



Florida Department of Corrections
Office of the Inspector General
Report of Investigation
Jeffery T. Beasley, Inspector General



Inspector General Case #: 12-1-3183

Facility: Jefferson Correctional Institution/103

Classification of Incident: ██████████15B

Field Office/Region: Tallahassee East/1

Incident Date: 04/25/12

Time: 5:29 p.m.

Inspector: Debbie Carter Arrant

Date of Report: 08/20/12

Case Type: C

- Case of Special Interest
- Confidential ██████████
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Department of Corrections presented to State Attorney Declined Accepted
- Use of Force (UOF) Number (if applicable)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Addendum
- Wing Video Camera(s) Present in the Area of Incident

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:

On April 25, 2012, at approximately 5:29 p.m., Inmate Howard Leonard ("Inmate Leonard") was observed inside his confinement cell with a ripped piece of bed sheet tied around his neck and the other end of the bed sheet tied to the upper bunk. Inmate Leonard was pronounced deceased at 2:15 a.m., on April 26, 2012, as a ██████████ located in Tallahassee, Florida. This incident was reported via MINS on April 27, 2012, and assigned for investigation on May 4, 2012.

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

Inmate Howard Leonard ██████████ while in the custody of the Florida Department of Corrections. Inmate Leonard was housed alone in confinement cell H2-109 located at the Jefferson Correctional Institution. 2nd Judicial Associate Medical Examiner Lisa Flannigan concluded Inmate Leonard's cause of death as ██████████
██████████

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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
Complainant:	Douglas, Chris	Warden	11/29/19[REDACTED]	5798
Victim:	Leonard, Howard	DC# 944565	10/14/1961	
Witness(es):	Andrews, Shaun	Correctional Officer	11/25/19[REDACTED]	37780
	Baker, Joseph	DC# 166690	01/08/1982	
	Dyson, Troy	DC# R35637	03/19/1984	
	Forney, Bruce	DC# 404082	09/25/1963	
	Goodson, Floyd	DC# 058384	01/18/1960	
	Johnson, James	DC# 258549	05/30/1972	
	Larson, Terry	DC# R28049	06/10/1984	
	Mattair, Curtis	CO Sergeant	06/18/19[REDACTED]	13459
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	09/25/19[REDACTED]	Contract Employee
	Rooks, Czedrick	Correctional Officer	05/21/19[REDACTED]	37846
	Wickliff, Ronald	DC# 706452	04/25/1972	
Subject(s):				

Arrest: Employee Inmate Other

Addendum Pending

Charges:

Felony Misdemeanor Date of Arrest:

Date Reported:

Final Court Action(s):

Other Agency Case Number:

FINDINGS:

In an incident report and digitally recorded, sworn statement, dated April 25, 2012, Correctional Officer Czedrick Rooks ("Officer Rooks") indicated the following:

On Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at approximately [REDACTED] during a security check of the bottom tier of quad 2, H dormitory, Officer Rooks observed Inmate Leonard with a ripped piece of bed sheet tied around his neck and the other end attached to the upper bunk. Inmate Leonard was in a seated position on the floor. He called for Officer Shawn Andrews to assist. Sergeant Curtis Mattair ("Sergeant Mattiar") and Officer Rooks entered the cell and Sergeant Mattiar grasped the ripped bed sheet tied to the upper bunk and broke it free from the bunk. Both officers placed Inmate Leonard on his back.



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[REDACTED]

(Exhibits A1 and B1)

In an incident report and digitally recorded, sworn statement, dated April 25, 2012, Correctional Officer Shaun Andrews ("Officer Andrews") indicated the following:

On April 25, 2012, at approximately [REDACTED], during a security check, Officer Andrews was notified by Officer Rooks to assist him at cell H2-109, which housed Inmate Leonard. Sergeant Mattair was also notified and came to the cell to assist. Sergeant Mattair instructed Officer Andrews [REDACTED] and retrieved the ligature cutter from quad 1. Officer Andrews also notified the shift officer in charge and control room staff. Officer Andrews returned to quad 2 and observed Sergeant Mattair and Officer Rooks [REDACTED] on Inmate Leonard. They continued until [REDACTED]. Officer Andrews stated that earlier that afternoon, [REDACTED]

