

South Carolina Deaths in Police Custody

Final Report

Submitted to the SC Department of Public Safety

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Foreword

The Deaths in Custody Report Act ((DCRA) was enacted in 2000 amidst congressional concerns regarding the health and well-being of persons subject to the custody of law enforcement and correctional officials. DCRA mandates state participation in the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP), which collects data on deaths that occur at two stages in the criminal justice process: in the process of arrest and in jails and prison. This report addresses only the “process of arrest” deaths that occurred in South Carolina from April 2007 through March 2008. DCRP is administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the United States Department of Justice and provides the national basis for statistical reporting concerning fatalities related to law enforcement arrests and other custodial actions.

Since 2003, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety has met this mandate by collaborating with the University of South Carolina, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (USC). As part of this collaboration, USC surveys county coroners and reviews media reports to identify and report on cases that meet these federal criteria. This information is entered onto data collection forms, reviewed and those forms are forwarded to BJS. BJS compiles the data from each state and has developed a series of statistical reports concerning deaths in custody nationwide. These statistical reports can be viewed at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dcrp/dictabs.htm>

It is important to note that the name of the program might lead readers to incorrect conclusions regarding the nature of the data collected. Taken literally, the phrase “deaths in custody” provides an incomplete description of the data collected. Although DCRA requires the collection of information on deaths of individuals who die while in police custody, it also requires the collection

of information concerning deaths of persons who are in the process of arrest and not necessarily in the physical custody of law enforcement officers. Such deaths are counted if the death is the result of police force, suicide, deadly force by people other than law enforcement or natural causes during the process of arrest. For example, a suspect fleeing arrest who jumps into a body of water and subsequently drowns would be counted in this report. Similarly, a barricaded suspect who ultimately decides to commit suicide rather than “give up” to the police would be counted.

DCRA also requires the inclusion of individuals who die in short term lock-ups, even if they have been released by the arresting officer and remanded to the custody of detention officers. However, this does not include deaths in jails which are reported to BJS under a separate data collection process.

Finally, deaths related to police chases resulting in accidental deaths are included only if police took direct action, such as ramming the vehicle, shooting at the vehicle or other actions which directly caused the vehicle to crash. Deaths that result from a chase where the police simply give chase are not included.

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Introduction

This report summarizes findings regarding the on-going effort of research staff at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina to collect information about persons who died while in police custody during the last three quarters of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008 (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2007).

As during previous data collection reporting periods, county coroners in South Carolina were contacted to determine whether or not any persons died while in police custody. When a coroner indicated a death meeting the “in custody” criteria occurred, details regarding that death were requested. In addition to contacting coroners, media searches were conducted by research staff to identify deaths that might have gone unreported and to assist coroners in locating case files by providing names and dates of death.

Based on the media searches and information supplied by coroners or their assistants, 15 deaths in police custody were identified that occurred during the 12-month reporting period. However, at the time of this report, information for four deaths was pending and not yet available from coroners. We will attempt to collect information regarding these deaths during the next round of data collection.

The research staff also collected information on five deaths that occurred during the previous round of data collection, but for which the details from coroners were pending at the time. CJ11A forms for these deaths were completed and Table 2 in the appendix provides basic descriptive statistics and other information regarding these cases.

A summary of the findings begins on page 3. Brief narratives about each incident begin on page 4, and media accounts of deaths begin on page 7. The next section describes the methodology.

Method

As during previous data collection efforts, information on deaths in police custody was obtained by contacting all county coroners' offices in the State (N = 46). We report on deaths that occurred during the second quarter of 2007 through the first quarter of 2008 (April 30 – March 31). One change implemented this round is that rather than collecting data quarterly, the research staff collected data semiannually. Specifically, county coroners were contacted during October to collect data on deaths that occurred April 30 – September 30 and again during April to collect data on deaths that occurred October 31 – March 31. Coroners or their assistants were contacted by phone, fax, or email, and asked whether or not any subjects in their county died while in police custody during the previous six months. If a death appeared to meet the criteria established by the Bureau of Justice Statistics for a death in police custody, the respondent was asked to provide specific details regarding that death. The research staff also inquired about several deaths that occurred during the previous reporting period but for which information was not available at the time (N = 4). Basic descriptive information for these deaths is provided in the appendix (Table 2).

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 may have gone unreported by coroners. If unreported cases were identified, coroners were queried about them and details requested.

Findings

Coroners' offices reported 15 deaths in police custody. The date of death, the proximate cause of death, and basic demographic information is provided in Table 1. Note that information about four deaths was pending at the time of final data collection and are identified with an asterisk. The details regarding these deaths are based solely on media accounts, and thus should be considered preliminary. This information will be verified during the next round of data collection and the details will be provided in next year's report.

Table 1: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008

<i>Case</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Race / Ethnicity</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Proximate Cause</i>
1	Male	White	35	04-24-07	Charleston	Drug intoxication
2	Male	White	38	07-22-07	Richland	Shot by police
3	Male	White	43	07-26-07	Dorchester	Shot by police
4	Male	Black	27	08-16-07	Horry	Drug intoxication
5	Female	White	35	08-31-07	Greenville	Shot by police
6*	Male	---	26	09-10-07	Charleston	Shot by police
7	Male	White	53	12-02-07	Jasper	Alcohol intoxication
8*	Male	---	40	12-02-07	Spartanburg	Drowning
9	Male	White	46	01-01-08	Beaufort	Illness/natural causes
10	Male	White	41	01-05-08	Anderson	Shot by police
11*	Male	---	34	01-05-08	Charleston	Shot by police
12	Male	White	39	01-18-08	Horry	Shot by police
13	Male	White	57	02-04-08	Aiken	Illness/natural causes
14*	Male	---	28	03-01-08	Spartanburg	Shot by police
15	Male	Black	34	03-26-08	Richland	Shot by police

Notes: * = information based on media accounts; "---" = not available.

As Table 1 shows, 14 of the 15 deaths involved male subjects (93%). Ages ranged from 26 to 57, with a mean of 38 years. Most subjects were Caucasian (9) and two were African-American (race/ethnicity could not be determined for four subjects). Six of the deaths occurred during the first six months of the reporting period (April – September) and nine occurred during the second six months of the reporting (October – April).

According to coroner and media accounts, more than half of the subjects (64%) died as a result of being shot by law enforcement officers (N = 9). Of the six shooting cases for which final results were available, coroners reported that the manner of death was justifiable homicide for five (Cases 2, 5, 10, 12, & 15), and “suicide by cop” for one (Case 3). Three subjects died as a result of drug or alcohol intoxication (Cases 1, 4 & 7). For Cases 1 and 4, the coroners indicated that the medical cause of death was drug related (drug-induced cardiac arrhythmia and cocaine toxicity, respectively), and it is notable that both subjects were stunned with a conducted energy device prior to dying. Two other subjects died of illness/natural causes (Cases 8 & 13) and according to media accounts one subject drowned while trying to evade police (Case 8).

