

Introduction

September 2, 2010 this writer conducted an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the actions of Captain Bonnevier and his handling of his K9 Buster to include his leadership abilities as the Section Commander.

Allegations

- Mis-treatment / abuse of bloodhound Buster
- Leadership Abilities / Treatment of peers
- Courtesy

Synopsis of Howard McBride September 2, 2010 1016am - 1130am:

September 2, 2010 I met with Howard McBride a volunteer who trains with the bloodhound unit. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the concerns that have been brought forth with regard to Captain John Bonnevier and his treatment of his bloodhound. According to Howard the straw that broke the camels back occurred during a training session September 1 in and around the Deland area. Howard was visibly upset that we were talking however he strongly felt that Bonnevier's actions have progressively become so egregious that he could no longer remain silence. Howard advised Chris Beatty and Tim McGuire were present when the following occurred. Bonnevier was going to work a track just off of 15a when he attempted to retrieve his K9. As Bonnevier removed Buster from his kennel box it was immediately apparent the K9 was unwilling to work. According to Howard the wind was very strong to include numerous variables which would have confused the K9. Instead of understanding the K9's capabilities Bonnevier was insistent on running the track. Bonnevier had to begin the track 3 separate times as the K9 was not responding. Bonnevier became so enraged the K9 was not performing he began to snatch the lead jerking the K9's neck violently which shut the K9 down even more. Bonnevier began yelling at the K9 to perform at which point Buster began to track the wrong way up a driveway. Bonnevier waited for Buster to reach the end of its lead when Bonnevier yanked with forceful vengeance causing Buster to tumble backwards several times striking a fence post which stopped it's momentum. Bonnevier then began to shout "you caused this, you did this, you better track" as K9 Buster walked with its head cantered to the side as if he were injured. Buster then shut down and would not track so Bonnevier retrieved a scent item which Buster snatched and kept the item in his mouth instead of sniffing. This further enraged Bonnevier to the point he grabbed Buster in a quasi head lock in an attempt the remove the item. Bonnevier was

successful at which time he violently struck Buster on the lower Jaw in an upward motion causing injury to the point blood was observed to the lower jaw line. Bonnevier then yanked Buster by the lead jerking his head upward as his front legs were lifted off the ground. Bonnevier then drug Buster toward the kennel box and threw him in striking the back of the box with force. Buster then tried to exit the kennel in obvious distress however Bonnevier pushed Buster back and slammed the gate shut.

Howard then began to explain this type of behavior has become the norm with Bonnevier were he consistently over corrects Buster and blames everyone else for his failures. Howard then recalled an incident with an intern where she was asked to lay a track in and around the Minnesota area of Deland. This intern has never performed in this capacity and was only doing what was asked of her. According to Howard the intern did not lay the track exactly as instructed therefore Buster tracked in a completely different direction. This enraged Bonnevier to the point he began to shout "where is that bitch, I will kill her, fuck her she is done". The intern was then located and Bonnevier returned her to aviation.

Synopsis of Chris Beatty September 2, 2010 1215pm – 120pm:

September 2, 2010 I met with Chris (Skeeter) Beatty. Skeeter began to recount an incident where he was paired with Bonnevier on a track in and around the area if 92 and 15a. Skeeter realized when Bonnevier removed Buster from his kennel box he was not going to track based on the demeanor of Buster. Bonnevier failed to realize this indicator and prepped Buster to track. Skeeter watched Bonnevier aggressively handle Buster and place him on lead. Buster failed to perform to Bonnevier's expectation as he continually shouted for Buster to track. Buster then led Bonnevier up a driveway clearly off track. Bonnevier waited till Buster got to the end of the lead when he yanked with force on the lead causing Buster to tumble backwards into a post. Bonnevier began to shout at Buster, "you caused this, you did this, you better track". Buster began to lumber back with his head tilted to the side obviously injured. Buster then shut down and would not track so Bonnevier retrieved a scent item which Buster snatched and kept the item in his mouth instead of sniffing. This further enraged Bonnevier to the point he grabbed Buster in a quasi head lock in an attempt the remove the item. Bonnevier was successful in removing the item at which time he violently struck K9 Buster on the lower Jaw in an upward motion causing injury to the point blood was observed to the lower jaw line. Bonnevier then yanked Buster by the lead jerking his head upward as his front legs were lifted off the ground. Bonnevier then drug Buster toward the box and threw

him in his kennel striking the back of the box with force. Buster then tried to exit the kennel in obvious distress however Bonnevier pushed Buster back and slammed the gate shut. Skeeter had begun to distance himself as Bonnevier was not heading his plea to calm down so he notified McGuire to intercede. Skeeter felt if citizen's had observed the incident and or recorded Bonnevier's actions on video it would have been National news.

