

# South Carolina Deaths in Police Custody

## Final Report

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for the

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## Introduction

This report summarizes the findings regarding the on-going effort of research staff at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina to collect information about persons who died while in police custody during the last three quarters of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007 (April – December 2006 and January – February 2007, respectively).

As during the previous data collection reporting periods, county coroners in South Carolina were contacted by phone and/or fax each quarter to determine whether any suspects died while in police custody. When a coroner indicated a death had occurred meeting the “in custody” criteria, details regarding the death were requested.

In addition to contacting coroners, internet searches were conducted by research staff to identify deaths that might have gone unreported. When deaths that possibly met the criteria were identified, the appropriate coroner was contacted to obtain the details regarding the death.

Based on information supplied by coroners or their assistants, 19 deaths in police custody occurred during the 12-month reporting period. However, information on six was pending and not yet available from coroners at the time of this report. We will attempt to obtain the relevant details regarding these deaths during the next round of data collection. Media accounts for three of these deaths was available, and information based on these accounts is provided.

A summary of the findings begins on page 2. Brief narratives of each incident begin on page 5, and full media accounts of deaths begin on page 8 (when available).

## ***Background and Method***

Information on deaths in police custody was obtained by contacting county coroners' offices (N = 46) each quarter (Q2 of 2006 through Q4 of 2007). Coroners' offices were contacted by phone and/or fax by research staff, and coroners or their assistants were asked whether or not any subjects died in their county while in police custody during the previous quarter. If a death appeared to meet the criteria established by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) for a death in police custody, the coroner or their assistant was asked to provide the requisite information regarding that incident.

In addition to contacting coroners' offices, internet searches were conducted to obtain media accounts of deaths. This information was used to assist coroners in identifying eligible cases in their records by providing names and dates, and to identify deaths that went unreported by coroners. If unreported cases were identified, coroners were queried about them and when possible details obtained. For those cases for which we have media accounts but the details regarding deaths were not yet available from coroners, information from the media accounts is provided (3 of 6 cases).

## ***Findings***

This report presents information about 16 deaths in police custody. Information about six apparent deaths in police custody was pending at the time of this report. These cases are listed in Table 1. For three of these six cases, however, details based on media accounts are provided. These accounts are identified with an asterisk.

Forty-two of 46 coroners' offices were successfully contacted regarding deaths for all four quarters (91%). Regarding the four nonresponders, Barnwell & Kershaw were contacted successfully for all

quarters except Q1 2007. Despite several attempts, we were unable to make contact with Lee and Marion county coroners’ offices. However, a search for media accounts of deaths in custody suggests that no deaths in custody occurred in these counties during the reporting period.

**Table 1: Information from Coroners Pending**

<i>Case</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Year</i>
1	Allendale	Q3	2006
2*	Beaufort	Q4	2006
3*	Charleston	Q4	2006
4*	Spartanburg	Q1	2007
5	York	Q2	2006
6	York	Q1	2007

Note: \* = media accounts available

Coroners indicated that 19 persons died in police custody during the 12-month period April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006. Information on 13 of the subjects was available from coroners, and as noted above information from media accounts was available for three additional cases (cases 11, 14, and 16 in Table 2). We will obtain the details about these six deaths from coroners during the next round of data collection.

As shown in Table 2, of the 16 subjects for whom information was available, all but two were male. Their ages ranged from 20 to 54, with a mean of 36 years. Six were African-American, six were Caucasian, and one subject was Hispanic. Race/ethnicity could not be determined for three cases. Counting the pending cases in Table 1, six deaths occurred during the second quarter of 2006, six occurred during the third quarter, four during the fourth, and three deaths occurred during the first quarter of 2007.

**Table 2: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005**

<i>Case</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Race / Ethnicity</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Quarter</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Proximate Cause</i>
1	Male	Black	23	04-21-06	2	Sumter	Drug overdose
2	Male	White	54	05-25-06	2	Colleton	Gunshot wounds
3	Female	Black	23	06-08-06	2	Greenwood	Drug overdose
4	Male	Hispanic	45	06-11-06	2	Berkeley	Gunshot wounds
5	Male	Black	30	06-19-06	2	Charleston	Drug overdose
6	Male	Black	24	07-18-06	3	Horry	Gunshot wounds
7	Male	Black	20	08-16-06	3	Clarendon	Unknown
8	Male	White	38	09-10-06	3	Anderson	Gunshot wounds
9	Male	White	49	09-23-06	3	Clarendon	Cancer
10	Male	Black	26	09-24-06	3	Jasper	Gunshot wounds
11*	Male	--	38	10-01-06	4	Charleston	Unknown
12	Female	White	42	10-26-06	4	Greenville	Head injury
13	Male	White	39	11-09-06	4	Aiken	Alcohol intoxication
14*	Male	--	38	11-28-06	4	Beaufort	Unknown
15	Male	White	38	01-23-07	1	Lexington	Gunshot wounds
16*	Male	--	48	02-27-07	1	Spartanburg	Gunshot wounds

Notes: \* = case based on media accounts only; "--" = not available.

Seven deaths involved suspects being shot with firearms and killed by police. Five were listed as justifiable homicides by coroners, though all seven appear to be justified. One coroner classified a July 18, 2006 shooting by police as “other homicide” (case 6). However, according to a media account published in November 2006, an investigation found that the officers acted in self-defense and were exonerated of any wrongdoing. Based on media accounts, the shooting on February 2, 2007 (case 16) appears justified as the suspect allegedly shot and killed a Spartanburg deputy before being shot and killed by police (coroner’s report pending). An additional subject (case 11) died after being stunned with conducted energy devices and sprayed with pepper spray (coroner’s report pending).

Three deaths were due to drug overdoses (cases 1, 3, 5), while another was alcohol and drug related (case 13). One subject was hit by a car and died from head injuries after running into traffic in an

attempt to escape police custody (case 12). Another subject (case 9) died in a medical facility from an illness (cancer), and another died in a medical facility from unknown causes after attempting to hang himself (case 7). Finally, the November 28, 2006 incident in Beaufort (Case 14) involved a subject who had been behaving in a bizarre manner and died suddenly after being restrained by police. The cause of death is still under investigation.

## ***Narratives***

This section provides brief narratives regarding the deaths in police custody (asterisks indicate cases for which information is based on media accounts only). Media accounts themselves, when available, appear in the next section (page 8).

