



**LOUISIANA
STATE POLICE
*COURTESY LOYALTY SERVICE***

Colonel Michael D. Edmonson, Superintendent

TROOP D NEWS RELEASE

January 30, 2014

State Police Requested by DeRidder PD to Investigate Officer Involved Shooting

DeRidder- Last night at approximately 11:00 p.m., the DeRidder Police Department received two 911 calls in reference to a residence on Wilson Street in DeRidder. The first caller stated that a family member in the home was suicidal. The second caller stated that a gunshot was fired in the yard of the residence. The DeRidder Police Department and Louisiana State Police Troop D responded.

Upon arrival, officers began checking the area. Officers observed 29-year-old Lawrence D. Chavez of DeRidder at the front door of the residence and instructed him to step outside. Chavez refused to comply and closed the door on the officers. Due to the nature of the incident, the three DeRidder Police Officers and one State Trooper at the scene entered the residence in an attempt to secure Chavez.

As officers searched the residence, an officer with the DeRidder Police Department located Chavez in a bedroom armed with a handgun. The DeRidder police officer gave loud verbal commands for Chavez to drop the weapon. Chavez did not comply and instead pointed the firearm at himself and pulled the trigger which did not engage. Chavez continued to ignore commands to drop the weapon and cycled another round in the firearm. The DeRidder officer fired once in self-defense striking Chavez in the chest. Simultaneously, Chavez turned the weapon on himself and shot himself in the chest.

Chavez was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The Louisiana State Police Bureau of Investigations responded to the scene and will investigate the shooting.

No officers were injured during the encounter. At the request of the DeRidder Police Department, the name of the officer who shot Chavez is not being released at this time. The case remains under investigation.

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