(Exhibits A2 and B1)

In an incident report and digitally recorded, sworn statement, dated April 25, 2012, Correctional Officer Sergeant Curtis Mattair ("Sergeant Mattair") indicated the following:

At approximately 5:30 p.m., Sergeant Mattair was summoned to confinement quad 2, cell 109, which housed Inmate Leonard alone. Sergeant Mattair observed Inmate Leonard seated on the floor at the end of his bunk with a piece of ripped bed sheet tied around his neck and the other end tied to the upper bunk. Inmate Leonard appeared to be [REDACTED]. Sergeant Mattair and Officer Rooks entered the cell and Sergeant Mattair grasped the ripped bed sheet breaking it free from the bunk. Inmate Leonard was placed on his back and [REDACTED]. Sergeant Mattair began [REDACTED] and instructed Officer Rooks to [REDACTED].

(Exhibits A3 and B1)

In an incident report and digitally recorded, sworn statement, dated April 25, 2012, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED] recalled entering confinement at 4:15 p.m., on April 25 and encountering Inmate Leonard in his cell at 4:17 p.m. [REDACTED] briefly engaged in a conversation with him as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] recalled Inmate Leonard smiling and stating he was "doing fine." Officer Shaun Andrews was present with her. At approximately 5:45 p.m., [REDACTED] was notified of an [REDACTED] in administrative confinement. [REDACTED] arrived at the cell housing Inmate Leonard and observed [REDACTED] and other [REDACTED]

(Exhibits A4 and B1)



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Inmate Howard Leonard was placed in administrative confinement on April 14, 2012, and housed alone in H2-109. (Exhibit A5)

Eighteen inmates were interviewed that were housed in the same wing and dormitory as Inmate Howard during the afternoon of April 25, 2012. Inmate Joseph Baker, housed in cell 101, stated that this afternoon he heard an inmate [REDACTED] to Officer Andrews. Officer Andrews responded, "It is almost 6 p.m. and he was going home." Inmate Baker estimated that [REDACTED] was made at approximately 4:50 to 5:00 p.m. (Exhibit B1)

Inmate Floyd Goodson, housed in cell 103, recalled hearing an inmate declare a [REDACTED] at approximately 2 or 3 p.m., the afternoon of April 25, 2012. However, he "could not quite catch what" the officer said and he could not identify the officer. (Exhibit B1)

Inmate James Johnson, housed in cell 107, stated shortly "before" or "after" [REDACTED] came around this afternoon, April 25, 2012, he heard the inmate housed in cell 109 state [REDACTED] "He had been trying to [REDACTED] and the officers would not take him serious." He recalled the inmate (*Joseph Baker*) housed in cell 101, also being on the door at this time. (Exhibit B1)

Inmate Terry Larson, housed in cell 106, indicated a couple of days ago, [REDACTED] "They do not take us seriously, us PM (*protective management*)." He identified the inmate (*James Johnson*) housed in cell 107 as a witness to the statement. The inmate housed in cell 109 had declared [REDACTED] the last couple of days. The inmate declared "one today after supper, around 4:00 or 4:30 p.m." He could not identify the officer by name, but he described him as a tall, bald officer, the one who found the inmate. *According to staff reports, Officer Rooks discovered Inmate Howard.* Inmate Larson recalled the officer saying, [REDACTED] lay down." "JPAY" (*James Johnson*) stated that "they don't take us serious." (Exhibit B1)

Inmate Ronald Wickliff, housed in cell 110, adjoining Inmate Howard's cell, could not recall Inmate Howard ever being on the door talking to other inmates or saying anything to staff. Specifically, he attempted to get Inmate Howard's attention "the other day" and Inmate Howard did not answer him. (Exhibit B1)

