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Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
Report of Investigation  
Gene Hatcher, Inspector General

MAY - 5 2010

REGION 1



Inspector General Case #: 10-12313

Facility: [REDACTED] Graceville C.F.

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: Tallahassee/1

Incident Date: 03/10/2010

Time: 13:35

Inspector: Cecil C. Smith

Date of Report: 5/05/2010

Case Type: A

Check all that apply:

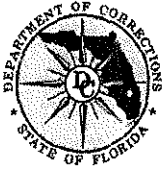
- Confidential Medical Information
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Principal(s) Exhibits Attached
- Department of Corrections presented to State Attorney  Declined  Accepted
- Use of Force (UOF) Number
- Complaint of Discrimination
- Addendum
- Wing Video Camera(s) Present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

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:

On Wednesday, March 10, 2010, Colonel Tony Stewart, Graceville Correctional Facility (C.F.) reported there had been a battery of Inmate Jason Owens by Inmate Jason Ridge and based on [REDACTED] at Graceville C.F., [REDACTED] Inmate Owens. Inmate Owens was discovered by Vocational Instructor Greg Davis, in the Horticultural classroom, on the floor, [REDACTED] Inmate Owens was [REDACTED] During questioning of inmates assigned to the Horticultural classroom, inmates identified Inmate Ridge as the inmate that attacked Inmate Owens and struck and threatened to kill Inmate Mitchell Miller as he (*Inmate Miller*) attempted to stop Inmate Ridge from striking Inmate Owens.

On March 12, 2010, Inmate Jason Owens died [REDACTED] at 11:45 am. On March 13, 2010, an autopsy was conducted on Inmate Owens with the Pathologic Diagnoses indicating the cause of death [REDACTED]

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

- **Inmate Jason Ridge, DC# 747580**, did violate Florida Statute 784.082, (2) (*Aggravated Assault or Battery by a person detained in a state contracted correctional facility, Graceville Correctional Facility*) by striking and threatening to kill Inmate Mitchell Miller (*state prison detainee*) with a deadly weapon, a rock, as the victim (*Inmate Miller*) attempted to stop Inmate Ridge from striking another detainee, Inmate Jason Owens, with the deadly weapon.
- **Inmate Jason Ridge, DC# 747580** did violate Florida Statute 784.04 (1) (a), 3. (2) (*Murder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree*) by striking Inmate Jason Owens (*State prison detainee*) with a deadly weapon (*a rock*) causing the death of Inmate Owens.

	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID #
<b>Complainant:</b>	Stewart, Tony	Colonel	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Victim:</b>	Miller, Mitchell	DC# P01465	11/27/	[REDACTED]
	Owens, Jason	DC# R12819	04/24/	[REDACTED]
<b>Witness(es):</b>	Stewart, Tony	Colonel	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Russell, David	Lieutenant	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Davis, Greg	Vocational Instructor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Smith, William B.	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Moss, Tracey	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Arnold, Bobby	Officer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Strickland, Jessie	Officer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Mann, James T.	Officer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Wiggins, Steven	Officer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Davis, Shanreka	Officer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Martin, Kelley	Lead Senior Inspector	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Daws, Hunter	DC# N21765	03/18/1990	[REDACTED]
	Miller, Mitchell	DC# P01465	11/27/1964	[REDACTED]
	Poole, David	DC# 291095	10/07/1960	[REDACTED]
	Thompson, William	DC# Q10491	02/04/1979	[REDACTED]
	Coburn, Robert	DC# P28178	03/24/1967	[REDACTED]
	Carter, Timothy	DC# Q20433	05/01/1980	[REDACTED]
<b>Subject(s):</b>	Ridge, Jason R.	DC# 747580	9/22/1970	[REDACTED]



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Arrest:  Employee  Inmate  Other  Guilty  Addendum Pending  
 Charges: Florida Statute 784.084 Aggravated Assault &  Not Guilty  
 Florida Statute 784.04 (1)(a)3.(2) Second Degree Murder  Nolo Contendere  
 Felony  Misdemeanor  P.T.I.  
 Other (explanation): n/a  
 Date of Arrest: n/a Date Reported: n/a  
 Sentence of Court / Agreement: n/a  
 Administrative Violation(s): n/a  
 Evidence:  Weapon  Drugs  Other Describe: 2.25 lb rock (piece of concrete)  
 Other Agency Case Number: ME's #10M-100

**FINDINGS:**

In his affidavit dated April 1, 2010, Colonel Tony Stewart indicated the following:

