



Fresno County Sheriff - Coroner's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff - Coroner

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News Release

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Test Results Show Possible Circumstances of Sergeant Rod Lucas' In the Line of Duty Death

On October 31st, 2016, Fresno County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Rod Lucas died after being accidentally shot in the chest while inside a Sheriff's Office building near the Fresno Airport. On that day, the Sheriff's Office began an investigation to try and determine the circumstances of this officer involved shooting.

After numerous interviews, detectives learned that Sgt. Lucas and a fellow detective were discussing their equipment, specifically their backup weapons and how they carried them. The detective had his weapon out and during this discussion the detective's weapon discharged one round. The bullet struck Sgt. Lucas in his chest and he would later pass away from the injuries.

Several tests were conducted on all the equipment involved in the shooting and a forensic analysis was performed on materials located in close proximity to where the shooting occurred. The evidence shows the gun was most likely fired by the other detective, not by Sgt. Lucas. Therefore, this is classified as a homicide. It is important to note that the term homicide simply means 'death at the hands of another.' The Sheriff's Office has absolutely no reason to believe this was anything more than a tragic accidental shooting.

This case has been forwarded to the Fresno County District Attorney's Office for review.

The detective involved in the shooting remains as an employee of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office.

Since his passing, a scholarship fund has been setup in the name of Sgt. Rod Lucas. The Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association (FDSA) continues to accept donations to this account. Those wishing to help may write a check payable to: Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association. In the memo column, please write: Rod Lucas Memorial Fund.

Checks can be mailed to:

FDSA

1360 Van Ness Avenue

Fresno, CA 93721