



# Deployment Roster

## Mexico Earthquake

*On the morning of September 19, 2017, two SDF-trained Canine Disaster Search Teams with Baja California Task Force 3 were activated and deployed for the deadly quake that struck near Mexico City. Then, a day later, five SDF-trained Search Teams with USA-2 (based in Los Angeles County) deployed to assist with rescue efforts. These teams train year-round, and have even trained together at SDF's National Training Center, to be prepared for disasters just like this.*

### **BAJA CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE 3 (based in Tijuana, MX)**

#### **MAXIM**

In February of 2011, Maxim was discovered by an SDF volunteer Laura Rathe at the Humane Society of Del Norte in Crescent City, CA. Laura and her husband Wayne would travel for SDF a couple of times a year to shelters along the Northern California coast and were lucky to come across Maxim on one of these trips in early 2011. Laura said that "he strutted into the yard with his tongue hanging out and instantly I saw that he had 'it.' This dog was confident, playful and all about the business of engaging me in his world of 'the ball.' We knew we would be bringing him back with us before we really even got started with his evaluation. Some dogs you just know...and Maxim was that dog."



In February of 2012 Maxim was paired with firefighter-handler Luis Garcia. The two hit it off right away. An experienced SDF handler, Luis' first Search Dog, Jazz, crossed the Rainbow Bridge back in 2010 after a seven-year career as Luis' partner. Luis has been waiting a long time for a new working dog and commented several times on how Maxim reminded him of his Jazz.



#### **ROSIE**

Rosie was donated to our program by long-time SDF volunteer Katherine Timmerman of Sacramento, CA, who evaluated Rosie after being contacted in July of 2011 by a divorcing couple who were unable to keep her.

Seven months after beginning her training, Rosie was ready to graduate SDF's program and be paired with her new handler.

In February of 2012, Rosie was partnered with veteran firefighter-handler Fidel Gomez. Rosie is Fidel's second SDF Search Dog, and he was thrilled to be making the trip up the coast to meet his new teammate.

Rosie and Fidel immediately began spending their time bonding with daily training. In the past, Fidel had deployed several times with his previous SDF Search Dog, Krissy, following a mudslide, earthquake and missing person searches. Fidel and Rosie trained and tested at the State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) level here in the United States to ensure that they are deployment-ready and functioning at the same level as our U.S. teams.

## ***USA-2 (Los Angeles County, California Task Force 2 when deployed within the U.S.)***

### **CLANCY**

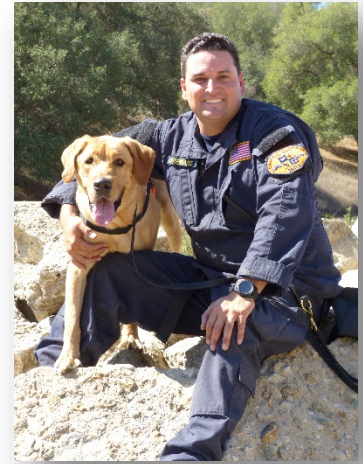
Clancy (originally named Hunter) was discovered by an SDF volunteer who had seen Clancy advertised on Craig's List as a high energy dog needing a good home. Clancy's owner hoped that he would make a duck hunting companion around their Gardnerville, NV home, but soon determined that waiting patiently for the birds to fly was not Clancy's strong suit.

When the volunteer called to inquire about Clancy, she loved what she heard and immediately wanted to evaluate him for SDF's program. But the day before the testing, Clancy's owner called and said they were not ready to say goodbye to him.

A few months later, we received an unexpected phone call that Clancy's family was exhausted and could no longer handle Clancy's energy. He had made a habit of escaping from their two acre property and were concerned for his safety.

Our volunteer evaluated him right away and was amazed: "Boy, did he have drive!" He breezed through every hunt test, but could not sit still, he was always moving! At this point it was clear that Clancy needed a job and his family agreed to donate him to SDF.

