



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Student Arrested for Written Threats to Kill or Conduct Mass Shooting

**Date:** September 3, 2019

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On 08-31-19 at approximately 7:30 a.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a telephone call from an FBI Violent Crimes supervisor in Tampa regarding an on-line threat.

The FBI Violent Crimes supervisor was quickly put in contact with a Hernando County Sheriff's deputy so all information could be documented and investigated.

Investigation revealed the FBI received information from Snapchat that a user with the name of "Globbersteel" posted a picture, making threats to Central High School in Hernando County. The Snapchat user was identified as Matthew Tanrikulu DOB/06-19-2003.

Deputies determined that Tanrikulu attends Springstead High School.

The picture posted on Snapchat contained an assault type rifle lying on a bed, along with the caption "Yo bruh bouta run it up at central." The photo was posted to Snapchat during the previous (school) week, 08-27-19 – 08-30-19.

Deputies responded to the campus of Central High School (Saturday) to check for suspicious persons, vehicles, activity, etc. The campus was secure with nothing out of the ordinary noted. The School Resource Deputy was notified.

Deputies made contact with Tanrikulu at his residence. Post Miranda, Tanrikulu admitted to posting the photo message to Snapchat, stating he did so while at his friend's house on 08-30-19. Tanrikulu told deputies he thought it would be funny due to the hoax bomb threats last year and the hoax shooting threats this year.

Deputies determined the "assault type rifle" used in the photo was an airsoft gun. The gun was collected and placed into evidence. Deputies checked the residence for any additional weapons, yielding negative results.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, “Every threat made on a school, no matter what media it comes through, is taken as actual. It takes a tremendous amount of resources to react to each of these threats and to investigate the source of the threat. It is critically important for parents to stress the consequences of making such school threats or inappropriate comments regarding such matters in any and all school settings. Additionally, reporting such threats through normal channels (i.e. talking to parent, teacher, staff, SRO, calling the Sheriff’s Office) will allow these issues to be investigated and resolved before the rumor mill generates exaggerated and/or unnecessary alarm amongst students, parents and concerned citizens.”

**Matthew Tanrikulu DOB/06-19-2003** was arrested on scene and charged as follows:

- Written Threats to Kill/Injure

Being that Tanrikulu is a juvenile, he was transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice in Ocala.

**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, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.**