



State of New Mexico
Department of Public Safety

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Involved Officer Shooting

Las Cruces--State Police and Border Patrol officers were involved in a high speed pursuit that ended with the fatal shooting of a California man at a rest stop near Las Cruces.

A State Police officer was patrolling on I-10 west of Las Cruces, near Deming, when he spotted a black car speeding toward Las Cruces at 130 miles per hour. The officer pursued the car for a short period, about 2 minutes. When the officer determined he could not safely catch the speeding vehicle he radioed ahead and notified Las Cruces State Police and Border Patrol.

State Police set tire deflation devices as Border Patrol followed the car at 100 miles per hour as it traveled toward Las Cruces. The car hit the spikes and the left front tire deflated. The black car continued about 4 more miles and then exited the freeway at a rest stop just west of Las Cruces.

The man stopped his car and emerged with a shotgun which he pointed at State Police and Border Patrol officers. He refused to comply with the officers and lay down the weapon. Officers shot and killed Luis Fernando Barrientos (4/7/1953),

He died at the scene. State Police and a special officer involved shooting task force comprised of Dona Ana sheriff, Las Cruces police, NM State University police and the Las Cruces District Attorney are investigating the shooting. One State Police officer, Raul Robles, is on standard administrative leave after the shooting.

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