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FROM: Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office  
DATE: April 21, 2004  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF ISSUES WARNING  
REGARDING THE ILLEGAL USE OF REPLICA FIREARMS**

During the past two weeks, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office has received several calls reporting "juveniles with firearms". The investigations, conducted by responding deputies, have determined that each of the reported incidents have actually involved the use of replica firearms that fire plastic 'BB' type projectiles. Two of the "juveniles with firearms" incidents have resulted in subjects being taken into custody and being charged with the crime of felony menacing. The criminal charges of felony menacing will be presented to the Office of The District Attorney, as subjects have pointed the replica weapons, at other people, causing serious concerns for personal safety.

The replica weapons function in a manner that is similar to a semi-automatic handgun, utilizing a CO2 cartridge to fire a 6-millimeter plastic 'BB' type projectile that can travel at a velocity of 300 feet per second. A projectile traveling at 300 feet per second is capable of causing personal injury or property damage, to include eye injury or broken glass.

Discharging one of the replica weapons is a violation of Arapahoe County Resolution 406-83, which makes it unlawful to discharge a firearm in areas of population density that is greater than 100 persons per square mile. The resolution prohibiting the discharge of weapons is enforced in the unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County, the City of Centennial, the Town of Foxfield, The Town of Deer Trail and the area of the Town of Bennett served by the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. Discharging the replica weapons may also violate similar ordinances of municipalities in the Denver metropolitan area.

The use and display of the replica weapons presents a significant concern for the safety of the people of our community.

For further information, please contact Sheriff Grayson Robinson at 720.874.4165.

END