

San Antonio Express-News (TX)  
January 31, 2005  
Edition: Metro  
Section: Metro / South Texas  
Page: 1B

Topics:

Index Terms:

News - Texas

Deputy kills man

One shot fired in Atascosa home

Author: George Zarazua; EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Article Text:

A corporal with the Atascosa County Sheriff's Department shot and killed a knife-wielding man after responding to a family disturbance call near Poteet early Sunday.

Ross Noel Cruz Sr., 39, was pronounced dead at the scene, said Chief Deputy David Soward. Cpl. Paul Schneider has been placed on administrative leave and will take some days off until an investigation into the shooting is complete, Soward said. That action is routine in any officer-involved shooting.

The chief deputy said the Sheriff's Department was called at 2: 40 a.m. to a family disturbance at a mobile home on Cruz Lane, about 3 miles northwest of Poteet in the northern part of the county.

"When deputies arrived, a woman in the trailer house came out screaming that she was in fear of her life," Soward said.

He said four other family members, including some of the couple's children, escaped through a bedroom window, leaving behind a 21/2-month-old baby.

Soward said Schneider went in the home, with another deputy and a Poteet police officer providing backup. The two backup officers used their flashlights for lighting in the home as Schneider confronted Cruz for two to three minutes and asked him to put down the knife.

"He refused to drop the knife," Soward said. "He told the officers he wasn't going to be brought in and told them to shoot him."

Soward said Cruz tossed a kitchen table on its side and moved toward Schneider with the knife. Schneider shot Cruz once. The bullet struck him in the left arm and went into his body.

The woman who ran from the home suffered minor injuries during the family disturbance, Soward said.

He said family members told the Sheriff's Department that Cruz had been drinking all day.

[jzarazua@express-news.net](mailto:jzarazua@express-news.net)

Copyright 2005 San Antonio Express-News