PRESS RELEASE

Man Accidentally Shot and Killed by Friend in Apartment

January 27, 2017 -- Last night Sheriff's deputies responded to a call of an accidental shooting in an apartment complex in the Garden Home area. Two men were handling an AR-15 rifle when the gun discharged and struck one of them. The man later died at the hospital. No arrests have been made at this time.

On Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 10:58 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the Frank Estate Apartments, in the community of Garden Home regarding a reported shooting. When deputies arrived they found a 20-year-old man had been shot in the abdomen by his 28-year-old friend.

The victim was quickly transported to Oregon Health Sciences University, but was pronounced deceased on arrival. Deputies called detectives from the Washington County Violent Crimes Unit to investigate the case.

Detectives determined that the victim and several friends were celebrating the Chinese New Year at the 28-year-old's apartment. The owner of the apartment owns several firearms and decided to show one of them to the group. He brought out a .223 caliber AR-15 and unloaded the weapon. The gun was passed around the group of four guests. He took the gun back and was in the process of reloading it when the weapon discharged and struck the victim. The group immediately called 911 and the 28-year-old friend started to render medical aid to the victim.

Sheriff's detectives have been unsuccessful in contacting the victims' next of kind, who reside abroad, in order to notify them of his death. The 28-year-old man who discharged the weapon has not been charged with any crimes and the case is still under investigation. The names of those involved are not being released at this time pending the notification of the family.

Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor in this tragic case. The Sheriff's Office strongly urges people to handle guns in a safe manner and to always treat all firearms as if they are loaded at all times.