



To: WLECHA Awards Committee

I would like to nominate Officer Jim Donnell and K9 Krahnie for the Meritorious K9 Track with Apprehension. Through their involvement in this case, a bank robber who committed 10 robberies in the Chicago and Madison area, was apprehended. The suspect was so prolific he was given a nickname, "The Play-Along Bandit" (article attached).

On 01/20/2015, at 9:03 am, an armed robbery was reported at the Anchor Bank in the City of Monona. Officer Donnell and K9 Krahnie responded to a mutual aid request to track the suspect that fled on foot. While en route, the suspect was seen running southbound, crossing a major highway and fleeing towards a marsh, near Upper Mud Lake.

Officer Donnell arrived on scene and located a fresh set of footprints running along the fence line bordering the marsh. At the time, the temperature was approximately 30 degrees with a 10-15 mph wind. With backup officers in tow, Officer Donnell and Krahnie began tracking westerly along the fence until reaching an overpass for the Yahara River. Krahnie tracked southbound through the fence line and, as this was occurring, perimeter units advised they spotted the suspect east of their location. The K9 team quickly relocated to that area and found a portion of fence that was partially torn down.

Officer Donnell lifted Krahnie over the fence, followed by him and his backup officers. They were quickly immersed in the thick marsh, surrounded by grass approximately 5 feet high. The terrain was difficult to navigate through and visibility was extremely limited. Due to these factors, Officer Donnell worked Krahnie off-lead, having her track about 15 feet at a time, then downing her and repeating. They eventually came to an opening, a frozen water channel, that the suspect was also seen crossing. There was another marshy area to the west of their location that the suspect was seen fleeing into.

As the K9 team approached this area, Officer Donnell observed a fresh set of footprints in the portion of the channel that was snow covered. The footprints led into a small wooded area. Once in the wood line, Officer Donnell gave a set of K9 announcements which were met with no response. The team began tracking the suspect again.

Krahnie tracked in a westerly direction through the dense marsh grass. Officer Donnell continued working her off-lead, letting her track a short distance, putting her in a down stay, and moving up tactically to her location. After tracking approximately 300 feet into this portion of the marsh, Krahnie changed direction and began tracking northbound. Shortly after making this turn, Krahnie began air scenting. She lifted her head up high

and began jumping in the tall grass. Officer Donnell immediately recognized this change of behavior and quickly scanned the area locating the suspect crouched in the grass off to their right. Officer Donnell challenged the suspect, who stood up, hands in the air as Krahnie closed in on him. Officer Donnell downed Krahnie directly in front of the suspect who was gladly taken into custody without incident while Krahnie remained in her guard position. The total length of this track was approximately 0.7 miles, with the initial leg approximately 0.4 miles and the second portion about 0.3 miles.

As a result of their effort and teamwork, Officer Donnell and K9 Krahnie were able to capture a violent offender that had committed 10 bank robberies over a four month period. This call not only required this team to work in a challenging and dangerous environment, but demonstrates the team's proficiency in a number of different trained skills. For all of these reasons, I would like to nominate the team of Officer Donnell and K9 Krahnie for the Meritorious K9 Track with Apprehension.

Respectfully submitted,

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