1. A 23-year-old black male died on April 21, 2006 at the Tuomey Regional Medical Center following transport from a detention center. The subject was a passenger in a vehicle that had been stopped by Sumter County sheriff's deputies for speeding. The driver had a suspended license and the deputies found a stolen revolver in the car. The deceased had admitted the gun was his, was arrested, and placed in a holding cell. He developed a seizure a few hours later and was transported to the medical facility by ambulance. The medical cause of death was *sudden death due to cocaine intoxication* and the manner of death was *accidental injury to self*.
2. A 54-year-old white male died on May 25, 2006 during transport to a hospital by emergency medical personnel after being shot by police. After allegedly robbing a bank in Ehrhardt (Bamberg County), the suspect fled in a vehicle and was pursued by Colleton County sheriff's deputies. He stopped and exited his vehicle, but refused deputies' orders to get on the ground. One deputy released a canine in an attempt to disarm the man, but the suspect shot the dog with a handgun and then pointed the gun at the deputies, prompting one or more of them to fire their weapons. The medical cause of death was *two penetrating gunshot wounds to the abdomen* and the manner of death was *justifiable homicide*.
3. A 23-year-old black female died on June 8, 2006 at a medical facility after ingesting cocaine. She had been arrested on drug charges after selling an ounce of cocaine to undercover Greenwood County sheriff's deputies. While in jail she ingested cocaine, collapsed, and died at a hospital a couple of hours later. The medical cause of death was *acute cocaine poisoning* and the manner of death was *alcohol/drug intoxication*.
4. A 45-year-old Hispanic male was shot by police and died at the scene on June 11, 2006. Berkeley County sheriff's deputies responded to a domestic disturbance call and after

getting into a struggle with the deputies the suspect stabbed one deputy in the chest with a knife. The deputies then shot the suspect in the chest, killing him. The medical cause of death was *lung, pulmonary, artery and left cardiac atrium disruption due to single penetrating gunshot wound to the chest*, and the manner of death was *justifiable homicide*.

5. A 30-year-old black male died on June 19, 2006 at a medical facility following a motor vehicle pursuit by Charleston County sheriff's deputies. The suspect crashed his car during the pursuit and was taken to Charleston Memorial Hospital for evaluation. He was released back into police custody with no apparent injury, but went into medical distress while in a holding cell. The medical cause of death was *cocaine toxicity with methamphetamine use being contributory* and the manner of death was *accidental injury to self*.
6. A 24-year-old black male died at the scene on July 18, 2006 after being shot by Myrtle Beach police officers. Officers had been told the suspect, who was sitting in a car, had a firearm. A vehicle pursuit ensued and the suspect crashed into a tree. He then raised a 9mm semi-automatic handgun and faced the officers, who then shot him. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the chest*, and the manner of death was *other homicide*. However, according to a November 21 article in the Myrtle Beach Sun News, the officers were cleared of any wrongdoing, so it presumably was a justified homicide.
7. A 20-year-old black male died at a medical facility from unknown complications on August 16, 2006 after attempting to hang himself while incarcerated at the Turbeville correctional facility. The medical cause of death was *unknown*, and the manner of death was *attempt to hang self, died from unknown complications*.
8. A 38-year-old white male died at the scene after being shot several times by a Honea Path police officer on September 10, 2006. Two officers and an Anderson County sheriff's deputy responded to a call regarding a domestic dispute. One officer and the deputy confronted the suspect, who attacked them with a knife, injuring the officer. The other officer intervened and fired several times with his handgun, killing the suspect. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wounds to chest* and the manner of death was *justifiable homicide*.
9. A 49-year-old white male died at a medical facility on September 23, 2006 following transport from the Clarendon City Detention Center. The medical cause of death was *invasive well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx* and the manner of death was *illness/natural causes*.
10. A 26-year-old black male was pronounced dead at a medical center on September 24, 2006 after being shot by Hardeeville police. The suspect allegedly drove a stolen vehicle off an embankment in a suicide attempt after shooting and killing his wife in a Savannah apartment. When responding officers confronted the suspect, he charged them while waving a handgun and shouting obscenities. One officer shot the suspect. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the chest* and the manner of death was *justifiable homicide*.

11. \*A 38-year-old mentally ill male died at a medical facility on October 1, 2006 following a struggle with North Charleston police. The suspect had been stunned repeatedly with conducted energy devices (CEDs) and sprayed with pepper spray. Several North Charleston police officers responded to a call regarding a man taking off his clothes in public. The suspect, who was nearly 250 pounds and allegedly high on crack, tried to run and was shot with CEDs. The suspect continued to struggle and in addition to being pepper sprayed was stunned with CEDs several more times, apparently with no effect. Officers then physically wrestled the suspect to the ground and at some point during the struggle the suspect became unresponsive and later died.
12. A 42-year-old white female died at the scene on October 26, 2006 after being struck by a motor vehicle. The suspect had been placed under arrest for disorderly conduct and handcuffed. She broke free from the arresting officer, and in an attempt to escape ran into traffic and was struck by a passing vehicle. The medical cause of death was *blunt force trauma of head* and the manner of death was *accidental injury caused by others*.
13. A 39-year-old white male died at a medical facility on November 9, 2006 after being restrained by North Augusta police. Responding to a call for service, police arrived to find a 240 pound man sitting on top of the suspect. Two officers restrained the suspect with handcuffs behind his back. The subject went into medical distress and officers performed CPR. After being transported to a medical facility by EMS, the subject was pronounced dead. The medical cause of death was *cardiac arrhythmia* and the manner of death was *alcohol/drug intoxication*.
14. \*A 38-year-old male died suddenly on November 28, 2006 after police restrained him for diving into passing motorists' car windows. Apparently, two civilians had restrained the suspect until police arrived. The suspect collapsed and died shortly after a deputy placed restraints on him. An autopsy found no major trauma, and the cause of death won't be known until the results of a toxicology test are available.
15. A 38-year-old white male died at the scene on January 1, 2007 after being shot by a Lexington County sheriff's deputy. Deputies responded to a call regarding a domestic dispute involving a mother and son. After diffusing the situation, the suspect pulled out a handgun and shot one deputy, wounding him. A second deputy shot the suspect in the chest with a shotgun, killing him. The medical cause of death was not listed by the coroner, although a statement by the deputy coroner indicated it appeared that the suspect was shot one time in the chest. The manner of death was *justifiable homicide*.
16. \*A 48-year-old male died at the Spartanburg Regional Medical Center medical on February 27, 2007 after being shot by police. The suspect was driving a stolen van when he was pulled over by Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies for a traffic violation. He fled on foot and a struggle with deputies ensued. The suspect shot one deputy, who died at the scene, and he in turn was shot three times by another deputy.



## **Media Accounts**

### **CASE 1:**

#### **Sumter man dies following arrest**

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Associated Press

SUMTER, S.C. - Investigators are awaiting a toxicology report to determine why a 23-year-old man died after suffering a seizure while in police custody. Terrence Boatwright of Sumter died Friday morning, three hours after police arrested him on a charge of possession of a stolen gun. According to a police report, Boatwright was a passenger in car stopped by police for speeding. The driver of the car, Kenneth Riley, also 23, was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license. During a search of the car, police found a revolver. The report said that Boatwright admitted the gun was his and he was arrested when police determined the gun had been stolen. Jail director Maj. Simon Major said Boatwright "was alert and talking, up until two minutes before he displayed seizure-like symptoms." Major said Boatwright was sitting on a mattress in a holding cell when he fell over and apparently went into a seizure. An ambulance was called and Boatwright was taken to the hospital, Major said. "We have no idea what happened to him - it's pending a toxicology (report) and pending investigation," Sumter County Coroner Verna Moore said. The State Law Enforcement Division is helping in the investigation.

