

**MAIN OFFICE**  
P. O. Box 18770  
Pensacola, Florida 32523  
(850) 436-9630



**DETENTION**  
P. O. Box 17800  
Pensacola, Florida 32522  
(850) 436-9800

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**David Morgan, Sheriff**

August 6, 2013  
For Immediate Release

For More Information contact –  
ECSSO Public Information Officer  
Sena Maddison (850) 554-2369

**Dogs Shot in Aggravated Assault Investigation**

**Pensacola, Florida** – While investigating an aggravated assault with a firearm, Deputies had reason to believe from statements made by victims and witnesses that a suspect was a resident or frequented a home on Flynn Drive. One suspect had been arrested. While checking the perimeter of the house for a second suspect, all windows were closed with exception of one which was wide open. An upside-down bucket has been placed beneath the open window with a footprint on it, indicating possible unlawful entry. Repeated attempts were made to get someone to open the door, with no success. Deputies entered the house through the open window in effort to locate the suspect and to assure the safety of the occupants.

Upon entering the home, deputies encountered two pit bull dogs that at first did not appear aggressive. Upon encountering the people in the house, the dogs became aggressive. One dog bit at one of the deputies' leg. He pushed the dog away, but it came at him again so he shot the dog in self-defense, at which time, the second dog began to run towards him. For his personal safety, he shot the second dog.

The dogs were taken by the Sheriff's Office to a local veterinary hospital. One animal had to be euthanized; the other was treated and returned to its owner.

The investigation into the aggravated assault with a firearm is ongoing and victims and witnesses are still being interviewed. The Deputies are on administrative duty pending a thorough review of the incident.

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**1700 WEST LEONARD STREET PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32501**  
**[www.escambiaso.com](http://www.escambiaso.com)**