

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWAT Officers Identified In Paradise Hills Shooting

San Diego- On February 14, 2019, the San Diego Police Department Communications Center received a call from a female resident in the 1800 block of Altamont Court stating her ex-boyfriend was acting strangely. Other residents began calling to report the subject had pointed a rifle at a resident driving by and had possibly fired the rifle. Patrol officers arrived on scene at approximately 2:11 p.m. The officers attempted to make contact with the male, who had gone into the back yard. The officers immediately heard a gunshot from behind the house.

The SWAT Unit and emergency negotiators were called to the scene in an attempt to convince the male to surrender. During the SWAT incident, the suspect confronted two SWAT officers while aiming a gun at them. The two SWAT officers, fearing for the safety, fired multiple rounds at the suspect. The suspect initially went down, but eventually retreated into the residence. After approximately fifteen minutes, the male emerged from the rear of the residence and pointed a gun towards the officer's location, prompting three additional SWAT officers to fire at the suspect. The suspect was struck at least once by gunfire and fell to the ground where he was eventually taken into custody and provided medical attention. The suspect was transported to a local hospital where he underwent surgery.

The suspect has been identified as 54 year-old Martin Girdner. He remains in the hospital with wounds that are considered life-threatening, but he has been stabilized at this time.

No officers were injured during the incident. The SWAT Officers involved in the shooting have been identified as; Jacob Castillo – a five-year veteran, Timothy Arreola – a six-year veteran, Juan Ponce – a seven-year veteran Aziz Brou – a twelve-year veteran, and Richard Butera – a 16-year veteran.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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