#### **Authorities: No foul play in inmate's death**

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Report: 23-year-old swallowed cocaine before being arrested

By CRYSTAL OWENS

Authorities said Tuesday an investigation has determined that no foul play was involved in the recent death of a Sumter man who collapsed at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center three hours after his arrest. Terrence Boatwright, 23, of 1809 N. Main St. died at 7:13 a.m. April 21 at Tuomey Regional Medical Center's emergency room, Sumter County Coroner Verna Moore said. Sumter County Sheriff's Office Investigator Jamie Turner said preliminary toxicology information revealed that prior to his arrest, Boatwright swallowed crack cocaine and cocaine, which caused his heart to race and sent him into a seizure. A final autopsy report, which will include Boatwright's official cause of death, is expected to be released this week after the case is reviewed by Dr. Janice Ross, a pathologist at Newberry Pathology Associates, Sumter County Sheriff Anthony Dennis said. Reports said Boatwright was a passenger in a 1999 green Chevrolet Malibu when it was pulled over at 3:54 a.m. April 21 by authorities for speeding on Loring Mill Road. The driver was arrested after it was learned his license was suspended, and he allowed a sheriff's deputy to search his vehicle. A stolen 32-caliber revolver was found under the passenger seat, authorities said, and Boatwright claimed ownership of the weapon. Turner said, based on a witness statement, Boatwright told a fellow inmate just before he collapsed that he had swallowed the narcotics. "He never indicated to anyone during his arrest or while being checked in at the jail that he had swallowed these drugs," Turner said. The investigator said authorities have reviewed the dashboard camera footage from the arresting deputy's vehicle as well as the videotape provided by the jail, and Boatwright showed no signs of distress. Boatwright, he said, likely swallowed the drugs during the initial traffic stop. He vomited once prior to being taken to jail, Turner said, but told authorities he might have had too

much to drink. "When he did it (swallowed the drugs) is consistent with the car stop," he said. Dennis said Boatwright likely didn't tell authorities about the drugs because he thought he had rid his system of the cocaine when he vomited. Boatwright, reports said, was sitting on a mattress in a holding cell at the jail when he fell forward and apparently went into a seizure. An inmate notified a guard immediately. Turner said authorities will likely never know exactly how much cocaine Boatwright ingested because he vomited some of the drugs before his death.  
<http://www.theitem.com/>.

## **CASE 2:**

### **Colleton deputies shoot, kill bank robbery suspect; K-9 hurt**

BY ANDY PARAS

The Post and Courier

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006

WALTERBORO - Colleton County sheriff's deputies shot and killed a bank robbery suspect Thursday afternoon after the man shot and wounded a K-9 about four miles northwest of Bells Crossing. Terry Kinard, 54, of Ruffin, was airlifted to the Medical University Hospital, where he died a couple of hours later. An autopsy is scheduled for today. Sheriff George Malone said Kinard shot a deputy's dog that was trying to subdue him. Deputies had pulled Kinard over in connection with a robbery at Enterprise Bank in Ehrhardt. Once the shooting was over, the dog's handler put the bleeding Belgian shepherd named Truetis into his cruiser and rushed him the 12 miles to his veterinarian in Walterboro. Dr. C.J. "Buddy" DeLoach said he expects the dog to fully recover. A bullet passed cleanly through the dog, between his tibia and Achilles tendon, without hitting any bones or tendons, the veterinarian said. "The dog is really lucky it was where it was," DeLoach said. "It sure looked like a large-caliber bullet." Malone said the incident occurred at 2 p.m., shortly after deputies were alerted by the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office that a bank robbery suspect was heading southeast toward Walterboro on S.C. Highway 64. Three or four deputies, including one who patrols the northern end of Colleton County, headed toward Ehrhardt on S.C. 64. Deputies passed a car matching the description of the suspect and turned around. At that point, the suspect turned right onto Cayce Road and stopped the car. Malone said the armed suspect got out of the car but refused deputies' orders to get on the ground. A deputy released the K-9 in an attempt to disarm the man. Malone said the suspect shot the dog and then pointed the gun at the deputies, prompting one or more of them to fire their weapons. "He at least gave the impression that he was going to shoot the deputies," Malone said. Colleton County Fire and Rescue EMTs transported Kinard to the Horizon gas station near Stephens Crossing, where he was airlifted to Charleston by a Careforce helicopter. Deputies cordoned off Cayce Road for several hours Thursday until State Law Enforcement Division agents could arrive and investigate the shooting. SLED investigates all officer-related shootings in the state. Malone said he has not decided yet how many of the deputies involved will be placed on administrative leave while the shooting is under investigation. He said it appears that the deputies acted appropriately and lawfully. "From what I've seen and heard so far, I think they did everything exactly right," Malone said.

## Bank robbed, suspect killed

Man dies in Colleton County after fleeing scene in Ehrhardt

By THOMAS BROWN, T&D Staff Writer

Friday, May 26, 2006

EHRHARDT -- A man suspected of robbing an Ehrhardt bank Thursday was shot and killed in Colleton County, apparently as he was trying to flee police. Terry H. Kinard of 2528 Lumber Road, Ruffin, died Thursday. The FBI, relying upon information from the Bamberg County Sheriff's Department, identified him as the suspect in the robbery of Enterprise Bank of South Carolina in Ehrhardt. An armed man, who wasn't wearing a disguise, entered the bank at about 1:30 p.m., walked up to a teller's station brandishing his weapon and demanded cash, bank President William H. Varn Jr. said. "He had a pistol and he pointed it straight at her," Varn said. "We have no idea how much he took.

"We've been here, in this location, since 1960 and this is the first time we've been robbed." The robber fled the scene with the cash. Officers later caught up with Kinard at a location along S.C. Highway 64 known as Stephen's Crossroads, approximately 12 miles east of Ehrhardt. "It is my understanding that a Terry H. Kinard was taken into custody," said Agent Tom O'Neill of the Columbia office of the FBI. "That is the information that the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office has given us." Varn said, "They caught him and he's dead." Colleton County Coroner Richard M. Harvey confirmed Kinard's death from a gunshot wound. Bamberg County Sheriff's Department officials would not release information about the robbery, referring questions to Sheriff Ed Darnell. Darnell was out of town Thursday. The tellers on duty at the time of the robbery did not know the robber, according to bank employees. When the video was viewed, some of the other employees recognized him, they said. Varn said Kinard grew up in Ehrhardt and spent much of his time in the Islandton area and the Little Swamp community. "I knew his grandparents," Varn said. "One set was from Islandton and the other set was from the Little Swamp community." At 4:05 p.m., approximately 2-1/2 hours after the robbery, the Bamberg County sheriff's deputies removed the crime scene tape from around the bank and business was resumed, but with caution. The main entrance was locked and Varn was there with the key to let customers enter. Bamberg County sheriff's deputies and agents from the State Law Enforcement Division were on the scene at the bank. At Stephen's Crossroad, where the suspect was located, Bamberg County sheriff's deputies, Colleton County sheriff's deputies, agents from SLED and the South Carolina Highway Patrol were on the scene. "We'll have a lot to talk about in our prayers tonight," said Faye Polk, a teller at the bank. "The Lord took care of us today; he'll do the same tomorrow. So I won't worry."