He received a call from security about a problem in the Horticulture classroom. Upon arrival, Mr. Davis, Horticulture Instructor, stated when he returned to his classroom he discovered Inmate Owens lying face down, on the floor, at the back of the classroom, [REDACTED]. He had the inmates that were in the classroom brought inside the administrative hallway and questioned as to what happened. Several of the inmates (*not specific*) identified Inmate Ridge as the inmate who attacked Inmate Owens. He placed Inmate Ridge in confinement, under investigation and had his clothing confiscated and brought to him. He was notified of the recovery of a rock in the classroom. The rock was placed into an evidence bag and brought to him with the rock and clothing handed over to Inspector Smith. (Exhibit A-1)

In his incident report dated March 10, 2010 and his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 24, 2010, Vocational Horticultural Instructor Greg Davis indicated the following:

He placed the inmates in the classroom on break and exited out of the classroom to recover some documentation and use the bathroom. He stopped and told Officer Strickland he had placed the students on break and to watch the students. He spoke to two teachers on the recreation field who had indicated education was having an early release day. He left them and went to the programs area to talk to Assistant Warden Dudley who confirmed the early release. He returned and informed the two teachers and headed back to his room. He noticed several of his students near the bathroom area and went to find out why. He was told by Inmate Miller to go back to the classroom. Inmate Miller did not say why, only that he needed to go back. He entered the classroom. He saw nothing at first but when he looked under the tables, he saw Inmate Owens on the floor, lying face down, [REDACTED]. He called for assistance and moved out of the way of security [REDACTED]. He assisted in identifying the students near the scene and moving them out onto the basketball court. (Exhibits A-2 & B-1)



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The Horticulture classroom is located in the Education and Support Building in the south-west corner of the building. [REDACTED] A camera is located [REDACTED]. A diagram, sketch and photographs of the classroom and the walkway, were recovered. (Exhibits A-3 & A-4)

On April 8, 2010, a copy of the fixed-wing video footage was delivered to the Division of the State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations, Tallahassee, Florida, to Detective Brock Dietz to assist in clearing up the details of the video footage, involving the death of Inmate Jason Owens. The Fixed-wing video footage of the walkway outside the education classrooms, dated March 10, 2010, time frame of 1:33:06, CST, through 2:00:00 CST, revealed the following:

1:33:27 Mr. Davis (*Horticulture Teacher*) exited the Horticulture classroom, proceeded to Officer Strickland, at his gate post [REDACTED] feet from the door), then exited the walkway, through the gate at 1:33:41. (*Mr. Davis stated he went to talk to teachers standing near basketball court, about early release of students.*)

1:33:42 An inmate (*witness statement indicated it was Inmate Ridge*) is observed removing something (*witness statement indicated a flower pot*) at the bottom of the door, holding open the door to the Horticulture classroom. The door to the room closes.

1:34:32 An inmate (*unidentified*) is observed opening the door to the Horticulture classroom and propping the door back open.

1:34:55 Mr. Davis is observed entering the walkway, from the recreation yard, through the gate, moving away from the Horticulture classroom, towards the camera.

1:36:20 An inmate (*unidentified*) exited the Horticulture classroom, stands outside the door, with his hands raised over his head, as another four inmates exited the Horticulture classroom at 1:36:20. That inmate, with the other four inmates, move towards the bathroom area. Two inmates enter the bathroom. The other three stand outside on the sidewalk.

1:36:51 Another two inmates (*First inmate appeared to be Inmate Ridge*) exited the Horticulture classroom and head down the walkway towards the bathroom.

1:38:16 Mr. Davis is observed exiting out of the center hallway (*Programs*) and proceeded back towards the recreation yard gate and stopped to talk to the Chaplain.

1:38:48 The inmate, suspected to be Inmate Ridge, moved from around the bathroom area and exited the gate, to the recreation field.



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1:39:27 Mr. Davis proceeded to the gate and exited out of the gate to the recreation field. *(Mr. Davis stated he returned to the same teachers to confirm early release)* as Lieutenant Russell and Officer Smith are observed heading towards the recreation gate, from the center hallway entrance at 1:39:41.

1:40:25 The inmate, suspected to be Inmate Ridge, entered the gate from the recreation field, onto the walkway and proceeded to the bathroom area.

1:40:34 Mr. Davis returned through the gate from the recreation field. He turned right, down the walkway ([REDACTED]), stops at the area next to the bathroom, turned and moved back towards the classroom ([REDACTED]).

1:41:09 Mr. Davis entered the Horticulture classroom. *(The elapsed time is 9 minutes and 47 seconds out of the classroom.)*

1:41:18 The inmate, suspected as Inmate Ridge, exited the bathroom and stayed in the area as Mr. Davis is observed heading towards the classroom. That inmate is observed constantly looking back towards the Horticulture classroom.

1:41:42 Several inmates *(unknown)* are observed going to and entering the classroom as Officer Strickland is observed at 1:41:44 moving from his post and going to the classroom.

