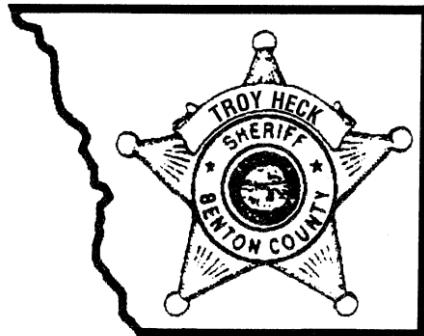


BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

581 Highway 23 NE • P.O. Box 159 • Foley, MN 56329
Administrative: (320) 968-7201 • FAX: (320) 968-6885
Jail: (320) 968-8180 • FAX: (320) 968-6347
Records: (320) 968-8150
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BentonMNSheriff/
Twitter: @BentonMNSheriff



Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE:10/12/2023

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

Below are the remarks provided during a media briefing on Oct. 12, 2023, regarding the critical incident in Glendorado Township in rural Benton County.

Shortly after 7 a.m. today, members of my office and the Sherburne County Drug Task Force came under fire as they attempted to execute a knock and announce search warrant at a Benton County residence.

Five members of the task force sustained non-life threatening injuries and were transported by ambulance or air ambulance for medical treatment.

Because all were working in an undercover capacity, I cannot provide their names. But I can tell you that the injured officers include three Sherburne County sheriff's deputies – one of whom sustained a gunshot injury and two who were shot in the vest; one Elk River Police Department investigator was shot; and one Princeton Police Department investigator was shot.

As of right now, the two Sherburne County deputies who were shot in their vests were treated and released from Centra Care St. Cloud Hospital. The three other officers were taken to North Memorial Health Hospital in Robbinsdale where they continue to be treated for gunshot injuries. All are expected to survive.

The suspected shooter is Karl Thomas Holmberg, age 64, of Glendorado Township in rural Benton County. Mr. Holmberg was injured during the incident and is also being treated at North Memorial Health Hospital.

A woman who was inside the home during the exchange of gunfire was taken to M Health Fairview Northland Medical Center in Princeton where she was evaluated and released.

Task Force members arrived at Mr. Holmberg's residence on 190th Avenue Northeast shortly after 7 a.m. today. They announced their arrival multiple times before entering the home. At one

point the offers came under fire. Multiple officers returned fire and the officers retreated to outside of the residence.

At 10:47 a.m., after several hours of negotiations, Mr. Holmberg was taken into custody without further incident. He was transported to North Memorial Health Hospital where he continues to be treated. We don't know at this point the extent or cause of his injuries.

This has been a difficult day. And we are grateful that the incident did not result in further injury or in loss of life. We are also grateful for the bravery and professionalism of all the law enforcement personnel involved in this incident. We are very grateful for the assistance of all our partners who came to our aid and we are particularly grateful for our negotiators who worked so hard to bring this incident to a peaceful end.

The involved agencies have requested that the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Force Investigations Unit conduct an independent investigation of the incident.

Many agencies provided assistance during the incident and in its aftermath including the Foley, Elk River, Princeton, Avon and St. Cloud police departments; the Stearns, Mille Lacs and Sherburne County sheriff's offices; the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force; the Minnesota State Patrol; the Foley and Princeton fire departments; and North Memorial Ambulance and Air Care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Heck".

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff