



# *York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office*

*An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

*"Where independence was won in 1781"*

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## PRESS RELEASE

Sheriff J.D. "Danny" Diggs is excited to introduce our newest member of the Sheriff's Office. Saber is a one and a half year old German Shepherd who was born in Czechoslovakia.

Saber's first official day of work was earlier this week, December 4, 2018. His handler, Deputy Brett Schultz, is a 14-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office.

K-9s play a very important role in law enforcement. They are a proven law enforcement tool that have the potential to save time and resources. K-9s keen sense of smell coupled with their speed and agility can locate people or objects in less time than deputies.

In high risk situations, K-9s can apprehend a suspect without personal injury or risk to deputies or civilians. Having a K-9 on-scene, visible and available for deployment, frequently de-escalates a situation and leads to the peaceful apprehension of suspects.

It has been a long process to get Saber on the streets of York County. Saber was purchased from Tarhill Canine in North Carolina who specialize in importing and training police service dogs. Deputies traveled to Tarhill Canine back in May to select a dog. Once Saber was selected he spent the next five months in training on a daily basis. In November, Deputy Schultz traveled to North Carolina and spent four additional weeks training with Saber.

Sheriff Diggs said, "We have relied heavily on our surrounding agencies to bring in a K-9 when needed and we are very appreciative of their help. We hope to be able to assist them in the future, if needed. In most cases time is of the essence and having our own K-9 will cut this response time down significantly." Deputy Schultz added, "Saber is a great dog with a very high drive and he loves to train and work. I have great expectations of him."

The K-9 and training was paid for by funds from seized from drug dealers.

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