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MEDIA RELEASE

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RSPD Sees Increase in Altered Firearm Toys

According to Chief Pacheco:

In the past weeks, the Rock Springs Police Department has responded to local thrift stores who wished to report "Assault Rifles" being donated through drop boxes. When the officers responded and took possession of the weapons, it was determined that the weapons were actually toys, (Air Soft guns) which closely resembled actual firearms. Closer examination determined that the red or orange "safety" tips had been removed from the Air Soft guns, leaving them virtually indiscernible from actual firearms. Below are photos taken of one of those Air Soft guns, compared to a UMP .40 Caliber machine gun, actually used by the RSPD Tactical Response Team and other law enforcement agencies.



FN SCAR17 (Air Soft)

H & K UMP .40 (Actual Firearm)



FN SCAR17 (Air Soft)

(Stock collapsed)

H & K UMP .40 (Actual Firearm)

(Stock Collapsed)



This is a close-up of the Air Soft gun's muzzle... showing the removal of the orange safety tip.

The Rock Springs Police Department urges citizens not to alter “toy” guns in any way that may give responding officers the impression the toy is in fact an actual firearm. There is no way an officer can discern the difference between these two weapons when responding to a call. RSPD also encourages citizens to turn these types of altered weapons to the police department for disposal, rather than dropping them off at local charities.

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