Narratives

This section provides brief narratives regarding the deaths. Asterisks indicate the information is based on media accounts only. Media accounts themselves appear in the next section.

1. A 35-year-old white male died on April 24, 2007 after being transported to Medical University Hospital by emergency medical services. Following a botched drug transaction, two assailants fired several shots at the subject, hitting him once in the leg. In an effort to elude his pursuers, the subject jumped into a North Charleston police cruiser that had responded to the shooting incident. The subject then attempted to flee from the officer and a struggle ensued. Other officers arrived on the scene and the subject was stunned with a conducted energy device before being transported by emergency medical personnel. The coroner reported the medical cause of death was *acute cocaine toxicity* and that the manner of death was *accidental injury caused by others*.
2. A 34-year-old white male died at the Palmetto Health Richland Hospital on April 22, 2007 after being shot by Columbia Police Department and Richland County Sheriff’s Department officers during a two-hour standoff. The subject, who apparently had a history of mental illness, drug abuse, and domestic problems, had set his home on fire. Officers responding to the scene tried unsuccessfully to incapacitate him using shotgun bean bag rounds. The subject, brandishing a knife, was shot in the stomach and chest. The manner of death was *justifiable homicide* and the medical cause of death was *internal hemorrhage due to gunshot wound to the chest*.

3. A 43-year old white male died at the scene on April 26, 2007 after being shot by a Summerville Police Department officer. The subject had been arrested and transported by officers to the Summerville police station for booking. The subject stunned an officer with a conducted energy device he wrestled away from the officer. Another officer then shot the subject several times. The manner of death was *suicide by cop* and the medical cause of death was *close range perforating gunshot wound to the head*.
4. A 27-year old black male died on August 16, 2007 after being transported to Conway Medical Center. Conway Police Department officers responded to a burglary call and confronted the suspect. During the arrest, the suspect was stunned twice with a conducted energy device and handcuffed. The subject went into cardiac arrest and died following transport to the medical facility. The manner of death was *accidental, injury caused by others* and the medical cause of death was *drug induced cardiac arrhythmia*.
5. A 35-year old white female died at the scene on August 31, 2007 after being shot by a Greenville police officer. The officer was responding to a breaking and entering call when he confronted the subject in a nearby unit. The subject was intoxicated and threatened the officer with a knife before she was shot. The manner of death was *justifiable homicide* and the medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to chest*.
6. *A 26-year old male died on August 31, 2007 at Medical University Hospital after being shot by a Charleston police officer. An undercover officer attempted to arrest the subject after making a drug buy. The subject attempted to flee in a vehicle, hitting one officer. Another officer then shot the subject who then was transported by emergency medical services to the hospital where he later died.
7. A 53-year old white male died on December 12, 2007 during transport to a medical facility. Jasper County Sheriff's deputies responding to a domestic disturbance call were confronted by the subject, who was intoxicated and combative. He was placed under arrest and while being transported he became unresponsive. The subject died while being transported to the hospital by emergency medical services. The manner of death was *alcohol intoxication and illness/natural causes* and the medical cause of death was *cardiac arrest due to acute ethanol intoxication*.
8. *A 40-year old male died at the scene on December 2, 2007 while trying to evade Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies. The subject triggered a burglar alarm at a business and tried to evade the responding deputies by fleeing into a wooded area and jumping into a pond. A deputy pursued the subject into the water but the subject drowned. The body was later recovered by divers.
9. A 46-year old white male died at Beaufort Memorial Hospital on January 1, 2008 after collapsing in the Beaufort County Detention Center. The subject was arrested by Beaufort County sheriff's deputies and booked into the facility on charges of malicious injury to personal property and resisting arrest. Several days later, the subject was transported to the hospital allegedly for cardiac arrest. The manner of death was *illness/natural causes*. The medical cause of death was not released by the coroner.

10. A 41-year old white male died at the scene on January 5, 2008 after being shot by an Iva police officer. The officer was responding to a disturbance call at the subject's home when a struggle ensued. The officer attempted to subdue the subject with pepper spray and a baton before shooting him. The manner of death was *justifiable homicide* and the medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to left side of neck*.
11. *A 34-year old male died at the scene on January 5, 2008 after being shot by a Charleston County sheriff's deputy. Dispatch received a call from the subject who stated he had been stabbed. Deputies responding to the call found the subject outside his home yelling and holding a rifle. The subject, who was irate, refused to put the rifle down and fired two shots into the woods. One of the deputies then shot the subject in the neck.
12. A 39-year old white male died at the scene on January 18, 2008 after being shot by a Horry County sheriff's deputy. The subject made several 911 hang-up calls and was possibly suicidal, but he did not come to the door when deputies responded. On the sixth trip, the subject released a dog on a deputy and then locked himself in his home. The responding deputy called for backup and when the subject later exited his home carrying a shotgun he was shot in the head. The manner of death was *justifiable homicide* and the medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the head*.
13. A 57-year old white male died in the Aiken County Detention Center on February 4, 2008 from complications with alcoholism. The subject was arrested for driving under the influence and booked into the detention center on January 27. The subject was later found dead in his cell. The means of death was *alcohol detoxification*, the manner of death was *seizures due to chronic alcohol abuse*, and the medical cause of death was *acute respiratory insufficiency*.
14. *A 28-year old male died at the scene on March 1, 2008 after being shot several times by a Greenville County sheriff's deputy. The subject was a robbery suspect who took a woman hostage and led police on a three-county chase. The deputy shot the suspect during a standoff at a mobile home following the pursuit.
15. A 34-year old black male died at the scene after being shot by Richland County sheriff's deputies. The deputies were executing a search warrant and forcibly entered the subject's home after knocks went unanswered. The subject shot at the deputies who returned fire hitting the subject several times and killing him. The manner of death was *justifiable homicide* and the medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to head with massive central nervous system trauma*.

Media Accounts

CASE 1:

Man dies after being shot in apparent drug deal, hit by Taser

Published on 04/25/07

By Noah Haglund and Nadine Parks

The Post and Courier

A 35-year-old North Charleston man died after he was shot during a botched drug deal Tuesday, but not before jumping into a police cruiser and later being shocked by an officer's Taser, police said. The events leading up to Louis Jermaine Broomfield's death began unfolding on Arbutus Street in the Union Heights neighborhood around 11 a.m. The State Law Enforcement Division and the Charleston County Coroner's Office are investigating. It's not yet clear what killed Broomfield, but a single gunshot wound to the leg probably was not fatal, Deputy Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal said. Police arrested two men at 2075 Arbutus Ave. in connection with the shooting: Terrell Maurice Archfield, 20, who is charged with assault and battery with intent to kill and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime, and Eric Roshard Nathaniel, 18, who is charged with accessory to assault and battery with intent to kill. Police think Broomfield approached Nathaniel on Arbutus Avenue to buy powder cocaine, then snatched it and ran away, according to a release. The release describes what investigators think happened next: While pursuing Broomfield, Archfield shot at him several times with a handgun, hitting him. Officers responding to 911 calls drove into the neighborhood. Broomfield jumped into a cruiser on Beech Avenue near Cosmopolitan Avenue. He told the officer, "Get me out of here." As the patrol car drove down Beech Avenue, the officer asked Broomfield why he was fleeing and if he was shot. Broomfield jumped out just short of Spruill Avenue, about a block from where he got in. The officer got out of the car and tried to detain Broomfield, who became combative and continued to fight the officer as more officers arrived. During the struggle, the officers used a Taser and placed Broomfield in handcuffs. Emergency medical workers took Broomfield to Medical University Hospital, where he later died. O'Neal said an autopsy was being performed Tuesday night. Toxicology testing could take several weeks, she said. Officers did not find any cocaine at the scene and are not sure what happened to it, North Charleston police spokesman Spencer Pryor said.

