



# NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | July 11, 2016

## **Dallas Update: Investigators Believe Suspect Acted Alone, Had Larger Plans**

Officials in Dallas announced late last week that the deceased suspect in the killing of five Dallas police officers on July 7—Micah Johnson, age 25, of Mesquite, Texas—is believed to have been the lone shooter. In a weekend news media interview, Dallas Police Chief David Brown said that on the basis of bomb-making materials found at his home and the contents of a journal, investigators believe the suspect had “other plans,” possibly for a larger attack. The suspect had been plotting before the protest in Dallas, and the deaths of African-American men in police-involved shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota may have accelerated his decision to act. Chief Brown said the suspect had been practicing explosive detonations, and the quantity of materials found at the house was “large enough to have devastating effects” throughout Dallas and the North Texas area.

The suspect, an Army veteran, trained at a private self-defense school that teaches special tactics, including maneuver techniques, according to the school’s founder. Chief Brown said the suspect employed a type of moving and shooting not normally seen with criminal suspects. He described the suspect maneuvering his vehicle when the protest turned into an unscheduled march, so that he could get ahead of the march to a position where police officers would be vulnerable.



## **Law Enforcement: Attacks on Police Increase**

Attacks on law enforcement officers increased last week, after the fatal police-involved shootings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on July 5 and Philandro Castile near St. Paul, Minnesota, on July 6. In addition to the attack on police officers in Dallas, officers were attacked in Tennessee, Georgia, and Missouri on July 8, and shots were fired at the police headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, on July 10. In the Tennessee incident, the suspect specifically stated that he was upset by the recent police-involved shootings of African-Americans.

In Bristol, Tennessee, the suspect fired into a motel, wounding a clerk, and then fired at several vehicles on a parkway, fatally wounding one of the drivers. He also fired at three responding officers, wounding one in the leg, before being shot and taken into custody. In Roswell, Georgia, a suspect fired multiple shots at an officer on patrol, but none hit the officer. In Ballwin, Missouri, an officer is in critical condition after being shot during a traffic stop. (Photo shows emergency response to the Missouri incident.) In San Antonio, gunfire left bullet marks on the police headquarters building, and multiple shell casings were found in a nearby alley.



## **Law Enforcement: Justice Department Opens Civil Rights Investigation in Louisiana, Monitors Minnesota Case**

The US Justice Department opened a civil rights investigation into the police-involved shooting of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge. A Justice Department spokesman said the FBI and the US Attorney’s Office in Louisiana will also participate in the investigation. The Justice Department investigation will examine whether two police officers willfully violated Sterling’s civil rights through the use of unreasonable or excessive force.

In Minnesota, the Justice Department will monitor the case of the police-involved shooting of Philandro Castile. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has the investigative lead. A Justice Department spokesman said the Department stands ready to provide assistance, and also is prepared to conduct further investigation and to “consider this matter under applicable federal law.”

## **Contact Information**

Any agency with information or comments/questions on this or other analytical products, please contact the NJOHSP Analysis Bureau at [analysis@njohsp.gov](mailto:analysis@njohsp.gov) or 609-584-4000.

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