
NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Maria Hawke
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852

On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING 550 NORTH HARRISON

On the evening of January 15, 2013, Tucson Police Department officers from Operations Division East responded to the apartment complex located at **550 North Harrison Road** in order to address a report of a suicidal male at that location. The male called 911 at approximately 7:30 p.m. to report that was feeling suicidal and wanted to be shot by an officer. He also advised that he was armed. The male identified himself as a “combat veteran” and relayed that he had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Arriving officers were advised that the male indicated he wished to meet with them outside of his apartment.

The first officers arrived at the apartment complex at approximately 7:36 p.m. They were able to see the male outside of the apartments and began interacting with him. At the time, there were 6 officers in relatively close proximity to the male. Two of those officers have received additional training and certification in addressing persons in crisis after completing the Crisis Intervention Training. Additional officers were also arriving at the apartment complex in order to assist with establishing containment and assessing what tactical maneuvers were needed to best ensure the safety of other people living and/or visiting the area.

The officers continued interacting with the male for approximately 15 minutes. During that time, they were again advised that he was armed. He was given repeated commands to surrender peacefully as well as to not touch any weapons that he might have on or near his person. The officers attempted to persuade him to comply with their directions in order that he could be taken to a medical facility for evaluation. At one point, the male began to remove a handgun that had originally been in a holster that he was wearing. He did not comply with the repeated commands to not touch any weapons. Fearing for their safety and for the safety of other citizens in the area, an officer discharged a rifle at the male one time. The male was struck by the gunfire. Officers immediately rushed to the male and began to render basic first aid until emergency medical personnel from the Tucson Fire Department arrived on scene. The Tucson Fire Department personnel transported the male to a local hospital for further medical treatment. While at the hospital, the male succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. He has been identified as **Dustin Wernli, 30-years old**. Next of kin have been notified.



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The officer, who fired his weapon, has been identified as **Officer Jayson Thompson, a nearly 12 and a half year veteran** of the Tucson Police Department. No officers or other citizens were affected by gunfire or otherwise injured as a result of this incident.

As is standard in all officer-involved shootings, the Tucson Police Department Homicide Unit is the primary investigative entity regarding the incident. Personnel assigned to the Office of Internal Affairs conduct a separate, parallel investigation. The Office of Internal Affairs will coordinate an administrative Board of Inquiry, which will examine several facets of the Department's response to this incident, including whether current training, equipment, supervision, and policies are adequate and appropriate. This type of post-shooting administrative review is standard protocol when an officer discharges their weapon in the line of duty. The process enables the department to apply any lessons learned during critical incident responses to ensure that the department continues to provide exceptional service to the community.

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