

MERITORIOUS APPREHENSION NOMINATION

To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I would like to nominate Cpl. Ryan Schultz and his K9 partner, Chaz for Meritorious Apprehension related to their efforts on the below apprehension that led to the arrest of an offender involved in an incident where shots were fired at Milwaukee County Sheriff Deputies.

WAPD Case # 20-041221

On 11/20/20 at approximately 2038 hours, Cpl. Ryan Schultz and his K9 Chaz were requested mutual aid to the City of New Berlin to assist with Milwaukee County Sheriff Office's incident (ref MCSO Case #20-183246). K9 Chaz was requested to assist in searching for suspects wanted for a shooting on Interstate 1894. These suspects fired shots at MCSO deputies on the freeway. A pursuit ensued that went into the City of New Berlin and the suspect vehicle crashed in the area of W Scott St / Amour Ave. Three suspects were observed fleeing the vehicle which caught also caught on fire.

Cpl. Schultz was directed towards the west side of Froedtert Moorland Reserve where he was advised that Brookfield PD officers had heard rustling in the wooded area bordering the parking lot. They informed Cpl. Schultz that they had made announcements and the rustling stopped. They believed there was at least one person bedded down hiding in this wooded area. The wooded area was very large (500ft x 1000ft) and started off with a steep incline that dropped down to a low area that was swamp-like. It then rose up to very thick brush/woods.

From his squad PA, Cpl. Schultz gave numerous commands into the woods that anyone in the area needed to announce themselves, they were under arrest and that he would be releasing his K9 and they would be bit. These commands were given in this location for approximately 20 minutes with no type of response or movement. Greenfield PD arrived with their drone to assist. K9 announcements continued. Greenfield PD advised they believed they observed something on their screen that was a person lying down off in the distance of the woods, approximately 500 feet away.

Cpl. Schultz retrieved K9 Chaz from his squad and placed him in harness with a 15 foot lead. The area that Cpl. Schultz and other officers entered was a swampy area that had approximately 12-15 inches of standing water. Navigating this terrain was difficult. K9 Chaz was not visible approximately 3 feet in front of Cpl. Schultz due to tall, thick vegetation and the water was nearly touching K9 Chaz's chest.

Cpl. Schultz, K9 Chaz and other assisting officers continued to search the swampy wooded area and the Greenfield PD drone operator advised that K9 Chaz was pulling right towards the suspect's location. Cpl. Schultz posted with K9 Chaz and the Greenfield PD drone operator advised the suspect was to the northeast of K9 Chaz. K9 Chaz continued to pull in that direction through the thick growth. Cpl. Schultz could no longer see K9 Chaz at all, who was still on lead approx. 10 feet ahead. Greenfield PD drone operator advised K9 Chaz was getting very close to suspect. Cpl. Schultz posted again and kept K9 Chaz from continuing and gave a final K9 announcement.

No response was given and Cpl. Schultz let K9 Chaz continue. Moments later Officers heard a male voice start yelling. Cpl. Schultz and other cover officers immediately began giving commands to show hands. Based on the heavy foliage and darkness, Cpl. Schultz gave commands and ordered the suspect to crawl towards the sound of his voice and Cpl. Schultz would then release K9 Chaz. The male responded by saying "ok, ok!" but never moved. At that point Det. Zientek (WAPD), as well as another MCSO deputy moved up to assist Cpl. Schultz in placing the subject into custody. They all approached the suspect and K9 Chaz. They observed a male party that was shirtless in a fetal like position and K9 Chaz was biting him near the right shoulder/back area. The suspect was turning over forcing K9 Chaz under water. K9 Chaz never let go despite being completely submerged in water at this point. Cpl. Schultz moved up to the lead to remove K9 Chaz from his apprehension while other officers placed the suspect into custody.

If it were not for K9 Chaz and Cpl. Schultz's efforts, this subject wanted for shooting at Milwaukee County Sheriff Deputies would not have been apprehended. For these reasons and the work described in the above, I ask that you nominate Cpl. Schultz and K9 Chaz for Meritorious Apprehension Award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lt. Trever Pasdera
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West Allis Police Department