<http://www.thetandd.com/articles/2006/05/26/news/doc4476616248711936539641.txt>

## CASE 3:

### Woman dies after drug charge arrest

Augusta Chronicle, June 11

GREENWOOD - A 23-year-old Greenwood woman died shortly after she was arrested on drug charges. Deputies took Shatica Fuller into custody Thursday after buying an ounce of cocaine from her, Greenwood County deputies said. At the jail, a small, partially chewed plastic bag of white powder was found in Ms. Fuller's mouth. She spit it out, but before she could be checked out by a nurse, her heart stopped and she collapsed, dying two hours later at the hospital, authorities said.

[http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/061106/met\\_84926.shtml](http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/061106/met_84926.shtml)

## CASE 4:

### Authorities shoot, kill man after responding to domestic incident

By NADINE PARKS

The Post and Courier

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006

A Berkeley County sheriff's deputy responding Sunday night to a domestic disturbance at the Wilmor Acres Mobile Home Park near Summerville was stabbed in the chest with a butcher knife before he and a fellow deputy shot their attacker to death, according to authorities. The deputy was stabbed just above his bulletproof vest and transported to Trident Hospital, where he was being treated for wounds that did not appear life-threatening Sunday night, Maj. Ricky Driggers said. When the deputy and a fellow deputy arrived on Elaine Boulevard in the neighborhood off College Park Road, a fight erupted between the deputies and a 43-year-old man, Driggers said. After one deputy was stabbed, both deputies fired their guns. The man was pronounced dead at the scene a little before 8 p.m., Berkeley County Coroner Glenn Rhoad said. He was "probably shot more than once." The coroner's office was attempting to contact the man's family in Mexico, Rhoad said. The man was not identified pending notification of the family. "He's a good officer," Driggers said. "All of our officers go through extensive training for situations like this. In my opinion, they did their job." Eva Banda lives in the mobile home with her 24-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter. Banda's son, who witnessed the incident and would not give his name, said the dead man was dating his mother, lived in Lexington and spent weekends in the Lowcountry. "I was there with my mom," he said. "I was always there to calm him down. It just got out of control." Banda's sister, who also withheld her name, said fights between Banda and her boyfriend were common. "She's devastated. He was going to kill her," Banda's sister said. Berkeley County authorities asked the State Law Enforcement Division to spearhead the investigation, according to SLED spokeswoman Bobbi Schlatterer. As clouds gathered and the wind kicked up late Sunday, neighbors stood outside under the full moon, curious, stunned, watching intently as authorities scrutinized the scene.

[http://www.charleston.net/stories/default\\_pf.aspx?newsID=92594](http://www.charleston.net/stories/default_pf.aspx?newsID=92594)

### Deputy released from hospital

DATE: Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Berkeley County Deputy Sheriff Danny Jones, who was stabbed while on a domestic disturbance call, was released Tuesday from Trident Medical Center. Jones, 25, was stabbed in the left armpit Sunday night at 2117 Elaine Blvd. in Ladson as he and deputy Brian O'Rourke tried to arrest a man on a charge of domestic violence. The deputies fired their weapons at Joel Terron Rueda after he stabbed Jones, Sheriff Wayne DeWitt said. Rueda, 45, died at the scene. SLED is investigating, but DeWitt said it appears the deputies' actions were justified. The investigation also continues into Rueda's legal status. Relatives said Rueda had been in South Carolina about four years and was from Veracruz, Mexico. He was shot at the home of his girlfriend, who had injuries to her neck and hand, deputies said.

<http://www.charleston.net/>

## **CASE 5:**

### **SLED looks at suspect's death in detention**

DATE: Wednesday, June 21, 2006

BY GLENN SMITH

The Post and Courier

State investigators are probing the death of a man who died while in custody early Tuesday just hours after crashing his car during a chase with Charleston County sheriff's deputies, authorities said. Nathaniel Anton Chisolm, 30, complained of leg pain after crashing a Ford sedan into a stand of trees on Spruill Avenue, deputies said. Doctors at Charleston Memorial Hospital evaluated Chisolm and, finding no problems, returned him to police custody, authorities said. 'He had no visible injuries, and he didn't voice any concerns about health problems,' said Tim Gehret, a spokesman for Charleston Memorial. Chisolm, however, later went into medical distress in the jail's infirmary and then died after being rushed to Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital for treatment, sheriff's Capt. John Clark said. He was pronounced dead at 6:44 a.m. An autopsy failed to reveal what caused his death, said Chief Deputy Coroner Rae Wooten. The coroner's office is awaiting the results of a toxicology screening and other tests to help pinpoint a cause, but it could be several weeks before those results are available, she said. State Law Enforcement Division agents were called in to investigate the death. SLED spokeswoman Bobbi Schlatterer declined comment on the incident, citing the ongoing probe. Chisolm was under investigation by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office Metro Major Case Unit for selling cocaine, Clark said. Investigators had made an undercover purchase of cocaine from the suspect earlier in the month, he said. A sheriff's deputy was watching for Chisolm's vehicle Monday when the suspect sped by at 9:43 p.m. on Interstate 526, near the exit for U.S. Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant. The deputy tried to stop Chisolm, but the suspect hit the gas and sped off down the exit ramp, leading deputies on a chase that reached speeds of more than 60 mph, authorities said. Deputies followed Chisolm over the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge into Charleston, onto I-26 and over to Spruill Avenue before he crashed, the report stated. Chisolm jumped from the car and ran, scaling two fences to escape his pursuers before deputies tracked him to a cousin's house on Groveland Street, authorities said. Deputies arrested Chisolm on charges of failure to stop for blue lights, driving under suspension (fourth offense) and being a habitual offender. He had previous convictions for resisting arrest, assaulting a police officer, possessing crack cocaine with intent to distribute, marijuana possession, cocaine possession, driving under suspension and being a habitual traffic offender, according to SLED records. After his arrest Monday, narcotics investigators searched Chisolm's home on Eastway Street in North Charleston and found 31 grams of cocaine, 12.4 grams of crack cocaine, 3.8 grams of marijuana, 14 ecstasy tablets and \$10,044 in cash, Clark said. Investigators planned to charge Chisolm in connection with the drugs on Tuesday, but he died before that occurred, Clark said. Relatives and friends gathered at the Ranger Drive home of Chisolm's family Tuesday to provide comfort and support. A man who identified himself as Chisolm's stepfather said the family was too distraught to make a statement.

<http://www.charleston.net/>

## CASE 6:

### Beach cops shoot Chester man dead

DATE: Friday, July 21, 2006

By Travis Jenkins / Sports Editor

The shooting death of a Chester resident by Myrtle Beach police officers is being investigated by SLED. According to an incident report from the Myrtle Beach Police Department, officers were flagged down by a citizen at about 10:11 on Tuesday night on North Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach. The citizen told police a black male in a black Chevy Impala was pointing a weapon at people. That man has since been identified as 26-year-old Codyus Naville Morris, of Chester. Officers located and approached the vehicle, with was traveling in the southbound lane. The initial incident report said that Morris opened fire on the officers, who returned fire, wounding him. Horry County Coroner Robert Edge pronounced Edge dead at about 10:40 p.m. at the scene of the shooting. The cause of death was a gunshot wound. Edge said Morris was shot multiple times, but would specify, because of an ongoing investigation, which of the wounds proved fatal. Thursday afternoon, Capt. David Knipes issued a press release making media outlets aware the details of the incident are under investigation.