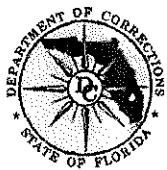
1:41:46 Additional staff, including Sergeants Moss, Arnold, Lieutenant Russell and Officer Smith, is observed moving hurriedly towards the classroom. At 1:41:54, the inmate, suspected as being Inmate Ridge, moved towards the classroom. He stopped at the window, before the entrance. As additional staff arrived, he moved back to the entrance to the restroom. He then stepped back into the doorway of the restroom, just out of sight of the camera.

1:42:57 The inmate, suspected as Inmate Ridge, moved from the entrance of the bathroom, towards the classroom but is redirected by staff to exit to the recreation yard, through the gate.

1:44:03 [REDACTED] enter into view of the camera, proceeded to the Horticulture classroom and enter at 1:44:27.

1:44:52 Seven Horticultural inmates are led into the walkway from the recreation yard. The fourth inmate is identified as Inmate Ridge, the fifth inmate is Inmate Barrow and the last inmate is Inmate Miller.

1:47:13 [REDACTED] arrived to the classroom [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is observed exiting the classroom with Officer Smith and Sergeant Arnold in escort, at 1:47:21. **(Exhibits B-2 ~ B-4)**



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In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 31, 2010, Officer Jessie E. Strickland indicated the following:

He was working the gate and his job was to make sure inmates went where they were supposed to go and not loiter around. Mr. Davis approached and said his (*Mr. Davis*) students were on break and he (*Mr. Davis*) had to go see someone. Usually when this occurred, the class is empty. He (*Officer Strickland*) was not assigned to check on the classroom as there is security officers assigned to do that. During the time frame indicated, no inmates warned him of any trouble, nor did he hear or see a problem in and around his area. He heard a call for assistance from Mr. Davis and responded to the classroom. He observed an inmate lying on the floor [REDACTED] Sergeant Moss moved around him to assist the inmate, so he (*Officer Strickland*) started clearing the room of inmates. (Exhibit B-5)

In his incident report dated March 10, 2010 and his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 31, 2010, Sergeant Tracy E. Moss indicated the following:

He responded to the Horticulture classroom due to a call for assistance and upon entering observed an inmate on the floor lying [REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-5 & B-6)

In his incident report dated March 10, 2010 and his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 31, 2010, Sergeant Bobby Arnold indicated the following:

He responded to the Horticulture classroom and upon arrival [REDACTED] proceeded to the south sally-port gate [REDACTED] (Exhibits A-6 & B-7)

In his incident report dated March 10, 2010 and his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 31, 2010, Sergeant William B. Smith indicated the following:

He responded to a call for assistance to the Horticulture classroom. There were several officers already present so he assisted in gathering up the inmates assigned to Horticulture. He assisted in escorting those inmates to the administrative hallway. He was tasked to escort an inmate to confinement. He did not know the inmate's name but he was a large, tall inmate (*Identified photograph of Inmate Ridge as inmate he escorted to confinement.*) (Exhibits A-7 & B-8)



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In her incident reports dated March 10, 2010 and her sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 24, 2010, Officer Shanrika Davis indicated the following:

She responded to the scene but stayed back as there were already security officers there. She saw [REDACTED] and knew [REDACTED]. She recovered her equipment, returned and as soon [REDACTED] the inmate, she started her process of [REDACTED]. She realized she had "screwed-up" as soon as she sprayed [REDACTED]. She immediately reported herself to Assistant Warden Dudley. She returned to the room after it was determined a weapon may have been used and assisted in searching for a weapon. She began her search and discovered a rock in the sink at the back of the room. She noticed the rock had [REDACTED] on it. Officer Mann took the photographs of the rock and she placed the rock in an evidence bag, noted the information on the bag and delivered the evidence to Colonel Stewart. (Exhibits A-8, A-9 & B-9)

Graceville C.F. Housing Unit Logs, for Y-dormitory (*Confinement*) dated March 10, 2010, 8:00 am through 4:00 pm, reflected Inmate Jason Ridge, DC#747580, was received from C3-22L and placed into Y1-107U, at 2:01 pm. (Exhibit A-10)

In his incident report dated March 10, 2010 and his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 24, 2010, Officer Steven Wiggins indicated the following:

At approximately 2:01 pm, Inmate Jason Ridge was received into Y-dormitory (*administrative confinement*) and placed into the shower for processing. He (*Officer Wiggins*) recovered the clothing from Inmate Ridge, as instructed and placed those items into an evidence bag. He then delivered the clothing to Colonel Stewart. (Exhibits A-11 & B-10)

