



Date of occurrence: April 30, 2017

Employee Name: Alberto Knight

Classification: Police Officer

Unit/Division: Patrol

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Letter of Commendation

Narrative:

On April 30, 2017 at 1930 hours a call was received reference a possible fight at the rear of a residence in the 8800 block of Garland Avenue. Officers responded and heard yelling at the rear of the home and attempted to gain entrance into the yard but both side gates were closed. The officers attempted to go to the front door but were unsuccessful due to a locked iron gate at the front of the patio area. The officers approached the back yard by utilizing the neighbor's yard. An officer climbed the fence and saw a male standing by the pool. The officer identified himself as an officer with the Surfside Police Department. The subject told the officer that he did not care if he was an officer and that he wanted him off his property or he would shoot him and then entered his home. After several tense moments the subject exited the front of the home with a firearm and stood in the gated and locked patio area. He paced back and forth as he told officers he wanted them off his property. Officer Knight established a good rapport with the subject who was visibly upset, intoxicated and acting irrational. The subject refused several times to open the front door and allow other occupants of the home to leave. Officer Knight was able to calm him down and eventually have him turn on his patio light so that he could be more visible to the officers. After talking with the subject, he agreed to place his firearm inside the house and to unlock the front iron gate to speak solely with Officer Knight. Once the gate was unlocked and opened the subject remained at the top of the stairs, refusing to come down and watching the officers every move. Officer Knight kept talking to the subject as the officers devised a plan of action. As the subject was talking to Officer Knight and distracted, he reached for the gate which had swung open exposing both hands. Officer Knight and Officer Ruiz lunged at the subject and were able to place him in custody. The other officers proceeded to simultaneously enter the home and secure the firearm. Contact was made with the occupants of the home, his wife and 25 year old son. The subject had shoved his wife into the pool after an argument had become physical. The subject was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault on LEO, Domestic Battery, and Resisting W/O Violence. The firearm was seized and no one was injured. Officer Knight's rapport and negating tactics with this unstable armed subject turned out to be the key to the successful outcome of this call. Officer Knight is to be commended for keeping a level head and communicating effectively to deescalate a very unpredictable subject in a very tense situation. Congratulations to Officer Alberto Knight as the recipient of Officer of the Month...well deserved!