

## Searching--Alice Hanan and K-9 Stryker

by Jim Richards

Park Police Officer Alice Hanan began her police career after graduating from the Baltimore City Police Academy in 1989. Prior to entering police work, she attended college on the West Coast and in Hawaii. Hanan is also trained in horse-mounted, motorcycle and marine patrol work.

Alice was introduced to her Canine partner, Stryker, in the winter of 1997 after which she received her basic Canine Certification from the Baltimore County Police Department. Stryker is certified in obedience, agility, area search, article search, tracking, trailing, search and rescue, narcotics and cadaver detection. Officer Hanan and Stryker excel in cadaver detection and as a team, they've made numerous finds of both live and deceased persons. But nothing could prepare them emotionally for what they encountered at the Pentagon on September 16, 2001.

The FBI formally requested that they respond to the Pentagon to assist with the recovery efforts from the terrorist attacks of September 11. Upon arriving at the site, they were joined by 32 additional dog teams from both civilian and police agencies. A support staff of 33 people including veterinarians and veterinarian technicians, was on the scene to aid all the dog teams.

Alice's gruesome task was compounded by some of the procedures she had to endure. She was required to wear a Tyvek suit with a hood, a respirator, goggles and shoe coverings, all of which were extremely cumbersome. Hanan chose to work the midnight shift on this assignment, making an already grim task that much more demanding and difficult. Alice's and Stryker's



Photo by Mau Ly

Alice Hanan and K-9 Stryker

work helped bring closure for many families.

Officer Hanan and Stryker earned the thanks and respect of not only the FBI, but the entire Washington metropolitan area based on their work at the scene of this atrocious act. Alice and Stryker were excused from their duties at the Pentagon on September 29, 2001, for some much-needed rest.

The team's most recent find came while assisting Montgomery County Police homicide detectives with a possible buried body. After a brief search, she and Stryker were able to locate the buried body, which was wrapped in plastic five feet under ground.

Officer Hanan, along with her canine partner Stryker, have earned the respect and admiration of her Park Police colleagues. *The Guardian* congratulates them for their outstanding record and dedication. They make the Division proud. **G**