehension. Smith has been a Deputy with the Sheriff's Office since 2000.

Tommy received the statewide 2007 Tracking Award from the Colorado Police K-9 Association. Tommy's winning track was two and a half miles long, starting at the Summit Medical Center in Frisco and ending above Summit High School at Farmers Korner, in search of a suspect in a knifing incident. Ironically, the suspect was found hiding in a doghouse and apprehended.

"Tommy and Sergeant Smith will be greatly missed," said Sheriff John Minor. "They have both been an invaluable asset to the Summit County Sheriff's Office. I am honored to have known and worked with them both."

K-9s are required to be certified with the state and nationally on an annual basis. They are housed with their handlers and undergo training daily. Under the K-9 contract, the Sheriff's Office owns the dogs for five years and then ownership is transferred to their handlers.

The cost of a new dog including training is approximately \$15,000.00. The Sheriff's Office is currently exploring sources of funding to replace both Tommy, and its other K-9, Bobby, who will be reaching retirement age in a couple of years.

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**Attachments: Tommy.jpg; SmithandTommy.jpg**