



## Greater Toronto Airports Authority

Lester B. Pearson International Airport  
P.O. Box 6031, 3111 Conair Drive  
Toronto AMF, Ontario, Canada L5P 1B2

## GTAA's Canine Unit

### History



When the Greater Toronto Airports Authority assumed operations of Toronto Pearson International Airport, a number of federally controlled agencies were withdrawn. The GTAA created its own Canine Unit to comply with Federal Legislation requiring the availability of explosive detector canines at TPIA. Since April 1998, the Unit has performed many tasks including:

- random searches in all areas of the airport including baggage make up areas
- explosives vapour detection
- perimeter patrol
- examination of unattended bags
- assisting with VIP movements

- The GTAA applied for and received the status of special constable for Canine Unit members in 2002. This status confers limited police powers to non-police personnel while in the performance of their duties.

## Canine Duties



Since the Unit's inception, canine teams have been proactive in everyday airport operations.

The Canine Unit primarily responds to calls that require their expertise in explosives detection. However, when not responding to calls, canine teams also:

- conduct explosives vapour detection sampling
- do foot patrols of various areas within the terminal buildings
- conduct mobile patrols of the primary security fence and gates surrounding the airport property
- deter criminal activity
- participate in ongoing training
- give K9 presentations to employee and other groups

Other security roles include assisting with V.I.P movements and conducting random safety checks.



## Community Relations



The Canine Unit educates both new and current employees on the importance of complying with the GTAA's unattended bag policy.

In 2004, Unit members conducted 63 training presentations to the following agencies:

- Peel Regional Police Services
- Air Canada
- ASP Security
- Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
- Canadian Border Services College
- GTAA Employees
- Group4 Faalk
- Northern Ontario District C.N.R. Police
- New York State Police Training Academy

As part of their ongoing commitment to community outreach, Canine Unit members make presentations to schools and community groups in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) whenever requested to do so. Using a PowerPoint presentation complete with action images of a canine team at work, members discuss the role of the Unit in an airport environment. The handler concludes the session with a practical demonstration of how effective a canine search team can be.

Public demonstrations at large functions such as Police week, community fairs and as a part of the festivities of the RCMP musical ride were conducted in 2004.