



## News Release



Los Angeles, Field Division – Los Angeles, CA

Contact: Christian Hoffman, Special Agent-PIO  
818-265-2500 (Office)

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### **ATF CONTINUES TO PUT THE BITE ON EXPLOSIVES**

LOS ANGELES- Steven J. Bogdalek, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Los Angeles Field Division, announces the addition of a new explosives detection canine to ATF's enforcement team in San Diego. Cassie, a 24 - month-old yellow Labrador Retriever, is fresh out of training with her partner, Special Agent Canine Handler (SACH) Brooks D. Jacobsen.

Cassie recently completed a rigorous 16-week training program at ATF's National Canine Academy in Front Royal, Va., and Jacobsen joined her for the last 10 weeks where they trained as a team. The National Canine Academy's trainers worked with Cassie for the first six weeks of her training, teaching her to detect trace amounts of all types of low explosives, such as smokeless and black powders, and high explosives, such as dynamite and TNT. All ATF canine handlers are special agents and are specifically trained as certified explosives specialists, having specialized training and experience in post blast scenes and explosives recognition, handling, and disposal.

ATF trains both explosives and accelerant detection canines. The dogs are trained for a variety of federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service as well as state and local law enforcement agencies. ATF has also trained and certified several hundred dogs being used in foreign countries. The explosives detection canines are trained and capable of finding improvised explosive devices, commercial and military explosives, explosives residue, post blast debris, firearms, ammunition, spent shell casings, and fireworks. ATF-trained canines provide law enforcement investigators with a very important tool in explosives, firearms, and arson investigations. Once the dogs are trained and certified, they undergo a re-certification process each year.

ATF's canine program, which began in 1986, uses only Labrador Retrievers. The dogs are supplied by the Guiding Eyes for the Blind, the Guide Dog Foundation, Puppies Behind Bars, and Susquehanna Service Dogs. Cassie was bred and raised by the Susquehanna Service Dog organization.

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ATF's canines are trained by using the food-reward system. Due of their tremendous inherent sense of smell, the canines are first taught to identify the base odors from explosives or accelerants. They are then taught to sit down when they smell the base odor. When a dog properly identifies an explosive or accelerant odor and sits, it is rewarded with food.

ATF-trained dogs have been used successfully in a variety of situations including bomb and gun investigations, as well as in the more traditional protective search and sweep responsibilities. Jacobsen, who has been with ATF for 15 years, and Cassie will work primarily on explosives incidents but will also assist with illegal firearms trafficking investigations and search warrants where Cassie will be able to sniff out illegal firearms.

For information on ATF and its programs, go to [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov). To read more about Los Angeles Field Division investigations, click on the Field Divisions tab and click on Los Angeles and press releases.



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