

Date of Release: July 28, 2010

Reference: Promotion to Detective

On July 28, 2010 the Portsmouth Police Commission voted unanimously to promote Master Patrol Officer Matt Hester and Master Patrol Officer David Colby to the rank of Portsmouth Police Detective.

Detective Hester is an 18 year veteran of NH law enforcement. He spent the first 5 ½ years as a police officer for the Laconia NH Police Department before taking a position with the Portsmouth Police Department in 1997. Detective Hester has previously been assigned to the patrol division where he is consistently recognized by peers and supervisors for his work ethic and dedication, most recently being voted the Lloyd Tibbetts Officer of Year award winner for 2010. He is already an active member of the Crime Scene Investigation Team, Field Training Officer, Crisis Negotiator and enjoyed his time on the Motorcycle Unit while on patrol. He is also a current and founding member of the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard.

Detective Hester is a life-long resident of the Seacoast, born and raised in Dover, NH. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School where he was a varsity player on the both the baseball and hockey teams. After graduating in 1987 he joined the United States Army where he served as Military Police Officer in the 552nd Military Police Company in South Korea for a year. Upon returning to the states, Detective Hester was stationed with the 503rd Military Police Battalion (ABN) at Fort Bragg. From there he served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. When he returned from the Gulf War, he served as military police investigator for the Fort Bragg Provost Marshal's Office until his honorable discharge in December of 1991.

Detective Hester is currently a resident in the Seacoast with his wife, daughter and two dogs, including retired Portsmouth Police K-9 Viktor. He has been an active part of the Portsmouth community throughout his career, from coaching Little League and organizing youth sports activities to foster positive interaction between the police officers and kids to helping to organize several successful fundraising efforts for department and community members in need. He is currently pursuing a college degree in the field of criminal justice.

Detective Colby has 17 years of law enforcement experiences and is a 15 year veteran of the Portsmouth Police Department in the Patrol Division. In the Patrol Division Detective Colby was assigned as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Firearms Armor, Accident Investigation Team Member as well as a member of the departments Honor Guard.

He graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in 1989. After graduating from St. Thomas Detective Colby enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and is a Veteran of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. After serving in the Marine Corps, Detective Colby joined the Stratham Police Department, and attended the 101st NH Police Academy.

In 1995, Detective Colby moved from the Stratham Police Department and joined the Portsmouth Police Department and was assigned to the Patrol Division. While in the Patrol Division Detective Colby attended Hesser College and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

After graduating from Hesser College Detective Colby went on to the Massachusetts School of Law and earned his Juris Doctorate of the Law in 2009 and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in June of 2010.

Detective Colby is active in the community with the NH Special Olympics and is also a Member of St. John's Lodge # 1 of Free and Accepted Masons. Detective Colby is a lifelong resident of the Seacoast. He lives here with extended family and his two children.

Attached photo. Chief David "Lou" Ferland presenting Detectives Hester and Colby with their Detective's badge.