



VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD, SHERIFF

Office of Chief Deputy Brian M. Henderson - Internal Affairs

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NUMBER: IA 23-008

PERIOD COVERED: July 22, 2023
DATE REPORTED: July 22, 2023
SUBJECT NAME: Deputy Devon Blissett, #9335
INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Sergeant Andrew Calkins, #7929

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

In July 2023, an unsubstantiated rumor was perpetuated in District 4 regarding a deputy or deputies engaging in sexual acts. The rumor was ambiguous and was possibly captured on video. Sergeant Calkins was instructed to conduct an inquiry to confirm or dispel the rumor's validity. While Sergeant Calkins conducted the inquiry, Deputy Devon Blissett self-reported to his supervisor, Sergeant Jeremy Patterson, that he masturbated in his patrol vehicle while on duty. Deputy Blissett promptly resigned from the Volusia Sheriff's Office on July 24, 2023. Due to his sudden resignation, Sergeant Calkins was unable to serve Deputy Blissett a Notice of Internal Investigation. Although Deputy Blissett resigned, Chief Deputy Brian Henderson initiated an internal affairs investigation into the incident due to the allegations being a violation of Florida State Statute 943.13(7), a moral character violation.

OFFENSES:

GO-026-02.IV.B.3 – Any other conduct or action, on-duty or off-duty, of such seriousness that disciplinary action is considered warranted.

INVESTIGATION:

In July 2023, Sergeant Calkins was notified by Chief Deputy Brian Henderson of a rumor beginning in District 4. The rumor, which was later found to be unsubstantiated, was sexual in nature and ambiguous. According to the hearsay, the incident was supposedly caught on video surveillance, possibly by a game camera. Due to the seriousness of the allegations, Sergeant Calkins was instructed to investigate the accusation's validity.

While conducting an inquiry into the alleged rumor, Deputy Devon Blissett contacted his supervisor, Sergeant Jeremy Patterson, and told him that his name was mentioned as possibly involved in the incident. On Saturday, July 22, 2023, Deputy Blissett told Sergeant Patterson that he never engaged in sexual intercourse on duty and wanted to make it clear it was a false rumor. The next day, on Sunday, July 23, 2023, Deputy Blissett recontacted Sergeant Patterson, who was off duty, and reiterated that he'd never had sexual intercourse with anyone on duty. However, Deputy Blissett did admit to masturbating in his patrol vehicle while on duty. The following morning, on Monday, July 24, 2023, he promptly resigned from the Volusia Sheriff's Office before Deputy Blissett could be served with a Notice of Internal Investigation.

According to Sergeant Patterson, Deputy Blissett admitted to him the act happened at the county pumps, located at 180 South State Road 415 in Osteen. Deputy Blissett stated he was by himself in his marked patrol vehicle.

Sergeant Calkins responded to the area to canvas for video surveillance. Sergeant Calkins could not locate any game cameras in the area, which was the genesis of the rumor. Sergeant Calkins noted cameras on the north and south sides of the county pumps. Sergeant Calkins reviewed the footage and noted nothing of evidentiary value was located.

On August 1, 2023, Sergeant Calkins contacted the City of Deltona to inquire if they had any game cameras deployed in the city. Sergeant Calkins contacted Supervisor Tom Cioffi with Deltona Public Works, who advised they had cameras deployed at various locations to catch individuals illegally dumping trash. Sergeant Calkins asked Cioffi if any cameras captured Volusia Sheriff's Office (VSO) vehicles or personnel. Cioffi stated their cameras showed VSO vehicles conducting extra patrols in the area, but nobody exited them. Cioffi reiterated he's never observed any offensive behavior on the cameras.

Sergeant Calkins learned Cioffi had an employee, Russ Rogers, whose family member worked at the Volusia Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Calkins spoke with Rogers, who acknowledged he'd observed the camera footage. Rogers stated he's had innocent conversations with family about the cameras and how he's seen "crazy" stuff on video. Rogers elaborated, saying he's observed two civilian cars, not Volusia Sheriff's Office vehicles, park in a cul-de-sac together. Rogers

observed one occupant from the car enter the other vehicle and exit a short time later. Rogers also stated he's told family members that he's seen numerous people dumping waste, trash, and other items in the woods. Rogers advised he's seen Volusia Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles on camera parked doing paperwork, but never anything offensive or obscene. Sergeant Calkins asked Rogers if he heard the rumor, to which he stated he had not.

After speaking with Rogers, Sergeant Calkins surmised the rumors' possible genesis was from his conversations with his family members who had connections with the Volusia Sheriff's Office. That conversation was then perpetuated and misconstrued by other individuals who changed the original narrative to include deputies engaging in sexual acts.

