



Florida Department of Corrections  
 Office of the Inspector General  
 Report of Investigation  
 Terrance Edmonson, Inspector General



Inspector General Case #: 11-1-3697

Facility: NWFRC Annex/125

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: Tallahassee – West/ 1

Incident Date: May 16, 2011

Time: 6:53 p.m.

Inspector: Debbie Carter Arrant

Date of Report: August 29, 2011

Case Type: A

- Case of Special Interest
- Confidential [REDACTED]
- 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 May 16, 2011, at approximately 6:53 p.m., Sergeant Phillip Michon approached cell J1102 and observed Inmate John Forshaw, the sole occupant of the cell, hanging from a sheet attached to the light fixture. This was reported via MINS on May 17, 2011 and was assigned for investigation on May 23, 2011.

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

As a result of this investigation, it is determined that Inmate John Forshaw [REDACTED] while housed at Northwest Florida Reception Center on May 16, 2011. This is based on the autopsy report dated May 17, 2011 of Inmate John Forshaw authored by Medical Examiner Michael Hunter, M.D., which concluded the manner of death to be suicide [REDACTED] and witness testimony that Inmate Forshaw was discovered hanging in a cell solely occupied by him.



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
<b>Complainant:</b>	May, Scott	CO Captain	[REDACTED]	13515
<b>Victim:</b>	Forshaw, John	DC# G05794	04/26/83	
<b>Witness(es):</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	65695
	Bryan, Larry	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	58399
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	65529
	Harrison, Edward	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	8975
	Michon, Phillip	CO Sergeant	[REDACTED]	47390
	Land, Gary	CO Sergeant	[REDACTED]	
<b>Subject(s):</b>				

Arrest:  Employee  Inmate  Other  Addendum Pending

Charges:

Felony  Misdemeanor Date of Arrest: Date Reported:

Final Court Action(s):

Other Agency Case Number:

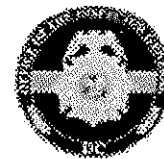
**FINDINGS:**

In an incident report and sworn recorded statement, dated May 16, 2011, Correctional Officer Sergeant Phillip Michon indicated the following:

He was on duty the evening of May 16, 2011, assigned to J dormitory confinement. He started his shift by serving the evening meal around [REDACTED] (CST). One officer fed (served) one quad and another officer fed the other quad. He and another officer conducted a count of the inmates. Showering of the inmates followed the evening meal. Everyone housed was fed and showered. In quad one of J dormitory, around [REDACTED], the showers of the inmates housed was completed. Four officers and he were on duty in J dormitory this evening. He was the first to discover Inmate Forshaw. His watch indicated the time as 7:02 p.m., he was unsure what the camera said the time was. At approximately [REDACTED], he started making his security rounds and when he got to the cell that housed Inmate Forshaw solely, [REDACTED] He looked up and saw a piece of ripped sheet tied around his



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(Forshaw's) neck hanging from a light fixture. Inmate Forshaw was hanging from the light fixture. His toes were slightly touching the floor. He was facing away from the door as he hung. He could not see Inmate Forshaw's face. The ligature (*piece of sheet*) was tied to the light fixture and he was hanging. He was [REDACTED] to his orders to cease his behavior. He notified inside security, the captain and [REDACTED] for assistance. Officers Larry Bryan, Edward Harrison and he entered the cell and cut Inmate Forshaw free. Officer Harrison used the ligature cutter to get Inmate Forshaw free. [REDACTED] Officer Harrison checked [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At that time, he stepped outside of the cell.

During the showering of inmate, there were no problems with Inmate Forshaw. He escorted [REDACTED] during her rounds that evening and he did not indicate any problems or having any [REDACTED] at that time. There appeared no problems with the inmate since his placement in confinement. Inmate Forshaw did make a request for his property. However, Sergeant Michon had no access to his property and gave Inmate Forshaw an inmate request form. After the incident, Inmate Oliver Brown, who was housed cell [REDACTED] that adjoined Inmate Forshaw's cell, indicated that Inmate Forshaw asked if his pending disciplinary report would stop him from going to work release. Inmate Brown told him it would.

