



Man killed in officer-involved shooting in North Carolina

March 5, 2013

U.S. marshals said they shot and killed a man in Concord, North Carolina early Monday morning after he confronted them with a weapon.

U.S. marshals said Antony Deshon Meeks, 22, was wanted on numerous charges, including felony probation violation, armed robbery with a dangerous weapon, assault on a female, assault, and a dangerous-drug violation.

The U.S. Marshals Service Violent Offenders Task Force, with members of the FBI and the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, arrived at an apartment around 6:45 a.m. to arrest Meeks.

In a release, they said he escaped through a window with a gun, and they said investigators "engaged Meeks with gunfire."

But Meeks' brother, Tyrell Lynch, said he still didn't understand how his brother was killed and wanted to know if he had actually aimed and fired the weapon.

"It's just not right," Lynch said. "He was a good brother, [he'd] protect and take up for me."

"It was like boom boom boom, you know, I was like, what's going on," neighbor Dorothy Ruiz said of the gunshots. She rushed to her window.

"The squad team, backpacks, were over there, they were down like this, they said, 'Surrender, surrender, put your hands up!'" she said. wsocvtv.com

FACTS & FIGURES

America has seen a disturbing militarization of its civilian law enforcement, along with a dramatic and unsettling rise in the use of paramilitary police units (most commonly called Special Weapons and Tactics, or SWAT) for routine police work.

These increasingly frequent raids, 40,000 per year by one estimate, are needlessly subjecting nonviolent drug offenders, bystanders, and wrongly targeted civilians to the terror of having their homes invaded while they're sleeping, usually by teams of heavily armed paramilitary units dressed not as police officers but as soldiers.

These raids bring unnecessary violence and provocation to nonviolent drug offenders, many of whom were guilty of only misdemeanors. The raids terrorize innocents when police mistakenly target the wrong residence.

And they have resulted in dozens of needless deaths and injuries, not only of drug offenders, but also of police officers, children, bystanders, and innocent suspects. Cato Institute