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For Immediate Release

“Routine” traffic stop turns into anything but routine, demonstrates daily dangers of police work.

Pensacola, FL – In Law Enforcement there is no such thing as a “routine” traffic stop. This was demonstrated late Tuesday night when an Escambia County Sheriff’s Investigator conducted a traffic stop for an equipment violation. Had it not been for the investigator’s quick thinking, this case could have had a far different outcome for both the officer and the suspect.

During the traffic stop, the investigator made contact with a man who was later identified as 35-year-old David Lee Mason, Jr. The investigator approached Mason at which time Mason fled from a vehicle and a brief foot pursuit ensued. Mason tripped and fell down an embankment after which time a struggle took place between Mason and the investigator. During the struggle, Mason was able to gain control of the investigator’s firearm. As the investigator and Mason fought over the firearm, the investigator shoved the firearm into the mud to prevent Mason from using it against him. The investigator managed to regain control of the firearm which was no longer functional. Shortly thereafter, backup arrived and took Mason into custody. A large amount of cocaine and crystal meth and a small amount of marijuana were located in the vehicle along with a firearm and more than $1,100 in cash.

Mason and the investigator were treated at a local hospital for minor injuries. Mason was later booked into the Escambia County Jail and is charged with the following: aggravated assault on a specified person (LEO), displaying a weapon in the commission of a felony, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, resisting an officer with violence, obstruction of a law enforcement officer (deprive of communications), possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, trafficking in methamphetamine and violation of probation. He was issued a no bond for the probation violation and a $156,000 total bond for all other charges. He also received a verbal warning for the equipment violation.
Press releases are available on the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office website at www.escambiaso.com