(Exhibits A1 & B1)

In an incident report and sworn recorded statement, dated May 16, 2011, Correctional Officer Edward Harrison indicated the following:

He assisted J dormitory the evening of May 16, 2011 with the showering of the inmates in J dormitory. The staff showered the inmates in J1 first and then he went to J3. While located in J3, he heard an emergency call regarding J1. When he reported to the officer's station, he retrieved the ligature cutter. At approximately 6:56 p.m., Sergeant Michon, Officer Bryan and he entered into cell J1-102, where Inmate Forshaw was housed. He utilized the ligature cutter to cut the sheet from around Inmate Forshaw's neck. He checked Inmate Forshaw [REDACTED] as he was placed on the floor. Inmate Forshaw appeared [REDACTED] At approximately 6:57 p.m., [REDACTED] At approximately 7:03 p.m., Captain Scott May and he escorted Inmate Forshaw from the dormitory [REDACTED] He recalled [REDACTED] Inmates housed on either side of Inmate Forshaw said nothing to him that evening.

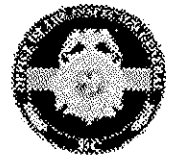
(Exhibits A2 & B1)

In an incident report and sworn recorded statement, dated May 16, 2011, Correctional Officer Larry Bryan indicated the following:

He was assigned to J dormitory the evening of May 16, 2011. The food carts were brought in and he and an inmate fed quad 1 and then 2. Another officer fed quads 3 and 4. After the serving of the evening meal, Officer Harrison began the showers of quad 1. When the showers were completed in quad 1, he moved over to quad 3 to begin the showering of inmates assigned. Approximately halfway through showering of quad 3 he received an emergency call in quad 1. Upon arriving in quad 1, the cell door to



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cell J1102 was closed. Sergeant Michon was standing in front the door at this time. He saw Inmate Forshaw hanging. He yelled for Officer Harrison to grab the ligature cutters. He grabbed [REDACTED]. Officer Harrison arrived shortly after he did. The door was opened. He [REDACTED]. Inmate Forshaw was cut down. Sergeant Michon held Inmate Forshaw. Officer Harrison cut the ligature from top and then cut the ligature from around his neck. Captain May and other officers entered into the quad. [REDACTED] arrived about the same time as the captain. Officer Harrison was [REDACTED].

The sheet was tied very tightly around Inmate Forshaw's neck, he was unsure if he [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] When the ligature was removed from Inmate Forshaw's neck, he heard the [REDACTED]. The inmate never [REDACTED]. Inmate Forshaw was hanging with his back turned to the door. He had a sheet looped around the light and it came down as a slip-knot. He stayed inside of the dormitory when Inmate Forshaw was removed. No other inmates housed in the same quad as Inmate Forshaw said anything to them after the inmate was removed. He was unaware of any problems with the inmate. He recalled Inmate Forshaw had eaten his evening meal and showered. He did not say anything to them that evening and [REDACTED]. He did ask about his property. Inmate Forshaw had not been there in confinement long. (Exhibits A3 & B1)

In an incident report dated May 16, 2011, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit A4)

In an incident report dated May 16, 2011, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit A5)



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In a recorded statement dated May 16, 2011, Inmate Christopher Stallworth indicated the following:

He had been placed cell J1103 since May 10, 2011. Inmate Forshaw was housed in J1102. He had no direct conversation with Inmate Forshaw. However, he overheard Inmate Forshaw talking openly [REDACTED] [REDACTED] earlier that day while housed in his cell. [REDACTED] Inmate Forshaw was supposed to be going to work release soon. He was placed in administrative confinement for disorderly conduct. He felt his actions did not warrant his placement in confinement. He felt that this placement in confinement would interfere with his placement in work release. Inmate Forshaw had just gotten out of the shower when this took place. He did not recall Inmate Forshaw speaking to any staff that evening. (Exhibit B2)

In a recorded statement dated May 16, 2011, Inmate Oliver Brown indicated the following:

He had been housed in cell J1101 since April 27, 2011. He spoke a few words with the inmate housed in 102 for approximately 1 and ½ hours. Inmate Forshaw spoke about getting a disciplinary report and being [REDACTED]. He was previously housed at Caryville Work Camp. He spoke of an officer there writing him a bogus disciplinary report and the possibility of that report "messing up" his placement in work release. He told Inmate Forshaw it would for awhile. Inmate Forshaw indicated that he was scheduled to be released from prison in March of 2012. He told him that he still would be able to make it. It was his understanding that Inmate Forshaw hung himself. He was looking outside of the window in his cell and saw the inmate lying on the floor with a line around his neck. He concluded he attempted or did hang himself. [REDACTED] If he had, he (*Brown*) would have told the sergeant working in the dormitory. He did not know the inmate's name that was housed in the cell next to him. Inmate Forshaw said he was [REDACTED]. After speaking with Inmate Forshaw that evening, he did not hear anything coming from his cell. If he had, he would have alerted security. He believed that the inmate had only been housed in that cell a couple of days, approximately 3 days. (Exhibit B2)

