

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

Man’s Best Friend can also be Man’s Best Soldier

A ‘Tail’ of Service: Famous Military working dog Nick ‘Doggles’ retires

By Abigail Carey,
Fort Meade Public Affairs

January 23, 2026- The beloved military working dog, known across the force for greeting users when they log in to military devices, is now retired from active service. Affectionately called "Doggles," MWD Nick served eight years in the Army, seven of those at Fort Meade, Maryland. Nick specialized in explosives detection, helping technicians confront and defeat explosives around the world. Some of the biggest assignments that Nick and handler Army Staff Sgt. Justin Peyton, assigned to the 2nd Military Working Dog Detachment, have worked include 58 Secret Service missions, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, a Democratic National Convention, the Army's 250th anniversary celebration, state funerals and the United Nations General Assembly. "My favorite assignment was the United Nations meeting in New York City," Peyton said. "We got to walk around the city, see sights and meet lots of people." The famous photo came from Nick's nine-month deployment to Al Asad Air Base, with his pre-



"The goggles are worn to protect MWDs from debris and harsh weather," Lane said in a 2023 interview. "In that photo, Nick was wearing them at the range for familiarization. We were at the range for night fire and we flew in Black Hawks with night vision goggles."

vious handler, Army Spc. Joseph J. Lane. During the deployment, Lane and Nick supported the 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The goggles are worn to protect MWDs from debris and harsh weather," Lane said in a 2023 interview. "In that photo, Nick was wearing them at the range for familiarization. We were at the range for night fire and we flew in Black Hawks with night vision goggles." Nick's photo was selected from

among hundreds to be used by the War Department's global directory. "When they saw Nick's photo, the creators knew that was the one they wanted," Peyton said. Since becoming the face of the global directory, Nick garnered a cult following among service members and department civilians. A morale patch made by a small artist has been sold thousands of times. "It has been nice to see lots of

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K9 holistic health is doggone delightful and gets dogs ready ‘one paw at a time’

By Army Staff Sgt.
Raquel Birk,
U.S. Army Southern
European Task Force,
Africa

DECEMBER 18, 2025 - For the handlers of the 525th Military Working Dog Detachment, 18th Military Police Brigade, readiness isn't just about the mission — it's about maintaining the total health of their most trusted partners. Through the U.S. Army's new Canine Holistic Health and Fitness program, the detachment based in Vicenza, Italy, is redefining what it means to be mission-ready, one paw at a time. The Army established the K9H2F program under Army Directive 2025-16 to enhance the wellness, performance and quality of life of MWDs Aug. 21. The directive mandates all Army MWD units to implement comprehensive health and welfare standards, aligning with War Department and Army veterinary care policies. Modeled after the Soldier Holistic Health and Fitness system, K9H2F takes a science-based, whole-dog approach — addressing physical fitness, nutrition, behavioral health and recovery. For



"Our dogs are tactical athletes," said Army Staff Sgt. Payton R. May, kennel non-commissioned officer in charge, 525th MWD Detachment, 18th Military Police Brigade. "They train hard, they work hard and they deserve the same attention to fitness, nutrition and injury prevention that we give our soldiers."

the 525th MWD team, that means every dog receives the same level of conditioning and care as any elite military athlete in uniform. "Our dogs are tactical athletes," said Army Staff Sgt. Payton R.

May, kennel noncommissioned officer in charge, 525th MWD Detachment, 18th Military Police Brigade. "They train hard, they work hard and they deserve the same attention to fitness, nutrition and injury prevention that we give our soldiers. The H2F program helps us keep them in top condition so they can perform safely and effectively in any environment." A key component of the directive, the Partner and Wellness program, ensures handlers and their assigned MWDs relocate to-

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A Memphis Safe Task Force Report