CASE 2:

Man killed in S.C. police standoff

Posted: July 24 2007 at 6:01pm

The Charlotte Observer

http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/207907.html

The 38-year-old Columbia man shot dead Sunday morning by police in a standoff had a troubled history of drug, mental health and domestic problems, his wife said. His shooting is the first use of deadly force by a Richland County deputy within five years. But it is the third time a deputy has shot a suspect in the past 18 months. One was shot nine days ago. Richard Lewis Catoe Jr., brandishing a knife with a 5-inch blade, was shot several times two hours apart after a confrontation on Samson Circle in Columbia's Greenview neighborhood, where streets have biblical names. Officers, called to the scene for a house fire, tried talking and bean bags from a shotgun to avoid

deadly force, Columbia police Chief Dean Crisp and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said. But Catoe never did calm down and appeared to be in “some type of drug-induced state,” they said. “A normal individual will ... feel that pain and they’ll go down,” Lott said. Bean bag rounds are “less-lethal” cloth bags filled with beans, in this case fired from a shotgun, intended to stun or knock a person to the ground, Lott said. Catoe even wriggled out from under police charging toward him from behind shields. Still, the shooting left some neighbors angry over the police’s use of deadly force and at Catoe’s wife, Evalena Catoe, for putting her husband out of the house. He had been sleeping in his car near the house on Samson Circle and bathing in the back yard with a garden hose, said neighbors who describe him as likable though troubled. Evalena Catoe, 55, said her critical neighbors don’t know the whole story. “He did use drugs,” she said. “I tried to work and get my husband help. He had a mental problem. The drugs was to cover up all the other things.” She would not elaborate about his mental state except to say his mood and manner recently left her suspecting he had begun using methamphetamine. Catoe said her husband of 14 years had violated several restraining orders, had broken into the house and stolen items to sell for drugs — most recently last week. Catoe’s arrest record suggests a troubled life. His arrests began in 1985 in Lancaster County, just 11 days after his 17th birthday. He has at least 38 charges on his record in South Carolina, including aggravated assault and battery, sexual assault, and drinking and driving violations, according to State Law Enforcement Division records. His record includes four clashes with police, including a 1999 charge for having a knife during an arrest. “He was not violent toward me at all,” his wife said. “What he would do would be mostly to himself. I couldn’t let him pull me down to the ground when I don’t have much to begin with.” She said she threw Catoe out a final time on July 12. The last time she saw him was Saturday when he came to her window asking for food and drink. “Through the window, I gave him beans and sausage and Gatorade.” Then she drove to Fort Mill to visit a daughter from a previous relationship. Evalena Catoe returned to her neighborhood off Farrow Road in North Columbia to find a house gutted by flames and her street filled with police cars, firetrucks and yellow crime scene tape. Catoe said authorities had not told her by midday that her husband had been killed. “So, he’s dead?” she asked a reporter, then said little more. Rick Catoe, as he was known, was pronounced dead at 10:35 a.m. at Palmetto Health Richland hospital, Coroner Gary Watts said. An autopsy, which includes tests for drugs or alcohol, is planned today. Officers fired multiple shots during two exchanges. Neither Crisp nor Lott would say how many shots, leaving that to SLED, which investigates police shootings. Lott called the shooting justified. The officer had no choice when the armed man was trying to escape the police perimeter, he said. Firefighters went to the Catoes’ clapboard house at the intersection of Samson and Delilah Street about 2:50 a.m. because a fire had erupted. They battled the fire until about 6 a.m., neighbors said. A second fire about two hours later drew police, too. They saw a man with a knife acting suspiciously near the house and began questioning him, Crisp said. “He approached the officers in what I’ll say is a very threatening manner,” the police chief said, adding the man said he would kill any officer who tried to arrest him. Police officer Ruben Hurtado shot Catoe first, Crisp said. The bullet struck Catoe near the stomach. But the standoff lasted until about 10:15 a.m., and Catoe was so agitated the entire time that he even cut off his own shirt, Crisp and Lott said. “It was certainly a roller coaster during negotiations,” Crisp said. “It was very clear that he was not going to give up.” Toward the end, a SWAT team rushed the 5-foot-9-inch, 145-pound Catoe with shields. One officer was 6 feet 4 inches tall and 275 pounds, but Catoe was able to break free, Crisp said. That is when Deputy Kellye Hendrick opened fired with her 40-caliber Glock, killing him, authorities said. It was the first time in Hendrick’s four years on the force that she had fired her weapon in the line of duty, Lott said. Neighbor John Hutto, 39, said he felt police did not need to

shoot Catoe. "When you stand in a yard 20 feet from the road with a pocketknife to your neck, who can you hurt?" Hutto asked. "A pocketknife is no threat when police have Tasers and 9 millimeters." Lott said officers did not use Tasers. Hutto and neighbors Robert Canzater and Sabrina Hudson all described Catoe as well known and liked by neighbors, for whom he did odd jobs. "My mama fed him and gave him clothes," said Canzater, 20, who lives next door. They said Catoe drank and used drugs but not to the point of addiction or causing trouble among residents. But he was so angry at his wife that he threatened Friday to burn down the house, Canzater said. "If I can't get in there to get my stuff, then she ain't gonna have ... either. That was his exact words," Canzater said. Police are investigating Catoe's connection to the fire.

