

Charity provides K-9 vests to airport

By Gail Fiveash
Douglas Neighbor Staff Writer

Like a Energizer battery, Susie Jean just keeps going and going.

This week, the Lithia Springs resident, along with the contributors to the VEST N. P.D.P. Inc. Police Dog Protection Fund, presented six canines with stab-proof, bullet-proof, shrapnel-proof vests at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

The handlers of the K-9s are all officers of the Atlanta Police Department who handle security at the airport.

With television crews and bystanders looking on, the K-9 officers were given the vests by area residents who had made the donations that purchased the vests.

In introducing Mrs. Jean, Ben DeCosta, the airport's aviation general manager, thanked her for the three vests her organization had already provided and the six presented at the Wednesday ceremony.

"Our canine unit assists our police officers in maintaining the safety of our passengers here at Hartsfield-Jackson," DeCosta said.



Susie Jean presented six canine bullet-proof vests to Robert Baley, with the Atlanta Bomb Squad, at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.

Nathan Self/Staff

"And we thank Vest N' Dog Protection for their generosity and assistance in helping Hartsfield-Jackson maintain the safety and well-being of our unsung heroes: the canines."

In her comments, as usual, Mrs. Jean passed the thanks on to the people who have donated funds since 2002 to outfit K-9 officers. "These are the people that made

this possible," she said, pointing to the group of supporters on hand to present the vests.

Mrs. Jean is well-known locally, as her organization has outfitted the Douglasville Police Department Canine Unit with vests.

Her next agenda is to provide three more vests for Hartsfield and then move on to the Georgia State Patrol.



Special photo
Officer Mark Wowk, of the Hartsfield Jackson Airport Canine Unit, poses with Canine Officer Basco recently.