

**Please provide a document (up to 250 words) that describes, in detail, why you believe the nominated animal deserves the AWP Distinguished Service Medal**

**K9 Tambo**

K9 Tambo, a 11-year-old German Shepherd, faithfully served for over seven years as an Explosive Detection K9 in the Federal Law Enforcement Intelligence Community. Assigned to one of the East Coast's most high-performing K9 units, Tambo played a critical role in safeguarding national security through his expertise in explosive detection.

Throughout his career, K9 Tambo conducted over 10,000 vehicle searches—an extraordinary accomplishment within the detection canine community—and responded to more than 500 service calls. His exceptional skill earned him assignments of the highest importance, including the 2017 Presidential Inauguration and security at major venues such as Camden Yards, M&T Bank Stadium, and the Navy/Marine Corps Stadium. He also supported dignitaries and various law enforcement agencies in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

After retiring due to injury, K9 Tambo faced further health setbacks with bilateral ACL tears. Project K9 Hero honored his service by fully funding his medical treatment and restoring his mobility.

Now an ambassador for Project K9 Hero, Tambo advocates for the K9 Hero Act on Capitol Hill, attends fundraisers for fallen officers, and has been publicly honored by the Baltimore Orioles and, most recently, by the Philadelphia Phillies on his 11th birthday as part of their salute to service.

K9 Tambo's unwavering dedication and selfless service, both during active duty and retirement, make him a truly deserving recipient of the AWP Distinguished Service Medal.