Synopsis of Tim McGuire September 2, 2010 145pm – 300pm:

September 2, 2010 I met with Tim McGuire who expressed the greatest frustration as he has been completely eliminated from any and all training. Tim advised they have no longer tried to offer any advise for Bonnevier runs all training his way by what he has learned off of the Internet and read in books. Bonnevier has oppressed Tim to the point his expertise in bloodhound handling is never used. An example of this came to bare September 1, 2010 when the unit was working some tracks in a training mode in and around the Deland area. Buster was having some problems on an initial lead during the morning hours when he got spooked by a large green trash can. Tim tried to educate Bonnevier as to the best method in correcting Buster's fears which fell on deaf ears. Bonnevier jerked Buster by the lead and began to place him in the trash can. Buster did not respond to Bonnevier's methods in fact Buster began to shut down again which enraged Bonnevier. Tim went on to explain Bonnevier's own wife has expressed concern with regard to Buster's living conditions and quality of life. Apparently Bonnevier house's Buster in a create within his residence and subscribes to the same routine on a daily basis, create – truck – track – truck – create. Tim expressed concern with the development of the dog under these conditions. Tim advised he further advised Bonnevier when Buster was 8 weeks that he was a coward and would never make it as a bloodhound and that we as an organization should cut our loses. Bonnevier refused to listen to Tim and advised he would prove him wrong.

After lunch on the 1st of September Bonnevier was working a track with Skeeter when he was notified that Bonnevier was frustrated and taking it out on Buster. Tim conveyed via nextel that Bonnevier should put Buster up and re-group. Bonnevier failed to accept direction and continued with his tirade.

Tim further expressed his concern with Bonnevier's methods stating he was in no position to exact change as Bonnevier had monopolized the unit and training program.

Synopsis of Joey Bryant September 3, 2010 900am – 1030am:

September 3, 2010 I met with Sergeant Bryant with regard to his concerns surrounding the events of the 1st as explained by his K9 handlers. Sergeant Bryant did not see the events of the 1st only what was conveyed by members of the unit. Sergeant Bryant did however explain his role and function within the unit was non-existent by design. Bonnevier singularly took over all aspects of training and operation of the bloodhound unit excluding input from Tim, Skeeter or Joey. Joey offered several instances as examples however the one which stood out the most was a joint operation where several units from around the area worked a mock escape from the prison. Joey knew nothing of the operation nor was he copied as the unit supervisor to attend. This type of behavior is consistent across the board with the way Bonnevier does business. Bonnevier has become so obsessed with the bloodhounds that his membership feels he has neglected his duties as a Commander. He works the bloodhounds all week long, appears disshoveled at times and has very little interaction with the rest of his section.

Incident's of Concern:

- Jerking the lead causing Buster's neck to snap back consistently.
- Lifting Buster by the lead so he was hanging by the rope in an effort to place him in a trash can to correct a behavior.
- Jerking Buster with such force by way of the lead that he tumbled backward into a post injuring his jaw.
- Consistent yelling and cursing at Buster for failing to perform.
- Striking Buster in the lower jaw in a fit a rage causing injury to Buster's mouth.
- Throwing Buster into his cage with such force that he whimpered and tried to escape.
- Pushing Buster back into his kennel then slamming the door to prevent his exit.
- Physically and mentally attacking Buster when he fails at a track
- In a typical rage, shouted toward TCI personnel on a training track that he felt was set up for failure - "fuck these guys from TCI" TCI trainers got in their truck and left.
- Bonnevier's complete manipulation of the program where he fails to accept input from McGuire or any other member of the unit with regard to training or deployment.
- Bonnevier's temperament around members of the community, other agencies and organizations.

- Sgt Bryant has discussed these concerns on numerous occasions with Coffin.