K9s For Warriors Trains Local Law Enforcement in Veterans’ Crises

Members of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators attended

(Ponte Vedra, Fla.) – Today, some K9s For Warriors staff swapped training Service Dog teams for training people teams. Members of the St. Johns Co. Sheriff’s Office and Orange Co. Corrections Department spent the day at the Service Dog organization’s headquarters in Ponte Vedra to learn about crisis communications and hostage negotiations involving veterans with trauma.

The event’s goal was to “learn unique ways to build rapport and how negotiators may be able to better assist a veteran during a crisis incident.” The Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN) attendees included about 22 members who listened to presentations given by K9s For Warriors staff who most closely work with veterans in crisis.

Greg Wells, one of the instructors, K9s For Warriors’ Manager of Programs and a former law enforcement official himself, commented, “It was truly an honor to be able to spend some time training with FAHN. We had a great time providing our insight and experience as veterans and as a veterans service organization to an outstanding group of law enforcement professionals from all across the state.”

St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office Lt., Damian Threet, added, “We were trying to get more education for law enforcement folks and negotiators when they’re dealing with the constant problems of our veterans in crisis. It was absolutely beneficial.”

FAHN members from as far as Pinellas and Pembroke Pines attended the training, which included seminars, a tour, and, of course, interaction with the other heroes of K9s For Warriors: Service Dogs.

About K9s For Warriors

K9s For Warriors’ mission is to end veteran suicide. Based in Florida, we are the nation’s largest provider of Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Military Sexual Trauma. Our program is unique, comprehensive, and proven, thanks to groundbreaking research conducted in partnership with Purdue University’s OHAIRE Lab. The majority of our Service Dogs come from high-kill shelters, which means that with each warrior-K9 pairing, two lives are saved.

Join our 2020 campaign to end veteran suicide: 20 Is A Name, Not A Number.

Find more information at www.k9sforwarriors.org | Facebook | Twitter