### Three officers involved in Boulevard shooting

DATE: Friday, July 21, 2006

By Paul Nelson

The Sun News

Three Myrtle Beach police officers were involved in the fatal shooting of a 24-year-old Chester County man Tuesday and they are on administrative duty pending the outcome of an investigation of the incident, authorities said. The shooting happened about 10:10 p.m. on Ocean Boulevard between 9th and 10th Avenues North, as vehicles crept along the main drag. Police would not identify the officers or say how long they have been on the force. Police also would did not say how many times Codyus Morris was shot. He died at the scene. According to a police report, the officers shot at the man after he first fired at them when they approached his vehicle. The shooting and the circumstances leading up to it are being reviewed by the State Law Enforcement Division even as Myrtle Beach police conduct their own internal probe, said Capt. David Knipes said. SLED records indicate Morris' criminal history dates back to May of 1998. Knipes said investigators want help finding people who flagged down police Tuesday night before the shooting occurred and told officers a man had a gun. Anyone with information should call 918-1382, he said.

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/>

### Report: Police fired in defense

MB officers who fatally shot man won't face charges

By Lisa Fleisher | Nov 21, 2006

Officers who fatally shot a man on Ocean Boulevard over the summer were acting in self-defense and will not be prosecuted, the solicitor's office said on Monday. Codyus Naville Morris, 24, was shot at about 10 p.m. on July 18 on the bustling 900 block of Ocean Boulevard near The Myrtle Beach Pavilion Amusement Park. "A gun battle on a crowded Ocean Boulevard during the summer season in the late evening hours created a tremendous risk of loss of life, both to the parties

involved and innocent bystanders," the report stated. "Officers, however, engaged in no conduct that rises to the level of criminal conduct and were fully justified, under the specific circumstances of this case, in employing lethal force." The finding also ends a state investigation into the incident. This effectively closes the investigation, said Bobbi Schlatterer, spokeswoman for the State Law Enforcement Division. Witnesses at the time said the area was brimming with tourists and jam-packed with traffic. Morris was driving down Ocean Boulevard when police tried to stop him after someone told them he had a gun, the solicitor's report said. Morris drove onto the crowded sidewalk to try to get away, but crashed into a tree and stopped, the report said. Morris raised his gun, a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun, after repeatedly being told to put it down and turned toward the officers, the report said. They police fired hitting him several times, the report said. He died at the scene, the coroner said. Morris' gun was loaded but was not working after it was shot by one of the officers, the report said. It did not say whether Morris fired his gun. The report said that Morris may have tried to get away from police because he was not legally allowed to have a gun because of his criminal past. Codyus Carter had a 2-year-old son and was planning on marrying a woman with a 5-year-old daughter, his grandmother said. "He was a nice person," she said. "It makes me feel kind of sad, but there's nothing to be done about it." She said she wasn't there so she could not say if she believed the report. "Codyus isn't there to talk for himself," said Ruth Carter, Codyus Carter's grandmother. "They said it was self-defense, but there's two sides for everything, ain't that right?" <http://www.mywire.com/pubs/MyrtleBeachSunNews/2006/11/21/2091987?extID=10037&oliID=229>

## **CASE 7:**

No media account available.

## **CASE 8:**

### **Honea Path officer shoots, kills suspect**

DATE: Monday, September 11, 2006

By Paul Alongi

A Honea Path police officer shot a man several times Sunday, killing him with a bullet to the heart, after the man stabbed another officer who was responding to a domestic dispute, authorities said. David Charles McNeil, 38, died at his home, 10 Meadors Lane, said Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore. Authorities declined to name the officers involved. The Honea Path officers were there to help an Anderson County sheriff's deputy, said Susann Griffin, a sheriff's spokeswoman. The suspect stabbed one officer, Griffin said, and threatened another, who fired his service weapon, Griffin said. The state Law Enforcement Division is investigating. SLED inspector Stacy Drake Ford said she couldn't discuss the investigation. An autopsy Sunday found that McNeil died of a gunshot wound that pierced his heart, Shore said. He declined to say how many times McNeil was shot, but said the shooting was done by one Honea Path officer. Honea Path Police Chief David King couldn't be reached for comment. The call that triggered the incident came in shortly before midnight when Anderson County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to McNeil's home, which sits about 200 feet outside the Honea Path town limits, he said. Deputies asked Honea Path police to serve as back up, Shore said. Two Honea Path officers arrived first and, because they were backup,

waited for the deputy about a block away, he said. They could hear a domestic confrontation happening as they waited, Shore said. When the deputy arrived, one of the Honea Path officers, a man, took up a position nearby to prevent anyone from running away, he said. The deputy and other officer, both women, encountered the suspect, who was wielding a knife, he said. The officer was cut and required treatment at Anderson Area Medical Center, Shore said. The male officer pulled the suspect off of the deputy and officer, he said. When the suspect got up, he still had the knife, Shore said. The suspect went after the officer, and the officer fired, Shore said. Lillia Callum-Penso contributed to this report.

<http://greenvilleonline.com/>

## Deputies put on paid leave in homicide

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

By Lorando D. Lockhart

Two Honea Path police officers have been placed on administrative leave with pay following the shooting death of a man that officials said wielded a knife at the officers. One officer, Detective Sgt. Laura Scott, was stabbed in the right forearm. She was treated and released from the Anderson Area Medical Center, said Honea Path Police Chief David King. King declined to release the other officer's name and referred questions to SLED. "Because this is a shooting involving the Sheriff's Office and our agency, we're letting SLED release any more information," King said. "It is their investigation, and we're being investigated." SLED said Monday it would have no further comment at this point. Susann Griffin, a spokeswoman for the Anderson Sheriff's Office, said the two officers were at the scene to offer back-up assistance to an Anderson sheriff's deputy. They were responding to a domestic confrontation. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said David Charles McNeil, 38, died at his home, 10 Meadors Lane, of a gunshot wound that pierced his heart. The State Law Enforcement Division is automatically investigates when an officer or deputy discharges a weapon in the line of duty. <http://greenvilleonline.com/>

## **CASE 9:**

No media account available.

## **CASE 10:**

### Police shoot, kill man suspected in wife's slaying

Sunday, September 24, 2006

Hardeeville police shot and killed a Savannah man Saturday on Interstate 95 after he apparently killed his wife hours earlier, according to Georgia authorities. Julian Glenn, 26, apparently killed his wife, Mioshi Glenn, 26, at the couple's apartment in Savannah, according to the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. Glenn headed north on I-95, and in an attempt to drive his Honda Accord off a bridge near the Georgia-South Carolina line, hit a guardrail. Glenn got out, carjacked a Nissan and drove off. Hardeeville police got a call at about 5:23 a.m. Saturday that the Nissan had gone down an embankment on I-95. Glenn ran toward responding officers with a gun. An officer shot Glenn. Hardeeville Police and the State Law Enforcement Division are investigating.

