

National Patrol Case of the 2nd Quarter, 2006

Mike Davis & K9 Rookie and Mark Blumberg & K9 Cobra
St. Paul Police Department

On 5-15-2006 at 0443 hrs. Officers responded to 1369 Marion on a home invasion robbery. An officer arrived on scene and pursued one of the four suspects who fled on foot as soon as the squad pulled up. As he was chasing the suspect, the officer reported hearing a shot fired just before he lost the suspect.

Officer Davis arrived, coordinated a perimeter, and began an on-lead track of the suspect with his K-9 partner Rookie. K-9 Rookie immediately began tracking south through the woods adjacent to the railroad tracks, west along the tracks then north to the last house on Galtier St. As Rookie continued to track, a neighbor called reporting one of the suspects running on the south side of the tracks on Ivy St. K-9 Rookie then began searching on the south side of the tracks, leading east then south through the thick brush next to the tracks, towards Ivy, where the suspect had been sighted. Rookie led Officer Davis to a six foot high privacy fence which had a fresh, broken top, which indicated that the suspects may have fled in that direction. Officer Davis led Rookie around the fence and Rookie began tracking again from the broken fence, south on Galtier then west in an alley where he lost the track.

Officer Davis attempted to re-initiate the track when an officer broadcast that a suspect was seen running in the area just south of his location. K-9 Rookie tracked east into the yards then south down an alley then east again to Marion St. Officer Davis was able to see wet footprints in the grass and on the sidewalk traveling east where K-9 Rookie was tracking. Rookie continued tracking east through the yards, crossing Marion

and Woodbridge Streets to the yards on the 1300 block of Albemarle St. K-9 Rookie began searching the yards frantically, indicating that the suspect was near. Moments later, Officer Davis saw the suspect on the roof of 1308 Albemarle St. As Officer Davis secured the house with his back-up officer, Rookie was trying to climb the walls of the home and was barking at the suspect. Once the house was surrounded, the suspect complied with officer's commands and surrendered.

Officer Mark Blumberg responded about one hour later, at the beginning of his shift, to the area of Cottage and Galtier streets. Officer Blumberg consulted with officers and brought out his K-9 partner Cobra in an attempt to acquire a track of one of the remaining suspects. K-9 Cobra acquired a track and began tracking west in the alley at Cottage and Galtier, then south across the railroad tracks. Cobra tracked south in the alley at Orange and Farrington streets where he located some items of clothing that the suspect had discarded. K-9 Cobra continued tracking south in the alley when Officer Blumberg noticed a car directly south of him traveling very slowly in the alley.

As the car drove down the alley, a person ran out of one of the adjacent yards and jumped into the passenger door of the car. The person matched the description of one of the suspects and the officers ordered the female driver to stop. She did so, but soon officers could hear the car's engine revving loudly. It appeared the suspect was trying to get the female to flee in the car but it she was not cooperating. The suspect shoved the female to the left then forced her out of the car as he moved into the driver's seat and continued to rev the engine.

Officers ordered the suspect out of the car and to the ground. He initially complied, but as officers approached, he jumped up and got back into the car, locking the

door behind him. Cover officers approached and the suspect failed to comply with commands to exit the car. Back-up officers provided cover while Officer Blumberg approached and broke out the driver's window. The suspect attempted to flee out the passenger side so Officer Blumberg deployed K-9 Cobra into the car to physically apprehend the suspect. After a brief struggle, the suspect was taken into custody.

Officer Davis and K-9 Rookie performed a high risk track of suspects that had just committed an armed, home invasion robbery. He coordinated a perimeter as Rookie tracked for several blocks over multiple surfaces in a congested, urban environment. K-9 Rookie indicated the presence of the suspect to Officer Davis allowing him and his cover officers to safely take the suspect into custody.

Officer Blumberg and K-9 Cobra were able to acquire a track after a 90 minute lapse in time after numerous officers had contaminated the scene. Cobra located evidence and brought Officer Blumberg to a position where he could see the suspect's attempt to flee the area in a vehicle. K-9 Cobra apprehended the barricaded suspect allowing the officers to remain in positions of cover and prevented what, in all likelihood, would have been a dangerous vehicle pursuit of the suspect.