



PRESS RELEASE

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November 30, 2012

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Replica Firearms Prompt Police Response

Riverside, CA - On Friday, November 30, 2012, at approximately 00:34 AM, the Riverside Police Department Communications Division received a call from a resident at an apartment complex in the 300 block of Central Avenue, Riverside, reporting two subjects wearing dark clothing, seen standing near the corner of an apartment, and both subjects carrying handguns. One of the subjects was reported to have pointed a weapon at a passing vehicle.

Officers were dispatched to the area, along with supervisors, and two RPD K-9 units. The officers arrived on scene and immediately deployed into the complex to search for the suspects. Within minutes, officers had located the suspects in between two apartment buildings, and they were ordered to the ground at gunpoint. One of the subjects complied; however the second fled from the scene and ran into the ravine towards the rear of the complex.

A perimeter was established, but officers held their distance as the suspect was believed to be armed. An RPD K-9 handler positioned himself in a vantage point overlooking the ravine and made announcements calling for the suspect to come out. Upon hearing the K-9 on scene, the suspect revealed his hiding position, and advised he was armed only with an airsoft pistol.

It was determined no crime had actually occurred, and that the two subjects were local college students who were PC gaming fans and had purchased Airsoft weapons to simulate the combat found in the games. Both subjects were interviewed and released. The public is reminded to use caution and good judgment, when utilizing replica firearms in a public place.

Please direct any comments or questions to Lieutenant Russ Shubert at (951)351-6050.

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