



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



COPY

Inspector General Case #: 11-1-8326

Facility: Santa Rosa C.I./119

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED] (15B)

Field Office/Region: Tallahassee West/1

Incident Date: 10/26/11

Time: 4:35 a.m.

Inspector: Cecil Smith

Date of Report: 03/30/12

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 October 25, 2011, Inmate Paul Bennett was [REDACTED]. On October 26, 2011, at approximately 5:00 a.m., Officer Rudy Bardin discovered Inmate Bennett [REDACTED]. Inmate Bennett was [REDACTED]. At 6:17 a.m., he was pronounced deceased. [REDACTED] statements and additional documentation revealed the death [REDACTED]. The incident was reported through the Managed Information Notes System (MINS) and assigned to Inspector Ron Castle on November 2, 2011.

On November 17, 2011, Inspector Castle received information from Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Special Agent Tom McGraw, indicating three letters were received on October 14, 2010, February 4, 2011 and October 26, 2011, from Inmate Bennett, in which he made allegations that staff at Jefferson and Tomoka Correctional Institutions (C.I.) [REDACTED]. FDLE Special Agent Ronnie Austin was assigned to investigate the in-custody death. On December 21, 2011, the Inspector General's case was reassigned to Senior Inspector Cecil Smith.

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

As a result of this investigation, it is determined this Investigative Report is being CLOSED EXCEPTIONALLY based on the autopsy findings and Special Agent Ronnie Austin's investigation. The findings of the autopsy, conducted by Chief Medical Examiner Doctor Andrea Minyard, determined the cause of death as [REDACTED]. The Manner of death was Suicide. The findings of the investigation by FDLE Special Agent Ronnie Austin was Unfounded and Resolved.



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
Complainant:	Castle, Rondle (Ron)	Inspector	[REDACTED]	3487
Victim:	Bennett, Paul	DC# M56748	08/18/64	
Witness(es):	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	66679
				65858
				53246
				67188
	Bardin, Rudy	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	54871
	Turner, Brandon	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	47082
	Torres, Ken	Lieutenant	[REDACTED]	21585
	Burgess, James	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	27433
	Guy, Jennifer	Lieutenant	[REDACTED]	24832
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Agency Nurse 7205 CLYDESDALE DR PENSACOLA FL 325065181
	Austin, Ronnie	FDLE Special Agent		FDLE/Pensacola
Subject(s):	n/a			

Arrest: Employee Inmate Other

Addendum Pending

Charges: n/a

Felony Misdemeanor Date of Arrest: n/a

Date Reported: n/a

Final Court Action(s):

Other Agency Case Number: Florida Department of Law Enforcement #PE-37-0002, District 1 Medical Examiner Report #MLA11-685

FINDINGS:

In his incident report dated October 25, 2011, Sergeant James Burgess indicated the following:

He was conducting rounds in J-dormitory at [REDACTED] He approached cell # J4-113, and observed Inmate Paul Bennett [REDACTED]

(Exhibit B1)



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In her incident report dated October 26, 2011, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit B2)

In his incident report dated October 26, 2011, Officer Rudy Bardin indicated the following:

He was assigned to the [REDACTED]. He conducted rounds at approximately [REDACTED], with [REDACTED]. He observed Inmate Bennett in his bed. Inmate Bennett refused to get up to get his food tray.

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit B3)

In his Shift Supervisor comment section, of Lieutenant Jennifer Guy's incident report, dated October 26, 2011, Captain Ken Torres indicated the following:

He was contacted by [REDACTED] at 6:17 a.m., who indicated that Inmate Paul Bennett was pronounced deceased.

(Exhibit B4)

In his incident report, dated October 26, 2011, Sergeant Robert Howard indicated the following:

At approximately 10:45 a.m., he was instructed to search the property and cell of Inmate Paul Bennett and look for any type of medication. During the search of Inmate Bennett's property, what appeared to be [REDACTED]

(Exhibit B5)

The letter found in Inmate Bennett's bible, was written on a piece of white notebook paper. The letter was written in black ink, addressed to "Terence Edmonson, Office of the Inspector General." The verbiage indicated that Inmate Bennett had received a "DR" and the officer served it to him. The letter stated, "the officer that served the DR told him" he (*Inmate Bennett*) "did not want to participate and if he said otherwise," he (*Inmate Bennett*) would receive another disciplinary report. It continued with, "This is cruel and unusual and murder, 2nd shift, [REDACTED]"

(Exhibit B6)



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On October 27, 2011, Inspector Ron Castle forwarded a MINS report #410691, surrounding the death of Inmate Paul Bennett. The Incident Type was noted as, [REDACTED]. The case was assigned on November 2, 2011, to Inspector Castle after District 1 Medical Examiner Doctor Andrea Minyard could not make any decisive decision regarding the cause of death without the toxicology report. (Exhibit B7)

In an electronic mail message (*e-mail*) to Supervisor Art Rountree, dated November 17, 2011, Inspector Ron Castle informed Supervisor Rountree of a telephone conversation with FDLE Special Agent Tom McGraw. The agent inquired about three letters received by FDLE, from Inmate Bennett, in which Inmate Bennett made [REDACTED]. Special Agent McCoy was not aware at that time that Inmate Bennett was deceased. Information was relayed to Special Agent McGraw, [REDACTED]. Medical Examiner. The Medical Examiner's only concern was [REDACTED]. (Exhibit B8)

In an electronic mail message, dated December 12, 2011, from Inspector Ron Castle, to Supervisor Art Rountree, Inspector Castle advised Supervisor Rountree he had been contacted by FDLE Special Agent Ronnie Austin, who advised he was conducting an investigation into the death of Inmate Paul Bennett. (Exhibit B9)

In the Autopsy Report, dated February 15, 2012, from District 1 Medical Examiner Doctor Andrea Minyard, case #MLA11-685, the Diagnoses for Paul J. Bennett was, [REDACTED]. The Manner of Death was Suicide. (Exhibit B10)

An investigation, dated March 21, 2012, was conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Investigative Report #PE-37-0002, by FDLE Special Agents Ronnie Austin, into the in-custody death of Inmate Paul Bennett, who was housed at Santa Rosa C.I. The case findings indicated the investigation was closed and the outcome were Unfounded and Resolved. (Exhibit B11)



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Cecil Smith

Senior Law Enforcement Inspector Cecil Smith

03/30/12

Date

Art Rountree

Regional Supervisor

/

Lead Inspector

4/16/2012

Date

Lead Supervisor

Date

Deputy Inspector General
 Chief of Investigations

/

Deputy Inspector General
 Chief of Special Operations

Date

Inspector General

Date



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

n/a

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

1. An incident report completed by Sergeant James Burgess dated 10/25/11
2. An incident report completed by [REDACTED] dated 10/26/11
3. An incident report completed by Officer Rudy Bardin dated 10/26/11
4. An incident report completed by Lieutenant Jennifer Guy dated 10/26/11
5. An incident report completed by Sergeant Robert Howard dated 10/26/11
6. A handwritten letter by Inmate Paul Bennett recovered by Sergeant Howard on 10/26/11
7. A MINS Report #410691, completed by Inspector Ron Castle dated 10/27/11
8. E-mails from Inspector Ron Castle to Supervisor Art Rountree dated 11/17/11
9. E-mails from Inspector Ron Castle to Supervisor Art Rountree dated 12/12/11
10. A autopsy result from Doctor Andrea Minyard, completed on Inmate Paul Bennett dated 02/15/12
11. An investigative report completed by FDLE Special Agent Ronnie Austin dated 03/21/12