

04-01-2022

LASD Deputy-Involved Shooting (DIS) in the 14000 block of Crystal Lantern Drive, Hacienda Heights (Unincorporated Area).

***The following information is based on facts determined from an investigation into the incident described. The investigation is ongoing and as witnesses are interviewed, evidence is analyzed and reports are reviewed, our understanding of the facts may change. The details described below accurately reflect the facts as we currently know them.***

On April 1, 2022, at approximately 4:23 PM, three deputies assigned to Industry Sheriff's Station responded to an emergent call for service of a possible arson in progress in the 14000 block of Crystal Lantern Drive, in the Unincorporated area of Hacienda Heights. The homeowner indicated her brother, 56-year-old Trinidad Velasco, was inside a blue Ford pickup truck parked in front of her residence and threatened to burn down the house with a bottle of gasoline he had in his possession.

The deputies arrived on scene and observed Velasco seated in the driver's seat of the pickup which was parked on the street in front of the location. The deputies stopped in front of Velasco's parked vehicle, exited their patrol vehicles and gave Velasco verbal commands to exit his vehicle.

Velasco suddenly accelerated his pickup toward two deputies who quickly ran out of Velasco's path to avoid being hit. Velasco fled north on Ameluxen Avenue. The deputies re-entered their patrol vehicles and initiated a vehicle pursuit of Velasco.

During the pursuit, Velasco made a U-turn and drove directly at a patrol unit. The deputy drove his patrol vehicle into a driveway of a residence to avoid being struck. Velasco continued back to the residence where he parked in the driveway and exited his vehicle. Velasco ran toward a family member and then moved to the driveway while holding a pointed metal object in his right hand. Deputies contacted Velasco and gave him verbal commands to drop the weapon. Velasco began yelling unintelligibly at the deputies while still holding the pointed metal object in his right hand.

Deputies gave Velasco verbal commands to drop the weapon, but he refused to comply. A deputy fired a 40mm Arwen rubber projectile striking Velasco's body, but it had no effect. The deputies continued to give Velasco verbal commands to drop the weapon, but he still refused to comply. The deputy fired a second 40mm Arwen rubber projectile at Velasco, this time striking his left hand, but it also had no effect. Velasco, while still holding the pointed metal object in his right hand, advance toward the deputies and a deputy-involved shooting occurred.

Velasco was struck by gunfire and fell to the ground. Deputies approached him and administered first aid. Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics responded and provided medical care. He was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he received further medical treatment.

There were no other persons injured during this incident.

A metal screwdriver, approximately six inches in length, was recovered at the scene.

**LASD Homicide investigators responded to the scene to conduct interviews, follow up and process the scene. Representatives from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) also responded and monitored the investigation.**

**Once completed, the criminal investigation will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office to determine if the force used by the involved personnel violated any criminal laws. Once the District Attorney's Office investigation is completed, the LASD will evaluate the actions of the personnel within the application of policy, procedures and tactics.**

**Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call Sheriff's Homicide at 323-890-5500. Anonymous tips may be received through CRIMESTOPPERS at 800-222-8477.**

**\*\*\* UPDATE \*\*\***

The employee involved in the deputy-involved shooting has been identified as Deputy Ernest Magana.