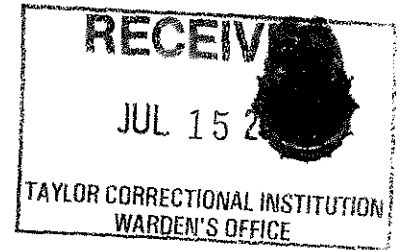




Florida Department Of Corrections
Office of the Inspector General
Report of Investigation
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Inspector General Case #: 10-2-1070

Facility: Taylor C.I. Annex

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: Gainesville / 2

Incident Date: February 3, 2010 Time: 2:00PM

Inspector: Joseph Hammer

Date of Report: June 21, 2010

Case Type: RECEIVED
JUL 02 2010
REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
REGION II

Check all that apply:

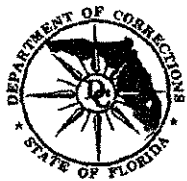
- Confidential Medical Information
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Principal(s) Exhibits Attached
- Department of Corrections presented to State Attorney Declined Accepted
- Use of Force (UOF) Number (if applicable)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Complaint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

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:

At approximately 2:00PM on February 3, 2010, Officer Robert Durham found Inmate Thomas Vicari hanging in confinement cell J2-217. Inmate Vicari was housed alone in the cell. [REDACTED] security staff members [REDACTED] responded to the cell but [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari. A review of confinement video clearly shows a food tray being handed out of Inmate Vicari's confinement cell at 12:27P.M. The review of the video also shows that security staff made the appropriate confinement rounds and checks and that no one entered or exited Inmate Vicari's cell until he was found [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari was autopsied by Doctor Anthony Clark of the Leon County Medical Examiner's Office. The autopsy report and death certificate documents that Vicari's manner of death was suicide [REDACTED] No evidence of foul play or improper conduct was found during the course of this investigation. [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari had made an allegation that he might have been [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari was transported [REDACTED] or later during autopsy. Inmate Vicari's [REDACTED] is addressed in IG investigation # 10-2-1042.

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

- Inmate Thomas Vicari died at Taylor C.I. Annex on February 3, 2010. This investigation finds that Inmate Thomas Vicari's death was a suicide [REDACTED] No evidence of foul play or improper conduct was found during the course of this investigation.



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Case Number: 10-2-1070

	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID #
Complainant:	Blanton, Stephen	Captain	[REDACTED]	1818
Victim:				
Witness(es):	Murphy, Pamela	Inspector	[REDACTED]	15176
	Livingston, Jerry	Senior Inspector	[REDACTED]	12622
	Aretino, Joseph	Senior Inspector	[REDACTED]	586
	Phillips, Benedict	DC# C02643	05/03/1989	
	Sanders, Jae	DC# W24199	03/29/1985	
	Thompson, Gary	DC# U11625	12/26/1980	
	Durham, Robert	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	42261
	Wright, Daniel	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	23807
	Oliver, Docquina	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	41374
	McCamman, Randy	Captain	[REDACTED]	13619
	Barwick, Thomas	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	1159
	Shipp, Christopher	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	19423
	Lee, Gareth	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	12301
	Barr, Horace	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	1083
	Reaves, Charles	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	52632
	Cooke, Trenton	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	47709
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Subject(s):	Vicari, Thomas	DC# 230131	05/28/1962	

Arrest: Employee Inmate Other Guilty Addendum Pending
Charges: Not Guilty
 Felony Misdemeanor Nolo Contendere
Date of Arrest: P.T.I.
 Other (explanation):
Date Reported:
Sentence of Court / Agreement:



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Case Number: 10-2-1070

Administrative Violation(s): None

Evidence: Weapon Drugs Other Describe:
 Other Agency Case Number:

FINDINGS:

On February 2, 2010, Inmate Thomas Vicari made the allegation that he woke up on Monday morning (02/01/2010) [REDACTED] Vicari further alleged that on the morning of February 2, 2010, he woke up and [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari said [REDACTED]

Inspector P. Murphy interviewed Inmate Vicari about these allegations on February 2, 2010. During the interview, Inspector Murphy noted that Inmate Vicari's [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari was [REDACTED] Upon returning to Taylor Annex, Inmate Vicari was placed in administrative confinement cell J2-217 and was housed alone. Inmate Vicari had made at least two other similar allegations at previous institutions to include that [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari's [REDACTED] is addressed in IG investigation # 10-2-1042.

At approximately 2:15PM on February 3, 2010, Taylor C.I. Annex contacted Inspector Murphy and advised that Inmate Vicari had been found hanging in his cell during a cell check by a confinement officer. Inspector Murphy responded to the confinement unit and called Inspector Supervisor Rawls while she was in route. Senior Inspector J. Livingston was also at Taylor C.I. and responded to the confinement unit. Inspector Murphy called back to Inspector Supervisor Rawls and advised that Inmate Vicari had been declared deceased [REDACTED]

Inspector Supervisor Rawls advised Lead Senior Inspector Aretino and Senior Inspector Hamner of the incident and directed that they be in route to Taylor C.I. Annex. Upon arrival at Taylor Annex, Inspectors Hamner and Aretino proceeded to the confinement unit. Upon arrival in the unit, it was observed that the cell containing Inmate Vicari (J2216) was secured shut and crime scene tape was in place.

