

Vehicle Pursuit, K-9 Deployment, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Arrest

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09/13/2015

Incident: Vehicle Pursuit, K-9 Deployment
Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Arrest

Location: 1800 Block of Marisol

Date/Time Occurred: 9/13/15 at 12:42am

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Patrol, VPD K-9

Victim(s):

Suspect(s): #1 Nathan Stevens, 33 years, Ventura resident
#2 Michael Leake, 26 years, Ventura resident

Report #: 15-12429

Narrative:

On the above date and time a Ventura Police officer observed a suspicious vehicle in the area on Mills Rd and Main St. As the officer attempted to conduct an enforcement stop on the vehicle it sped away at a high rate of speed and entered the northbound 101Fwy from Main St and reached speeds in excess of 90 MPH.

Officers located the vehicle as it attempted to exit at San Jon and a vehicle pursuit ensued. Officers pursued this vehicle through several residential neighborhoods it continued to drive recklessly at a high rate of speed running several stop signs.

The officers lost sight of the suspect vehicle in the 1300 block of Poli St. A short time later residents in the 1800 block of Marisol reported hearing subjects running through yards.

Officers responded and located the suspect vehicle abandoned. A firearm along with several rounds of ammunition was located in the truck as well as other items of suspected stolen property.

Officers with the assistance of a VPD K-9 officer conducted a yard to yard search for the suspects when they were located hiding on a side yard on Marisol.

The suspects refused orders to comply and fled on foot down into the barranca. The K-9 was deployed and apprehended one suspect identified as Nathan Stevens. The second suspect believed to be Michael Leake continued into the barranca and was not located. He is also suspected of being the driver of the vehicle during the pursuit.

During this investigation the owner of the vehicle was contacted and told officers that he had lent his truck to Michael Leake several days ago.

A records check confirmed that Leake has an outstanding warrant for his arrest in the amount of \$130,000.00 re: possession of a high capacity magazine.

Stevens was found to have a felony no bail warrant out of Santa Barbara County for possession of a controlled substance and a felon in possession of a firearm.

He was transported to the hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during his apprehension and later booked at the Ventura County Main Jail for his warrant and additional charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Stevens, who has several prior arrests in Ventura County, is under the jurisdiction of the Post Release Offender Program enacted by California voters in 2011.

VPD detectives processed the suspect vehicle and located additional stolen property from a Ventura business and from a residential burglary that Leake is suspected of committing back in May of this year.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information related to this crime or believes that they may also be a victim is urged to call the Ventura Police Department at 339-4325, or make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.