



**McCLAIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**Landy Offolter, Sheriff**

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**Ref: Accidental Discharge at Blanchard Elementary School**

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 a McClain County Sheriff's Office School Resource Deputy's service pistol accidentally discharged while interacting with students on the playground at the Blanchard Elementary School.

The McClain County Sheriff's Office immediately began conducting an investigation into the accidental discharge. During the course of the investigation it was learned that a Deputy was seated on a wooden bench handing out stickers to several students. The Deputy began assisting a child in zipping up their jacket when the Deputy heard his gun discharge. The Deputy became aware of a child on his gun side and began checking this child and other students for any potential injuries. The child told the Deputy and a teacher he made the gun "shoot".

The Deputy's service pistol, a SIG Sauer P320, was still secured inside the Deputy's Safariland holster and remained secured in the holster until Detectives arrived. The Deputy, with assistance of Blanchard School employees, removed the students from the affected area while the Deputy waited for responding Detectives. Detectives, upon inspection of the Deputy's service pistol, learned the SIG Sauer P320's slide was still locked in place with the spent shell casing still chambered, indicating the service pistol was seated and secured inside the Deputy's holster at the time of accidental discharge. Detectives had to manually eject the spent shell casing.

Upon further inspection of the Streamlight TLR1 HL flashlight mounted to the SIG Sauer P320 inside the Safariland 6000 series holster, a significant gap was located between the P320's trigger guard and the holster's trigger guard, allowing for the trigger to be easily manipulated and gun to be discharged while the service weapon was secured inside the holster with the holster's retention mechanism engaged.

Detectives performed a series of tests in an attempt to recreate the event. Detectives were successful in recreating the event with the unloaded weapon and holster using adult fingers, confirming a child's finger would easily be able to manipulate the trigger through the gap in the holster. Based on the findings of the investigation Detectives concluded the child manipulated the trigger of the Deputy's weapon causing it to discharge while in the holster.

These findings have also been consistent with other agencies' accidental discharge investigations related to similar service pistols and holsters, including the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Currently Deputy's provide their own service pistol and duty holster. The McClain County Sheriff's Office is conducting a thorough review of all weapons systems carried by its Deputy's and will be reviewing Department issued weapons systems options moving forward.