CASE 3:

Death ruled 'suicide by cop'

Police officers had no choice but to kill Dahlke, coroner says

By Noah Haglund and Andy Paras

The Post and Courier

Saturday, July 28, 2007

There were warrants out for his arrest, and Steven Edward Dahlke said if authorities caught up with him, he would go down with a fight. If official accounts of Dahlke's arrest and subsequent shooting death at the Summerville Police Department on Thursday are accurate, fight he did before going down for good. Dorchester County Coroner Chris Nisbet ruled that the 43-year-old from James Island gave police no other choice but to kill him. The coroner said a police officer shot Dahlke four times as Dahlke charged with a Taser he had just wrested from another officer. Dahlke had taken the Taser and stunned the first officer while in the department's booking room. Dispatchers saw what was happening on camera and called for help, Nisbet said. As the second officer approached the door to the booking room, Dahlke burst through it with the Taser in hand. Wounded at 10:01 p.m. Thursday, Dahlke died within minutes. "The manner of death is going to be suicide by cop," Nisbet said. "In my 16 years being affiliated with the coroner's office, I feel very comfortable ruling it that way." Patrolmen Timothy Webb and Mike Files have been put on administrative leave as the State Law Enforcement Division investigates, which is routine in officer-involved shootings. A police report says Webb was the officer in the booking area and that Files was the one who arrived to help. Events unfolded at downtown Summerville police headquarters Thursday. About half an hour earlier, narcotics officers had stopped by a sergeant's house on South Magnolia Street. They noticed a man standing next to an open door of the sergeant's wife's vehicle, looking inside, the report states. When one of the officers confronted Dahlke, he said he was at a friend's house. Then the sergeant broke the news: This was his house. The report said Dahlke refused to get on the ground and that officers twice used a Taser on him before putting him in handcuffs. Webb transported Dahlke to the police department. The name on the police report is a false name Dahlke gave to police, Nisbet said. The report states that a few minutes later, detectives heard on the police radio that Webb was in a fight with the suspect at the police station. Dispatchers also reported that the suspect had Webb's Taser, the report says. Files was the first to arrive. When detectives got to the scene, they saw Webb and Files standing outside and the suspect slumped over and bleeding, the report says. The incident is still under investigation. Dahlke's criminal history in South Carolina dates to 1984, with convictions for burglary, breaking into a motor vehicle, grand larceny, simple assault and financial transaction card fraud. In October 1998, he was charged in Charleston with assaulting police while resisting arrest and was later convicted. His record also shows a 1990

conviction for resisting arrest. At the time of his death, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office was seeking him on at least a half-dozen warrants, said Maj. John Clark, a sheriff's office spokesman. Dahlke's family could not be reached for comment. Webb's attorney, Andy Savage, has long worked with the Police Benevolent Association. Savage said he was confident the officers acted appropriately after reviewing tapes that recorded the incident. When subduing a suspect, they are trained to use a "continuum of force," starting with verbal commands, then escalating to a Taser, baton or chemical spray. "They are never instructed to immediately use lethal force," he said. Once an officer feels he or she is in imminent danger, however, they shoot "not to disable but to kill," he said. The coroner said the imminent danger to the police was an important factor in deciding that Dahlke forced the officer to shoot him. Nisbet also said he had a conversation with one of the dead man's relatives who dropped Dahlke off at the bus station near the home on South Magnolia Street, supposedly so he could leave town because of the active arrest warrants. According to Nisbet, Dahlke told the relative that if the law caught up with him, he was going down with a fight. Nisbet thinks anybody who points a weapon at a police officer should expect a reaction. In split second timing, it might be impossible to distinguish a Taser from a handgun. That, he said, leaves police with few options. "When confronted with death, they have a choice to make, and I think the choice was made correctly," he said. "I don't believe any other police officer would make any other decision." <http://www.charleston.net/photos/2007/jul/27/2015/>">Steven%20Edward%20Dahlke

Prosecutor says officer justified in shooting suspect at station

SUMMERVILLE, S.C. (AP) -- Prosecutors have cleared a Summerville Officer who shot and killed a suspect when he charged at the officer with a Taser. Steven Edward Dahlke, 43, was being booked on suspicion of breaking into a car when he wrestled away an officer's Taser and stunned him with it, chief Charleston County prosecutor David Pascoe said. Officer Michael Files responded to a call for help from dispatchers who could see what was happening in the room on a monitor. "The overwhelming evidence is that Dahlke charged Officer Files with the Taser pointed at him," Pascoe said. "The officer, literally, had seconds to react." The Summerville Police Department had no comment on Pascoe's opinion. Dahlke had struggled with officers when he was arrested, according to police reports, and officers used a Taser to subdue him before he could be handcuffed. Pascoe said the evidence shows that "Dahlke was going to take whatever means necessary to escape custody." Pascoe's decision was based in part on videotape of what happened in the seconds leading up to the shooting. Dahlke's family said they would like to see that tape and they still have questions for investigators, like why he was uncuffed in the booking room when officers had had such difficulty arresting him, his brother, Gene Dahlke, said. Officer Timothy Webb took Dahlke to the police department and uncuffed him in the booking room. Within seconds, Dahlke was in a struggle with Webb, Pascoe said. Webb was the officer stunned with the Taser. http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SC_POLICE_STATION_SHOOTING_SCOL-?

CASE 4:

Heart attack: Man being arrested dies

Myrtle Beach Online

From staff reports

A man being arrested Thursday night went into cardiac arrest and later died at Conway Medical Center, according to Horry County Coroner Robert Edge. Conway police were trying to arrest the man for burglary with a Taser when he had a heart attack, Chief Reggie Gosnell said. Police found

the man in the Jasmine Woods subdivision after receiving a call from a resident, Gosnell said. He died at the Conway Medical Center emergency room around 10 p.m. Thursday. Gosnell would not release any further information Friday because the state Law Enforcement Division and the solicitors' office are investigating the incident, he said. An autopsy is being done this morning, Edge said. http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/breaking_news/story/160903.html

CASE 5:

Police: Women shot by Greenville officer was armed with knife

The Associated Press

September 7, 2007

GREENVILLE, SC (AP) - A police report written by a Greenville police officer who shot and killed a woman says she was armed with knife and refused to remove her hand from behind her back. The report goes into great detail on what happened between Cpl. Russell Irvin and 35-year-old Sabrina Parker on Friday in her apartment. Irvin was investigating a break-in at a nearby unit. The report says he found a television and a computer he thought was stolen in Parker's closet. But the report contains no details about what happened after Irvin tried to put Parker into handcuffs beyond a confrontation ensued. The coroner's office said Parker was shot in the chest. Irvin has been placed on administrative leave as the State Law Enforcement Division investigates.

Weapon reported found near body

Woman killed after confrontation with police officer, officials say

By Paul Alongi

Greenville News

September 5, 2007

A weapon was found near Sabrina M. Parker's body after a Greenville police officer fatally shot her during a confrontation at a downtown residence, a Greenville County deputy coroner said Sunday. Parker, 35, died of a gunshot wound to the chest after Friday's shooting at 208 E. Stone Ave., said deputy coroner Ken Coppins. He wouldn't say what type of weapon was found near the body. In wake of the shooting, law enforcement agencies have left several questions unanswered, including how many times Parker was shot. Police have said the shooting happened after Cpl. Russell Irvin responded to a break-in. Irvin, who has been on the force since February 2003, has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation, said Greenville police spokesman Cpl. Jason Rampey. "There's no indication that he's done anything wrong," Rampey said. "That's just the policy that we have." Parker's husband, Alton Parker of North Augusta, has told The Greenville News that he didn't think the shooting was necessary. Parker, who died at the scene, lived in Apt. 4 at 208 E. Stone Ave., Coppins said. Rampey and Coppins referred questions about the investigation to the State Law Enforcement Division. SLED spokeswoman Mary Perry declined comment, other than to say that the agency has been asked to look into the incident, and that it's an ongoing investigation. Rampey said the only time officers are supposed to use deadly force is when their lives or someone else's life is in danger. SLED will review the officer's actions, the suspect's actions and whether the officer's actions were justified, he said.

