



Putnam County Justice Center  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 07/05/17

### **Hilham Highway Incident PM Update**

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – July 5, 2017, After an extensive ground search by Sheriff's Office Deputies and several canines, Major Whittaker summoned the assistance of the Tennessee Highway Patrol and their helicopter from Nashville due to the vast rural area that is heavily wooded.

The use of the THP helicopter is a resource that is used when searching large areas. This valuable resource resides over an hour away, and it is not often called upon. However, as was witnessed in this case, it proves to be a valuable resource.

Once on the scene, Sheriff Farris accompanied the THP pilot in the air and attempted to locate both the subject and the victim. After a short period of time, Sheriff Farris was able to spot the subject from the air, and with the assistance of THP they were able to land the helicopter and immediately take the subject into custody.

Sheriff Farris would like to thank all the men and women of the Sheriff's Office as well as the THP and the FBI for their hard work and dedication.

Hernandez has charges of violation of bond condition, two counts of aggravated assault, and aggravated kidnapping. His bond is set at \$265,000. Additional charges may be pending upon further investigation.

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