



Fresno County Sheriff's Department

**Richard Pierce, Sheriff
News Release**

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FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DETECTIVES RECOVER FIREARM STOLEN FROM INJURED DEPUTY

On Friday April 25th 2003, Deputy Sheriff Patrick O'Brien was driving to work in his personal vehicle. At approximately 9:00 PM, Deputy O'Brien was involved in a very serious traffic collision at the intersection of Bethel and Central, near the city of Sanger. Deputy O'Brien was wearing his Fresno County Sheriff's Department uniform and had his department issued gun belt and firearm. Deputy O'Brien and his equipment were ejected from the vehicle and he was severely injured and rendered unconscious. Prior to emergency personnel arriving on scene to administer aid, a passerby, stole Deputy O'Briens' department issued 45 Caliber pistol and left the scene.

Fresno County Sheriff's Department Detectives launched an extensive investigation. The investigation resulted in the identity of the theft suspect. On May 7th 2003, Sheriff's Detectives arrested 18 year-old Roy Mitchell Gonzalez, who resides in the area of the vehicle collision. Charges are pending against Gonzalez for the theft of the weapon. Deputy O'Brien is still hospitalized in serious condition.