Interview with Sergeant Jeremy Patterson

On July 27, 2023, at approximately 1447 hours, Lieutenant Benjamin Gordon conducted a sworn recorded interview with Sergeant Jeremy Patterson. The interview was conducted at the Sheriff's Office Administration Building located at 123 West Indiana Avenue, DeLand. Present for the interview was Sergeant Andrew Calkins. Below is a synopsis of the audio-recorded interview:

Sergeant Patterson is assigned to District 4 as a patrol supervisor and has supervised Deputy Blissett for approximately eight months. Sergeant Patterson advised Deputy Blissett approached him in the parking lot of the District 4 office towards the beginning of their patrol shift on Saturday, July 22, 2023. Deputy Blissett explained to Sergeant Patterson the rumor now included Deputy Blissett being the deputy involved in the sexual misconduct. During their conversation, Deputy Blissett assured Sergeant Patterson he had not had any sexual contact with anyone while on duty.

Sergeant Patterson advised that he had taken off the following Sunday, July 23, and was contacted by Deputy Blissett by telephone. Deputy Blissett told Sergeant Patterson he was not forthcoming during their previous conversation. Deputy Blissett stated he did not have sexual contact with anyone else; however, he had masturbated while on duty at the county facility at 180 South State Road 415 in Osteen. Deputy Blissett told Sergeant Patterson he was alone; no one had witnessed it.

On August 24, 2023, Sergeant Calkins contacted Blissett and offered him the opportunity to participate in a sworn interview. Blissett declined the opportunity but provided a written response via email stating the following:

"In regards to this current investigation, I would first like to apologize for my sense of dark sense of humor. When the rumor about an osteen trail camera was generated from the rumor mill, I did what I thought was right by letting my immediate supervisor, Sergeant Patterson, know. I

advised my Sergeant Patterson of an incorrect rumor that had my name attached to it. The rumor as you may already know, was a trail camera capturing video footage of myself having sexual intercourse with another person on the Osteen bike trails. This rumor was incorrect and false. I advised Sergeant Patterson that I have never had sex on duty and the rumor was false. During the conversation, I made an in appropriate joke about masturbating in my vehicle. At the time I thought Sergeant Patterson understood it was dark humor due to us chuckling about the situation. I understand the joke was very inappropriate and not professional of myself and may even been misconstrued. I recently was honorable discharged in December of 2021 from the United States Marine Corps. As you know, coming from the military, Marines form a dark sense of humor to cope with bad times. This is the same with Law Enforcement Officers that sacrifice so much every day; however it is looked upon negatively which I understand. Unfortunately, I am still adapting back to the civilian side of things once I left a great brotherhood that I had in the Marines. Again, I wish to apologize for my bad sense of humor. I do hope this sheds some light on the investigation."

On September 18, 2023, this Internal Affairs investigation was presented to Chief Deputy Brian Henderson and the executive command staff. Upon completion of the presentation, Chief Deputy Henderson determined the following General Order violations against Blissett:

GO-026-02.IV.B.3 – Any other conduct or action, on-duty or off-duty, Not Sustained
of such seriousness that disciplinary action is considered warranted.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Report of Investigation
- B. Transcript of Interview with Sergeant Jeremy Patterson
- C. Email from Deputy Blissett

WITNESSES:

Volusia Sheriff's Office

123 W. Indiana Avenue
DeLand, FL 32720

Sergeant Jeremy Patterson

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing document and that the facts stated in it are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

AND

I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under the penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the suspect of the investigation of any rights contained in ss. 112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.

DETECTIVE: Andrew Calkins DATE: 9/19/23

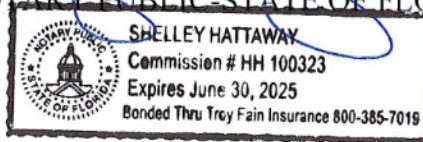
**Detective Sergeant Andrew Calkins
Internal Affairs Detective Sergeant**

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA**

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of physical presence or online
Notarized this 19th day of September, 2023 by Sergeant Andrew Calkins

[Handwritten Signature]

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF FLORIDA



PRINT, TYPE, OR STAMP COMMISSIONED NAME OF NOTARY PUBLIC

PERSONALLY KNOWN OR PRODUCED IDENTIFICATION

TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION PRODUCED

APPROVED BY: Brian Henderson DATE: 09-19-2023

**CHIEF DEPUTY BRIAN HENDERSON
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**