

GBI investigates officer shooting death of man in - Athens Banner-Herald (GA) - July 27, 2018

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Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents are reviewing actions by officers in Walton County who shot and killed a man Thursday on the outskirts of Social Circle.

The shooting by several officers resulted in the death of 43-year-old **William Earnest Brooks**.

The GBI released a statement Friday noting that at about 2:25 p.m. Thursday Walton County sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call that a man was riding an ATV at a Social Circle home on Fairplay Road. The caller told 911 that he had contacted the homeowner, who said that someone should be there doing yard work and not riding an ATV.

When a deputy arrived, he contacted Brooks, who fled and "a foot chase ensued followed by a physical altercation in a field a short distance behind the house," according to the GBI.

Preliminary information suggest that the deputy was overpowered by Brooks. The deputy withdrew his firearm and fired once, but it is unknown if Brooks was wounded, the GBI said.

Brooks took the deputy's gun and fled deeper into the woods, according to the report.

Walton sheriff's deputies, Social Circle police, Georgia State Patrol troopers and Department of Natural Resources rangers responded.

The GBI said Brooks was spotted near a lake and that a GSP helicopter trooper observed Brooks turn toward the shoreline and brandish a weapon.

At this time, Walton County deputies and one Social Circle officer fired at Brooks, who was killed at the scene, according to the report.

"Six deputies and one Social Circle police officer, so seven total [fired at the suspect]," Walton County Sheriff Joe Chapman told Fox 5 TV of Atlanta.

The GBI said it's unclear if the man fired his weapon at the law enforcement officers.

The deputy involved in the original altercation with Brooks was treated and released from a local hospital, the GBI said.

The GBI will turn the results of its investigation over to the Walton County District Attorney's Office.