MSTF makes significant arrests over MLK Holiday weekend

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 20, 2026 – Members of the Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF) over the MLK holiday weekend executed 129 criminal arrests and seized 26 illicit firearms and recovered four missing children. Of note: A 17-year-old was arrested Monday on a first-degree murder warrant in the 3400 block of Old Getwell Road stemming from a Christmas 2025 incident in the 800 block of East Alston Avenue in which the juvenile, along with two other individuals, entered a residence and shot the victim multiple times in the upper torso. **Dontayvis LaPaul Brown, 41**, was arrested Sunday on warrants for criminal intent-first-degree murder, felon in possession of a handgun, and reckless endangerment stemming from an incident in 2020. Task force members observed Brown driving in the 3600 block of Pleasant Hollow Court and attempted to initiate a traffic

stop, but Brown sped away. A short time later, officers located Brown's vehicle at a business in the 6400 block of Shelby Drive. Brown was located in a locked restroom but complied with commands to open the door and was apprehended without further incident. **Kenton Bates, 26**, was arrested Sunday after officers observed him driving a vehicle with expired and incorrect plates and later jaywalking and conducted a Terry stop and safety pat down. Bates was in possession of 22.2 grams of marijuana, 1.2 grams of psilocybin, and two 9 mm handguns. Bates was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent and two counts of possession of a firearm in commission of a felony. **Maurice Devonta Brown, 28**, was one of four individuals subjected to a pedestrian check after they were observed loitering in the roadway in front of a motel in

the 3800 block of American Way. Officers discovered Brown had a warrant and as they attempted to handcuff him, he attempted to run and was subsequently apprehended by additional task force members. Officers conducting a search of Brown's person found in his jacket pocket a loaded handgun that had been reported stolen. He was arrested for his outstanding warrant of aggravated assault and possession of a stolen firearm. **Marquise Lindsey, 29**, was arrested for possession with intent, possession of a weapon in furtherance of a drug crime and evading arrest. After being stopped for a traffic violation Saturday for improper tint and license plate cover, Lindsey fled in his vehicle and later on foot. He was apprehended in the 5400 block of Stone Arch Cove after a THP trooper tased him. Lindsey was found with approximately

1.5 pounds of marijuana on him and a .45-caliber handgun in his car. **Michael D. Jones, 34**, was arrested Saturday on a warrant for aggravated robbery and aggravated kidnapping from March 2025. Task force officers conducting a traffic stop of Jones' car in the 1700 block of Lamar Avenue for expired tags and registration belonging to a different vehicle discovered Jones had active felony warrants for aggravated kidnapping and aggravated robbery. During a search of Jones' vehicle incident to his arrest, officers recovered 24 grams of marijuana and charged him with possession of a controlled substance. On Friday, officers arrested **Ladarell Miller, 20**, on a warrant for first-degree murder, especially aggravated robbery and

especially aggravated burglary stemming from the Dec. 29, 2025, home invasion on John Hill Road during which Corey Webb was shot and killed. Miller makes the fifth suspect arrested in that home invasion. Officers found Miller hiding in an attic at a residence in the 1300 block of Michigan Street and Tipton County detectives recovered two firearms at the location. **Richawn Brooks, 19**, was arrested Friday on a warrant for statutory rape and auto theft. Brooks was charged with statutory rape of a 17-year-old in October 2025. Task force members were notified Brooks was at an apartment complex in the 6200 block of Lake Arbor Drive. As officers made contact with Brooks and identified themselves as police officers, Brooks fled on foot but gave up after a brief chase and was taken into custody without incident. Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 5,417 arrests and seized 879 illegal firearms, as

well as substantial quantities of narcotics, and related contraband. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods. Launched in September 2025, the Memphis Safe Task Force is a multi-agency initiative to combat violent crime in Memphis. Composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as the Tennessee National Guard, the task force is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. Since the operation began, the MSTF has located 148 missing children. This operation reflects the Memphis Safe Task Force's commitment to coordinated enforcement efforts and its mission to identify, apprehend, and hold accountable those who pose a threat to public safety. Anyone with information about wanted fugitives is encouraged to submit it via the USMS Tips app.

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-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

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