



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Gerald C. Benito
District Attorney

Daniel E. Flynn
Assistant District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

April 11, 2008

DANIEL VINCENT CHRISTIANSEN SENTENCED TO TERM OF 35 YEARS TO LIFE

Today, Daniel Christiansen was sentenced to an indeterminate state prison term of 15 years to life plus an additional 20 years, for a total term of 35 years to life, as the penalty for the attempted willful, deliberate, premeditated murder of a Peace Officer with the personal discharge of a firearm. The sentence on the remaining offenses were imposed and ordered to run concurrent to the 35 years to life term.

On February 20, 2008, a Shasta County jury returned guilty verdicts against Daniel Vincent Christiansen, 64, formerly of Big Bend, in connection with the attempted murder of two Shasta County Sheriff's deputies in September of 2006. The verdicts followed a five-day trial before the Honorable Steven Jahr.

Mr. Christiansen was convicted of two counts of attempted premeditated murder on a peace officer, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon upon a peace officer, and one count of negligent discharge of a firearm. Additionally a special allegation of intentional discharge of a firearm was found to be true.

At the time of sentencing, Judge Steven Jahr denied the defense motion to dismiss and motion for a new trial.

Evidence introduced at the trial showed that on the evening of September 22, 2006, Shasta County Sheriff's deputies Jesse Gunsauls and Marc St. Clair were dispatched to Mr. Christiansen's property off of Hot Springs Road in Big Bend on a report of neighbors hearing shots fired. As the deputies pulled up to Mr. Christiansen's trailer residence, they heard what sounded like a shot from a small caliber firearm. Upon hearing this noise, the deputies announced their presence and verbally identified themselves as law enforcement. For approximately five minutes, the deputies attempted to communicate with Mr. Christiansen and convince him to put down his weapon. Mr. Christiansen, who was unable to be seen by the deputies, was uncooperative and refused to disarm himself. Instead, he cursed and yelled at the deputies, at one point yelling, "I got a slug for ya".

After several minutes of conversation, Mr. Christiansen fired three shotgun blasts in quick succession in the direction of the deputies. The pellets from the shotgun rounds were close enough for the deputies to hear them impacting the vegetation around them. At this point, Deputies Gunsauls and St. Clair decided to leave the situation and backed their vehicle down the driveway to Hot Springs Road. Neither deputy was injured as a result of Mr. Christiansen's actions.

After an eight hour standoff, the Shasta County Sheriff's SWAT team was able to arrest Mr. Christiansen. In the bedroom of his residence, deputies located a 20-gauge shotgun. The shotgun was loaded with three live shells. Upon each of these shells were the handwritten words "for cops".

Detective Marc St. Clair of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator on the case. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Hanna.