



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SHASTA

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*District Attorney*

FINDINGS OF OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING OF TIM TORNGREN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Press Release**

Today, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office has determined that Sheriff's Office Deputies acted in self-defense and defense of others when they fired their weapons striking Tim Torngren resulting in his death.

On September 22, 2015, multiple 911 calls were placed regarding a suicidal male walking around his property with a helmet on and flag draped over his shoulders, waving a rifle in the air and in the direction of nearby residents. At approximately 3:58 pm, deputies from the Shasta County Sheriff's Office responded to 6720 Odessa Way. Upon arrival they encountered Tim Torngren wearing a military-style ballistic helmet, a vest and flag draped over his shoulders, holding a long gun in one hand and a handgun in the other hand. There were two vehicles nearby in front of his property with the doors open providing tactical cover for Tim Torngren.

Sheriff's Deputies used the public address system to make numerous demands that Mr. Torngren drop his firearms and surrender; each demand was ignored. At one point Mr. Torngren took cover behind the aforementioned vehicles and pointed the long gun the direction of Sgt. Gonzales. Realizing the immediate threat, Sgt. Gonzales fired multiple rounds from his rifle at Mr. Torngren. It was unknown if Mr. Torngren was hit at this time as he had dropped out of sight of Sgt. Gonzales. Deputies Thompson, Walker and Fleming then joined Sgt. Gonzales taking cover at a marked patrol car.

A short time later, Mr. Torngren walked out from his cover behind the vehicles holding the long gun above his head. He then began pacing back and forth in front of the vehicles, while still holding the long gun and ignoring continuing commands to drop the firearm and surrender.

Mr. Torngren presented an immediate threat to Deputies and the surrounding neighborhood should he be able to obtain cover behind his vehicles again. Deputies decided that Mr. Torngren would need to be stopped if he began to retreat towards the cover of his vehicles or his home. Deputies believed the vehicles were pre-staged for cover and would provide Mr. Torngren tactical cover and advantage over the deputies. It was believed that Mr. Torngren could have additional weapons/ammunition in the vehicle. Mr. Torngren had already demonstrated a willingness to engage deputies with a firearm; had refused to surrender even after being fired upon and ordered to do so; was making irrational decisions; and a potential gun fight once Mr. Torngren obtained cover again would have placed surrounding residents, as well as deputies in danger.

Mr. Torngren continued to pace back and forth in front of the vehicles while taunting the deputies to come closer. Mr. Torngren was repeatedly ordered to drop the gun and surrender. Mr. Torngren ignored the demands and still armed with the long gun, headed back toward the vehicles. If he made it back to the vehicles the deputies control could have been compromised. In order to protect the neighborhood and themselves they fired.

Interviews with people close to Mr. Torngren following the shooting confirmed that he was suicidal, believed people were after him, and had recently bought weapons. Mr. Torngren had made statements that “the end is coming” making those close to him believe he was getting dangerous and might hurt someone.

Mr. Torngren’s actions towards Sheriff’s Office Deputies made it necessary for them to use their firearms to protect themselves and the surrounding neighborhood. The Deputies acted in self-defense and defense of others consistent with the laws of the State of California.