SLED Report: Woman Killed By Officer Had Long Record GREENVILLE, S.C.

WYFF has learned that a woman killed Friday night by a Greenville police officer had a lengthy criminal record. Sabrina Parker, 35, never faced any charges for violent crime, but her criminal record dated back to 1991, mostly in North Augusta and Edgefield County. Her convictions include possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, public drunkenness, shoplifting, driving with a suspended license and grand larceny. In 2005, she was sentenced to three years in prison and three years probation for the grand larceny charge. Parker was killed at her apartment on Stone Avenue. She was shot by Cpl. Russell Irvin who was called to the building to investigate a burglary. A neighbor told News 4's Mandy Gaither that she was the one who called police after finding her computer and television gone. She said she heard the officer in Parker's apartment say, "Put the gun down, put the gun down," followed by two shots. Parker was pronounced dead at the scene. The Greenville Police Department said that Irvin has been with the department since February 2003. Parker will be on administrative leave until an investigation by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is completed. Parker's autopsy was scheduled Saturday morning. <http://www.wyff4.com/news/14024668/detail.html?subid=10100246>

CASE 6:

Man shot by officer at mall dies at hospital

Drug suspect at Citadel Mall parking lot shot after trying to run over officers, Riley says

Published on 09/11/07 By Noah Haglund

The Post and Courier

A man who was shot by a Charleston police officer during a drug bust Monday in a Citadel Mall parking lot has died. Jeroid Ferguson, 26, of North Charleston died at the emergency room of Medical University Hospital at 2:26 p.m., said Deputy Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal. An autopsy is scheduled for today, she said. The shooting happened about 2 p.m. as an undercover officer was making a drug buy at the mall, Mayor Joe Riley said. When officers went to arrest the suspect, he tried to drive away and run them over, Riley said. One officer was hit by the car. At that point, an officer shot the driver. The officer's injuries weren't serious, Charleston police Maj. Herb Whetsell said. "He was knocked to the ground and got some road rash." An ambulance took Ferguson to the hospital. An hour or so later, several vehicles remained inside crime-scene tape, including a champagne-colored Cadillac with what appeared to be a bullet hole in the front driver's side window. A late-model black Ford pickup was parked to the left of the Cadillac with the passenger doors open. Charleston police requested that the State Law Enforcement Division investigate, which is customary in officer-involved shootings. Police didn't release the name of the officer, who will be placed on paid administrative leave pending the completion of the investigation. This is police department policy for any officer involved in a shooting. SLED confirmed it was investigating the shooting. The shooting is not the first at a local mall. In December, a man was shot in the foot inside a bathroom near the Citadel Mall food court. Gunshots fired at a 22-year-old man in August 2006 in the Northwoods Mall parking lot in North Charleston missed him but damaged his car. And a November 2004 drug sting at a Northwoods Mall parking lot turned deadly when an officer shot a 20-year-old man once in the chest after he fired at police. In 2001, a Charleston police officer survived a bullet wound in his side at Citadel Mall after a handcuffed shoplifting suspect grabbed his gun during a struggle. On Monday, two bystanders at the scene wondered at the danger the shooting could have posed to shoppers. "A bullet doesn't have a name on it," said Annette Parler of

Charleston. "You can imagine all the people who could have been out." She had glimpsed a man who appeared to be in his early 20s being taken away on a stretcher. She has a son who is about the same age. Harold Crow Sr., a visitor from Tennessee, had just been inside the mall, where other young people were carrying on as if nothing had happened. He said it was sad to see violence becoming so common. "It doesn't make any sense," Crow said. "Any time you read the paper, you listen to the radio, watch TV, it's almost a given that some person is going to get killed over the weekend."

Charleston officer kills man in mall parking lot

Sep 13, 2007 11:27 PM

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, SC (AP) - Authorities say a Charleston police officer shot and killed a man during a drug bust in a Charleston mall parking lot. Police say 26-year-old Jeroid Ferguson tried to run over officers trying to arrest him Monday afternoon after an undercover drug buy. Authorities say an officer shot Ferguson after one officer was hit by the car. Police say the officer struck by the car was not seriously injured. Police did not release the officers' names.

CASE 7:

A Jasper County man died in a patrol car after being arrested for criminal domestic violence

Posted: December 08 2007 at 8:02am

It happened Sunday night when deputies arrested 53-year-old Steven Horton at his Hardeeville home after they say he brandished two guns in his yard and was making threats. But when they tried to book him, the jail requested deputies take him to a physician because he was intoxicated and was carrying numerous medications. The trouble started when deputies were bringing him to the doctor. "They noticed he was slumped over and they wanted to check him so they got out of the car, checked him and found out he wasn't breathing so they took him back out, started CPR immediately," said Sheriff Allen Wooten. EMS responded but Horton died at the hospital. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating as part of protocol.
<http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7445122>

CASE 8:

Suspected burglar fleeing police drowns in pond

DATE: Sunday, December 02, 2007

By Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) _ A suspected burglar was fleeing police when he drowned in a Boiling Springs pond. James Edward Harris cut a hole in a fence at a small engine repair shop early Thursday, triggering an alarm. When police responded soon after, they tracked the 40-year-old man into the woods behind the business. Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright says Harris got into the water and began to swim but was struggling. A deputy swam after the suspect before he lost sight of Harris. Harris' body was later recovered in the pond by divers. Surveillance footage showed Harris going into the business' fenced area, but he apparently never went into the building.
<http://www.morningnewsonline.com/>

CASE 9:

