



WILLIAM F. BALKWILL, SHERIFF
SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Post Office Box 4115
Sarasota, Florida 34230-4115
Telephone 941/861-5800 Fax 941/861-4039
www.sarasotasheriff.org

March 3, 2004

Sarasota Search and Rescue
c/o Tom Shaw
EMERGENCY SERVICES
Office of Emergency Management

On January 26, 2004 several members of the Sarasota Search and Rescue team were deployed to assist Sarasota County detectives with the execution of a search warrant at 2065 2nd St. in Englewood reference case #03-89812. Investigators had developed information that the remains of a homicide victim may be buried on the property.

The following SSAR personnel were present:

Joe Abrams, OIC/Handler - K9 Noah
Cindy O'Neill, Handler - K9 Tuff
Bill Stulgis, Documentation

K9 Tuff was first to search the grounds of the property. K9 Tuff had a head lift and showed interest in the area of a large stable.

K9 Noah began a second search and alerted by barking and scratching on wood pallets in one of the stalls in this same stable.

Once the pallets were removed, the outline of a potential gravesite was readily visible due to inconsistent coloring of the dirt beneath. Over the next twenty-four hours, SSO Forensics personnel conducted an excavation of this area and subsequently recovered the remains of a homicide victim in the exact location where both K9's had alerted.

I would like to commend the above SSAR personnel for their important contribution to this investigation. All displayed outstanding skill and professionalism in providing assistance to this agency.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM F. BALKWILL, SHERIFF

Sgt. James F. Quinn

James F. Quinn, Sergeant
Criminal Investigations Bureau

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