



## Northwest Regional Police Department

155 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown Pa. 17022  
(717) 367-8481 Fax (717) 367-3382  
Samuel H. Gatchell III - Chief of Police

### News Release

**Date: 10 July 2008**

**At 1906 hrs (7:06 PM) on Wednesday, 9 July 2008, Officer Dan George of the Northwest Lancaster County Regional Police responded to Route 283 in the area of the Elizabethtown/Rheems exit for a traffic accident. The accident had been reported by a passing motorist. A few minutes later Officer George arrived in the area but was unable to locate the accident.**

**A short time later at 1922 hrs. (7:22 PM), Off. George was requested to contact a reported victim of a weapons offense that had occurred about the same time and location as the previously reported vehicle accident on Route 283. Off. George spoke with the reporting person. A 34 year old Lancaster County female related that she had been driving westbound on Route 283 when she was cutoff by another vehicle who abruptly braked directly in front of her vehicle. The suspect vehicle braking caused the victim to make a lane change to avoid a collision. After the victim changed lanes, the suspect vehicle accelerated and cut the victim off a second time and abruptly braked again. Both the suspect and victim came to a stop partially off the roadway. As the victim exited her vehicle at the same time as the suspect, she noticed that the suspect was carrying a rifle. A confrontation ensued with the victim reporting that the suspect poked the muzzle of the rifle into her chest. After a brief verbal exchange the suspect returned to his vehicle and drove off westbound on Route 283.**

**The victim drove to a friend's residence in Dauphin County and called "911" to report the incident. The call was taken by a dispatcher from the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency who transferred the call to the Pennsylvania State Police Communication Dispatch Center. The Pennsylvania State Police dispatcher immediately relayed a "BOLO" notice over the radio.**

.....

**A few minutes later Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Ronald Charles observed a Toyota SUV on Route 581 in Cumberland County matching the suspect's vehicle description. Trooper Charles proceeded to conduct a felony vehicle stop of the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle was being driven by Brent Davis Headley M/48 of Mechanicsburg. A loaded .223 caliber Remington rifle was recovered from the vehicle.**

**As a result of the investigation, Brent Davis Headley was charged by Off. Dan George with Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Recklessly Endangering, Carrying a Loaded Weapon Other Than Firearms and Careless Driving.**

**Chief Gatchell of the Northwest Regional Police Department feels that this incident is a classic example on two counts. He urges citizens who become involved in these type situations to avoid confrontations at all costs. A person experiencing an act of "road rage" should attempt to drive to a safer location such as a local police station or busy convenience store. They should do everything they can do to avoid a confrontation. This particular incident did not have tragic results but very easily could have.**

**He would also like to compliment everyone involved on the public safety side of the incident as well as the passing motorist who made the initial call about the vehicle accident. Every public safety employee involved in this incident followed their training protocol in a manner that deserves the highest of compliments. All of the pieces of the puzzle were put together exactly like we see in as training exercise classroom. The Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency dispatcher taking the initial call from the victim immediately transferred the caller to the proper jurisdictional agency. The Pennsylvania State Police dispatcher obtained the pertinent information and relayed it to the law enforcement officers in a timely manner. These things had to have occurred expeditiously for Trooper Charles to be in a position to do the great job that he did. If a training scenario had to be constructed this would be a great example of how things should be done.**

