

Officer Darren Steele
K-9 Blitz
Sterling Heights PD, Sterling Heights, MI

On February 2nd 2008, at about 12:50pm, I received a phone call at home from Sgt. Reese requesting that I respond to 4503 Carlton Dr. with my K9 partner Blitz for a track. Sgt Reese advised me that a home invasion had occurred at about noon and several items were stolen from the home. When I arrived about 20 minutes later I was told by a responding officer that several fresh shoe prints were found around the mobile home. The officer informed me that he had followed the prints for about 150 yards before he lost them on the street, where there was no snow. He also said that he was careful not to walk on any of the suspect's prints in case a K-9 was called in.

I examined the point of exit, which was a rear window. I observed two sets of tennis shoe prints heading northeast away from the trailer. K9 Blitz began tracking north-east toward a small hill, once at the top of the hill Blitz turned eastbound and continued tracking for about 100 yards. Blitz then turned northeast and tracked down the hill around a privacy fence, separating the private homes and the trailer park, and turned northbound into the backyard of a home on Nicole Dr. Blitz tracked through two yards and then headed eastbound back into the trailer park onto Emmons Ct. The officer informed me that this is where he had lost the shoe prints. K9 Blitz continued tracking, turning southeast heading between the trailers on the south side of Emmons Ct. Once behind the trailers Blitz headed eastbound again crossing the trailer park's main street, where we had to stop for several cars to pass. Blitz continued across Rudgate Blvd., onto Edith Ct., In the middle of Edith Ct. Blitz turned southbound and continued tracking southbound through numerous yards of the trailer park. We continued southbound crossing several

streets. As we approached Rudgate Blvd. again, Blitz turned southeast and headed toward the park's clubhouse. As we approached the clubhouse we were heading straight for the entire trailer park's mailboxes. I noted that there were several people exiting their running cars to get their mail. K9 blitz continued tracking southeast ignoring the running vehicles and several people that had stopped to watch us. Once past the clubhouse Blitz turned his track southwest tracking onto Becon Ct. Blitz continued tracking down the middle of the street to Carlton Dr. At Carlton, Blitz turned slightly southbound, tracking to the rear of 4770 Runton Ct. which was on the corner of Runton Ct. and Carlton.

As we entered the yard a white male teenager come from the west side of the 4770 Runton Ct. address and began to walk towards us. I noted that his jeans were soaking wet from the knees down to his tennis shoes, which was indicative of walking or running through the snow. We went to his trailer and located a second suspect, also a juvenile and placed him under arrest after finding his soaking wet tennis shoes, which matched the second set of prints. After speaking to the juvenile's grandmother consent was received to open her shed. Inside, all of the stolen items were recovered along with several others that had been reported stolen over the last year from various homes and businesses in the area.

Due to K-9 Blitz's track, two home invasion suspects were arrested and several stolen items were recovered. The track also assisted in the solving of several other open home invasion and larceny cases.