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Coronado Police Arrest Combative Man after Ocean Standoff

CORONADO, CA (June 24, 2013) **–** Coronado Police, with help from several law enforcement agencies, arrested a man early today after an hours-long standoff during which the subject evaded arrest by entering the ocean and threatening officers if they approached.

John Michael White, 46, was taken into custody at 5 a.m. and was being held on a felony drug possession warrant and on charges of resisting arrest. He was taken to UC San Diego Medical Center, and is expected to be transferred to San Diego Central Jail.

At about 10 p.m. last night, Coronado Police attempted to stop White at R.H. Dana Place and Orange Avenue. He ran from the officer toward the beach, took most of his clothes off and entered the water near a jetty in his underwear.

Multiple attempts were made to take White into custody but it became too dangerous for the man, and for officers and canines. He swam out to deeper waters whenever authorities -- including Harbor Police, Sheriff's Department deputies with canines and a helicopter, San Diego Police with a helicopter, Department of Defense, California State Parks and Border Patrol – got close.

Over a 7-hour period, White stayed in the water and swam or walked south to Silver Strand State Beach through Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Officers with the Harbor Police Dive Team were able to take him into custody in the water at 5 a.m.

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