THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: July 24, 2007 (Tuesday)
Time: 1600 Hours

CONTACT: Captain Mary Cornicelli
Homicide Unit
(619) 531-2775

POLICE INVESTIGATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN MISSION BAY PARK

San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives are investigating a sexual assault that culminated in a fatal officer-involved shooting.

At 10:20 a.m., patrol officers and members of the Air Support Unit helicopter "ABLE" responded to a citizen's report of a sexual assault near the Hilton Mission Bay Hotel in the 1700 block of East Mission Bay Drive. The suspect was described a black male, with long dreadlocks, in his 30's with a medium build, wearing a dark t-shirt and shorts.

Officers on board ABLE spotted a male matching the description of the suspect near the waterway of Tecolote Creek, and directed the ground units toward that location. A patrol officer assigned to Northern Division parked his vehicle in the parking lot of 1500 East Mission Bay Drive, exited his car and walked in a southerly direction toward the suspect.

The officer approached the suspect and ordered him to stop. The suspect was holding what appeared to be a shiny, sharp object clenched in one of his hands. The suspect motioned the officer toward him as the officer ordered him to turn away and get down on the ground. The suspect refused to comply with the officer's orders and began to walk slowly toward the officer. Believing he was about to be stabbed, the officer fired his weapon at the suspect. After the shooting the suspect walked in a southerly direction and collapsed on the sidewalk.

Cover units arrived and removed a chrome pocketknife from the suspect's hand, placed him in handcuffs and began immediate first aid. Paramedics responded and pronounced the suspect dead at the scene. The suspect has not been positively identified.

The involved officer is 21-month employee of the Department.

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