



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

PRESS RELEASE

Case#: 15-500069

Aloha Man Dies after Pointing Gun at Deputies during Domestic Violence Incident

January 2, 2015--Washington County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance where a woman reported she had been injured by her husband. Shortly after the Sheriff's Deputies arrived, the husband pointed a gun at them, forcing the deputies to respond with lethal force. The man was pronounced deceased at the scene.

On January 2, 2015, at 1:12 a.m., a woman called emergency personnel to her apartment at 4519 SW Masters Loop in the community of Aloha reporting that her husband had possibly overdosed on alcohol. She communicated that her husband was very ill and unresponsive. Three Sheriff's Deputies assisted Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R) as they attempted treatment on Lewis Lembke, 47, for an over-consumption of alcohol. Mr. Lembke became more lucid and refused further treatment. There were no crimes committed and Mr. Lembke had the ability to make his own health care decisions. Sheriff's Deputies and TVF&R left the residence at 2:17 a.m.

At 2:21 a.m., the woman called the three Sheriff's Deputies back to the residence reporting that Mr. Lembke had become violent. She reported that he choked and assaulted her. She locked herself in the bathroom until deputies arrived and moved her to safety. Deputies found the woman had been assaulted. When Sheriff's Deputies attempted to contact Mr. Lembke, he partially emerged out of a bedroom doorway holding a semi-automatic handgun. This was a small apartment with very limited movement opportunities.

Sheriff's Deputies gave commands ordering Mr. Lembke to drop his gun. Moments later, Mr. Lembke pointed the handgun directly at the deputies. Sheriff's Deputies were forced to use lethal force with a firearm against Mr. Lembke, striking him at least once. Deputies immediately began CPR and continued until paramedics arrived and took over. Shortly thereafter, Lewis Lee Lembke was pronounced deceased at the residence.

The Washington County Major Crimes Team responded to investigate the incident. They were assisted by the Oregon State Police Forensics Unit and the Washington County Forensics Science Unit to process the scene and collect all evidence. Investigators discovered that Mr. Lembke's handgun had one of the responding deputy's bullets lodged in the front of the frame below the barrel.

The Sheriff's Deputies were placed on administrative leave which is standard procedure. Their names will be released next week after the investigation has been completed.