



State of New Mexico
Department of Public Safety

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State Police Identify Fugitive Kurt Sohrbeck

Cloudcroft—New Mexico State Police investigators have positively identified the subject of an officer-involved shooting that occurred yesterday as wanted fugitive Kurt Sohrbeck.

State Police Criminal Agents are continuing their investigating of this officer involved shooting in Otero County that resulted in the death of wanted fugitive Kurt Sohrbeck, who has been positively identified at autopsy. Sohrbeck was wanted originally by Washington state authorities for identity theft and assault, and was wanted by the New Mexico State Police for the attempted murder of Lincoln County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Robert Sheppard following a shooting incident which occurred on March 13, 2008 in Ruidoso Downs. This incident resulted in a massive local manhunt effort to locate Sohrbeck, including the airing of information on the television show America's Most Wanted.

On March 26, between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m., Otero County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Sean Jett was dispatched to a call on State Road 244 in regards to a possible sighting of Sohrbeck. Upon his arrival Sergeant Jett encountered the fugitive, who was ultimately fatally shot after a brief altercation at the scene.

Previously released information indicated that there was an exchange of gunfire between Sohrbeck and the officer. However, at this point in the investigation it has been determined that Sohrbeck was unarmed at the time of the shooting, but rather failed to obey direct orders from the officer, who characterized Sohrbeck's behavior as furtive, aggressive and threatening.

State Police investigators are continuing their investigation into the circumstances of the shooting and will provide all information gathered to the District Attorney's office for their review and disposition, including an assessment of the actions and responses of the officer at the time of the shooting.

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