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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 23, 2010

Rifle Police Officer Shot, Alleged Shooter In Custody

RIFLE, Colo. – At approximately 8:20 p.m. last night, two Rifle police officers responded to a domestic violence call at 2175 Whiteriver Avenue. During the course of their investigation, the suspect, Phillip Michael Amonette, DOB 7/27/1957, of same address, produced a handgun and shot at the officers while trying to flee. He hit one officer, and the second officer returned fire, striking the suspect.

Additional officers as well as Emergency Medical Services immediately responded to the scene; they transported both the suspect and officer to Grand River Hospital. The suspect was then transported to St. Mary's Intensive Care Unit in Grand Junction where he is currently in the custody of law enforcement.



February 2010 Booking Photographs (Garfield County Jail)

Once the scene was secured, the Rifle Police Department turned the investigation over to the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. It currently remains an active criminal investigation.

Chief Daryl Meisner and Sheriff Lou Vallario both agree that it is critical to provide law enforcement officers with the necessary protective gear when responding to these types of calls. This was an isolated incident; however, these things can occur in our local communities. For example, in the last 48 hours there have been three officer-involved shootings in western Colorado.

The following agencies were involved in the initial response and subsequent investigation: Rifle Police Department, Rifle Fire Protection District, Garfield County Sheriff's Office and its Victim Response Team, Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Glenwood Springs Police Department and Grand River Hospital District.

Phillip Amonette is in custody facing charges of Attempted Murder in the First Degree, a class 2 felony, in violation of CRS sections 18-3-102 (1) (a), Murder in the First Degree, and 18-2-101 (1) Criminal attempt. His bond has been set at \$1,000,000.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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