

The investigation into an incident that appears to be an armed home invasion will continue throughout the evening hours. Deputies and Detectives of the Henderson County Sheriffs' Office and Agents of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation are processing the residence located at 116 Georgetown Road in the Flat Rock area of Henderson County. They are also conducting interviews, of witnesses, suspects and victims who were involved in or witnessed any part of the events that ended in the shooting of one of the alleged invaders.

At around 2:33 this afternoon, the Sheriffs Office received a call from a neighbor who stated that an individual, who claimed to be staying at 116 Georgetown Road, was requesting help and claiming that armed men had broken into the residence at 116 Georgetown and were holding others there at gunpoint. This victim stated that he had fled the scene unnoticed by the suspects who were unaware of his presence in the home. He stated that three other persons at the residence were in danger, but that he did not know who the suspects were.

Officers arrived on the scene within minutes. As a precautionary measure, several deputies were dispatched to Atkinson Elementary School which is located in the area, to request and to assist in a lockdown procedure in the event that any suspects had escaped. This was a precautionary measure and at no time were the students in jeopardy. The Henderson County Schools are well trained in lockdown procedures and performed this one well. As deputies were setting up their perimeter and attempting to make contact at one entrance of the residence, a male victim came out from the residence via another door. He was taken into custody by a deputy. He stated to the officer that there were two females inside the residence being held hostage by three men. The officer alerted the others at the scene. Within moments the event was under control as an armed suspect was shot and two others were taken into custody by Sheriffs Deputies. The wounded suspect was transported to an area hospital and his condition is unknown to us at this time. The two women were unhurt.

The case is complex due to the violent nature of the crime, the fact that a suspect was shot at the scene, and the preliminary indications that some if not all of the victims and suspects were acquainted in some manner. For this reason, further details are not being released at this time. The processing of the crime scene as well as the interviews to determine specific roles and charges to follow will likely continue throughout the evening.

Sheriff Rick Davis stated that "As a matter of protocol, anytime we have an officer involved shooting, there is an SBI investigation. This is no indication of wrongdoing on the part of an officer, but serves to ensure the public that an independent agency will look into any use of deadly force. Our officers are very well trained and carry out their mission with a high degree of professionalism. This scenario could have ended tragically for the victims or the responding officers had they not performed at the level that they did."

The Sheriff also states that "We are certain that we have all involved in custody at this time, and again, while the act was certainly violent and senseless, it does not appear to be random. We are reasonably certain of that."

No names are being released at this time while the investigations continue; but as the case comes together and charges are filed we will forward any relevant information. I do not anticipate any further news release prior to 0900 in the morning.

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