South Carolina Family Searching for Answers

WTOC-TV

Posted: Jan 4, 2008 05:18 PM

Updated: Jan 7, 2008 10:55 AM

BEAUFORT, SC--Jesse Greer's family says he had never been in trouble before, they were surprised he was arrested and never believed he'd end up dead. Now they are asking questions about what happened in the four days he was inside the Beaufort Detention Center before his death. "It almost looked like he had been in a head-on collision with a car," said Janice Salmon, Greer's mother. His family couldn't believe what they saw New Year's Eve. Jesse Greer lying in a hospital bed, kept alive by life support, his body a bruised and beaten mess. "His eyes were swollen, he had a big swollen knot under his left ear and cheekbone," explained a tear eyed Janice Salmon. "His chin was pushed down almost all the way to his chest." "His back, it just looked like footprints," said a sad Jessica Greer, Jesse's daughter. "Like someone jumped up and down on him." Just four days earlier, Greer didn't look worse for wear after getting booked into the Beaufort County Detention Center on charges of malicious injury to personal property and resisting arrest. A Beaufort County Sheriff's report says he threw a watch through the windshield of a bus at a Greyhound bus station. Greer's mother said friends of Jesse's told her he had taken some form of illegal drug. It, combined with his migraine medicine made him paranoid and irritable. But even when she called the detention center, she didn't get a chance to find out for herself. "Jesse heard him say my name and phone number and said that's my mom, I want to talk to my mom," said Salmon. "I need to talk to my mom. He sounded normal, he sounded like Jesse, he didn't sound injured or sick." As for what happened next, the Detention Center will only say Greer was in their intake area on December 31 when he collapsed and was given medical attention. Greer's family say they may never know exactly what went on behind the Detention Center fences in those four days, or who, if anyone may be responsible for his death. But they don't want retribution, they just want answers. "He should not be dead," said an angry Salmon. "He's 46-years-old, he has a family that he loved he had a job, a son. He should be able to go to work Monday." "Why, why would someone do that. I just don't understand why," cried Jessica. According to the arrest report, Beaufort deputies used open hand techniques and one baton strike to the leg to subdue Greer during his arrest. The entire arrest is on video from a deputy's dash cam. Beaufort County Sheriff PJ Tanner says his deputies did exactly what they were trained to do. The sheriff has handed all the department's evidence over to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, who is in charge of the investigation into Greer's death. Reported by: Andrew Davis, andrewdavis@wtoc.com
<http://www.wtoc.com/Global/story.asp?S=7579604>

Man in custody at jail collapses, is on life support

By DAN HILLIARD

beaufortgazette.com

Published Thursday, January 3, 2008

A State Law Enforcement Division team is trying to find out how a Varnville man who was arrested Dec. 27 at a Burton bus station for throwing a wristwatch at a bus ended up in critical condition Monday at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Jesse Greer, 46, allegedly threw a wristwatch at a bus' windshield at the Greyhound Bus Station on Trask Parkway in Burton, according to Beaufort

County Sheriff's Office reports. When Greer resisted arrest, deputies used a combination of open-hand techniques and a single baton strike to Greer's leg to shackle him, the report states. Greer had been charged with malicious injury to personal property and resisting arrest. The report said Greer's leg was examined by Beaufort Memorial Hospital staff before he was moved to the Beaufort County Detention Center and held on a \$6,000 bond. No deputies were hurt in the scuffle.

About four days later, Greer was taken from the detention center to Beaufort Memorial Hospital for cardiac arrest, according to his sister, Melissa Pollard of Nashville, N.C. He's now brain dead and is being kept on minimal life support because he is an organ donor, she said. Hospital spokeswoman Courtney McDermott said Greer is in critical condition. A SLED representative only would confirm Wednesday that an investigation is under way. Detention center director Phillip Foot said Greer was in booking when he collapsed. But arrest records show Greer was booked into the jail Dec. 27.

Pollard said she hasn't heard why Greer went into cardiac arrest in police custody or why he initially resisted arrest. "I'm not 100 percent sure what happened," she said. "All I know is my mother called me last Saturday and said there were some incidents that were going on with my brother. Evidently, he'd gotten hold of some drugs that had interacted with drugs he takes for migraine headaches, and he'd been freaking out pretty bad." Greer's arrest report listed his drug and alcohol status as "unknown." "I don't have anyone that can give me a straight answer," Pollard said.

CASE 10:

Man shot to death by police officer

January 7, 2008

GREENVILLE (AP) — A man has been shot to death after fighting with an Iva police officer who was answering a disturbance call at the man's home. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore says 41-year-old Mark Monroe Evans died of a gunshot wound about 4 p.m. Saturday. Shore says the officer, who was not identified, and a 71-year-old woman who lived in the home with Evans were taken to a local hospital for treatment and released. "He has a cut to his face and he's kind of banged up and bruised up a bit," Iva Police Chief Tommy Miller said. "I think he's still pretty shook up." The woman, Lula Mae Charping, was charged with assault on a police officer and interfering with a police officer. She remained at the Anderson County Detention Center awaiting a bond hearing on Sunday. An officer at the jail said he didn't know whether Charping had an attorney. The coroner and Miller said the officer tried to subdue Evans with pepper spray and a baton before shooting him. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating the case as it typically does when an officer shoots someone.

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/2007redesign/news/334600293534661.php>

CASE 11:

Coroner: Man shot in back of neck

By Andy Paras (Contact)

The Post and Courier

Monday, January 7, 2008

MEGETT — A man shot and killed by a Charleston County Sheriff's deputy on Saturday died from a single gunshot to the back of his neck, the coroner said Sunday.

County Coroner Rae Wooten identified the man as Jeffrey Smith, 34. Authorities say a deputy fired at Smith outside of a Storage Road mobile home Saturday because he refused to drop a rifle, which

he had twice fired into the surrounding woods. Sheriff Al Cannon said the fact Smith was shot in the back of the neck is not the only factor in determining whether the shooting is appropriate. Cannon said the media have indoctrinated the public into thinking it's always improper for authorities to shoot someone from behind or when they're not looking. "There's all sorts of circumstances where that would be acceptable," he said. The sheriff said he doesn't know all the facts behind the shooting but that the deputies came upon the situation without knowing what they were dealing with. They had to act quickly. Cannon said deputies are trained to use deadly force if they reasonably believe the public and themselves are threatened. The deputies, who repeatedly told the man to drop the firearm, didn't know if he was firing at someone in the woods, he said. Cannon said it appears their actions were consistent with policy. "They are not required to wait until he points a gun at them or shoots at them," the sheriff said. Around 5 p.m. Saturday, dispatchers received a call from an irate man on a cell phone who said he had been stabbed in the arm and then said he had been stabbed in the heart, Cannon said. Dispatchers checked into the owner of that cell phone number and, around 6 p.m., sent deputies to a mobile home located in the woods at 4849 Storage Road. Cannon said the two deputies came upon a very angry man who was screaming and holding a rifle. The deputies took position behind a tree between 20 feet and 40 feet away from the man and ordered him to drop the gun. The man fired the rifle into the woods. When he pulled the trigger a second time, a deputy fired one shot with his department-issued .40-caliber Glock. Smith died at the scene. A cell phone with the same number that made the calls to dispatchers was found near the mobile home. Cannon said two men were in the mobile home at the time of the shooting but that they told investigators they had passed out after drinking all afternoon. Smith's family declined to comment Sunday. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the shooting, as it does in all law enforcement-related deaths. When it completes its inquiry, it will take the findings to the solicitor's office to determine if a criminal act occurred. Cannon said he will monitor SLED's investigation to determine whether the deputies followed the department's policies and procedures. Both deputies are on paid administrative leave. Cannon declined to name them.
http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/jan/07/coroner_man_shot_back_neck26858/

Wilson: Deputies acted 'reasonably'

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2008

By Glenn Smith (Contact)

The Post and Courier

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

A drunken Jeffrey Smith fired a rifle into the darkness and ignored commands to drop the gun before he was shot dead by a sheriff's deputy outside his Meggett home in January, authorities said Monday. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson said the two Charleston County deputies involved in the incident had reason to believe their lives were in danger and acted "reasonably and lawfully" in responding to the threat. Wilson announced her conclusion after reviewing an investigation by the State Law Enforcement Division.

