



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Aviation Unit Assists in Two Arrests

Date: March 19, 2018

On 03-18-19 at 12:50 a.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit was flying in the area of I-75 and Cortez Boulevard conducting a security check, when an unknown subject shined a green laser multiple times at the helicopter.

Chief Pilot Cpl. Scott Schulz and Deputy Roy McLaughlin were able to locate the suspect at the intersection of Braewood and Glenwood streets. The suspect, later identified as Alec Dodge, W/M DOB/01-27-1991, proceeded to flash the laser at the helicopter once again.

Cpl. Schulz and Deputy McLaughlin were able to direct deputies on the ground to the suspect's location.

Deputies found Dodge in possession of a green laser pointer. Dodge told deputies he was walking his dog and uses the laser to play with his dog.

While he admitted to pointing the laser at the helicopter, Dodge said he was unaware it was against the law to do so.

Prior to his arrest, Dodge told deputies he had a loaded gun in the pocket of his hoodie.

Dodge does not possess a concealed weapons permit in Florida. Deputies also noted he is a convicted felon.

Dodge was charged with Misuse of a Laser Lighting Device and Carrying a Concealed Firearm. His bond was set at \$7,000.

In a separate incident, the Aviation Unit was returning to the hanger when they received a call in reference to the operator of a gold Toyota Scion driving erratically in the Hibiscus Springs apartment complex, Spring Hill.

Witnesses said Collin James Daniel, W/M DOB/09-30-1993, was driving through Hibiscus Springs hitting mailboxes and other vehicles, in or near the roadway.

After colliding with numerous objects, witnesses say Daniel parked his vehicle and approached a man who was walking his dog in the area.

A verbal altercation ensued where Daniel pushed the man. The man responded by loosening his grip on the leash of his German Shepherd.

Daniel proceeded to flee the area on foot.

A short time later, the HCSO Aviation Unit arrived on scene.

They located Daniel using the helicopter's Forward Looking Infrared camera.

He was found lying on his back between two air conditioning units and was taken into custody without incident.

The case was turned over to the Florida Highway Patrol. Troopers indicated that Daniel's blood alcohol level tested at .316 percent.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.