

Florida Department Of Corrections  
 Office of the Inspector General  
 Report of Investigation  
 Paul C. Decker, Inspector General



**Inspector General Case #** 08-12007

**Facility:** Apalachee CI West/ [REDACTED]

**Classification of Incident:** Inmate Death/ [REDACTED]

**Field Office/Region:** Tallahassee/Region 1

**Incident Date:** 04/10/08

**Time:** 1630 hours

**Inspector:** Debbie Carter

**Date of Report:** 05/04/08

**Case Type:** A

**Check all that apply:**

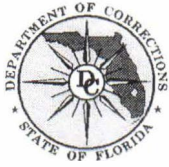
- Confidential Medical Information
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Principal(s) Exhibits Attached
- Department of Corrections presented to State Attorney  Declined  Accepted
- Use of Force (UOF) Number
- Complaint of Discrimination
- Addendum
- Wing Video Camera(s) Present in the Area of Incident  YES  NO

**SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:**

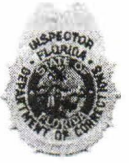
In an incident report dated April 10, 2008, Correctional Officer Mac Dunn indicated that while conducting a security check of administrative confinement, located in Y dormitory, he observed Inmate Chester Johnson attempting to commit suicide by hanging.

**SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:**

Based upon on the evidence obtained during the course of the investigation, it is requested that the investigation be downgraded due to the medical examiner's findings that Inmate Johnson's cause of death was consistent with a suicide by hanging. Additionally, no administrative violations were found.



Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
Report of Investigation  
Paul C. Decker, Inspector General



Case Number: 08-12007

|                     | Name                 | Title / DC #         | D.O.B.     | Employee ID # |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Complainant:</b> | Scott, Terry         | CO Captain           | [REDACTED] | 19065         |
| <b>Victim:</b>      | Johnson, Chester     | DC#039399            | 03/13/55   |               |
| <b>Witness(es):</b> | Dunn Jr., Mac        | Correctional Officer | [REDACTED] | 6012          |
|                     | Price, Delricko      | Correctional Officer | [REDACTED] | 44080         |
|                     | Swearingen, Stanley  | Correctional Officer | [REDACTED] | 28955         |
|                     | Abercaombie, Richard | DC#690621            | 06/02/60   |               |
|                     | Anderson, Wade       | DC#524351            | 11/19/74   |               |
|                     | Artemus, Vezina      | DC#L35070            | 04/26/85   |               |
|                     | Ball, Robert         | DC#T26754            | 03/20/79   |               |
|                     | Banks, Michael       | DC#P12655            | 11/01/80   |               |
|                     | Baden, Timothy       | DC#304076            | 11/12/75   |               |
|                     | Batten, Anthony      | DC#688500            | 07/14/72   |               |
|                     | Burgos, Carlos       | DC#E05739            | 04/16/78   |               |
|                     | Clifton, Ricky       | DC#N14638            | 12/16/85   |               |
|                     | Counts, Robert       | DC#962737            | 09/14/74   |               |
|                     | Husted, Jason        | DC#W20696            | 12/22/81   |               |
|                     | Morphis, Joe         | DC#JL 5694           | 09/27/80   |               |
|                     | Rentz, Lamark        | DC#191682            | 05/28/72   |               |
|                     | Pollard, Bill        | DC#Q15605            | 03/25/85   |               |
|                     | Sims, Dominick       | DC#794163            | 09/10/71   |               |
|                     | Thompson, Leroy      | DC#M49589            | 10/05/77   |               |
|                     | Wilkerson, James     | DC#Q15790            | 09/29/64   |               |
|                     | Young, Ronald        | DC#249558            | 05/03/52   |               |
| <b>Subject(s):</b>  | N/A                  |                      |            |               |

Arrest:  Employee  Inmate  Other

Charges:

Guilty  Addendum Pending

Not Guilty

Nolo Contendere

P.T.I.

Other (explanation):

Felony

Misdemeanor

Date of Arrest:

Date Reported:

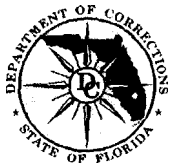
Sentence of Court / Agreement:

Administrative Violation(s):

Evidence:  Weapon  Drugs  Other

Describe:

Other Agency Case Number:



Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
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Paul C. Decker, Inspector General



**Case Number:** 08-12007

**FINDINGS:**

In an incident report, dated April 10, 2008, Correctional Officer Mac Dunn Jr., indicated the following:

On April 10, 2008, at approximately 4:10 p.m., while conducting a security check of assigned Y dormitory (*administrative confinement*), he observed Inmate Chester Johnson "suspended from his bunk by a pair of blue pants and a T-shirt which was tied around his neck." He immediately made contact with Captain Terry Scott and he and Captain Scott entered Inmate Johnson's cell, housing him alone. Inmate Johnson was untied from the T-shirt, handcuffed and rolled on his back. Captain Scott [REDACTED] and instructed him to have someone call [REDACTED]. Captain Scott and Officer Jonathan Gills [REDACTED] Inmate Johnson as he laid in the cell. (Exhibit A1)