The clothing from Inmate Ridge was checked for [REDACTED]. Noted on the outer blue shirt, tee-shirt and pants were indications of [REDACTED]. Photographs were taken by this Inspector. (Exhibit A-12)

In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 31, 2010, Lieutenant David Russell indicated the following:

He responded to a call for assistance to the Horticultural classroom and upon arrival noticed an inmate on the floor, [REDACTED] there were several officers assisting the inmate and he (*Lieutenant Russell*) called [REDACTED]. He moved the tables [REDACTED]. The inmate was lying on the floor, in front of the counter, at the back of the classroom, near the sink. He moved the end tables on the back and second rows to allow room [REDACTED] security to get to the inmate. (Exhibit B-11)



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In her incident report dated March 10, 2010 and her sworn, digitally recorded interview dated April 7, 2010, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-13 & B-12)

In her incident report dated March 10, 2010 and her sworn, digitally recorded interview dated April 6, 2010, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-14 & B-13)

In his incident report dated March 10, 2010 and his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated April 7, 2010, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-15 & B-14)

In her sworn, digitally recorded interview dated April 7, 2010, [REDACTED] indicated the following:

[REDACTED]

(Exhibit B-15)





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[REDACTED] dated March 10, 2010, [REDACTED] on Inmate Jason Owens, DC# R12819, indicated Inmate Owens [REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-16 ~A-18)

In his affidavit dated March 31, 2010, Officer James T. Mann indicated the following:

He responded to the Horticulture Classroom due to a call for assistance. There were other officers [REDACTED] so he began taking pictures of the area. The photographs he took were turned over to Inspector Smith.

He was instructed to review telephone calls made by Inmate Ridge prior to March 10<sup>th</sup>. During the review of the inmate's calls, he discovered two telephone calls made March 7, 2010 at 17:40 and 18:14, to a "Diane" asking for money to pay off gambling debts. That information was forwarded to the Inspector. (Exhibit A-19)

Photographs taken by Officer Mann of the floor, Inmate Owens and the rock, believed to be the weapon, were recovered. Photographs of the rock were also taken by Inspector Martin for comparison by the Medical Examiner, [REDACTED] (Exhibits A-20 ~ A-22)

Inmate Jason Ray Ridge made two telephone calls through the inmate monitored telephone system at Graceville C.F., on March 7, 2010, at 17:40 and 18:14, to Diane Borer, at [REDACTED] listed as a friend. The verbiage in those calls indicated the following:

At 17:40; Inmate Ridge informed "Diane" (*Diane Borer*) he needed a favor and wanted her to call his brother (*Carl Ridge*). He was in some trouble and explained he (*Inmate Ridge*) got involved in gambling, lost and got into deep debt due to interest on the money he borrowed to pay off the debt. The debt is coming to a head in the next few days and he needed help with the debt. Inmate Ridge gave a telephone number of [REDACTED]. He (*Inmate Ridge*) needed \$150.00 to get him (*Inmate Ridge*) out of the jam. He (*Inmate Ridge*) could handle the problem himself as he had at other camps, but would have to go through the "box (*confinement*)" thing." She asked Inmate Ridge to call back in ten minutes.

At 18:14; "Diane" said she talked with his brother but he could only send \$50.00 next Saturday. Inmate Ridge voiced his disappointment. (Exhibits A-23, B-16 & B-17)

A search of property belonging to Inmate Jason Ridge, DC# 747580 noted several gambling tickets. Gambling tickets, with Inmate Ridge's name on them, were also discovered in Inmate Barrow's folder, discovered in the Horticulture room at the time of the incident. (Exhibits A-24 & A-25)



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A Horticulture Daily Attendance/Sign-In roster noted twenty seven students were assigned to the classroom on March 10, 2010. Inmate Robert Knowles DC# 220132 was noted with no signature due [REDACTED]. Inmate Cason Kalonji also had no signature but during his interview he stated he forgot to sign-in. All twenty seven inmates were interviewed. (Exhibit A-26)

Inmate Robert Knowles, DC# 220132, [REDACTED], was involved in an incident in the Horticulture class, in the garden area near the "Chiller Plant" on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Inmate Knowles was [REDACTED]. The incident was reported through MINS and assigned Inspector General (I.G.) Case #10-1-2345 RM (Returned to Management), due to there being no I.G. investigative issues. At the time of this report, those present (*inmates and staff*) at the site were interviewed and it was determined the incident was accidental, as stated by Inmate Knowles himself. Inmate Knowles was interviewed by Inspector Hamilton, March 16<sup>th</sup> and stated the injury was the result of an accident. (Exhibits A-27 & A-28)

