



EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JASON McFARLAND

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SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE

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Stewardson Man Taken Into Custody Without Incident

Effingham Officers were called to a residence in the 900th block of Oakcrest Drive at approximately 2:36 A.M. this morning after receiving a report of a male attempting to enter a home. The man, later identified as Arend R. Poe, 34, Stewardson, a relative of the homeowner, was reportedly armed with a firearm. Arriving Officers located Poe outside the residence wearing a type of body armor and armed with multiple handguns. Officers immediately began deescalating the situation and successfully took Poe into custody without incident. Numerous firearms, including one AR-15, as well as approximately 1000 rounds of ammunition were seized during a search incident to arrest.



Poe was booked into Effingham County Jail and charged with Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Aggravated Assault, Possession of Methamphetamine and Disorderly Conduct. He remains incarcerated and will have his first court appearance to set bond on Friday, March 20th.

Effingham Police were assisted by Effingham County Sheriff's Office and Illinois State Police. The investigation is on-going by Effingham Police Detectives, and additional charges may be forthcoming.

Chief Jason McFarland praised the Officers as well as the caller, stating, "Arriving Officers were able to deescalate the situation extremely well, and in a very short time, with no injuries to the suspect, bystanders or Officers. We train for these types of situations, and because of that, Officers were well prepared. In addition, the caller stayed on the line with Dispatch and gave very detailed information which was passed along to responding Officers. Overall, this was a superb response to what could have been a very dangerous situation. From what our investigation has uncovered thus far, this was an isolated incident and there is no prolonged threat for our community."

If you see it, say it! The Effingham Police Department encourages you to call the Police Department immediately at 217-347-0774 to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or business district. Information can be given anonymously by calling the CRIME STOPPERS Tip Line at 217-347-6583. Anonymous callers can receive up to \$1,000 cash rewards.