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Press Release

Case: Battery on Law Enforcement, Resisting Arrest W/Violence, Carrying Concealed Weapon

Location: 10400 Block Treasure Island Beach Date and Time: Monday, March 23, 2015, 2:33 am

Report Number: TI15-5121

On Monday, March 23, 2015, at approximately 2:33 am, Treasure Island Police Sergeant Jared Swetnich was conducting an area check of the Treasure Island beach in the area of the Hippo Beach Slide. Recent criminal mischief to the slide had prompted Treasure Island Officers to conduct more frequent checks of the area.

Sergeant Swetnich located two males sleeping under the deflated amusement ride. Sergeant Swetnich attempted to identify both men who had provided false names. When Swetnich warned the men they could be charged with providing false names to a law enforcement officer, one of the men fled on foot towards Gulf Blvd.

Swetnich gave foot chase and deployed his TASER, which had no effect on the fleeing suspect. Swetnich tackled the man to the ground near the Gulf Front Park; however, the suspect fought with Swetnich, striking him in the face with his elbow. Swetnich was joined in the foot chase by Treasure Island Officers Dan Savarese and Chris Veron. Swetnich and Savarese deployed their pepper spray, spraying the suspect in the face. The pepper spray had no effect on him.

The foot chase continued across Gulf Blvd into the parking lot of Allied Insurance Company where the suspect lost his pace in the thick shrubbery. Savarese deployed his ASP baton, striking the suspect in the leg and ending his efforts to evade capture. The suspect continued to struggle and fought with the three officers while he was being handcuffed.

Officers confirmed the identity of the fleeing suspect as 46 year old Stephen Ray Creasy of Nashville, Tennessee. Creasy is a convicted sex offender who stated he left Tennessee two weeks ago and failed to register as a sex offender in Pinellas County. Officers located a 6.5 inch butcher knife and a 4.5 inch dagger in Creasy back pack. Creasy has been charged with Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, Resisting Arrest with Violence, Carrying a Concealed Weapon and an ordinance violation for being on the beach after hours. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office SPOT team was alerted to Creasy's sex offender status and will conduct further

investigation for possible additional charges of failing to register as a sex offender in Pinellas County.

According to the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry database, Creasy was convicted 01/31/2013 for Exploitation of a Minor by Electronic Means: conviction on or after July 1, 2008; 11/05/2012 for Solicitation to Commit Aggravated Statutory Rape, 09/07/2012 exploitation of a minor by electronic means: conviction on or after July 1, 2008. The Tennessee Sex Offender Registry lists Creasy as a violent absconder. The exact status of his sex offender registration in Tennessee is unknown as of this morning.

The other male found on the beach was identified as 26 year old Matthew McDonald whose last known address was in Largo. According to McDonald, he recently met Creasy in the area. McDonald was issued a local ordinance violation for being on the beach after hours. He was later released from the scene.

Creasy was booked into the Pinellas County Jail this morning without bond.

No other information is available at this time.



Stephen R. Creasy Photo: Tennessee Sexual Offender Registry



Weapons Found in Creasy's Possession