A twelve person (*inmates*) line-up was used to assist in the interview of inmates surrounding the incident. Nine inmates, assigned to the Horticulture classroom, including the subject and victims and three inmates not housed at Graceville C.F. were used in the photographic line-up. The photographs were taken from the inmate identification system. (Exhibit A-29)

In his sworn, digitally recorded interviews dated March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of 2010 and his written sworn statement dated March 15, 2010, Inmate Mitchell Miller DC# P01465, indicated the following:

He saw "Country" (*Inmate Ridge*) sitting on the counter behind Inmate Owens and "Cowboy" (*Inmate Barrow*). He asked "Cowboy" why that "cracker" (*Inmate Ridge*) was sitting there looking [REDACTED]. Inmate Barrow asked Inmate Ridge why he was acting [REDACTED]. He (*Inmate Miller*) went back to reading and out of the corner of his eye saw Inmate Ridge hit Inmate Owens in the head with a rock. He yelled, "What the fuck are you doing?" as Inmate Ridge continued to strike Inmate Owens. He (*Inmate Miller*) tried to stop him by grabbing Inmate Ridge's arm but was struck on the left side of the face with the back of Inmate Ridge's hand. Inmate Ridge told him, "Stay out of my business Miller or I will kill you." Inmate Ridge continued to hit Inmate Owens as Inmate Barrow yelled at Inmate Ridge what the "hell" was he doing. Inmate Ridge dropped the rock in the sink, washed his hands and left out of the room. Outside he (*Inmate Miller*) saw Mr. Davis and told him to get back to his classroom. Inmate Ridge was standing behind Inmate Carter at the bathroom area. He heard Inmate Ridge whispering, "no one talk and we'll be OK." (Exhibits A-30, B-19 & B-20)

In an [REDACTED] dated March 10, 2010, completed on Inmate Mitchell Miller, DC# P01465, [REDACTED] the information indicated the following:

[REDACTED] (Exhibits A-31 & A-32)



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In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 10, 2010, Inmate Mitchell Barrow, DC# U05334, indicated the following:

He did not see the incident as he left the room prior to the incident and after the teacher had left the room. He knew both of the inmates involved and knew of no problems between the two. He did not have any knowledge of any involvement between the two in reference to gambling or any other issues. **(Exhibit B-21)**

*Note: On March 10, 2010, Inmate witness statements indicated Inmate Barrow was in the class at the time [REDACTED]. Evidence discovered in Inmate Barrow's folder, in the classroom, revealed Inmate Barrow was involved in a gambling issue with Inmate Ridge. On April 6, 2010, Inmate Barrow was afforded an opportunity to recant his sworn statement but declined. Inmate Barrow's family contacted the Tallahassee Field Office and relayed information that Inmate Barrow wanted to speak to this Inspector about the case. This resulted in the interview dated April 16, 2010.*

In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated April 16, 2010, Inmate Mitchell Barrow, DC# U05334, indicated the following:

He was sitting next to Inmate Owens when Mr. Davis had to go somewhere and left the room. After Mr. Davis left, "Country" (*Inmate Ridge*) moved the plant holding the door as several of the inmates argued as to why he was closing the door. Later, Inmate Miller asked him (*Inmate Barrow*) why "Country" (*Inmate Ridge*) was sitting behind him acting [REDACTED]. He (*Inmate Barrow*) turned and told "Country" to move out from behind him. He (*Inmate Barrow*) turned back and the next thing he knew "Country" was "bashing" Inmate Owens with a rock. Country "continuously" struck Inmate Owens, "ten to fifteen times." He (*Inmate Barrow*) pushed his chair back, jumped over the table as they (*students*) were yelling for him to stop. Inmate Miller knocked him (*Inmate Ridge*) away but it was too late as he (*Inmate Owens*) had already been "bashed." Inmate Ridge turned and washed his hands and went out the door. He and the other students ran out of the room, to the bathroom, down the hallway. Nobody told the officer outside what had happened. In the bathroom he (*Inmate Barrow*) told Inmate Ridge that "man" was [REDACTED] and he (*Inmate Ridge*) needed to do something. Inmate Ridge told him he (*Inmate Owens*) would be alright. He knew Inmates Daws, Carter, Poole, Miller, Coburn and Thompson were in the room at the time of the incident (*identified in photographic line-up.*) He knew Inmate Ridge gambled and owed a lot of money. The reason he did not come forward was he was in fear due to his situation (*multiple sentences filing for clemency*) and he did not want this incident to interfere. **(Exhibits B-22)**



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In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 10, 2010, Inmate Timothy Carter DC# Q20433, indicated the following:

He saw Inmate Ridge striking Inmate Owens [REDACTED] with what he thought was at first a bundle of paper towels. He saw Inmate Ridge strike Inmate Owens at least four or five times [REDACTED] holding the rock in his (*Inmate Ridge*'s) right hand. (Exhibit B-23)

