

Master Trooper Michael R Van Leer

Statewide K9 Instructor/K9 Evaluator

Master Trooper Michael R Van Leer began his career with the Florida Highway Patrol in 1986. He became a member of the Contraband Interdiction Unit in 1988 serving as a Felony Officer. In 1989, became a K9 Handler assigned to Troop K Florida Turnpike in West Palm Beach, Florida handling K9 Canto, a dual purpose work dog. Master Trooper Van Leer became a State Certified Instructor /Evaluator in 1993. In the year 2000, Master Trooper Van Leer trained and worked K9 Goose, a single purpose Hungarian Labrador Drug dog after K9 Canto passed away after 12 years of service. In the year 2002, became the first and only Explosive Detector Dog handler for the Florida Highway Patrol handling K9 Maverick, a Hungarian Labrador retriever. Both were trained by the Pennsylvania State Police, in Hershey, Pa. K9 Goose and K9 Maverick both retired from service in 2011.

As a canine Instructor/Evaluator, Master Trooper Van Leer has trained over 200 police dog teams in the area of Patrol functions, tracking and Drug Detection for the Florida Highway Patrol and other agencies, and has evaluated and tested over 2000 police dog teams during his career. Master Trooper Van Leer is qualified to train and certify Drug and Explosive detection canines under a national recognized program, the International Forensic Research Institute through Florida International University in Miami, Florida, and is currently the Statewide K9 Instructor/K9 Evaluator for the Florida Highway Patrol K9 dog teams assigned at Troop Headquarters in Tallahassee, Florida.

PERSONAL MESSAGE

“Trust Your Instincts”

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