



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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KBI investigates officer involved shooting in McPherson County

MCPHERSON COUNTY – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) is investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred Monday night after a two county police chase ended in McPherson County.

On Monday, Aug. 28 at approximately 11:30 p.m., the McPherson County Sheriff's office requested KBI assistance investigating the shooting. At approximately 10:45 p.m., officers from the Newton Police Department engaged in a high speed pursuit of a vehicle that matched the description of one that reportedly left the scene of a burglary. The pursuit continued into McPherson County and ended on I-135 near mile marker 51 after stop sticks were deployed deflating the fleeing vehicle's tires and causing it to become disabled.

Preliminary information indicates that once the chase ended, officers gave numerous verbal commands to the two male occupants to exit their vehicle. Once the driver finally exited, he refused to comply with officers' commands, so bean bag rounds and a Taser were deployed. Both methods were ineffective at subduing the driver, so a K-9 officer was then released. The K-9 retreated after being kicked in the head by the subject. A Newton Police Department officer responded by grabbing hold of the subject and the two fell to the ground where they engaged in a ground struggle. The struggle escalated and a McPherson County deputy fired his service weapon at the subject, hitting him.

Medical treatment was provided at the scene and the subject was taken to Mercy Hospital in Moundridge where he was pronounced dead. The deceased driver was later identified as 24-year-old William Matthew Holmes of Newton.

The vehicle's passenger, who remained inside the vehicle during most of the incident, was arrested at the scene. Two law enforcement officers were also treated for minor injuries.

The KBI will complete an independent and thorough investigation into this matter. Once completed, the findings will be turned over to the McPherson County Attorney. This investigation is ongoing. No further information will be released at this time.

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