Inmate Forshaw received a disciplinary report dated May 14, 2011 for violation of Chapter 33-601.314 (Rules of Prohibited Conduct) 9-17, disorderly conduct. On May 14, 2011, at approximately 10:55 a.m., after counseling with Inmate Forshaw regarding his behavior Inmate Forshaw was exiting the security building at which time Inmate Forshaw with closed fist started throwing his hands in the air in an aggressive manner stating, "I am sick and tired of all this bullshit around here." (Exhibit A6)

In a recorded statement dated May 16, 2011, Inmate Thomas Johnson indicated the following:

He had been housed in cell J1202 since Friday (*May 13, 2011*). He did not hear anything out of the ordinary from the cell below his (*J1102*). (Exhibit B2)

*A review of Inmate Forshaw's stored property was made and discovered were two letters: one letter dated April 28, 2011 written by [REDACTED] of Gainesville, Florida indicated a person named [REDACTED] wanting to [REDACTED]*



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██████████ *"She's ██████████ about the whole situation and misses the kids terribly, but when your mother followed her to a gas station and blasted her, she tried to give her a hug and your mother told her: I don't want a hug from you! She might as well have shot her right there or pushed her off a cliff."*

*The second letter dated Friday, May 13, 2011 addressed to ██████████ stated, "I can't believe you let our phone get disconnected, (especially since you said you couldn't send me money "cause the phone bill came out of your account), but you did, and the least you could do is write to me. ██████████ According to Inmate Forshaw's Inmate Telephone Call List, ██████████ was listed as a significant other.*

**(Exhibits A7 & A8)**

A review of the fixed wing video recording of J1 dormitory and dormitory logs was made on May 16, 2011 and consistent with staff statements.

**(Exhibits A9 and B3)**

Photographs taken of Inmate Forshaw were taken on May 16, 2011 and a cursory visual examination was conducted. Inmate Forshaw was observed with ██████████ where a bed sheet had been tied. ██████████

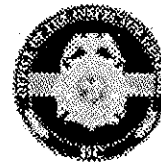
**(Exhibit B4)**

According the District Fourteenth Medical Examiner Case Summary and Autopsy Report No.: 2011-MLA-0166, dated May 17, 2011, Medical Examiner Michael Hunter, M.D., indicated the manner of death of Inmate John Forshaw to be suicide.

**(Exhibit A10)**



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\_\_\_\_\_  
 Debbie Carter Arrant  
 Inspector

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 08/29/11  
 Date

*Terrance Edmonson*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Supervisor / Lead Inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
 8/31/11  
 Date

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 Lead Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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

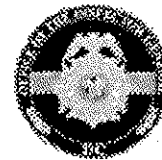
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 Inspector General

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 Date



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**EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

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

1. Copy of incident report, dated May 16, 2011, prepared by Correctional Officer Sergeant Phillip Michon;
2. Copy of incident report, dated May 16, 2011, prepared by Correctional Officer Edward Harrison;
3. Copy of incident report, dated May 16, 2011, prepared by Correctional Officer Larry Bryan;
4. Copy of incident report, dated May 16, 2011, [REDACTED]
5. Copy of incident report dated May 16, 2011, [REDACTED]
6. Copy of electronic disciplinary report dated May 14, 2011;
7. Copy of letter dated April 28, 2011 written by [REDACTED] of Gainesville, Florida;
8. Copy of letter dated Friday, May 13, 2011 addressed to [REDACTED];
9. Copies of J dormitory logs dated May 16, 2011;
10. Copy of District Fourteenth Medical Examiner Case Summary and Autopsy Report No.: 2011-MLA-0166, dated May 17, 2011.

**B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:**

1. CD containing:
  - sworn recorded statement of Correctional Officer Sergeant Phillip Michon, dated May 16, 2011;
  - sworn recorded statement of Correctional Officer Edward Harrison, dated May 16, 2011;
  - sworn recorded statement of Correctional Officer Larry Bryan, dated May 16, 2011;
2. CD containing:
  - recorded statement dated May 16, 2011, Inmate Christopher Stallworth;
  - recorded statement dated May 16, 2011, Inmate Oliver Brown;
  - recorded statement dated May 16, 2011, Inmate Thomas Johnson;
3. CD containing copy of fixed wing video recording of J dormitory;
4. CD containing copy of photographs taken of Inmate Forshaw.





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