Inmate Troy Dyson, housed in cell 208 (*second tier of the wing*), recalled hearing an inmate downstairs [REDACTED] to Officer Andrews, at approximately 5:00 or 5:05 p.m., April 25, 2012. He could not recognize the inmate's voice. Officer Andrews responded that it was "too close to 6 o'clock and I do not have time for this, I am going home soon." The inmate responded, [REDACTED] He did not hear anything after that. Officer Andrews was the only officer in the wing at this time. (Exhibit B1)

Inmate Bruce Forney, housed in cell 211 (*second tier of the wing*), heard an inmate [REDACTED] He could not identify the inmate making the statement, but the statement was made sometime after 5:00 p.m. There was a black officer on the other side at that time. He did not hear the officer make a statement, but the officer continued through the door to the other side. Approximately a half hour later, officers entered, making a commotion, and [REDACTED] (Exhibit B1)



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Inmate Leonard was last seen by [REDACTED] on April 17, 2012. No negative issues noted. (Exhibit A6)

A review of the fixed wing camera recording, dated April 25, 2012, of wing 2, H dormitory was made. At 4:06 p.m., (*camera recorded time*) Inmate Leonard was seen at his cell door. At 4:25 p.m., a white female [REDACTED] was observed at the cell front. At 5:13 p.m., a black male officer walks by cell 109, no hesitation observed as he walked by. At 5:42 p.m., a black male officer was observed in front of cell 109. At 5:46 p.m., two black officers entered cell 109. At 5:47 p.m., a black male officer was observed [REDACTED]. At 6:05 p.m., [REDACTED] was observed at the cell front and Inmate Leonard was removed from the cell at 6:10 p.m. The surveillance cameras located in wing 2 of H dormitory are not equipped to capture audio recordings. (Exhibits B2 and B3)

According to H2 housing logs, Officers Andrews and Rooks were noted as conducting a security check of wing 2 at [REDACTED]. Security checks were also conducted at [REDACTED] a. and [REDACTED]; however, the name of the officer that conducted the check was not indicated with the time of the check. (Exhibit A7)

Inmate Leonard's cell was photographed. [REDACTED] (Exhibit B4)

In an autopsy report of Inmate Howard Leonard, dated July 20, 2012, Associate Medical Examiner Lisa Flannagan, M.D., determined the cause of death as [REDACTED] (Exhibit A8)



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 Date

 Doug Glisson / Kelley C. Martin
 Regional Supervisor / Lead Inspector

 09/07/2012

 Date

 Lead Supervisor

 Date

 Deputy Inspector General / Deputy Inspector General
 Chief of Investigations / Chief of Special Operations

 Date

 Inspector General

 Date



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

1. Copy of incident report, dated April 25, 2012, prepared by Correctional Officer Czedrick Rooks;
2. Copy of incident report, dated April 25, 2012, prepared by Correctional Officer Shaun Andrews;
3. Copy of incident report, dated April 25, 2012, prepared by [REDACTED];
4. Copy of incident report, dated April 25, 2012, prepared by Correctional Officer Sergeant Curtis Mattair;
5. Copy of Daily Record of Special Housing, Inmate Howard Leonard;
6. Copy of [REDACTED] Follow-up, dated April 17, 2012;
7. Copy of housing unit log of H2 dormitory, dated April 25, 2012;
8. Copy of Autopsy Report, dated July 20, 2012.

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

1. CD containing interviews of:
 - Correctional Officer Czedrick Rooks
 - Correctional Officer Shaun Andrews
 - Correctional Officer Sergeant Curtis Mattair
 - [REDACTED]
 - Inmate Joseph Baker
 - Inmate Floyd Goodson
 - Inmate James Johnson
 - Inmate Terry Larson
 - Inmate Ronald Wickliff
 - Inmate Troy Dyson
 - Inmate Bruce Forney
2. CD containing fixed wing camera recording, dated April 25, 2012, of wing 2, H dormitory;
3. CD containing fixed wing camera recording, dated April 25, 2012, of wing 2, H dormitory;
4. CD containing digital photographs.