Inspectors Hamner, Aretino and Livingston entered the cell and obtained general photographs of Inmate Vicari's body and the cell. Inspectors Hamner and Aretino then [REDACTED] closely photographed Inmate Vicari's body. Inmate Vicari was lying on his back on the floor and was wearing a white t-shirt that was pulled up toward his neck. [REDACTED] Inmate Vicari was also wearing blue issued long pants, a pair of white boxers and a pair of white socks. (Exhibits A-1 & B-1)

[REDACTED] An examination of Inmate Vicari's [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-1 & B-1)

Inmate Vicari's body was laying upon the arrival of Inspectors on the scene.

[REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-1 & B-1)

Inmate Vicari's cell and property was searched with no [REDACTED] found. A blue inmate uniform shirt was hanging through an air hole in the mattress support of the upper bunk. The upper end of the shirt was tied in a knot. However, due to the size of the hole and the bunching up of the shirt, the shirt was wedged into the hole prior to the knot reaching the hole. Inspector Hamner pulled down on the shirt with his weight and the shirt would not pull down any further. A folded piece of paper was found on the bunk under the knotted end of the shirt; however, upon opening the paper, it was found that it had nothing to do with this incident. Evidence [REDACTED] were observed around Inmate Vicari's body and the cell.

(Exhibits A-1 & B-1)

Inmates Benedict Phillip, Jae Sanders and Gary Thompson were housed next to and across from Inmate Vicari. All three inmates were interviewed by Inspector Hamner and gave the following information in an audio recorded interview obtained on February 3, 2010:

The dormitory officer was making his rounds when they heard the officer yell for help. The sergeant and additional officers responded and entered the cell and began trying to assist Inmate Vicari. None of the inmates interviewed indicated that they had heard Inmate Vicari give any indication that he had any problems. None of the inmates interviewed advised that they observed any inappropriate actions by staff.

(Exhibit B-2)

In an incident report dated February 3, 2010, Captain Stephen Blanton indicated the following:

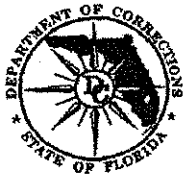
At approximately 2:00PM on February 3, 2010, Captain Blanton responded to J-dormitory and was advised by Officer Robert Durham that while he was conducting a security check, he observed Inmate Vicari hanging from the upper bunk by a state issued blue shirt. One end of the shirt was tied around Vicari's neck and the other end was tied to the upper bunk. Captain Blanton then observed Sergeants Daniel Wright and Gareth Lee [REDACTED] At approximately 2:02PM, [REDACTED]

At approximately 2:20PM, [REDACTED]

At approximately 2:20PM, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] pronounced him deceased at approximately 2:25PM.

(Exhibit A-2)



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On February 3, 2010, Confinement Officer Robert Durham submitted an incident report and subsequently gave a sworn statement indicating the following:

Officer Durham was making a security check at approximately 2:00PM and observed Inmate Vicari hanging in his cell from the top bunk. Officer Durham immediately pressed his body alarm and called for assistance via radio. Sergeant Daniel Wright and Officer D. Oliver were in the confinement building and responded to the cell. The cell was opened and Inmate Vicari was lifted up by Sergeant Wright and Officer Oliver while Officer Durham removed the shirt from around Inmate Vicari's neck. Inmate Vicari

[REDACTED]
(Exhibits A-3 & B-2)

On February 3, 2010, Sergeant Daniel Wright and Officer Docquina Oliver submitted incident reports and subsequently gave sworn testimony indicating the following:

At approximately 2:00AM on February 3, 2010, they responded to cell J2-217 due to a call for assistance from Officer Robert Durham. Sergeant Wright, Officer Oliver and Officer Durham entered the cell, removed the ligature (*blue issued shirt*) from around Inmate Vicari's neck and

[REDACTED]
(Exhibits A-4, A-5 & B-2)

On February 3, 2010, Lieutenant Randy McCamman, Sergeant Thomas Barwick, Sergeant Christopher Shipp, Sergeant Gareth Lee, Sergeant Horace Barr, Officer Charles Reaves and Officer Trenton Cooke all submitted reports indicating the following:

At approximately 2:00PM on February 3, 2010, these security staff members responded to J-dormitory in reference to a call for assistance. Upon their arrival they observed Inmate Vicari on the floor, lying on his back

[REDACTED]
(Exhibits A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9, A-10, A-11 & A-12)

On February 3, 2010, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
all submitted reports indicating the following:

[REDACTED]
(Exhibits A-13, A-14, A-15, A-16, A-17, A-18 & A-19)



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On February 3, 2010, [REDACTED] submitted an incident report indicating the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit A-20)

Dormitory logs show that Inmate Vicari was found hanging in the cell at approximately 2:00PM and that security staff began arriving and entering the cell at 2:02PM. [REDACTED]

(Exhibit A-21)

A review of the confinement video was conducted by inspectors and corresponds with incident reports and testimony of staff members and inmates. The confinement video was reviewed from the time Inmate Vicari was placed alone in the confinement cell at approximately 5:25PM on February 2, 2010, until his body was removed from the cell at approximately 7:11PM on February 3, 2010. No one is observed entering or exiting Inmate Vicari's cell until after he is found hanging by Officer Durham.