<http://www.thestate.com/>



## Rampaging gunman killed

1A | Local News

Bret Bell Sunday, September 24, 2006

Police say they were forced to kill Julian Glenn after he killed his wife in a southside Savannah apartment. A Savannah man shot and killed his wife Saturday morning, then apparently attempted to commit suicide three times while fleeing before being fatally wounded during a shootout with South Carolina authorities, Savannah police said Saturday. Julian Glenn, 26, telephoned a United Parcel Service co-worker shortly after the 5 a.m. homicide at the Colonial Village in Greentree Apartments off Abercorn Street. "He said, 'I'm not coming to work. I just shot my wife,'" said Sgt. Mike Wilson, spokesman for the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police. The unidentified co-worker called police, who later found Mioshi Glenn, 26, in the Glenns' apartment, dead of a gunshot wound. Investigators offered no other details. As police investigated the scene of the shooting, Glenn was driving north on Interstate 95 in his Honda Accord. At the Georgia-South Carolina line, the suspect attempted to drive the car off the bridge and into the Savannah River, authorities said. The bridge's guardrail stopped the Honda, however, and a slightly injured Glenn abandoned his wrecked car and began walking south in the bridge's northbound lane. He jumped onto the front of an approaching 18-wheeler, momentarily grabbing the grill - the truck driver had slowed enough to prevent a serious collision. Wilson said Glenn apparently jumped down off the front of the truck, then pointed his pistol at the driver of a Nissan Sentra that also has slowed, and Glenn forced the driver out of the car. The car's driver was not injured. Glenn drove the Nissan into South Carolina, and he launched the car off I-95, hurling down an embankment near S.C. 46 in another apparent suicide attempt. Two Hardeeville police officers responded to a call about the wreck. As they approached the car, according to a Hardeeville police news release, Glenn - apparently already out of the car - suddenly ran toward them, waving his gun and shouting obscenities. One officer fired his weapon. Glenn reportedly was taken to a Coastal Carolina Medical Center in Hardeeville, where he was pronounced dead. "All indications are that the officers acted accordingly and did nothing wrong," said Hardeeville Police Chief James Hubbard. "This is something they didn't want to happen. No officer wants to take another life." Colonial Village is a well-kept apartment complex of tabby-sided, two-story units just north of the southside Home Depot. Glenn lived in a corner apartment just across from the complex's swimming pool and tennis courts. None of his neighbors said they knew the fugitive or his wife, nor did they hear the early-morning shot that ended her life. "I'm really in disbelief," said Kristin Miller, who moved in next door to the Glenns two weeks ago. "You don't expect to wake up to crime-scene tape. A police officer was the last person I was expecting at 7 in the morning." Late Saturday afternoon, detectives were still investigating what triggered the deadly chain of events.

<http://new.savannahnow.com/node/143736>

## CASE 11:

### Man's death rekindles debate on Tasers

Police say stun guns effective; critics say lethal

Tuesday, October 03, 2006

By Nadine Parks Tony Bartelme

With its 50,000-volt jolt, a Taser can stop fleeing crooks in their tracks and turn burly drunks into helpless heaps. Many officers swear by the stun guns, saying they have decreased injuries to police and the people they arrest. But some civil rights groups say this increasingly common law enforcement tool can kill. And a death Sunday in North Charleston once again put this device in the spotlight while raising questions about the North Charleston Police Department's treatment of mental patients. North Charleston police said they dispatched officers at 2:40 p.m. to Rivers and Reynolds avenues after receiving a report about a man taking off his shirt. They found Kip Black, 38, in the street spinning around a light pole. Black was pulling down his pants and taking off his shirt - "acting unruly and combative," North Charleston Police Chief Jon Zumalt said. When officers asked for his ID, Black pulled it out and chewed on it, police said in a report on the incident. When Black tried to run into the street, police pulled him back, the report said. He tried to run, and two officers fired their Tasers at him. Black continued to resist and even tried to yank out the Taser's fish-hooklike prongs. Zumalt said officers stunned him several more times by pressing the stun gun directly against his body. He was unsure of the number of times officers stunned Black. Officers also used pepper spray. None of these techniques were effective, and officers eventually had to wrestle Black to the ground to restrain him, the report said. Overall, Zumalt said he thinks his officers used an appropriate level of force. He said officers called Charleston County Emergency Medical Services before they tried to arrest Black. Paramedics arrived 13 minutes after police, at 2:53 p.m. A North Charleston officer said he began doing chest compressions while paramedics prepared Black for the trip to the hospital. Black died at 3:40 p.m. at Roper-St. Francis Hospital, acting Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten said. She said she won't be able to determine a cause of death until she sees the results from an autopsy and lab tests. Zumalt said he asked the State Law Enforcement Division to do an independent investigation of the death. Two witnesses painted a different picture of what happened. They said the incident occurred closer to 2 p.m. and that Black never touched any of the three or four officers who surrounded him until an officer shot him with a Taser and all of the officers pounced on top of him. Black's former roommate and friend of about 10 years was standing nearby and said the officers appeared to be frightened of Black, who weighed nearly 250 pounds. "He's so big, they probably thought he was going to hurt them," Herman Evans said. Evans said Black had suffered for years with a mental illness, for which he took prescription medicine. Another witness, Patrick Cochran, was at a nearby car lot and saw the commotion. He said Black took off his shirt and was dancing around a light pole while police talked with him. He said he heard the pop of the Taser and saw several officers tackle Black. Cochran and Evans said police then fired at least six Taser shots. They said Black struggled to stand up, but at some point stopped moving. No one performed resuscitation, and Black lay still on the ground for about 30 to 45 minutes before an ambulance arrived, the two men said. The death Sunday brought back frightening memories for the family of Asberry Wylder, a mentally disabled man North Charleston police fatally shot in 2003, said Wylder's older brother, William. "They need to be trained to deal with situations like these," he said of police. "(The mentally disabled) are human beings, and they need to be treated with dignity." Elder James Johnson, vice president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, a civil rights group, called for Zumalt's resignation because two mental

patients have died during struggles with police during the chief's tenure. Spencer Pryor, spokesman for the department, said the chief had no comment on Johnson's remarks. It wasn't the first time that Black had run afoul of the law or been hit with a Taser. Two weeks ago, Colleton County deputies found Black taking his clothes off near a store and walking in circles. When he resisted arrest, deputies stunned him several times, Chief Deputy Ted Stanfield said. Stanfield said Black told deputies and an emergency room doctor that he had smoked four rocks of crack cocaine and had a few beers that day. He said Black suffered no apparent injuries from the Taser. "When someone's high on drugs or drunk, any other type of use of force isn't going to work." According to SLED, Black had a long list of arrests in connection with violent assaults, burglary and possession of crack cocaine. More than 9,000 law enforcement agencies are using the Taser, according to the device's manufacturer. But police here and across the country are split on whether Tasers are in fact deadly, or whether other circumstances are to blame in the deaths. Zumalt said Monday he isn't convinced that Tasers have caused deaths. Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon also said he believes the weapons are safe and that the benefits of controlling suspects far outweigh the risks. Other departments, including police in Mount Pleasant and Charleston, have a handful of Tasers or none at all, with officials saying they're waiting to see how the debate over the device's safety plays out. During a visit to Charleston earlier this spring, Taser International President Tom Smith said the device is a safe means of controlling often violent people, many of whom are drunk or on drugs. But some critics aren't so sure about the device's safety. Two years ago, the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California warned that more than 70 people had died after hits with Tasers.