In his sworn, digitally recorded interviews dated March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of 2010, Inmate Hunter Daws, DC# N21765, indicated the following:

He was sitting on the second row and heard something behind him that sounded like someone being slapped. He turned and saw an inmate (*Inmate Ridge*) striking another inmate (*Inmate Owens*) with a rock. The inmate (*Inmate Owens*) was struck several times, as another inmate (*Inmate Miller*) tried to stop what was happening. When that inmate (*Inmate Miller*) was threatened with the rock, he moved away. As he (*Inmate Daws*) was leaving the room he saw the inmate (*Inmate Ridge*) washing his hands in the sink. (Exhibit B-24 & B-25)

*Note: In a review of the photographic line-up, Inmate Daws identified Inmate Owens as the victim and Inmate Ridge as the inmate striking Inmate Owens with a rock. Inmate Daws identified Inmate Poole as the inmate that tried to stop the incident.*

In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 10, 2010, Inmate Robert Coburn, DC# P28178, indicated the following:

He heard Inmate Ridge ask Inmate Owens why he (*Inmate Owens*) tripped him. He saw Inmate Ridge strike Inmate Owens, with what he thought at first were rolled up papers. After seeing him strike Inmate Owens several times, he realized he had something hard in his hand. When [REDACTED] he exited the room. As he was leaving, he looked back and saw Inmate Ridge strike Inmate Owens several more times. (Exhibit B-26)

*Note: In his review of the photographic line-up, Inmate Coburn identified Inmate Thompson as the victim and Inmate Ridge, as the inmate that was striking the other with "something hard."*

In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 10, 2010, Inmate David L. Poole, DC# 291095 indicated the following:

He saw an inmate strike Inmate Owens in the back of the head. He believed the inmate's name was Ridge, but believed he went by the alias of "Country". He saw that "Country" had a rock in his hand and saw him strike Inmate Owens about six to seven times. Inmate Miller tried to stop it and he thinks Inmate Miller was hit but was not sure. The inmate then threatened to hit Inmate Miller and everyone left the room. (Exhibit B-27)



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In his sworn, digitally recorded interviews dated March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of 2010, Inmate William Thompson, DC# Q10491 indicated the following:

He was not familiar with the names but saw an inmate (*Inmate Ridge*) strike another inmate (*Inmate Owens*) in the head with a rock, numerous times. An inmate (*Inmate Miller*) tried to stop the inmate (*Inmate Ridge*) but was threatened with being hit also. The inmate (*Inmate Ridge*) hit the other inmate (*Inmate Owens*) several more times, dropped the rock and washed his hands in the sink. He left the room and the inmate (*Inmate Ridge*) followed him out the door as he (*Inmate Thompson*) went to the bathroom. **(Exhibits B-28 & B-29)**

*Note: In a review of an inmate photographic line-up on March 11, 2010, Inmate Thompson identified Inmate Owens, as the inmate being hit, Inmate Ridge as the inmate hitting Inmate Owens, Inmate Miller as the inmate trying to stop the incident and Inmate Daws as the inmate sitting next to him.*

In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 10, 2010, Inmate Jerry Lee Williams Jr., DC# X51130 indicated the following:

He did not see the incident that occurred in the classroom that day. He had left earlier to go to the property room and did not return to the room until after the incident. He knew of no problems in the classroom. **(Exhibit B-30)**

On March 16, 2010, Inmates Clifford Fulford, DC# 129500, Michael Slechta, DC# 335962, John Duran, DC# I08847, Mario Wood, DC# 132335, Rico Lane, DC# I06355, Jemar Tillie, DC# N18674, Valdimil Cruz, DC# R25640, Kalonji Cason, DC# M21765, Adam Wagner, DC# V26770, Donald Ivey, DC# 537047, Johnathan Ford, DC# 984461, Nathaniel McCoy, DC# P21248, Edward Encarnacion, DC# X46357, Alexander Green, DC# X45441, Christopher Tanner, DC# E05903 and J.C. Folston Jr., DC# 471002, were interviewed. These statements were all sworn, digitally recorded interviews. These inmates were assigned to the Horticulture class and had signed the Daily Attendance/Sign In roster on March 10<sup>th</sup>. These inmates had call-outs, were given permission to attend another function or allowed to go to Open Chapel. They stated they were not present during the incident and had no first hand knowledge of what had happened. **(Exhibits B-31 ~ B-46)**

Upon arrival at [REDACTED] Florida, on March 10, 2010, Senior Inspector Debbie Carter/Arrant was present and took photographs of Inmate Jason Owens [REDACTED]. Inmate Owens' clothing was also recovered for evidence. **(Exhibit A-33)**

[REDACTED] dated March 12, 2010, completed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At 11:45 am, Inmate Owens was pronounced dead.

