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MEDIA RELEASE

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Deputies with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office responded to the Fountains Apartments in Ponte Vedra early Thursday evening in response to a despondent subject. As the three initial deputies approached the residence a male subject began firing toward them with a firearm. Deputies returned fire in the direction of the suspect.

Deputies secured the area and began evacuating the immediate residents due to the unknown potential of additional gunfire from the suspect. The Crisis Negotiations Team (Hostage Negotiations), along with SWAT responded to the scene and immediately began attempts to contact the suspect. When they could not make verbal contact with the suspect, a robot equipped with a camera was deployed to the residence, where the suspect was located deceased. No other injuries have been reported at this time.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement in conjunction with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office are conducting an investigation into the event. The cause of death is pending preliminary autopsy results from the Medical Examiner's Office.

