

**Office Of Internal Oversight Review**  
**KEY CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF A CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENT**  
**Officer-Involved Shooting-6690 Berkshire Place – August 7, 2015**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to publish key conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's internal review of this incident. There are a variety of actions that can be taken administratively in response to the Department's review of a deadly force incident. The review may reveal no action is required or determine additional training is appropriate for all officers in the workforce, or only for the involved officer(s). The review may reveal the need for changes in department policies, procedures, or rules. Where departmental rules have been violated, formal discipline may be appropriate. The goal of the review is to improve both individual and the agency's performance.

**Synopsis of Event:**

On August 7, 2015, at approximately 08:49 hours, Enterprise Area Command Officer Glen Taylor, who was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) and Officer Eli Prunchak were dispatched to a Malicious Destruction of Private Property call at 6980 Berkshire Pl. The person reporting advised officers that the suspect Abel Correa, who lived next door at 6990 Berkshire Pl., had thrown a trailer ball hitch through the front bedroom window of their residence. The person reporting also advised officers their home video surveillance camera system captured Correa committing the act. Officer Taylor and Officer Prunchak reviewed the video and were able to clearly see Correa stand in front of his residence and throw the object through the bedroom window of the neighbor's house.

After reviewing the video Officers Taylor and Prunchak went next door to 6990 Berkshire to attempt to locate Correa. As the officers approached the residence they made contact with Correa's mother who was sitting out in front of the residence adjacent to the front door. While Officer Prunchak was speaking with the mother Correa's brother opened the front door and also began speaking with Officer Prunchak. The mother and brother allowed officers to enter the residence. While the officers were looking for Correa they had their firearms drawn. Approximately one minute into their search, the officers began to repeatedly call out, "Metro Police, come out" as they moved throughout the house.

During the search Correa's brother directed officers to a coat closet that was located near the front door. Believing Correa was located inside this closet, Officer Prunchak positioned himself across from the coat closet and Officer Taylor got in a position to open the closet door. Both officers were armed with their firearms as Officer Taylor opened the coat closet door. As soon as the closet door opened Correa immediately exited and lunged forward with both of his arms raised in the air holding a screwdriver in one hand and a large wrench in the other.

Officer Prunchak immediately reeled back in a defensive position as he fired his weapon at Correa. Officer Taylor also immediately moved back and fired his weapon at Correa. Correa was struck by the officers' rounds. Medical was immediately summoned for Correa; he was transported to UMC Trauma and was pronounced deceased.

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**The Criminal Investigation:**

LVMPD Force Investigation Team (FIT) conducted the criminal investigation of this incident. Their investigation was submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review. In their examination of the FIT case submission, the District Attorney's Office determined that, "Based on the review of the available materials and application of Nevada law to the known facts and circumstances, it has been determined that the actions of the officers were reasonable and legally justified."

**LVMPD's Critical Incident Review Process and Internal Review:**

1. The matter involving Officer Prunchak and Officer Taylor was heard by the Critical Incident Review Process/Use of Force Review Board on August 31, 2016. The Board's finding was "Tactics and Decision Making," which indicated that even though the use of deadly force was lawful and within policy, the tactics and/or decision making employed were flawed and worked to limit alternatives that may have otherwise been available to the officer. The Sheriff approved the Board's finding.
2. The internal review concluded decision making and tactics utilized were outside standardized training and policy.

Below are the recommendations made after the Use of Force Review Board and the internal review were completed.

**1) Communication**

During the review of the radio traffic, there appeared to be no transmitting problems.

- The Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) concluded radio traffic for this incident was within standardized LVMPD policy (*LVMPD Policy 1/406.03 Radio Systems Bureau*).

**2) Officers' Approach**

In reviewing this incident, CIRT found there was minimal investigation done reference the original crime of Malicious Destruction of Private Property and no basic investigation conducted to confirm or validate information they received regarding Correa. This minimal investigation limited the information Officers Prunchak and Taylor should have had when making tactical decisions as the incident progressed.

- CIRT concluded the investigative practices in this incident were not within standardized LVMPD training.

As they approached the residence to locate Correa Officers Prunchak and Taylor observed and made contact with Abel's mother. Although there was no direct communication between Officers Prunchak and Taylor regarding their responsibilities as contact and cover, based on Officer Taylor's body worn

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camera, it appeared Officer Prunchak was the contact officer while Officer Taylor was the cover officer.

As a result of not clearly delineating who was contact officer and who was cover officer during the residential search for Correa at 6990 Berkshire Place, Correa's brother and mother were left uncontrolled and unsupervised and were free to move about the residence.

- CIRT concluded the tactic of contact and cover was never clearly established. Officers Prunchak and Taylor did not operate within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

### **3) Tactics and Use of Force**

Once inside Correa's mother's residence a plan regarding how to conduct the search of the residence between Officers Prunchak and Taylor was not established. For approximately the first minute of the search officers failed to make any announcements indicating police were present. Additionally, they passed the first door on their left without clearing it. This was the closet where Correa was hiding.

- CIRT concluded the search of 6990 Berkshire Place was not within standardized LVMPD tactics and training.

Officer Prunchak was made aware by Correa's brother that Correa was in the coat closet. At that point, Officer Prunchak got the attention of Officer Taylor and used non-verbal communication by motioning to Officer Taylor to open the closet door. Officer Prunchak took a position in the entryway less than four feet from the closed front door and directly behind the sofa that was facing the living room. Both officers used lethal coverage.

When Officer Taylor opened the door and Correa emerged with items in his hands Officer Prunchak immediately recognized Correa was armed with a wrench and a screwdriver. Officer Prunchak left himself no avenue of escape as Correa moved towards him and he fired upon Correa. When Officer Taylor observed Correa, he believed Correa was armed with a knife and moving toward Officer Prunchak so he fired upon Correa.

- CIRT concluded Officers Prunchak and Taylor's decision to breach the closet door in the manner they did was not within standardized LVMPD tactics, training and policy. *(6/002.01 Parameters for Use of Deadly Force/De-Escalation)*

Officer Prunchak stated his backdrop was the closet when he fired his handgun. He also stated behind the closet was the garage and he knew no one was in the garage because he had just checked it.

Officer Taylor stated his backdrop was the closet and part of the hallway wall.

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- CIRT concluded Officers Prunchak and Taylor's assessment of backdrop, target identification, and isolation was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training, and policy.

When Officer Taylor opened the closet door and Correa presented himself holding tools in his hands in an aggressive manner and began to move toward Officer Prunchak, both Officers Prunchak and Taylor believed Abel was going to kill Officer Prunchak.

- In this incident CIRT concluded Officers Prunchak and Taylor's threat assessment was reasonable.

As a result of this incident and the findings approved by the Sheriff, Officers Prunchak and Taylor received punitive discipline.

**4) Supervision (Command and Control)**

In evaluating the supervision (command and control) of this incident CIRT noted:

- The sergeant arrived within minutes and began to set up the Command Post and obtain the Public Safety Statements (PSS) from the involved officers.
- The Watch Commander Lieutenant arrived to assist.
- In reviewing supervisory response CIRT concluded Incident Management was to an LVMPD standard.