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## **N e w s      R e l e a s e**

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Captain Patrick Yoes  
Public Information Officer

### **Officer and K-9 receives awards in National Competition**

Sheriff Champagne reports that Sergeant Jason Guidry and his K-9 partner Berry received several awards in the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association's annual competition held in Shreveport, Louisiana on April 19-22, 2010.

According to Champagne, there were 126 teams from all over the United States. This was Sergeant Guidry and K-9 Berry's first time participating in the competition, with Guidry hoping to place in the top ten. The search competition was a three minute time trial in a large area filled with appliances, vehicles, etc. Each team had to search a particular area and hit on as many targets as possible, without hitting on the same target twice. Sgt. Guidry and Berry won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the Nationals, Top Malinois, Top Dog, and Top K-9 Team of the competition.

While at the starting line for the competition, Berry was straining at the leash. He had apparently winded at least one of the hidden targets. At the end of this competition, K-9 Berry had located eight of the ten targets, and lost no points for hitting on the same target more than once, said Guidry.

Our K-9 officers spend a tremendous amount of time training their dogs, in fact, they work together daily. The K-9 Division is called upon frequently, and has been very successful in locating narcotics, fugitives and evidence, said Champagne.

Sergeant Guidry has been in the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office K-9 Division since January of 2006 and has had Berry for a little over 3 years. Berry, who is a 5 year-old Belgian Malinois, is trained in Narcotics and Patrol work. The St. Charles Sheriff's Office has three full time officers assigned to the K-9 Division, in addition to a full time K-9 Officer assigned to the Marine Division and one K-9 Officer assigned to the Corrections Division.