



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

PRESS RELEASE

Sheriff Warns of the Dangers with Replica Guns

June 17, 2016--The Washington County Sheriff's Office is concerned with a surge in incidents where replica guns were used. These firearms are very realistic and place everyone in great danger.

In the last four days, there have been three separate occasions where Sheriff's Deputies responded to 911 calls from the public reporting a person shooting or threatening to shoot a gun at or toward people. In all three occasions, very realistic replica guns were used (photos inset). Many of these are pellet or BB guns.



Replica Hunting Rifle

Sheriff's Deputies make split-second decisions about whether a gun is real. In a rapidly developing situation, a realistic looking replica gun can easily be identified as a real gun, with potentially tragic results. Fortunately, Sheriff's Deputies were able to resolve these situations peacefully. In all three instances, it was not until close examination that Sheriff's Deputies were able to determine the guns were replicas. Two of the three incidents resulted in arrests.

The Sheriff's Office is also concerned about the public mistaking a replica gun for a real gun, and tries to resolve the situation themselves. This could also end in tragedy.

Washington County Sheriff Pat Garrett said, "We work hard every day to ensure that our interactions with the public are as safe and peaceful as possible. These dangerously realistic guns are being marketed as cool and trendy when, the consequences could have catastrophic results."



Seized Replica AR15 and Handgun

Since 1989, federal law has required that replica guns be manufactured or imported with a permanent bright orange plug at the end of a non-shooting barrel or a body that's brightly colored. Airsoft guns are required to have an orange collar on the muzzle or transparent or neon-colored bodies. Deputies have often found these guns altered to remove the orange markings. Unfortunately, pellet and BB guns do not fall into this category. The Sheriff's Office urges parents to not allow their children to use these realistic looking guns.