



Joint News Release

*Alachua County Sheriff's Office
Gainesville Police Department*



For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: March 24, 2016

Prepared by: Lt. Brandon Kutner and Officer Ben Tobias

Release #: 2016-002C

Media Advisory: ACSO and GPD Release Summary of Events and Text Messages re Majestic Oaks

At approximately 10:07 PM on Sunday, March 20, 2016, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department responded to the Majestic Oaks Apartment Complex located at 5800 SW 20th Ave, Gainesville, FL, in response to an armed, suicidal subject. Deputies from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and Officers from the Gainesville Police Department arrived on scene and encountered Robert Dentmond in the parking lot of the apartment complex. Mr. Dentmond was holding what appeared to be a semi-automatic rifle consistent with the weapon he described to 9-1-1 call takers as an "M-16" when he placed his call to our Combined Communications Center (CCC) stating he wanted to shoot himself. He then disconnected the line. CCC staff attempted numerous times to re-connect with Mr. Dentmond via telephone prior to law enforcement arrival; however, communications staff received no answer. Law enforcement personnel were able to establish a twenty five (25) minute dialog with Mr. Dentmond. Mr. Dentmond's refusal to disarm himself and step away from his weapon resulted in Deputies and Officers from both agencies having no choice but to employ lethal force. The following is a summary of events from that evening:

- **10:11 PM:** The first patrol unit from ACSO arrived on scene, and located Mr. Dentmond who was in possession of what appeared to be an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle equipped with a scope.

The on-scene supervisor requested additional units and a ballistic shield be brought to the scene. The on-scene supervisor advised that Mr. Dentmond was refusing to disarm himself and requested that the ACSO Negotiations Response Team (NRT) be paged out and respond as well.

In order to preserve the safety of the residents at the apartment complex, the ACSO Watch Commander requested a reverse dialogic call be placed from our CCC to inform residents in the Majestic Oaks are of the incident.

GPD Supervisors also advised that a rifle-rated ballistic shield was being retrieved and brought to the scene. The ACSO Watch Commander requested the ACSO Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team be called out and enroute to the scene in order in an attempt to employ additional safety equipment and long-range, less-lethal equipment not available to patrol units.

Moments later, the on-scene supervisor advised that Mr. Dentmond had dropped his rifle to the ground. The on-scene supervisor also advised that Mr. Dentmond was refusing to move away from his weapon which lay at his feet.

The on-scene supervisor confirmed that the weapon Mr. Dentmond had dropped appeared to be a black AR-15, semi-automatic rifle equipped with a black scope or optic and also appeared to have a 20-30 round magazine inserted.

- **10:38 PM:** The on-scene supervisor advised that Mr. Dentmond had again picked up his weapon from the ground and re-armed himself. Mr. Dentmond, despite repeated and clear law enforcement directions, began to back away toward occupied apartments. Deputies and Officers on scene begin a series of loud verbal commands for him to stop and drop his weapon. Mr. Dentmond continued moving toward occupied apartments in the complex while armed. Deputies and Officers pleaded multiple times for Dentmond to drop the weapon. These commands included “Drop it now or you will be shot.”
- **10:40 PM:** Shots are fired.
- **10:41 PM:** Multiple ACSO and GPD units approach Mr. Dentmond and begin rendering medical aid with the use of issued Trauma Kits.
- **10:43 PM:** EMS units arrive on scene.
- **10:45 PM:** EMS units advise CPR had been initiated and notified ShandsCair.
- **10:50 PM:** EMS leaves the scene, transporting Mr. Dentmond to UF Health at Shands Hospital.

Subsequent to the incident at Majestic Oaks on Sunday night, Detectives from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division retrieved text messages sent by Mr. Dentmond prior to his call to 9-1-1. In those text messages, Mr. Dentmond stated “Maybe I'll be underground by tomorrow...don't believe me, I'll show you”. Mr. Dentmond went on to type “I'm finna just shoot myself and get it over with, bye”, and “...no one cares right...then I'm finna act like I was never here”. The last text messages sent by Mr. Dentmond **prior** to his encounter with law enforcement stated “I'm finna have the police shoot me...I just called them and told them I have a gun”.

March 24, 2016

2016-002C Joint Media Advisory: ACSO and GPD Release Summary of Events and Text Messages re Majestic Oaks

Page 3

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.

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