



## Greater Toronto Airports Authority

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

### Canine Unit – Our Unit

#### Mike/Kilo



**Handler Profile:** During his 20 years of service with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Mike Carter was posted in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Ontario. He spent 10 years with the RCMP working as a Police Dog Service handler of general service/specialty dogs and as a unit supervisor.

**Dog Profile:** Kilo is a high energy dog, typical of the Malinois breed. He lives to search and can't wait for his reward—the kong. A very strong bond exists between Mike and Kilo. Kilo lives with Mike and his family in the country and is much more laid back when away from the airport.

**Dog's Name:** Kilo      **Weight:** 82 LBS  
**Handler:** Mike Carter      **Date of Birth:** March 30, 1998  
**Breed:** Belgian Malinois      **Designation:** K9-1  
**Colour:** Tan

## James/ Bear



**Handler Profile:** Jamie Dase served with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for 20 years working in Alberta and Newfoundland. He spent nine of those years as a Police Dog Service handler of general service/specialty dogs.

**Dog Profile:** Bear is a male black and tan German Shepherd who was born in Ontario. He was trained as an explosives detector dog at Toronto Pearson Int'l Airport in Jan-Mar 2005. Bear loves to work and lives at home with his handler. He is always up for a long game of fetch or playing with the family Lhasa Apso.

**Dog's Name:** Bear      **Weight:** 82 LBS  
**Handler:** James Dase      **Date of Birth:** December 6, 2003  
**Breed:** German Shepherd **Designation:** K9-2  
**Colour:** Black & Tan

## Domenic/Grimm



**Handler Profile:** Domenic Capotorto worked with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia and Ontario for 18 years and has been a Police Dog Service handler of explosive specialty dogs for the last nine years.

**Dog Profile:** Grimm is an overly friendly dog. He is an excellent worker and loves to tug with the kong ball when rewarded after a successful search. Grimm lives with Domenic and loves to socialize whenever he can.

**Dog's Name:** Grimm

**Weight:** 76 LBS

**Handler:** Domenic M.  
Capotorto

**Date of Birth:** November 13, 1996

**Breed:** German Shepherd **Designation:** K9-3

**Colour:** Black and Tan

**K9-4 Information not available**

## Doug/Casey



**Handler Profile:** Doug Coghlin served with Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) for 28 years. During his career with the WRPS, Doug spent 11 years assigned to the Canine Unit handling general service/specialty dogs. Doug has been a member of the United States Police Canine Association since 1993. He has been a Regionally Certified Police Dog 1 Judge since 2000 as well as a Regionally Certified Police Dog 2 Judge since 2001.

**Dog Profile:** Casey is a very happy, friendly dog and people frequently comment that he looks like he is smiling. Casey just loves to search and knows that he will get his favorite toy for doing a good job. Casey lives with Doug and his family and enjoys playing with the family Westie during his time off.

**Dog's Name:** Casey      **Weight:** 85 LBS

**Handler:** Doug Coghlin    **Date of Birth:** September 4, 2000

**Breed:** German Shepherd    **Designation:** K9-5

**Colour:** Black and Tan

## Don/Quest



**Handler Profile:** Don was a Police Officer for 31 years. He was also a canine handler for 5.5 years. He had a German Shepherd which was a General Purpose Canine, and an English Springer who was a Drug Detection Canine.

**Dog Profile:** Quest is an Explosive Detection Canine. He was born in Stirling Ontario and was purchased from the CNIB Program. He has been at the Airport since October 2003 and completed his training in November 2003. Quest lives at home with his handler and loves to run free when not at work.

**Dog's Name:** Quest

**Weight:** 55 LBS

**Handler:** Don Missen

**Date of Birth:** July 19, 2002

**Breed:** Labrador Retriever

**Designation:** K9-7

**Colour:** Black

## Guy/Taz



**Handler Profile:** Guy Woolhead served with the Toronto Police Service for 28 years. He worked in several different fields for Toronto. His last four years were spent in the Canine Unit for Toronto where he worked a General Purpose/Explosives Specialty dog. He came to the GTAA with his canine partner Taz.

**Dog Profile:** Taz is a high energy dog who absolutely loves his job. He is very friendly and loves to be cuddled by anyone brave enough to meet him. Taz loves his time at home playing with the family. His favorite past time is playing with the other family dog.

**Dog's Name:** Taz

**Weight:** 84 LBS

**Handler:** Guy Woolhead

**Date of Birth:** July 8, 1997

**Breed:** German Shepherd

**Designation:** K9-8

**Colour:** Black and Tan

## Dog Selection



The Canine Services Program acquires dogs from reputable breeders or organizations. Each dog is chosen for its high retrieve drive, sociability, and even temperament. Dogs are obtained at a trainable age, usually between the ages of 12 to 14 months. The Canine Unit currently uses German Shepherds, a Belgian Malinois, and Labrador Retrievers.



## Training



Each canine team undergoes several months of intensive training before being accepted by the Canine Unit.

Training is held on-site at Toronto Pearson International Airport. After becoming a part of a team on a full time basis, dogs continue to spend a few hours a day training in their operating environment, familiarizing themselves with all the smells and distractions of a busy airport.

Explosive detection canine teams combine excellent mobility with proven detection rates. These highly trained teams are used daily for a variety of duties.

## Testing



In addition to their initial training, each canine team must complete a validation test administered by qualified independent examiners.

This annual test confirms each team's ability to maintain the industry standard for explosive detection. Any dog incapable of performing to the standard is removed from service until it successfully completes the validation test.

Sixteen varieties of explosives that vary in size and weight are used in the testing process. The test verifies that the team continues to meet specific standards in searching and clearing a variety of areas and items, including:

- aircraft
- luggage
- terminals
- hotels
- cargo
- vehicles
- outdoor