



NEW BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

August 12, 2017

To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I am nominating Officer Ament and K-9 Condor of the City of New Berlin Police Department for the Meritorious K-9 Apprehension.

On Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 1:27AM, Officer Ament and a second New Berlin officer were dispatched to provide canine assistance to the City of West Allis Police Department in the area of S 61st Street and W Burnham Street, City of West Allis. The request followed an Armed Robbery of a nearby George Webb's Restaurant and a traffic stop on a suspect vehicle. A passenger exited the vehicle, fired at the officer (striking the front of the squad car with at least one round), and fled on foot. The suspect vehicle then fled the area.

Officer Ament arrived on scene at 1:38AM and was briefed by West Allis officers. At this point Officer Ament learned New Berlin and West Allis officers would be performing a search for a suspect wanted for Armed Robbery and Attempt Homicide of a Law Enforcement Officer. Officers deployed with extra ballistic protection and long guns.

At about 1:55AM, Officer Ament deployed K-9 Condor on a track along with four other search officers (three West Allis PD, one New Berlin PD). Officer Ament started the track in the vicinity of the shell casings in the roadway left behind by the suspect's firearm.

K9 Condor began to track south from Burnham Street and across a paved parking lot. Upon reaching a fence-line adjacent to a fully fenced in junkyard, Officer Ament stopped the track and decided to conduct an area search of the junkyard due to its close proximity to the crime scene in order to safeguard on scene investigating officers. After clearing the junkyard, Officer Ament redeployed K-9 Condor at the last point tracked. K-9 Condor re-established the track, travelling east along the fence-line for approximately 70 feet, and then across a large paved parking lot to S 60th Street north of Beloit Road. This was the edge of the perimeter and the track concluded there.

Due to early and strong containment, Officer Ament decided to transition into an area search. Officer Ament focused the team's efforts in the area of S 60th Street and Beloit Road where the track ended. While searching a fenced residential yard, Officer Ament noticed a change in behavior in K-9 Condor as he kept pulling nose up toward a downed wood fence and brushy area. Officers checked the brush and under the fence, but did not locate the suspect. Immediately next door was a fenced in business lot that had yet to be searched. K-9 Condor reached that fence and displayed additional behavior changes and a desire to get beyond the fence.

Officer Ament then brought K-9 Condor and the team back to S. 60th Street in order to access the area beyond the fence. Upon reaching this area, K-9 Condor began pulling hard into this parking lot. K-9 Condor abruptly stopped, put his nose in the air, closed his mouth, and stood rigid. At this time, Officer Ament warned search team officers that he believed the suspect was nearby. K-9 Condor continued into the parking lot and towards a shed against a building. The shed was cleared. K-9 Condor then pulled directly to a walled dumpster enclosure nearby that contained two dumpsters, directing his attention to the dumpster on the left. Officer Ament pulled K-9 Condor back away from the dumpster to a safer distance. The armed suspect was located inside and presented a deadly force threat, forcing Officer Ament and other search team officers to discharge their firearms, resulting in the suspect's death. As of the date

of this nomination, the officer involved shooting was still being reviewed by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

Officer Ament estimated the original length of the track at approximately 650 feet, all hard surface (asphalt/concrete). The area is densely urban, both residential and commercial, with a lot of fencing and plenty of places to hide. Each time K-9 Condor displayed behavior changes, it was into the wind. The suspect was ultimately located upwind of every one of K-9 Condor's behavior changes. The total search time from beginning to end was approximately thirty-five (35) minutes.

Given the seriousness of the offense, the inherent danger involved in this search, the urban environment, time of day (low lit, dark conditions), the K-9 team's performance, and the deadly force encounter, I'm asking you consider Officer Ament and K-9 Condor for the Meritorious K-9 Apprehension Award.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Kevin Turner
K9 Coordinator
City of New Berlin Police Department
16300 W National Ave
New Berlin, WI 53151