

Tigard teen shot after confronting deputy with assault rifle

by Cheryl McDermott

A Washington County sheriff's deputy stopped a 14-year-old boy driving his parents' car for traffic violations and shot him after he confronted the officer with an SKS assault rifle and "made statements that he wanted the police to kill him," said authorities.

A two-year veteran of the sheriff's office, Deputy Kevin Mitcham, 28, conducted a traffic stop about 11:30 p.m. on January 1 for speeding and lighting violations at SE 7th Avenue and SW Tualatin Valley Highway in Hillsboro.

The rifle above is similar to the Russian-designed SKS assault rifle brandished by 14-year old Brandon Scruggs. Bearton School District photo. Brandon Scruggs, 14, emerged from his parents' vehicle brandishing a Russian-designed SKS assault rifle, and told the deputy he wanted the police to kill him.

Deputy Mitcham shot the suspect an unknown number of times. The deputy was not injured, said police, and has been placed on administrative leave that is standard protocol in officer-involved shootings.

Scruggs was transported to Legacy Emmanuel Hospital and Medical Center where he was listed in stable condition Tuesday with a gunshot wound to his arm.

The Washington County Major Crimes Team is investigating the shooting, and would like to speak with anyone who may know why the suspect was in the Hillsboro area, and what may have prompted him to confront the deputy. Anyone with this knowledge, or anyone who was a witness to the incident is asked to contact the Washington County Sheriff's Office at 503.846.2700.

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