

SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ARRESTED FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A Kitsap County Sheriff's deputy has been arrested following an investigation into an allegation of domestic violence.

Detectives from Port Orchard Police Department arrested Deputy Richard D. Smith, 45, this morning at his residence in Port Orchard. He was booked into Kitsap County Jail on one charge of Assault, 4th Degree (domestic violence). Bail amount was set initially at \$10,000.

The charge stems from information received by the Sheriff's Office, Aug. 1, concerning verbal remarks made to a third party by Deputy Smith, which resulted in the issuance of a restraining order. During the course of this initial investigation an allegation of domestic violence involving Deputy Smith and his spouse, Brenda J. Smith, 40, was brought to the attention of the Sheriff's Office.

As the allegation of domestic assault contained in the complaint was criminal, the Port Orchard Police Department was contacted and detectives from that agency, assisted by Bremerton Police detectives, assumed responsibility for the investigation. The alleged incident occurred inside the municipal city limits of Port Orchard and falls within the jurisdiction of the Port Orchard Police Department. Deputy Smith was placed on administrative leave from the Sheriff's Office on Aug. 1.

Once the investigation was completed, it was turned over to the Kitsap County Prosecutor for review. The Prosecutor's Office determined that probable cause existed for the arrest and charging of Deputy Smith with regard to the allegation of domestic violence.

Deputy Smith is scheduled to appear in Kitsap County District Court, Port Orchard, on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2003, at 1:30 p.m., for formal arraignment.

Deputy Smith started work with the KCSO as a deputy sheriff in December 1988. He had previously worked in law enforcement as a trooper with the Alaska State Patrol from January 1982 to June 1988. He holds a collateral duty assignment as a member of the department's bicycle patrol unit.

Deputy Smith remains on administrative leave pending adjudication of the charges.

-End-