## **CASE 12:**

### **Woman Breaks Free From Deputy, Runs Into Path Of Car**

GREENVILLE, S.C. -- A woman struggling with a Greenville County deputy on Thursday night broke free and then stepped into the path of a car driving on White Horse Road. That driver fled, deputies said, but he was later stopped, arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident. The woman died of her injuries. Sheriff's Office spokesman Michael Hildebrand said that a call came in just before 8 p.m. about a woman causing a disturbance at a location in White Horse Road. Hildebrand said that a deputy responded and found the woman was apparently drunk. The deputy decided to arrest the woman for public disorderly conduct. The woman had her hands full of items when the deputy was trying to put handcuffs on her. "As he was putting handcuffs on her, she dropped those items," Sheriff's Office Master Deputy Michael Hildebrand told WYFF News 4's Erin Hartness. "The deputy picked them up in an attempt to secure all her belongings and when he did so, she was able to break free from the deputy and went back into Whitehorse Road." That's when the woman was hit by a car. The Greenville County Deputy Coroner Ken Coppins said identified the woman as 42-year-old Kathy Darlene Saunders. An autopsy is planned for Friday, he said. Troopers said that the driver left the scene of the crash. Investigators caught up with him a short time later. Earl Bryant, 28, is charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving death and not having a driver's license. He was taken to the Greenville County Detention Center. Witnesses said that the accident was shocking. "If I think about this all night I will not get no sleep," witness Nathaniel Choice said. "It's going to stop me from sleeping. I can't believe this happened." The sheriff's office said that the deputy involved did not do anything wrong and that there would likely not be an investigation.

## **CASE 13:**

### **Local man's death under investigation**

Augusta Star

By KAREN DAILY

State and local officials are investigating the Thursday death of a North Augusta resident who struggled with North Augusta Public Safety officers and another man approximately a half-hour before he was pronounced dead at an Augusta hospital, officials say. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of Alex Mills, 39, of Crystal Lake Drive, but a spokesperson with the state agency said the investigation is open and refused further comment. The cause and manner of Mills' death will not be released until the completion of a full autopsy report, which Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlton said is pending toxicology results. A police report indicates that Mills was using cocaine the Thursday of his death, but Carlton said only the toxicology results will definitively say one way or another. T. Lee Wetherington, North Augusta Public Safety Director, said his department is considering the death an in-custody fatality, and as a result, notified SLED to investigate. "We would rather err on the side of caution and investigate it as an in-custody death," he said. "He was already being restrained by a private party when we got there, and we took that over and put handcuffs on him. Shortly after that he went into distress." Wetherington further stated, however, that no action has been taken against any officers who responded to the man's home last week. "There is no apparent wrongdoing of any officer involved at this time," he said. "There is nothing even close to resembling wrongdoing." At 3:16 p.m. Thursday, the incident report states that a 19-year-old man living at the same Crystal Lake Drive address as Mills called Public Safety saying that the 39-year-old man had locked himself in the bathroom. Once there, police found a 5-foot 11-inch and 240-pound man sitting on top of Mills, who was face down at the edge of the street, the police incident report states. Mills was wearing only an unbuttoned shirt and was combative, the officer reported. Two Public Safety officers restrained Mills with handcuffs behind his back. Although the 39-year-old man was handcuffed, he was never under arrest, Wetherington said. "The subject later appeared to be in medical distress," the report states. The officers used an Automated External Defibrillator and began CPR. Mills was then transported by EMS to University ER. Aiken County EMS would not provide a copy of its report, stating it is a federal violation of patient privacy rights. Wetherington said the details of what happened from the time the officers put Mills in handcuffs and the time he went into medical distress are part of the SLED investigation. "We do have video, but it won't be released until after the completion of the investigation," he said. "Once SLED completes the investigation they will send their results to the Solicitor for any further review." According to incident reports filed with North Augusta Public Safety in the past, officers responded to the same address Wednesday, Nov. 1, after Mills reportedly locked himself in the bathroom. Public Safety forced entry into the bathroom, kicking in the door, the report states. "In speaking with the victim, he admitted to using marijuana and cocaine earlier," the Nov. 1 report states. The officer reporting the incident stated that he kicked the bathroom door in based on previous knowledge of a similar incident with Mills. In October 2004, Mills was being transported to the Aiken County detention center when he began complaining about pain in his chest. He told the officer he did not need medical attention, but at the detention center told another officer that he had chest pain and trouble breathing. He was evaluated at the hospital and released. He was transported back to the detention center, the report states. Mills was also arrested previously for failure to stop for blue lights and simple possession of marijuana in 2004. When contacted Monday, Mills' family did not wish to comment on the matter.

<http://209.85.165.104/search?q=cache:OXfdOYICiCgJ:www.northaugustastar.com/files/editions/111706.pdf+alex+mills+augusta+public+safety&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us>

## **CASE 14:**

### **Lowcountry man dies after police restrain him**

Sunday, December 03, 2006

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. - Toxicology tests will be needed to determine why a man died shortly after police restrained him for jumping into car windows on a Beaufort County road, deputies say. Brendon Ashley Wallace, 38, collapsed right after deputies put him in restraints around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, authorities said. Wallace was stopping cars on the road. "When people rolled down the window to see what he wanted, he'd dive in," said Greg O'Leary, who was in one of the cars Wallace stopped. O'Leary and another driver held Wallace, who was kicking and screaming, until police arrived. A deputy put restraints on Wallace and asked him his name. Wallace answered, then collapsed and died, authorities said. An autopsy found Wallace didn't suffer any major trauma, and the official cause of death won't be known until results of a toxicology test come back, sheriff's Capt. Bob Bromage said. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating, but Sheriff P.J. Tanner said it appears his deputies followed proper procedure. O'Leary said he is still shaken by the incident. "I just said a prayer over his body," he said. "I was hoping he was in a good place. It's just very tragic." Information from: The Island Packet, <http://www.islandpacket.com>

## **CASE 15:**

### **Probe clears deputy in fatal shooting**

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2007

— Kelly Davis <http://www.thestate.com/>

A Lexington County sheriff's deputy acted appropriately in the fatal shooting of a man the deputy said initiated a gunfight in January, a SLED investigation has found. According to a release from the Sheriff's Department, Deputy James Kemfort returned fire in self-defense and to protect a fellow officer in the Jan. 23 incident, in which John Scott Tribble, 38, of Calks Ferry Road, was shot in the chest. The SLED investigation shows that Kemfort acted appropriately when he fatally shot John Scott Tribble, 38, who initiated the gunfight with Glover and Kemfort on January 23 at Tribble's home at 3906 Calks Ferry Road, Metts said. Tribble shot and wounded Glover, and Kemfort then returned fire with a shotgun in order to defend his life and Glover's life. Tribble continued to fire at Glover and Kemfort, while Kemfort returned fire. "These three officers did what they had to do on January 23. Training helped Deputy Kemfort prevail that day," Metts said. "This is why we push training for our officers. We live in a time of uncertainty. We never know what we will face as law enforcement officers." As a matter of policy, Metts presents the Medal of Valor in order to recognize officers who demonstrate exceptional heroism that is "clearly beyond the call of duty and involves great risk of injury or death and prevents the loss of life, serious injury or major property damage." "It was a pretty gut-wrenching day. I thank God that Joe is OK. I thank God that I was able to respond in the way that I did," Kemfort told fellow officers after receiving the Medal of Valor Award. "The training I received was critical. It prepared me to do what I needed to do." Jones arrived at the shooting scene as the first backup officer, Metts said. While Kemfort returned

fire at Tribble, Jones took Glover to a Lexington County Emergency Medical Services ambulance, which transported Glover to Lexington Medical Center for medical treatment. After he took Glover to safety, Jones returned to the shooting scene to assist Kemfort.