**(Exhibits A-34 & A-35)**



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On March 13, 2010, an autopsy was conducted by Doctor Anthony J. Clark, Medical Examiner, on Inmate Jason Owens. The Autopsy was attended by Senior Lead Inspector Kelley Martin. The preliminary findings by Doctor Clark indicated the cause of death [REDACTED]

On April 19, 2010, the autopsy report was completed. The Pathologic Diagnoses, for the cause of death, [REDACTED] Photographs of the autopsy were taken by Doctor Clark [REDACTED]

(Exhibits A-36, A-37 & B-47)

On March 24, 2010, a search warrant was requested and issued by Circuit Judge W. L. Wright for the purpose of recovering a fingerprint standard and [REDACTED] from the person of Inmate Jason Ridge. On March 29, 2010, the search warrant was served on Inmate Ridge at Florida State Prison and the [REDACTED] fingerprint standard were recovered. (Exhibit A-38)

On April 12, 2010, evidence from the investigation was forwarded to the FDLE, Pensacola Regional Operations Center, for analysis. Forwarded were three pieces of clothing from Inmate Jason Ridge, a blunt object (*rock*,) suspected as being the weapon, [REDACTED] a fingerprint standard from Inmate Jason Ridge, [REDACTED] Inmate Mitchell Miller and [REDACTED] from Inmate Jason Owens. (Exhibit A-39)

In his sworn, digitally recorded interview dated March 10, 2010, Inmate Jason Ridge, DC# 747580 was informed of his Constitutional Rights and after waiving his rights, indicated the following:

He denied he was involved in the incident. He was in the classroom but left the room when the teacher left the room. He was nowhere around when the incident took place. Those statements from those inmates are just that, inmate statements. He was not involved. (Exhibit B-48)

*Upon finale disposition of this criminal case and recovery of documentation from the Jackson County Circuit Court and the State Attorney's Office, 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Florida, an addendum will be forwarded with the findings.*

Case# 10-12313

Florida Department of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General



"I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in ss.112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes."

"Furthermore, under penalties of perjury, I declare I have read the foregoing report and the contents of the report are true and accurate based upon my personal knowledge, information, and belief."

Carl O. Smith

Investigators Signature

5/5/10

Date



Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
Report of Investigation  
Gene Hatcher, Inspector General



Case Number: 10-12313

<u>Carl C Smith</u>	Senior Prison Inspector	<u>5/5/10</u> Date
<u>Kelley C. Marshall</u>	<sup>FOR</sup> Prison Inspector Supervisor	<u>5/6/2010</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	Lead Inspector Supervisor	<u>5/13/10</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	Chief Prison Inspector	<u>5/14/10</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	Deputy/Inspector General	<u>5/17/10</u> Date





Florida Department Of Corrections  
Office of the Inspector General  
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Case Number: 10-12313

**EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

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

1. An affidavit completed by Colonel Stewart dated 4/1/10
2. An incident report completed by Vocational Instructor Davis dated 3/10/10
3. A diagram of the Horticulture classroom and floor plan of the education building
4. Photographs of the Horticulture classroom and walkway outside the classroom
5. An incident report completed by Sergeant Moss dated 3/10/10
6. An incident report completed by Sergeant Arnold dated 3/10/10
7. An incident report completed by Sergeant Smith dated 3/10/10
8. An incident report completed by Officer Davis about [REDACTED] dated 3/10/10
9. An incident report completed by Officer Davis dated 3/10/10 on the recovery of the rock
10. A Graceville C.F. Housing Unit Log for Y-dormitory dated 3/10/10
11. An incident report completed by Officer Wiggins dated 3/10/10
12. A photograph of the blue shirt, white tee-shirt and pants worn by Inmate Ridge
13. [REDACTED]
14. [REDACTED]
15. [REDACTED]
16. [REDACTED]
17. [REDACTED]
18. [REDACTED]
19. An affidavit completed by Officer Mann dated 3/31/10
20. Photographs of [REDACTED] and Inmate Owens, taken by Officer Mann on 3/10/10
21. Photographs taken by Officer Mann of the rock recovered by Officer Davis dated 3/10/10
22. Detailed photographs of the rock taken by Inspector Martin dated 3/13/10
23. Inmate monitored telephone records for Inmate Jason Ridge dated 3/07/10
24. Gambling tickets discovered in Inmate Ridges property
25. Gambling tickets discovered in the folder of Inmate Barrow
26. A Horticulture Classroom Student Daily Attendance/Sign In roster dated 03/10/10
27. Inspector General Case #10-12345 RM dated 3/09/10
28. A case report completed by Inspector Hamilton dated 3/16/10
29. A twelve inmate photographic line-up used in the interview process
30. A sworn written statement completed by Inmate Miller dated 3/15/10
31. [REDACTED]
32. A photograph taken of Inmate Miller's [REDACTED] taken 3/10/10
33. Photographs of Inmate Owens taken by Inspector Carter/Arrant dated 3/10/10
34. [REDACTED]
35. [REDACTED]
36. An e-mail from Inspector Martin of findings from the Autopsy of Inmate Owens on 3/13/10
37. An Autopsy Report from Doctor Clark completed on Inmate Owens dated 4/19/10
38. A Search Warrant issued by Judge Wright on Inmate Ridge dated 3/24/10
39. An evidence inventory forwarded to FDLE dated 4/12/10 and chain of custody forms