CASE 12:

Details out on Horry County police shooting death

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008

Horry County Police shot a man dead following a stand-off in Longs late Friday night. It happened on Loop Circle Road. In the stand off, Chris Collins, who sits on the North Myrtle Beach

Chamber's board of directors and a golf professional at Beachwood Gold Course, died from a single gunshot wound to the head, according to the Horry County Coroner's office. County police said Collins made several 911 hang up calls and never came to the door when police responded to his home. Police said on the sixth trip to the home, Collins turned his dog out on Officer Ryan Seipt. Then police said Collins locked himself inside the home yelling obscenities, and licking the inside of the glass front door at officers. Seipt's report said he called for SWAT backup because dispatchers told him there could be a child inside the home. Later police said Collins walked out his front door with a shotgun. Horry County Police then shot Collins. Collins' family laid him to rest in Raleigh and a State Law Enforcement Division investigation into the shooting continues. Chris Collins neighbor, Jayce Fannin told News13 Wednesday Collins is not the man described in the police report from Friday night. "I just look over there and I'm used to seeing him around usually doing something," Fannin said as she looked into Collins' yard. Now, the memories of Collins landscaping and being family man are all Fannin have left. Fannin said she spent many summers working alongside Collins in their yards and making memories with his family. "He was a good dad, he was a good neighbor. He was always looking out for me; we'd look out for him." But Friday night, police told the story of a man who took it too far, who lost his life to a bullet in a police standoff. That's a story Fannin said she doesn't recognize. "Chris was a nice guy and I want people to know that he wasn't some crazed maniac, he was a very giving guy and he spent a lot of time here, spent a lot of time with his family," Fannin continued, "That's all I think about from morning till night; all day long, just how did it happen?" That's a question the state investigators continue working to answer. For Fannin, no answer or reasoning will ever ease the pain and disbelief of what happened at 1080 Loop Circle. "From what I know and the time I've spent with him, he's just nice and he loved that baby." Collins leaves behind a wife and a 3 year old baby boy. The officer police say shot Collins remains on desk duty until the sled investigation wraps up. Count on News13 to bring you the details of that report as soon as it's released.
<http://www.scnow.com/midatlantic/scp/news/crime.apx.-content-articles-BTW-2008-01-23-0019.html>

Man held shotgun when killed by officers

Myrtle Beach Online

January 22, 2008

A man was pointing a shotgun at Horry County police officers when he was shot and killed Friday night, according to an incident report. Chris Collins, 39, of was killed at his home in Longs as a result of single gunshot to the head, Horry County Deputy Coroner Tony Hendrick said. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the shooting, spokeswoman Kathryn Richardson said Tuesday. No one has been charged. The incident report listed six officers as victims in the incident but none was injured, according to Horry County Police Chief Johnny Morgan. The officer involved in the shooting 'has been assigned to desk duty pending the result of the [SLED] investigation,' according to Horry County Sgt. Bob Carr, who declined further comment. In the meantime, friends and family are trying to sort out how this could happen to Collins, the head golf professional and director of golf at Beachwood Golf Club in North Myrtle Beach. 'He's a caring person,' said Tim Collins, who said he last spoke with his brother on Wednesday, Chris' birthday. 'He enjoys his job and his work. His wife [Joy] and son [Zachary, 2] mean the world to him.' Police said officers responded to Collins' home on Loop Circle six times Friday night because of 911 calls. No one answered the door for officers on each of those responses. Horry County dispatch officials urged Collins to stop calling 911, the report states. Before the shooting, police said an officer knocked on

the door several times then started to walk off the porch and away from the home. Collins then opened the door and let his dog out, according to the incident report. When an officer asked Collins to take his dog back in the home, Collins closed the door and yelled an obscenity at the officer as he approached. The officer called for the Community Outreach Team, including a negotiation team, SWAT team and bloodhound team. Collins later came to the door with a loaded shotgun, the officer said. The officer said he ran for cover on the side of the home and heard three shots. The officer said another officer fired the three shots, one of which killed Collins. Police said Collins was lying in the front doorway with the shotgun in his hand after the shooting, police said. Collins worked at Beachwood Golf Club for the past six years. Club President Blakeney Jackson said he was told of Collins' death on Saturday. 'It was a total shock,' Jackson said. 'Chris was a very valuable employee. We had a very good working relationship.' Collins previously worked as a professional at Bay Tree Golf Plantation Resort and was an assistant professional at Waterway Hills Golf Club in North Myrtle Beach and at Myrtle Beach National Golf Club. 'Chris was a great guy. We played in lots of tournaments together,' said Gil Feagin, who used to work with Collins at Myrtle Beach National. 'He was always involved in the community. It was a big shock when I heard the news.' Collins served on the board of directors for the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce since 2005. Collins' funeral will be held today in Raleigh, N.C., where Collins grew up and his parents still reside. A memorial service will be held 4 p.m. Friday at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel. <http://www.topix.com/content/kri/2008/01/man-held-shotgun-when-killed-by-officers>

CASE 13:

Officials: Inmate Died from Alcoholism Complication

DATE: Sunday, February 10, 2008

Aiken County (WLTX, AP) -- Authorities say an Aiken County inmate has died of complications related to alcoholism a few days after a drunken driving arrest. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division officers were asked to help lead the investigation, at the request of Sheriff Michael Hunt. Coroner Tim Carlton says 57-year-old Danny R. Abney of Warrenton died early Monday after he had a seizure and stopped breathing. Carlton says Abney had abused alcohol for many years and had a seizure when he suddenly stopped drinking after his arrest. Abney had been in the jail since he was arrested on January 27 and charged with DUI. He was last seen alive at 2:45 a.m. Monday. Jail officials found him dead in his cell four hours later.

CASE 14:

Sheriff: Deputy fired 13 rounds at suspect

Man later found to be wielding pellet gun fatally shot in March 1 standoff

Published: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 - 2:00 am

By Paul Alongi

STAFF WRITER

palongi@greenvillenews.com

Man later found to be wielding pellet gun fatally shot in March 1 standoff A Greenville County's sheriff's deputy fired 13 rounds at a suspect and hit him nine times in what Sheriff Steve Loftis said Tuesday was a justified fatal shooting after a three-county chase and a standoff outside a Spartanburg County mobile home this month. Deputy John Bennick opened fire on Jimmy Clayton