<http://www.lex-co.com/sheriff/media.aspx?mid=405>

## Lexington County Sheriff's Department Website

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

1:45 p.m. (For immediate release)

### SHOOTING INVESTIGATION

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and Lexington County Coroner's Office are investigating the death of a man who was found deceased at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23 inside his home after the man initiated a gunfight with two deputies who had responded to a call about a domestic dispute at the home on Calks Ferry Road in the Fairview community. The man wounded one deputy, and the second deputy returned fire with a shotgun in order to defend his life and the life of his fellow officer. Lexington County Sheriff James R. Metts asked SLED on Tuesday to investigate the shooting incident because deputies were involved. That is Metts' standard protocol in such cases. Lexington County Coroner Harry O. Harman ordered an autopsy to be performed on Wednesday, January 24 to determine the cause and manner of the death of John Scott Tribble, 38, of 3906 Calks Ferry Road. Harman said preliminary autopsy results show that Tribble died as a result of one gunshot wound in his chest. The fatal shot was fired from a shotgun. At about 3:39 p.m. on Tuesday, the Lexington County Communications Center received a call about a domestic dispute at Tribble's home that involved Tribble and his mother, Metts said. Tribble and his mother argued about household chores that Tribble did not perform. Tribble had lived with his mother since at least September 2006. Three Lexington County Sheriff's Department deputies initially responded to the call, Metts said. The deputies thought that they had controlled the situation by removing Tribble and his mother from the home and separating Tribble and his mother. One deputy left the home, leaving two deputies at the residence. Tribble returned inside the home in order to retrieve personal belongings that he would need after he agreed to leave home temporarily, Metts said. Deputy Joseph Glover went inside the home to check on Tribble, and Tribble immediately started firing shots from a handgun at Glover at about 4:41 p.m. on Tuesday. Glover was wounded when a gunshot grazed the right side of his head by his right eye, Metts said. Glover retreated from the home while Tribble continued to fire shots at Glover. Deputy James Kemfort heard the gunshots being fired at Glover, went to Glover's aid as Glover retreated from the home and helped Glover get to Glover's patrol car, where the two deputies sought cover to protect themselves from continuing gunfire from Tribble, Metts said. Kemfort retrieved a shotgun from a patrol car and returned fire at Tribble. SLED is investigating the circumstances of the gunfight between Tribble and deputies. During the gunfight, Tribble remained inside the home, firing shots from the front door, Metts said. Deputies made repeated, unsuccessful efforts to make visual contact with Tribble and to contact Tribble by telephone. Metts called out the Lexington County Sheriff's Department Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) to respond to the incident. Members of the team surrounded the home, and they later made visual contact with Tribble, who was lying on the floor near the home's front door and appeared to be unconscious. Metts ordered SWAT officers to enter the home in order to check on Tribble's condition. Lexington County Emergency Medical Services personnel examined Tribble and determined at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday that Tribble was deceased. Glover was taken by ambulance to Lexington Medical Center, where Glover received

medical treatment and was released on Tuesday night, Metts said. Glover requires additional medical examination for his injuries and has not returned to duty with the Sheriff's Department. Glover, 36, has worked for the Sheriff's Department since October 17, 2005. Metts placed Kemfort, 33, on administrative leave with pay until SLED completes its investigation of the shooting incident. That is the sheriff's standard protocol in such situations. Kemfort has worked for the Sheriff's Department since November 6, 2006.

<http://209.85.165.104/search?q=cache:fFuaBDe9Yr8J:www.lex-co.com/SHERIFF/press/Releases/pdf/07-01-023%2520Shooting%2520Investigation.pdf+john+tribble+lexington+sc&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us>

## **CASE 16:**

### **Spartanburg County deputy, suspect die in shootout**

Posted on Wed, Feb. 28, 2007

Associated Press

WELLFORD, S.C. (AP) - A Spartanburg County sheriff's deputy and a suspect he was chasing have died in a shootout following a traffic stop. The shooting occurred shortly after about 10 o'clock last night near Interstate 85 and state Highway 129 in the Wellford area. Sheriff Chuck Wright says this morning that 39-year-old Deputy Kevin Carper died at the scene from a single gunshot wound to the chest. Wright says Terry Lee Brooks of Inman fired at Carper, who returned fire. The sheriff says Brooks was shot three times and died at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. The sheriff says Carper had been with the sheriff's department for 12 years. Wright says chaplains have been called in to help deputies and other officers involved. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating.

**DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

A Spartanburg County sheriff's deputy was shot and killed while making a traffic stop near Highway 129 near Wellford Tuesday night. Deputy Kevin Carper, 39, died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the chest, according to the Spartanburg County Coroner's Office. Carper was a 10-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. He is survived by a wife and three daughters. The man Carper stopped Tuesday night, Terry Lee Brooks, died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. Carper's killing is the first of an on-duty officer in Spartanburg County since June 9, 1967, according to the S.C. Department of Public Safety. Chief Cletus J. Wall of the Chesnee Police Department was shot while making an arrest. At least nine officers have been killed in the line of duty in Spartanburg County since 1925, according to the state Public Safety Department. The incident occurred shortly before 10 p.m. in the Wellford area, near the intersection of Highway 129 and I-85. Carper stopped a vehicle on Highway 129, and the car, with a man and woman inside, pulled into the Midway Trailer Park. According to deputies, Brooks got out of the car and fled on foot. Sheriff Chuck Wright said that Carper and another officer pursued Brooks, a struggle ensued and Carper was shot once under his bulletproof vest. Brooks, 48, of 5 Davis Court, Inman, was shot three times, Wright said. Wright said the woman in the car has been taken into custody. Carper had been involved in two shooting incidents during his tenure with the Sheriff's Office. In 2004, he shot and killed John Joseph Harris, on the county's Most Wanted List at the time, after a chase. Carper said Harris pointed a gun at him after ditching a stolen van as Carper approached him on foot. In

October 2001, Carper fired the shot that wounded a 13-year-old girl during a gunfire exchange between deputies and the live-in boyfriend of the girl's mother. The man, William Charles Seich, began shooting at deputies after killing the girl's mother, Patricia Parris. Carper's pastor, the Rev. Smoke Kanipe of St. James United Methodist Church said Carper had attended the Spartanburg church for eight years. "He was always here every Sunday," Kanipe said. "He was a very faithful and dedicated member of the church. He was, I think, in some ways a quiet person, so we never talked about his work. He was in a sense a quiet, brave person, and he never talked about what he did." "He was a wonderful father to three daughters and a wonderful husband. He was a solid supporter of church activities, especially activities his daughters were involved in." Carper leaves behind a wife, Andrea, and three daughters. The youngest is less than a year old.  
<http://www.goupstate.com/>