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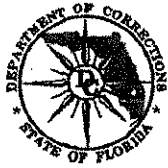


Case Number: 10-12313

**EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

**B. EXHIBIT(s) – not attached:**

1. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Mr. Davis dated 3/24/10
2. Fixed-wing video footage outside of education dated 3/10/10 at 1:33 pm
3. Fixed-wing video footage with clarified details by Detective Dietz dated 4/28/10
4. Fixed-wing video footage with clarified details to include pin point of subject
5. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Officer Strickland dated 3/31/10
6. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Sergeant Moss dated 3/31/10
7. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Sergeant Arnold dated 3/31/10
8. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Sergeant Smith dated 3/31/10
9. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Officer Davis dated 3/24/10
10. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Officer Wiggins dated 3/24/10
11. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Lieutenant Russell dated 3/31/10
12. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with [REDACTED] dated 4/07/10
13. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with [REDACTED] dated 4/06/10
14. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with [REDACTED] dated 4/07/10
15. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with [REDACTED] dated 4/07/10
16. A recorded inmate telephone call by Inmate Ridge dated 3/07/10 at 17:40
17. A recorded inmate telephone call by Inmate Ridge dated 3/07/10 at 18:14
18. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Knowles dated 3/19/10
19. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Miller dated 3/10/10
20. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Miller dated 3/24/10
21. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Barrow dated 3/10/10
22. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Barrow dated 4/16/10
23. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Carter dated 3/10/10
24. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Daws dated 3/10/10
25. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Daws dated 3/11/10
26. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Coburn dated 3/10/10
27. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Poole dated 3/10/10
28. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Thompson dated 3/10/10
29. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Thompson dated 3/11/10
30. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Williams dated 3/10/10
31. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Fulford dated 3/10/10
32. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Slechta dated 3/10/10
33. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Duran dated 3/10/10
34. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Wood dated 3/10/10
35. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Lane dated 3/10/10
36. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Tillie dated 3/10/10
37. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Cruz dated 3/10/10
38. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Cason dated 3/10/10



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39. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Wagner dated 3/10/10
40. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Ivey dated 3/10/10
41. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Ford dated 3/10/10
42. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate McCoy dated 3/10/10
43. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Encarnacion dated 3/10/10
44. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Green dated 3/10/10
45. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Tanner dated 3/10/10
46. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Folston dated 3/10/10
47. Photographs taken by Doctor Clark of the ME's Office dated 03/13/10
48. A sworn, digitally recorded interview with Inmate Ridge dated 3/10/10

STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
REGION I - WEST

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STATEWIDE OFFICE

**MEMO TO:** Terrance Edmonson, Inspector General  
**FROM:** Cecil C. Smith, Senior Law Enforcement Inspector  
**DATE:** June 20, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** IG Case #10-1-2313, closed by arrest / Inmate Jason R. Ridge DC# 747580

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This case alleging the commission of a criminal violation of law is **closed by arrest**.

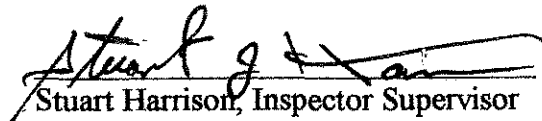
This memorandum is to document the arrest for the criminal charge against Inmate Jason R. Ridge DC# 747580, for an incident that took place on March 10, 2010.


On May 18, 2010, an investigative report charging Inmate Ridge with 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder was submitted to State Attorney Glenn Hess, 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in Jackson County, Florida. A Direct Information was filed December 20, 2010, States Attorney Case #10-772CF. The subject was charged with a violation of §782.04(2), (*2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder*) and §784.021(1)(a) (*Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon*) Florida Statutes, by the State Attorney Office.

The Charging Letter is attached.

(Exhibit A-40)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cecil C. Smith, Senior Law Enforcement Inspector

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Harrison, Inspector Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Cc: File