

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

October 15, 2009

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

On Thursday morning at approximately 8:30 a.m., DeKalb Sheriff's dispatch received a call advising that a man on County Road 17 in the Crossville area was threatening suicide and possibly holding other individuals hostage. Deputies Van Douglas, Alfred Rigstad, Gary Hill, and Sgt. Brad Edmondson responded to the scene, along with Crossville Police Department Officer Jacky Clayton.

According to reports taken at the scene, the couple living in the residence had been engaged in ongoing situations of domestic violence and the female was planning to leave. The male subject, identified as Rodney Wayne Couthen, 39, had left the house for work but later returned to find the woman packing her things. There was also reportedly a child present. An altercation ensued, during which Rodney Couthen threatened himself with a gun and told the woman she could not leave. Upon the officers' arrival, Rodney Couthen came out of the residence and surrendered himself without further incident. He was taken into custody and charged with Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Couthen was transported to the DeKalb County Detention Center where he remains awaiting bond at this time.