Originally partnered with another SDF Handler, that Handler's family situation necessitated a big change and he was unable to continue as a Handler. As Clancy was certainly not ready for retirement, he came back to the National Training Center and was partnered with new handler, Jake Armendariz of the Los Angeles County Fire Department on September 24, 2015. This earthquake marks Jake and Clancy's first deployment together.



### **DIVA**

At the beginning of 2015, SDF staff were contacted by a canine trainer from the Salt Lake City, UT area who had been working with a client's beautiful, yet unruly, Belgian Malinois that she felt was destined for more than life as a pet.

The trainer had spoken with the young dog's owners and they had agreed that if just the right place was found, they would consider transferring ownership of Diva into a working field where she could put her skills to use.

SDF connected the trainer with one of our handlers on Utah Task Force 1, Trevor Lawrence, and he evaluated Diva shortly after. Trevor agreed that Diva had much to offer as an urban disaster search and rescue canine, and he saw her through the process of making sure she was medically fit for this line of work, then transported her to SDF's National Training Center in Santa Paula, CA.

Diva proved to be an ideal canine candidate and graduated on January 22, 2016. That day she was partnered with Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Dobbins of the Los Angeles Fire Department. Diva now lives with Jason's family in their home, and they work hard to hone their skills as a search team.





### **EVA**

Eva was donated to SDF by a Southern California resident and began training almost immediately after impressing our trainers during her evaluation.

Eva progressed well through SDF's training program. Bold and athletic, Eva was quick to learn and graceful on rubble. On January 22, 2016, Eva graduated when she was partnered with Captain Manny Sampang of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Their first call to duty occurred on December 17, 2016, when, tragically, a eucalyptus tree collapsed on a wedding party celebrating in a Whittier park, killing one person and injuring seven others. The tree measured 80' tall and may have fallen due to the drought Southern California had experienced for several years. Two canine teams deployed to search the small area to make sure no one else was trapped before recovery crews could go in and begin to clean up. Luckily, no one else suffered additional injuries.

### **RUGBY**

This handsome, long-legged Chocolate Lab was donated to the Search Dog Foundation in September of 2010 by the same SDF volunteer who found Clancy. After finding an ad in the local newspaper about this high-energy dog, she evaluated him for SDF and determined he was a perfect candidate.

In May of 2011, Rugby was paired with Los Angeles County Fire Department Captain Dennis Clark. Then, on January 17, 2014, the first call to duty came when a hiker went missing in Claremont, CA. Dennis and Rugby responded alongside teammates Dennis DiMarzio and Ty, and the teams were able to divide up the search area and seek out anyone lost in the hills.

Since that time, Dennis and Rugby have responded to four additional deployments, including two vehicle crashes, a missing person search and, in April 2015, the catastrophic earthquake that struck Kathmandu, Nepal. The team was deployed for over two weeks, assisting in rescue operations and even enduring a huge aftershock while deployed in country.



### **TANKER**



Tanker came to the Search Dog Foundation in an unusual way. This beautiful Lab was donated to the Search Dog Foundation by his previous Handler, of Colorado Task Force 1. They had not yet certified together and his Handler felt that Tanker would perhaps be more successful with another handler.

At 4-and-a-half years old, Tanker was older than the average canine candidate we admit to our training program. But when evaluated, he did a fabulous job. Since he already had some training and showed great potential, Tanker was admitted into the program, knowing that he would graduate and be out in the field more quickly than a green dog. Just three-and-a-half months later, Tanker was partnered with veteran SDF Handler Gary Durian of Los Angeles County Fire Department on January 17, 2012.

Since their pairing, Tanker and Gary have been deployed numerous times for a missing person search, vehicle crash, mudslide and the Nepal earthquake.

***We know you share our pride in these teams, and we are so grateful to our supporters around the world for making their training and preparation for a deployment like this possible.***