



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE

"Taking Care of People"

Officer Involved Shooting Update

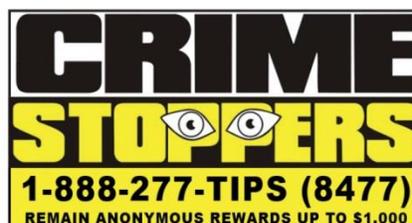
7 February 2018

Detectives with The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the Officer Involved Shooting, which occurred at an area hotel (Howard Johnsons) located near State Road 16 and I-95 yesterday, around 6:00 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

The incident began when members of the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force, supplemented by uniformed and non-uniformed members of The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office were attempting to apprehend a suspect wanted by the Amherst Police Department, in New Hampshire. The suspect, who has been identified as **James Benny Hobbs, 58, 01/26/1959** from **Stratham, New Hampshire** was believed to have fled the area upon learning of an arrest warrant for an **Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault (on a child under the age of 15)**.

After learning of the possible whereabouts of Hobbs, law enforcement officers located a vehicle which matched the description of the suspect vehicle in the parking lot, and began making inquiries into the registry of guests at the hotel. Members of the arrest team comprised of U.S. Marshal Taskforce Agents and members of the Sheriff's Office approached the door, asking the occupant(s) to exit the room. The sole occupant of the room exited and upon verbal commands to surrender himself to law enforcement, instead, refused to comply over a period of time and made several sudden moves causing 3 law enforcement officers to fire their weapons. Of the three who were in the immediate area of the doorway and in close proximity to the suspect, and who fired their weapons, two are members of the U.S. Marshal Taskforce. The third officer involved is a member of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. Due to U.S. Marshal Policy, taskforce members working in an undercover capacity and their involvement in arresting some of the nation's most dangerous and wanted individuals, our agency will not be releasing their identities. The third individual involved has been identified as Deputy M. Toubaili, who has been employed with the Sheriff's Office since May of 2014. This is his first officer involved shooting.

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