

**Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report
Case/Report Number: 17-1342/75 Report of Investigation**

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of John Hall

On Wednesday, March 2, 2017 at approximately 3:50 a.m., the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Marathon Co. Sheriff's Department to respond to the scene of an officer involved death at the intersection of Swan Ave/Morning Glory Ln in the Town of Rib Mountain, Marathon Co. WI.

At approximately 1:04 a.m., Deputy Sowinski of the Marathon Co. Sheriff's Department was southbound on Swan Ave. As Deputy Sowinski approached the intersection of Swan Ave/Morning Glory Ln, Deputy Sowinski observed a white pick-up truck parked, facing east on Morning Glory Ln. The driver's door was open and two men were standing next to the open door. The driver, later identified as John Hall, had a handgun pointed at the second male. Hall held the hostage approximately two and a half hours while Deputy Sowinski and another negotiator attempted to persuade Hall to surrender.

Numerous law enforcement personnel were positioned to the west behind Hall's pick-up truck. Deputy Sowinski's patrol vehicle was positioned at an angle just to the north and east of Hall's pick-up truck. Several more law enforcement were located behind Deputy Sowinski. Deputy Stroik was positioned in the field to the north of Hall's truck in a prone position with a long rifle, monitoring the situation through a magnified scope on Deputy Stroik's long rifle.

Deputy Stroik and other officers reported seeing Hall with a long rifle and at least one handgun during the negotiations. Hall reportedly pointed both weapons at officers throughout the incident. Due to the hostage being in the line of fire, law enforcement didn't fire at Hall initially.

Hall was reported to have swung his rifle at officers to the west, lowering it in their direction. Hall then moved the rifle towards the hostage at 3:29 a.m.

At 3:29 a.m. Deputy Stroik fired a single shot from a long rifle, striking Hall and immediately ending the threat. Tactical emergency personnel with the SWAT team assessed Hall's injuries at the scene. Hall was pronounced dead at the scene by the Marathon Co. Medical Examiner's Office.

The hostage was unharmed with the exception of a scratch on his face.

DCI responded to the scene with 23 Special Agents and one Special Agent in Charge (SAC): Cynthia Giese. S/A Mike Reimer was assigned as the lead investigator and case agent and S/A Tami Sleeman was assigned as the secondary investigator.

The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory (WSCL) collected evidence from the scene and the Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit (WSP TRU) assisted at the scene and completed a scene diagram.

Family members of John Hall were identified and a death notification was made by the Marathon Co. Sheriff's Department. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were provided to the family by the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation.

S/A Mike Reimer and S/A Tami Sleeman interviewed Deputy Sowinski and Deputy Stroik.

A neighborhood canvass, conducted by DCI produced no critical witnesses, and no other witnesses. No video surveillance of the incident was located during the neighborhood canvass.

An autopsy of John Hall was authorized by the Marathon Co. Medical Examiner's Office and conducted at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, WI on March 2, 2017 by Dr. Michael Stier and attended by DCI Special Agent Jim Pertzborn. The autopsy revealed:

- John Hall died as a result of a firearm injury sustained during an engagement with law enforcement.
- John Hall had methamphetamine in his system as determined by toxicology.

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, the completed investigative file as of that date was turned over to the Marathon Co. District Attorney's Office for review.