In an affidavit, dated April 24, 2008, Officer Delricko Price indicated the following:

On April 10, 2008, he and Officer Stanley Swearingen placed Inmate Johnson into an administrative confinement cell sometime around 1540 hours. At no time did he observe Inmate Johnson appear [REDACTED]. (Exhibit A2)

In an affidavit, dated April 24, 2008, Correctional Officer Stanley Swearingen indicated the following:

On April 10, 2008, he and Officer Delricko Price placed Inmate Johnson in an administrative confinement cell at approximately 1537 hours. Inmate Johnson made no indication [REDACTED]. (Exhibit A3)

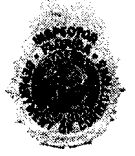
In affidavits, dated April 10, 2008, Inmates Richard Abercaombie, Wade Anderson, Vezina Artemus, Robert Ball, Michael Banks, Timothy Basden, Anthony Batten, Carlos Burgos, Ricky Clifton, Robert Counts, Jason Husted, Joe Morphis, Lamark Rentz, Bill Pollard, Dominick Sims, Leroy Thompson, James Wilkerson, and Ronald Young indicated the following:

Around shift change (4:00 p.m.), Officer Dunn was heard making a security check and count. Officer Dunn, at one point, was heard attempting to get the attention of an inmate. Apparently unsuccessful, other officers were seen or heard entering the dormitory. (Exhibit A4)

A review of the fixed wing security surveillance video of Y dormitory was made. Inmate Johnson was observed in a holding cell at approximately 1507 hours. At approximately 1528 hours, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Officers Price and Swearingen escorted and secured Inmate Johnson in a secure housing cell at approximately 1533 hours. At approximately 1534 hours, Officer Swearingen was observed conducting a security check of the wing, housing Inmate Johnson. Officers Swearingen and Price were again observed near or at



Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
Report of Investigation  
Paul C. Decker, Inspector General



**Case Number:** 08-12007

Inmate Johnson's cell at 1542 hours. At 1600 hours, Officer Dunn was observed walking in the wing. At 1606 hours, he was observed making a security check and conducting a count. At 1610 hours, Officer Dunn, located in front of Inmate Johnson's cell, opens the food flap and looks inside the cell for approximately 48 seconds. At 1611 hours, Officer Dunn walks away from the cell towards the entry door. Approximately 25 seconds later, Officer Dunn was observed at the cell front again. He opens the door and enters the cell. Approximately 13 seconds later, Captain Scott and Officer Gills also enter Inmate Johnson's cell. At approximately 1613 hours, Officer Gills was observed in a kneeling position at the cell front of Inmate Johnson's cell. At approximately 1614 hours,

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit B1)

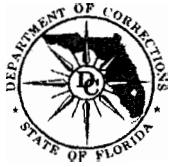
According to Inmate Johnson's [REDACTED]

In an incident report, dated April 10, 2008, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit A5)

*Inmate Johnson was transported by Vann Funeral Home on April 10, 2008, to the District 14 medical examiner's office located in Panama City, Florida. On April 13, 2008, Medical Examiner Andrea Minyard performed an autopsy on the body of Inmate Johnson. At its conclusion, Dr. Minyard indicated that Inmate Johnson's cause of death was [REDACTED]*



Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
Report of Investigation  
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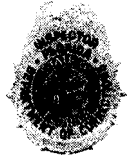


Case Number: 08-12007

|                         |  |                 |      |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|------|
| <u>Debbie Carter</u>    | Inspector                                  | <u>05/04/08</u> | Date |
| <u>Killey C. Martin</u> | <sup>FOR</sup> Prison Inspector Supervisor | <u>5/6/08</u>   | Date |
| _____                   | Chief Prison Inspector                     | _____           | Date |
| _____                   | Deputy/Inspector General                   | _____           | Date |



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Report of Investigation  
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**EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

**A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:**

1. Incident report, dated April 10, 2008, prepared by Correctional Officer Mac Dunn Jr;
2. Affidavit dated April 24, 2008, prepared by Officer Delricko Price;
3. Affidavit dated April 24, 2008, prepared by Officer Stanley Swearingen;
4. Affidavits, dated April 10, 2008, prepared by Inmates Richard Abercaombie, Wade Anderson, Vezina Artemus, Robert Ball, Michael Banks, Timothy Basden, Anthony Batten, Carlos Burgos, Ricky Clifton, Robert Counts, Jason Husted, Joe Morphis., Lamark Rentz, Bill Pollard, Dominick Sims, Leroy Thompson, James Wilkerson, and Ronald Young;
5. Incident report, dated April 10, 2008, [REDACTED]

**B. EXHIBIT(s) – not attached:**

1. Video Tape, fixed wing security surveillance video of Y dormitory, dated April 10, 2008;