



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

March 2, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deputy Involved Shooting

Two persons are dead after a deputy involved shooting that occurred on Old Emory Road on Wednesday, February 29. **Michael Joseph Baker**, 32, and **Shanna Lee Richardson**, 25, both of Linton, Indiana, were shot and killed by sheriff's deputies after an exchange of gunfire at the end of a pursuit of a stolen truck. The two deputies involved in the shooting were unhurt.

This incident all began Wednesday morning around 10:41am when the Lake City Police Department received a report of a fuel theft at a convenience store. The license of the truck involved was checked and the vehicle was reported stolen in Linton, Indiana. The NCIC entry showed there was a handgun and a shotgun in the truck when it was stolen. A broadcast was sent to local and nearby law enforcement agencies. A teletype was also forwarded to agencies along I-75 informing them of this information. Deputies looked for the truck around the interstate but it was not located.

At around 1:00pm, the truck was spotted by a deputy on Raccoon Valley Road in the Claxton community. He attempted to stop the vehicle but it fled from Raccoon Valley Road onto Clinton Highway and then onto West Wolf Valley Road where it ran into the ditch and struck a pole. From there the truck turned onto Old Emory Road and continued to flee with a flat tire. At some point the suspects shot at the pursuing deputy during the chase. They drove off the road near the intersection of Blockhouse Valley Road into the parking lot of the Claxton Fire Station. At that time there was an exchange of gunfire between the suspects and the initial deputy who pursued the truck as well as a second, off-duty deputy who had just arrived to assist.

Both **Baker** and **Richardson** were shot. **Richardson** was dead at the scene. **Baker** was taken to the University of Tennessee Medical Center by Anderson County EMS where he later died.

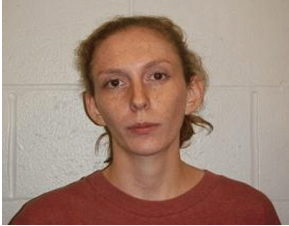
Thankfully, neither of the deputies received any injuries from the gunfire. Both have received initial critical incident stress debriefing. Additional incident stress counseling will be given in the coming days to all personnel involved in the incident. The two deputies are on paid administrative leave which is standard procedure in any officer involved shooting. We are not releasing either of the deputies names at this time.

District Attorney Dave Clark was asked to call the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to investigate the shooting. The TBI is also conducting the forensics of the scene. Again, this is standard procedure.

The TBI positively identified **Baker** and **Richardson** today. The Greene County Sheriff's Office in Bloomfield, Indiana, provided us with mugshots of both.



Michael Joseph Baker
W/M 08-06-1979 (32)
190 Winters Rd.
Linton, IN



Shanna Lee Richardson
W/F 08-21-1986 (25)
Rt. 2 Box 292A
Linton, IN

According to the Greene County Sheriff's Office, **Baker** and **Richardson** have prior arrest records. Details of their criminal history are not available.

We wish to thank all the law enforcement agencies that came to assist. These included the Clinton Police Department, the Oak Ridge Police Department, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The Claxton Fire Department also helped us with traffic control and support at the scene.

The TBI is continuing their investigation into this case. Since this is an ongoing investigation, no additional information or further details will be released at this time.

Sheriff Paul White