

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 17-11042**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 17-11042

OIG Inspector: Kevin Ortiz

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent George Dandelake

Date Assigned or Initiated: 06-26-2017

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Union Correctional Institution

Complainant: Correctional Officer Sergeant Rosevelt Green

Outside Agency Case #: JA-37-0129

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Unattended Death

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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V. PREDICATE

On 06/22/17, Inmate John Snead DC #E19382 was housed at Union C.I. when he was observed [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] were unsuccessful and Inmate Snead was later pronounced deceased. FDLE (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) responded and assumed the lead in the investigation, Case #JA-37-0129. This was assigned as Investigative Assist Case #17-11042 to Inspector G. Green on 06/26/17. This was re-assigned to Inspector K. Ortiz on 06/15/18.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On 06/22/17, Correctional Officer Sergeant Roosevelt Green was assigned as the T Dorm Housing Sergeant at Union C.I. At approximately 05:30 hours, he was present on wing two conducting tray pick up from the morning meal. Upon his arrival to cell T2117, he observed Inmate John Snead lying on his (Snead) bunk and appeared [REDACTED]. He made multiple attempts to gain a response from Inmate Snead, to no avail. He initiated ICS (Incident Command System) requesting for [REDACTED] and additional staff to respond. Captain John Hood responded and determined that an emergency cell breach was necessary for the purpose of Inmate Snead [REDACTED]. At approximately 05:35 hours, and with adequate staff present, the cell door was opened and restraints were applied without incident. The handheld camera was retrieved, and video recording began at approximately 05:37 hours. At approximately 05:38 hours, [REDACTED] Inmate Snead [REDACTED] and escorted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and at approximately 06:00 hours, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Inmate Snead, to no avail. At approximately 06:25 hours, Inmate Snead was pronounced deceased with the preliminary cause of death being undetermined. A Crime Scene Entry Control Room Log was initiated, and staff remained with the body. Inmate Snead's cell was secured, and a Crime Scene Entry Control Room Log was initiated there also. At approximately 06:30 hours, Inspector George Green was notified. At approximately 09:48 hours, FDLE Agents Keesha Nauss, Veronica Edwards, George Dandelake, and David Maurer entered Union C.I. and conducted an investigation. At approximately 10:57 hours, Bill Grotjahn of the District 8 Medical Examiner's Office was notified and released Inmate Snead's body. At approximately 10:58 hours, Archer Funeral Home was notified. At approximately 10:58 hours, FDLE released the cell [REDACTED] back to normal operations. FDLE interviewed approximately 7 inmates housed in T dorm and 12 staff that responded/assisted.

On 06/22/17, at approximately 6:39 a.m., Inspector George W. Green Jr. was advised of the death of Inmate John Snead. Inspector Green responded and below is a synopsis of his response.

Upon arrival to Union C.I., he and Inspector Randall Merritt were escorted to the Urgent Care Area where they observed the body of Inmate Snead lying in the middle of the floor [REDACTED]. Sergeant Tony Hull was providing security over the body. Inmate Snead [REDACTED] (Snead) [REDACTED] (Snead) [REDACTED]. Captain John Sandlin indicated he (Snead) was on the floor due [REDACTED].



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_____ was from a previous documented incident from June 19th.

Due to the circumstances and nature surrounding this death, FDLE was contacted and indicated they would respond. At approximately 9:48 a.m.; Special Agents David Maurer, Keesha Nauss, George Dandelake and Veronica Edwards arrived at Union C.I. and assumed lead duties in this investigation. Special Agents Nauss and Edwards interviewed the following

_____ Special Agents Maurer and Dandelake photographed the body of Inmate Snead, processed _____ and processed the cell where Inmate Snead was originally found. All four agents collectively interviewed the security staff which consisted of Captain John Sandlin, Captain John Hood, Lieutenant Ryan Mason, Sergeant Roosevelt Green, Sergeant Shandale Lee, Officer Blake Mangus, and Officer Devin Hohenstein.

Fixed wing video was reviewed and indicated staff made all appropriate security checks within the proper time limits prior to the discovery of Inmate Snead _____ in his (Snead) cell. Inmate Snead was housed in a single man cell.

A review of Inmate Sneads _____ indicated he (Snead) had fallen in his cell on 06/19/17, _____ (Snead) _____ Inmate Snead had recently been _____

Special Agent George Dandelake was the lead agent on this case. On 06/22/17, SA Dandelake provided an Investigative Demand for Records Pursuant to Criminal Investigation.

A Report of Investigation and an Autopsy Report prepared by the District 8 Medical Examiner's Office for John Snead indicated the cause of death was _____ The manner of death was Accident. _____

Special Agent G. Dandelake advised the FDLE investigation was closed on 03/19/18, and there were no issues noted concerning staff. It was noted during the investigation that Inmate Snead _____ He (Snead) had also _____ (Snead) _____.

VII. CHARGES

N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Kevin Ortiz this investigation be termed as follows:

1. Investigative Assist Closed



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Inspector Ortiz reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.