(Exhibit B-3)

Inmate Vicari's hand can be seen receiving his noon meal tray on February 3, 2010 and putting back out to be collected at approximately 12:27PM on this same date. Security staff can be seen making their required [REDACTED] minute checks after the noon meal and up until the time he was found hanging in the cell. At approximately 1:42PM, an officer (*Durham*) is seen at Vicari's cell door for a routine cell check. For approximately four or five minutes thereafter, shadows can be seen on the floor at the cell front, indicating movement by Inmate Vicari in the cell. Approximately 28 minutes after the 1:42PM check, the officer is seen making another security check and stops at Vicari's cell. The officer is then seen immediately using his radio. The video indicates that within approximately 60 seconds, security staff entered Vicari's cell and within approximately 2 minutes, additional security staff arrived on scene. [REDACTED] (Note: *There is approximately a ten minute difference in the time on the wing video from real time.*)

(Exhibit B-3)

A hand-held video recording was initiated after Inmate Vicari was found hanging in his cell. This video starts after [REDACTED] This video was reviewed by Inspector Hamner with no evidence of foul play or improper conduct being observed. This video also corresponds with reports and testimony obtained in this investigation.

(Exhibit B-4)

Inmate Vicari's body was released to Begg's Funeral home and was subsequently transported to the Medical Examiner's Office in Tallahassee.

(Exhibit A-22)

On February 4, 2010, Taylor C.I. Inspector Pam Murphy attended the autopsy of Inmate Thomas Vicari. At the completion of the autopsy, Inspector Murphy reported that Medical Examiner Anthony Clark did not find any



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evidence of foul play, [REDACTED] during the autopsy. Doctor Clark's autopsy report and a computer copy of the death certificate were received later and documented in part the following:

- Cause of Death [REDACTED]
- Manner of Death - Suicide
- Evidence [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

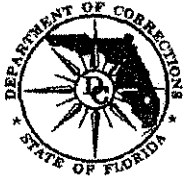
It should also be noted that Inmate Vicari's [REDACTED] (Exhibit A-23)

Inmate Vicari's brother, William Vicari, advised Inspector Hamner that after Inmate Vicari died, he received two letters from him in the mail. Mr. William Vicari subsequently faxed copies of the two letters to Inspector Hamner. (Exhibits A-24 & A-25)

The first letter is dated February 1, 2010 and starts out [REDACTED] (Inmate Vicari was found deceased Feb. 3, 2010.) In this letter, [REDACTED] (Exhibit A-24)

The second letter is dated February 2, 2010 and also starts out [REDACTED] In this letter, Inmate Vicari notifies his [REDACTED] (Exhibit A-25)

During the course of this investigation, no evidence of foul play or improper conduct was found. Inmate Vicari was housed in confinement in a cell by himself. Video shows that no one entered or exited Vicari's cell until he was found hanging by staff. The autopsy of Inmate Vicari's body did not show any evidence [REDACTED] Video evidence indicates that security staff members made the appropriate cell checks and all staff members reacted with in policy after Inmate Vicari was found hanging in his cell.



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Joseph Hammer
 Joseph Hammer

Prison Inspector

6/23/10 Date

[Signature]

Inspector Supervisor

6/23/10 Date

Lead Inspector Supervisor

_____ Date

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

Chief Prison Inspector

6/29/10 *du* Date

Deputy/Inspector General

_____ Date



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

1. Photographs of Vicari and cell.
2. Incident report from Captain Blanton.
3. Incident report from Officer Durham.
4. Incident report from Sgt. D. Wright.
5. Incident report from Officer D. Oliver.
6. Incident report from Captain Randy McCamman.
7. Incident report from Sgt. T. Barwick.
8. Incident report from Sgt. C. Shipp.
9. Incident report from Sgt. G. Lee.
10. Incident report from Sgt. H. Barr.
11. Incident report from Officer C. Reaves.
12. Incident report from Officer T. Cooke.
13. Incident report from [REDACTED]
14. Incident report from [REDACTED]
15. Incident report from [REDACTED]
16. Incident report from [REDACTED]
17. Incident report from [REDACTED]
18. Incident report from [REDACTED]
19. Incident report from [REDACTED]
20. Incident report from [REDACTED]
21. Dormitory Logs.
22. Form documenting release of body to funeral home.
23. Autopsy report & computer generated death certificate.
24. Letter from Inmate Vicari dated 02/01/2010.
25. Letter from Inmate Vicari dated 02/02/2010.

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

1. Compact disc containing photographs of Vicari and cell.
2. Compact disc containing audio recorded interviews of: Inmate Benedict Phillip, Inmate Jae Sanders, Inmate Gary Thompson, Officer Robert Durham, Officer D. Oliver, Sergeant D. Wright, Officer Trenton Cooke, [REDACTED]
3. DVD's of wing video.
4. DVD of hand held video.