

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



Larry Campbell, Sheriff
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 31, 2010

DEPUTY SHOT – SUSPECT ARRESTED

On Monday, May 31, 2010 the Leon County Sheriff's Office responded to 2115 Owens Street, Apartment #1 to check on the welfare of Jerome Ferrier, 30. Uniform Patrol Deputies responded after an acquaintance notified LCSO that Ferrier had made some concerning statements recently. Yesterday, he allegedly sent her a picture of him holding a gun to his head.

Deputies arrived at Ferrier's apartment shortly after 10:00am this morning. When Ferrier would not respond to them, they contacted Ferrier's landlord in order to make entry and check on him. At approximately 11:00am, Deputies unlocked the door and opened it. Ferrier immediately began firing a gun at them from inside. Deputies returned fire and called for assistance. During the gunfire, Lt. Barry Blackburn was injured.

Deputies and uniformed Officers from the Tallahassee Police Department responded to the call for assistance and engaged in the gun battle as Ferrier continued to shoot from inside the apartment. Tallahassee Police Officer Brian Davis arrived on scene in a marked patrol vehicle. Officer Davis was aware that there was a suspect inside the residence who was armed with a handgun and had fired upon Leon County Sheriff Deputies. Officer Davis approached with caution and as Deputies were continuing to exchange gunfire with the suspect, Officer Davis engaged in the gunfight also.

Emergency Medical assistance responded to the scene and transported Lt. Blackburn to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital for a gunshot wound to the right shoulder.

Sgt. James McQuaig
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A perimeter was established containing Ferrier to the apartment. Both LCSO's SWAT Team and TPD's TAC Team responded and deployed.

During the period when experts were negotiating with Ferrier for his surrender, he requested we come inside to help him. However, SWAT Team members were able to observe Ferrier still armed and apparently waiting for them to enter the apartment. When negotiations stalled, SWAT Team members deployed a chemical agent into the apartment. Ferrier was overcome by this and stepped outside for relief. While outside, Ferrier was taken into custody after being subdued with a Taser.

He was also transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital where he is being treated for a gunshot wound to his right arm. It is believed that Ferrier was shot in the initial exchange of gunfire.

In an effort to focus on the investigation, Tallahassee Police Officer Brian Davis and the involved Leon County Sheriff Deputies has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard departmental protocol for both agencies

Sheriff Larry Campbell stated, "I want to take this opportunity to thank all law enforcement and emergency responders who showed up today, especially the outstanding men and women of the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department. This is a fine example of how these two agencies work together in a crisis. This was a very dangerous situation which could have ended much worse for everyone involved."

Ferrier faces charges of multiple counts of Attempted Homicide.

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