

**OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE**

From: The Opelousas Police Dept. (Chief Perry Gallow)

4/15/11

According to Chief Perry Gallow; he is proud to report that the Opelousas Police K-9 units have a new place to train. Chief Gallow said that many officers rely on the K-9 units to apprehend suspects and sniff out illegal drugs. “The dogs are a major part of this department. They can do things that officers can’t and they require intensive training. With the addition of this training area we can conduct more training which will allow our K-9 handlers more time to sharpen their skills.

On Thursday the Opelousas K-9 units and the St. Landry Parish Sheriff Dept. K-9 units were the first to take advantage of the new training site. The site enables multiple agencies in the St. Landry Parish area with K-9 units to train in one location. This will allow for a closer working and training relationship between agencies said Chief Gallow.

There are currently four agencies within St. Landry Parish with a K-9 units Opelousas Police Department, St. Landry Parish Sheriffs Dept. Eunice Police Dept. and the Port Barre Police Dept. Chief Gallow extends an open invitation to all those agencies to utilize the site.

The handlers and K-9s that participated in Thursday training was: PFC. Robert Fontenot with his K-9 partner (Ares) a German Sheppard, PFC. Tyron Davis with his K-9 partner (Vito) a Belgian Malinois, Deputy Jason Sonnier with his K-9 partner (Narco) a Dutch Sheppard and Sgt. Paul Cortez who constructed the site.

The Opelousas Police Departments firing range which also has a training center onsite has been offered to numerous police agencies for their weapons qualification. The department also just began its annual Reserve Police Academy. Chief Gallow looks at the K-9 training site as an additional part of his promise to the public to make available the best training not only for his department but for this area as a whole.

Any questions please contact Det. Zachary Opelousas Police Department Public Information Officer @ 337-351-1930.





