

Fatal Encounters

Context

As a researcher for fatalencounters.org, I distilled news articles, police reports and video of officer-involved deaths into blurbs and demographic information in order to better understand police use of force. Fatal Encounters remains the most comprehensive, accurate and bias-free source anywhere. Data from Fatal Encounters has been used both by reform-minded activists and law enforcement agencies seeking insight for officer training. The attached blurbs are a small sample from well over 1300 stories.

Titus Latchison

Latchison standing in his yard, threw knives at three officers responding to a suicide call and told them to kill him. In a dash cam video, Latchison approaches the officers, who back away. Officer Kyle Moore shoots Latchison once in the chest and once in the belly as Latchison, still armed with at least one knife, backs him against a car. Latchison was an Army veteran. His family described him as a PTSD sufferer who was in denial about his condition.

William Cooper

Cooper, high on the psychedelic N-bomb, trespassed on a man's property. The man restrained Cooper. Deputies and EMS responded. Deputies handcuffed Cooper and took him to the front of the property. Cooper stopped breathing. EMS tried and failed to revive him.

Chester Martin

Martin shot himself during a standoff with multiple local law enforcement agencies. He had been released on bond for possession of child pornography. The Texas Ranger Division investigated.

Weldon Baker

Officers responded to a complaint about a fight involving as many as three people on the third floor of a Ramada Limited. Officers found and handcuffed Baker as they struggled to prevent him from jumping out of a window. After he was handcuffed, Baker admitted to smoking "wet," or PCP-laced marijuana. Baker later had a heart attack in an ambulance as he was taken to a hospital.

Christopher Lee Brooks

A deputy went to Brooks's residence and tried to arrest him in relation to a beating that had occurred at a bar. Brooks resisted. The deputy tasered Brooks. Brooks gained control of the Taser and sicced a pit bull on the deputy. The deputy fatally shot both Brooks and the dog.

Timothy Colton

Around 10:50 a.m., deputies responded to a suspected burglary, arresting two of three suspects at the scene. The third, Colton, fled. Forty minutes later, Sergeant Jason McDaniel walked up a driveway between two brick houses in search of Colton. Colton shot at Sergeant McDaniels from ambush. Sergeant McDaniel and other deputies fatally shot him. Sergeant McDaniels had served in Precinct 5 for 18 years. Colton was not named in the Texas Custodial Deaths Report on Feb. 17, 2016.

Sergio Adrian Hernandez Guereca

Border Patrol Agent Jesus Mesa, Jr. fatally shot Guereca while arresting a man who tried to cross the border into the U.S. Guereca stood in Mexico, near the bridge Puente Negro. A voice in video of the shooting says, "Están tirando piedras," or "They're throwing rocks." The distance of the shooting was slightly greater than the distance between two pillars that support the weight of the bridge. Agent Mesa had served in the Border Patrol for seven years.