

Sentinel-Record, The (Hot Springs, AR)

November 25, 2009

Section: Main

Page: 1

3 deputies on leave after shooting

Sheriff: Leave part of routine investigation after incident with armed suspect

Author: STEVEN MROSS

The Sentinel-Record

Article Text:

Three deputies on the Garland County Sheriff's Department Tactical Response Team were placed on temporary leave with pay pending an investigation into a incident at a local hotel last Thursday where an armed suspect was killed and another TRT member was shot and seriously injured.

Sheriff Larry Sanders said the three, who were reportedly directly involved in the shooting of the suspect, Marvin Stringer, 22, were put on administrative leave per standard procedure while the incident is investigated by the Hot Springs Police Department.

HSPD is "investigating the shooting incident itself and have not given me back any information at this time," he said. "I'm sure they're not finished."

Sanders stressed that he is certain "my officers acted accordingly" and noted, "I have no problems with anything that was done by them that night."

"It's strictly standard procedure. They are not on leave because they did anything wrong," he said, noting the identities of the three deputies were not being released at this time.

The TRT team were attempting to execute an arrest warrant for Stringer, a suspect in the homicides of five people in Pearcy Nov. 12, at the National Park Inn, 1125 E. Grand Ave., when Stringer reportedly opened fire on the officers who returned fire.

Stringer was killed and one TRT member, Jason Lawrence, who is also Hot Springs District Courts administrator, was shot twice as they entered the hotel room.

Two other TRT members, deputies Felix Hunter and A.J. Tart, grabbed Lawrence after he was shot and carried him "out of the line of fire" into the parking lot.

Hunter had a heart-related problem likely caused by the stress of carrying Lawrence and was transported along with Lawrence to St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center where he was treated and released later that night. Sanders noted Hunter was back at work Monday.

Lawrence was air-lifted to a Little Rock hospital where he was in stable but serious condition following exploratory surgery around the eye socket on Monday. He was reportedly released Tuesday.

Copyright 2009, 2012, The Sentinel-Record.