



Joint News Release

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

Gainesville Police Department



For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: March 21, 2016

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Media Advisory: UPDATE to Officer Involved Shooting

At approximately 10:07 PM last evening, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Combined Communications Center (CCC) received a 9-1-1 call from Robert Dentmond who stated to call takers that he was walking around the Majestic Oaks Apartment Complex with an "M-16" rifle. Mr. Dentmond also advised CCC personnel that he wanted to shoot himself, then disconnected the line.

In addition to Mr. Dentmond advising our communications personnel that he had suicidal ideations, we have since discovered, through the course of our investigation, that Mr. Dentmond also communicated his intent to end his life via text messages prior to making the phone call to ACSO. In those text messages, Mr. Dentmond clearly indicated to the recipient that he was armed with a gun, and that he was intent on taking his own life. Mr. Dentmond also indicated through those text messages that, if he had to, he would force law enforcement to kill him. These text messages were not available to ACSO or GPD personnel prior to their response to the Majestic Oaks Apartment Complex and were discovered through the course of the subsequent investigation.

ACSO Deputies and Gainesville Police Department (GPD) Officers arriving on scene were successful in engaging Mr. Dentmond, who was in possession of what appeared to be an AR-15 style assault rifle, in a verbal dialogue aimed at de-escalating the situation. Mr. Dentmond initially complied with Deputies' commands to disarm, and dropped his weapon; however, the weapon remained in close proximity to his immediate reach and still represented a threat to law enforcement personnel on scene. Mr. Dentmond also refused to comply with Deputies' directions to step away from the rifle, thereby separating himself from the threat. After several additional minutes of dialogue, communications between Deputies and Mr. Dentmond deteriorated, resulting in Mr. Dentmond picking up his weapon and rearming himself. Mr. Dentmond, now armed once again, then proceeded to back away from Deputies and Officers, moving toward occupied apartments within the complex. Deputies and Officers with both agencies proceeded to again give a series of loud verbal commands directing Mr. Dentmond to drop the weapon. Mr. Dentmond did not respond to the directions he was given and began to, instead, continue backing toward an occupied apartment building within the complex.

Mr. Dentmond was given multiple opportunities to stop, accompanied by several warnings that Deputies and Officers would be forced to shoot him if he continued towards the occupied building while armed. Deputies and Officers made it extremely clear to Mr. Dentmond that if he continued to walk towards the occupied apartment building carrying the rifle, they would have no other option but to utilize deadly force. As a result of Mr. Dentmond's refusal to comply with the directions of Deputies and Officers, lethal force was utilized to stop the threat Mr. Dentmond posed to residents of the complex.

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As part of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident, the firearm Mr. Dentmond was holding at the time he was encountered by law enforcement officers was recovered. That weapon is now confirmed to be a realistic replica of a semi-automatic rifle. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office also confirms that five (5) Deputies fired their weapons during the course of this incident. Three (3) of the Deputies on scene are Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified, having undergone 40-hours of training in identifying individuals suffering from mental illnesses, individuals in crisis, and de-escalation techniques. In addition, members of our Negotiations Response Team (NRT) had been contacted and were responding to the location to take over responsibility for communicating with Mr. Dentmond prior to his actions which forced Deputies and Officers on scene to employ a lethal response.

The Gainesville Police Department confirms that four (4) Officers fired their weapons during this incident. One (1) of those involved officers is Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified.

The investigation into the officer involved shooting has been turned over to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The ACSO Office of Professional Standards and GPD's Internal Affairs will also conduct an administrative investigation into the incident pending the conclusion of FDLE's investigation. As a matter of routine procedure, ACSO Deputies and GPD Officers involved in the lethal use of force will be placed on temporary administrative duties within their respective departments until such time as the investigations are concluded. We anticipate releasing the names of the Deputies and Officers involved in this incident tomorrow.

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