DeGrant II, 28, after DeGrant pointed a gun at officers and threatened to kill a woman he was holding in the March 1 standoff, Loftis said. Investigators later found that the black and chrome pistol DeGrant pointed was a pellet gun, Loftis said. In addition to the deputy's name, Loftis disclosed for the first time that one of the deputy's shots hit the woman, Rochelle Jenkins, 38, of Greenville. She was listed in fair condition Tuesday at Spartanburg Regional Hospital, said spokesman Chad Lawson. Bennick, a 31-year law enforcement veteran, has been cleared to return to duty, Loftis said. A Sheriff's Office Conduct and Procedures Review Board met Friday to determine whether Bennick followed procedures. "All of our use-of-force guidelines were followed," Loftis said. "If Mr. DeGrant had complied with Deputy Bennick's orders to put his weapon down and to surrender, then that incident would not have happened." The Sheriff's Office had declined to release the deputy's name and other details of the incident until the review board had met. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating. A SLED spokeswoman declined to comment. DeGrant carjacked a green 2002 Ford Windstar van at 3510 Augusta Road the night before the shooting and later went to Valentine Street in Greenville to pick up Jenkins, an acquaintance, Loftis said. The shooting happened after DeGrant wrecked the van and forcibly entered a residence at 4871 State 101 before coming back out while holding Jenkins, Loftis said. DeGrant threatened to kill Jenkins if deputies didn't back away, Loftis said. Bennick ordered DeGrant to drop his pistol and surrender, Loftis said. He said the pistol DeGrant had was later determined to be a .177-caliber CO2 gun. The deputy took a shot when DeGrant leaned away from Jenkins while trying to get into a car, he said. DeGrant then pointed the pistol at the three officers on the scene, Loftis said. "Bennick, believing that his life is now in danger, continues to fire at DeGrant until he is able to be taken into custody," Loftis said. DeGrant, who lived at a Greenville hotel at 412 Mauldin Road, died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds, said J. Dwayne Corn of the Spartanburg County Coroner's Office. The coroner ruled the death was a justifiable homicide, Corn said. DeGrant was a suspect in armed robberies before and after the van's theft, according to Loftis. The van was seen at one of the robberies in Anderson County, he said. Greenville police spotted the van early Saturday and pursued it without catching it, Loftis said. The final pursuit began when Anderson County deputies spotted the van heading north on Interstate 85, Loftis said. As the pursuit continued into Greenville County, a state Highway Patrol trooper took over the chase's lead, he said. Bennick, who is assigned to the K-9 team, joined the pursuit as a backup, Loftis said. The vehicle pursuit ended when the van wrecked at Woodruff Road and State 101, he said. Loftis said his office hasn't filed any charges in the incident. Anderson County sheriff's spokeswoman Susann Griffin said she didn't know if any charges have been filed.
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080312/NEWS01/803120374>

CASE 15:

Posted on Fri, Mar. 28, 2008

Sheriff defends raid, fatal shooting

Urban League seeks review of shootout that killed suspect, wounded officer

By ISHMAEL TATE - itate@thestate.com

April Bosket

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott moved Thursday to dispel what he said were "rumors" that a man killed during a shootout with deputies a day earlier did not know he was shooting at officers. Despite that reassurance, the head of the Columbia Urban League on Thursday called for an independent citizens' review panel to look into the incident. Larry D. Bosket was shot in the head,

shoulder and abdomen and died at the scene after a brief firefight in his Pine Valley home, Richland County Coroner Gary Watts said. “Deputy sheriffs did not go in that house to kill him,” Lott said. “That was not our mission. The mission was to go into the house and seize the drugs.” Bosket’s wife, April Bosket, and a 12-year-old child were inside the house when Bosket was shot. She said deputies rushed into the house without warning. Columbia Urban League president J.T. McLawhorn said Thursday he, too, was concerned about the way deputies conducted the operation. He called for an independent citizens’ review panel — separate from the Citizens Advisory Council that Lott maintains for the Sheriff’s Department — to examine the case. “If someone breaks into your house,” McLawhorn said, “the natural reaction is to protect yourself.” He questioned whether the deputies’ belief that Bosket had drugs in the home warranted “that kind of use of force.” Lott said the Citizens Advisory Council, which the department has had since 2001, is very independent. “We don’t control them. They have a separate meeting. They have their own chairman. We present the case and leave.” The multicultural council, with representatives from the faith community, looks at incidents like Wednesday’s, as well as at policy, complaints, and disciplinary actions taken against officers, he said. April Bosket, 39, was charged Thursday with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute within a half-mile of a school, Lott said, because deputies found marijuana in common areas of the home. Deputies forced the door in when knocks went unanswered, Lott said, and April Bosket tried to keep them from searching the house. Narcotics agent Marcus Brown had surgery Thursday morning for a gunshot wound to his left upper arm, Lott said. He is expected to recover. Brown and narcotics agent Jason Williams fired back at Bosket, Lott said, but it’s not clear who fired the fatal shot. The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident, which is standard procedure in officer-related shootings. Its findings will be turned over to 5th Circuit Solicitor Barney Giese, who would determine whether to pursue criminal charges. Deputies were at the house on Laredo Drive to execute a search warrant at about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday. Six officers went inside while others stayed outside. Deputies had obtained the warrant based on the arrests of two 17-year-old White Knoll High School students Lott said were recorded buying drugs from Bosket at a shopping center at Broad River and Rushmore roads March 3. Investigators recovered 4 pounds of marijuana hidden in bedrooms, common areas and where April Bosket stored her clothing, Lott said. Officers also found scales and small plastic bags inside the house. A sawed-off shotgun lay underneath the bed and a rifle stood in the corner of the bedroom where deputies confronted Larry Bosket, Lott said. Both weapons were loaded. At a news conference Thursday, Lott held up Brown’s bulletproof vest. “Deputy Sheriff” was stitched across the center in yellow letters and Brown’s badge was secured to the shoulder. Williams was wearing a black jacket with a Sheriff’s Department emblem on the left side and his badge around his neck, Lott said. “They’re loud,” Lott said. “They’re making it clear who’s coming in that house.” Bosket shot at Brown first with a .357-caliber revolver as Brown approached a back bedroom, Lott said. Brown then emptied his .40-caliber Glock pistol — all 16 shots — as he returned fire. Williams pulled Brown to cover and also fired once at Bosket with his Glock. Residents say the Pine Valley incident is troubling but not indicative of the community. James Whitmire, former president of the Pine Valley/Kingswood Neighborhood Association, has lived in Pine Valley for 22 years. Residents of the working-class neighborhood were “caught off-guard” by Wednesday’s shooting, he said. “Our community is as safe as any in Richland County.” Whitmire said many residents, including himself, deliberately take alternate routes to and from home — as a way of patrolling the neighborhood.

<http://www.thestate.com/crime/story/358411.html>

Appendix

Table 2 provides descriptive information for known deaths of subjects that occurred during the previous data collection period (April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007), but for which the details were not available at the time of data collection. The CJ11A forms for these cases provides additional details and are submitted with this report.

Table 2: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007

<i>Case</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Race / Ethnicity</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Proximate Cause</i>
1	Male	White	36	05-10-06	York	Seizure
2	Male	Black	38	06-19-06	Charleston	Drug overdose
3	Male	White	34	08-11-06	Allendale	Gunshot wounds
4	Male	White	38	11-28-06	Beaufort	Not released
5	Male	--	48	02-28-07	Spartanburg	Gunshot wounds