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For Immediate Release:
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Sunday, Aug. 1, 2004

Early morning shooting leaves three injured, one in custody

Port Orchard, Wash. – An on-going dispute coupled with a challenge to fight, ended early Sunday morning with two ‘teens being shot, another treated for lacerations, and one arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

Location: Intersection of SE Conifer Park Drive and SE Lund Avenue, in the unincorporated area of South Kitsap, outside of the city limits of Port Orchard.

Time & date: Approximately 1:50 a.m., Sunday, 08/01/2004.

Involved:

(1) Vehicle: 1987 Chevrolet S-10 pick-up truck, white with blue trim.

Suspect driver: Male, age 18, South Kitsap resident. This person was subsequently identified, located and arrested, and booked into Kitsap County Jail on a charge of assault, 1st degree (deadly weapon). Bail amount set initially at \$150,000.

(2) Vehicle: 2001 Acura Integra 2-door, silver in color.

Occupants:

Driver: Male, age 17, Bremerton resident. The driver was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, with a gunshot injury to his lower left back. Injury not considered life threatening. Treated and released to his parents.

Front passenger: Male, age 18, South Kitsap resident. This person was transported by emergency medical unit to Saint Joseph’s Hospital, Tacoma, with a gunshot injury to his right shoulder. Injury not considered life threatening. Treated and released.

Left rear passenger: Male, age 17, South Kitsap resident. This passenger was transported to Harrison Memorial Hospital (ER), Bremerton, for injuries received from broken glass. Treated and released.

Right rear passenger: Male, age 18, South Kitsap resident. Not injured.

Circumstances:

Sheriff's patrol deputies, along with an officer from City of Port Orchard Police, responded to the intersection of Conifer Park Drive and Lund Avenue, regarding a 9-1-1 dispatch of gunshots having been fired and people injured. Initial police units arrived at 1:58 a.m.

First deputies at the scene reported finding three injured persons lying in the roadway with numerous others surrounding them and their vehicle, the Acura Integra. A medic unit from South Kitsap's Fire District 7 arrived and initiated emergency medical treatment to the injured.

Deputies contained the scene, questioned witnesses and ascertained the identity of the alleged suspect. Sheriff's detectives responded to start an investigation and to process the scene for evidence.

The victim driver was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, for treatment of a gunshot injury to his lower back. The front passenger was transported by a medical unit to Saint Joseph's Hospital, Tacoma, for treatment of a gunshot wound to his right shoulder. The left rear passenger was transported to Harrison Memorial Hospital, Bremerton, for treatment of lacerations caused by broken glass. All injured occupants of the Acura have since been treated and released.

The alleged shooting suspect and his vehicle were later found behind an automotive repair business in the 5000 block of Bethel Road SE, South Kitsap. The suspect was found asleep inside of a locked motor home. He was taken into custody by patrol deputies without incident, and transported to jail where he was held and initially charged with assault, 1st degree (deadly weapon).

Sheriff's detectives are working to establish the reason(s) behind the shooting. From witness statements it appears that there had been an on-going dispute between one of the occupants of the Acura Integra, and the driver of the Chevrolet truck. A series of harassing telephone calls and verbal threats culminated in a challenge to fistfight between the two at a local park.

The previously arranged fight never occurred, however both vehicles met at the intersection of Lund Avenue and Conifer Park Drive, seemingly by chance. When the Acura pulled-up alongside the Chevrolet truck, the driver of the truck began shooting at the passenger car. The truck then sped away, westbound on Lund Avenue.

Both vehicles involved in this incident have been impounded as part of the investigation. The Acura Integra was damaged in the shooting.

It is expected that the alleged suspect will make an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court on Monday, 08/02/2004, at 3:00 p.m.

The investigation by Sheriff's detectives continues.

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