



Joint News Release

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

Gainesville Police Department



For Immediate Release:

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Media Advisory: FDLE Briefs Local Law Enforcement Leaders on Investigation into Officer Involved Shooting

Investigators from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) recently met with 8th Judicial Circuit State's Attorney William Cervone, Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell and Gainesville Police Chief Tony Jones to present the current standing of their investigation into the March 20, 2016 officer involved shooting of Robert Lee Dentmond. It should be noted that FDLE does not consider their investigation completed until after the matter has been reviewed by the State's Attorney's Office.

FDLE's independent investigation has validated the timeline of that night's events previously released by local law enforcement:

- 8:52 PM – Robert Lee Dentmond initiated a Facebook Instant Message (IM) conversation with his girlfriend. As the conversation progressed, it escalated into an argument, which resulted in Mr. Dentmond's girlfriend ending their relationship. After attempts by Mr. Dentmond to reconcile the relationship, he typed several statements indicating he would commit suicide. Mr. Dentmond then placed a voice call to his girlfriend in which he told her "I'm sorry for everything that's happening", and then hung up. The following statements were recovered from Mr. Dentmond's IM account with appropriate legal redactions:

- o "I'm done with life fukk life I'm done by **** if you need me I'm be in the hospital"
- o "Maybe I'll be underground by tomorrow don't believe me I'll show you"
- o "I'm finna just shoot my self and get it over with bye"
- o "Your right but no one cares right"
- o "Then I'm finna act like I was never there"
- o "100% Bye ****"
- o "I'm finna have the police shoot me"
- o "I just called then and told them I have a gun"

- 10:07 PM – The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Combined Communications Center (CCC) received a 9-1-1 call from Mr. Dentmond who told the 9-1-1 operator he was walking around the complex of the Majestic Oaks Apartments carrying a M-16 rifle and that he was going to shoot himself. He then hung up. CCC personnel made three (3) attempts to call Mr. Dentmond back, but received no answer.

FDLE's investigation revealed that Mr. Dentmond was armed with a replica Airsoft assault-style rifle identical in size, appearance, and characteristics of an AR-15 or M-16 style assault rifle and waited in the parking lot just outside of building "J" for law enforcement to arrive after placing the 9-1-1 call

- 10:12 PM – ACSO deputies arrived at the entrance to Majestic Oaks Apartments and staged near the front of the complex. Deputies quickly planned a cautious tactical approach to ensure their safety.
- 10:16 PM – Deputies located a male subject, approximately 6'0" tall weighing 165 pounds, standing alone in the parking lot just north of building "H". That individual was wearing clothing which matched the description provided by CCC dispatchers, and was indeed armed with what appeared to be a loaded M-16 style assault rifle with scope. Deputies immediately began giving him orders to drop the rifle. The man, later identified as Mr. Dentmond, ignored deputies' commands and proceeded to retreat further to the northeast area of the parking lot, taking a position in a grassy median just west of building "J".

Deputies maintained their position and immediately requested additional units be dispatched to assist. Units from both ACSO and GPD responded. Deputies/officers continued their attempts to establish a rapport and dialogue with Mr. Dentmond who refused to comply with their multiple request to put down his rifle and surrender.

- 10:19 PM – Negotiations response Team (NRT) was requested to respond.
- 10:21 PM – Limited personnel resources on scene made resident evacuations impractical, the reverse 911 system was utilized to send messages to surrounding residents requesting they remain inside their apartments for their own safety. This system is designed to contact all land-line and cellular phones within a designated radius of the incident location. In this case, over 1400 automated calls were successfully placed.
- 10:22 PM – Mr. Dentmond laid down his rifle, but refused to move away from it and surrender. After approximately sixteen (16) minutes of negotiations, Mr. Dentmond retrieved the rifle and started moving toward building "J". Deputies/officers repeatedly told Mr. Dentmond not to move toward the occupied apartment buildings, explaining that they could not allow him to endanger other residents. Mr. Dentmond again refused to comply with deputy's/officer's requests and continued to move toward the occupied apartment building, still armed. Supervisors on scene ordered other deputies/officers over the radio, not to allow Mr. Dentmond to enter the apartment buildings with the weapon in his possession.
- 10:27 PM – The ACSO Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team was requested to respond, and a request for rifle-rated ballistic shields were made.
- 10:40 PM – After a twenty-four (24) minute standoff, deputies/officers discharged their weapons. Deputies/officers then approach Mr. Dentmond to remove his weapon and render aid.
- 10:41 PM – Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR) was requested on scene, while deputies/officers utilized their issued trauma kits to render first-aid to Mr. Dentmond until ACFR crews arrived and transported Mr. Dentmond to UF Health at Shands Hospital.

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- 11:29 PM – Mr. Dentmond was pronounced dead at UF Health Shands Hospital by medical personnel.

Any time a law enforcement officer is forced to employ deadly force is a tragedy. The family of the deceased is affected, the involved deputies and officers are affected, and the community is affected. Local law enforcement officials are ensuring that a thorough review of the incident is conducted. The next step in the process is a review by the 8th Judicial Circuit State's Attorney, William Cervone. It is expected that the matter will be presented to a Grand Jury. No additional information is available for release until after those proceedings have concluded.

The ACSO Office of Professional Standards and GPD's Internal Affairs will also conduct an administrative investigation into the incident pending the conclusion of the anticipated Grand Jury proceedings. As a matter of routine procedure, ACSO Deputies and GPD Officers involved in the lethal use of force will remain on temporary administrative duties within their respective departments until such time as the investigations are concluded.

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