

PSO Ted Green
K-9 Gero
Kalamazoo Department Public Safety
Kalamazoo, Michigan

On 7-14-09 at approximately 1730hrs. I was requested to the National City Bank located in the 5000 block of W Main by the Kalamazoo County Sheriff to attempt a track for two felons that fled on foot after a traffic stop. The suspects were wanted on several felony warrants out of Kalamazoo Twp Police, MSP Paw Paw, Van Buren County Sheriff Dept, Village of Paw Paw, Kalamazoo Dept of Public Safety and SCAR (Motor Vehicle Theft Unit). They were both considered armed and dangerous and have eluded other officers and K-9's in the past two weeks.

I was directed to the area of The Prairies Golf Course located at 5171 W Main as my start point. A witness had observed the two suspects fleeing on foot in a south direction along the eastside of the golf course property. K9 Gero and I began tracking down a path leading to an opening separating the driveway of a Lowes store and the golf course. K9 Gero lifted his head and began tracking eastbound toward the Lowes parking lot. After approximately 50 feet, K-9 Gero lifted his head and was off of track. As we were searching for the track, officers were advised that another golf course employee had observed both suspects running in the southeast corner of the golf course.

K-9 Gero and I rode in a golf cart to the area. Once at the southeast corner of the property, the golf course employee said that one of the suspects was seen in the courtyard of the apartment complex. The possible suspect was seen on a cell phone and walked into an apartment. Officers converged on the apartment and I stood with K-9 Gero as a perimeter unit. Contact was made with the occupants of the apartment and it was confirmed that the male wasn't involved.

While standing in the courtyard of the apartment complex, other officers had stopped the vehicle that was later determined to be driven by a suspect's girlfriend. While with officers, the girlfriend had received a text message from a suspect saying that he was hiding inside a garbage dumpster near MC Sporting Goods. I was approximately 300 yards from that garbage dumpster and ran there.

As I ran past the opening in the wood line near the maintenance shed, I observed both suspects standing at the wood line. I immediately gave verbal commands to stop or I would release K9 Gero. Both suspects looked directly at me and ran. One ran back to the south and then westbound into the wood line. The other turned and began running northbound along the wood line. I continued to give verbal commands to stop or they would be bitten. Both continued to disobey my commands and kept running.

I sent K9 Gero to apprehend. K9 Gero apprehended one suspect as he continued to flee northbound along the tree line. He was knocked to the ground and K9 Gero continued to hold as I handcuffed the suspect. I then had K9 Gero out from the bite. K-9 Gero then turned and began to go into the tree line after the second suspect.

As K9 Gero was running into the wood line, I observed a KCSD deputy in between me and the fleeing suspect. I called K9 Gero back to me. He returned and I grabbed hold of him. The suspect was then seen jumping a 6ft fence entering the golf course. When the suspect jumped the fence he landed in a water pond. I took K9 Gero to the north of the maintenance shed where I was able to jump over the fence. Approximately 200 yards to the south, I could see the suspect wading through the pond. I began running toward him, who was approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ the way across the pond. As I got closer to the suspect, I ordered him to lie down or he would be bitten. As he exited the pond, he looked at me and immediately gave up, lying down in the prone position. He was then into custody by my back-up officer.

Both suspects were arrested on a total of 22 felony charges from 7 different departments.