

\*Supplement Narrative:

On 10/08/2009 at approximately 1810 hours I was contacted at home by dispatch and asked if I could check on duty early because there was an incident near Sedona that several deputies were at and they needed more deputies on to cover any other traffic.

When I arrived in my duty area, I was contacted by Deputy Sutton E49, who asked me to go to the Verde Valley Medical Center to meet with Deputy Brazell E30. Once at the hospital, Deputy Brazell gave me a short briefing on this incident. He stated we were to remain at the hospital for security purposes as well as the possibility of conducting interviews with the patients.

While waiting for detectives to arrive at the hospital, one of the nurses told me two of the patients had been pronounced dead and said they were locked in room #21. A short time later the nurse came back to me along with one of the hospital's security staff, Swein Traveno from Trident Security. She said there were more patients that were going to be arriving and since they were going to need room #21, she asked the two deceased be moved. I went with Traveno as he secured the two in another area of the hospital. I asked Traveno if he could stay with the deceased until our detectives arrived and he agreed to do so.

A short time later, Detective Edgerton arrived and began conducting interviews with the patients. Soon after, Sgt. Williams E17, Detective Surak, and Sgt. Detective Boelts arrived.

Sgt. Williams told me all the patients currently at the hospital had been interviewed and said there was going to be more arriving. He said when they arrived we had been asked by Sgt. Detective Boelts to conduct the interviews with them.

At approximately 2330 hours I conducted an interview with Melissa A. Phillips. I audio taped the interview to submit to evidence. The following is a summary of her statement.

Phillips began by stating she was not sure if she had anything physically wrong with her, but because so many other people from the retreat were sick, she felt she needed to be checked.

Phillips told me she arrived at the Angel Valley retreat on 10/04/2009 for a Spiritual Warrior conference with approximately 60 other people. She said the conference cost her \$10,000. She told me they had classes all day Monday and began their vision quest at approximately 1000 hours on Tuesday 10/06/2009. The vision quest involved her and the other participants being taken to the desert where each were left in an area alone with no food or water. Phillips told me they stayed in their areas Tuesday night, all day and night Wednesday, and staff members picked them up Thursday (10/08/2009) morning.

Phillips said after being picked up, they were taken back to the camp and she had eaten a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast. She did say she had approximately 3, 32oz. bottles of

water during the day as well. At approximately 1415 - 1430 hours, she said they were taken to the sweat lodge.

Phillips said she lasted 3 rounds in the sweat lodge before she went outside. I asked her about the "rounds" and she said it was when the door would be opened to allow fresh air in and for more hot rocks to be brought in to the lodge. When she left the lodge, she drank two glasses of water, was hosed down, and then returned for 3 more rounds. Phillips told me she thought the rounds lasted about 5 minutes each.

I asked Phillips if only water was put on the rocks and she said a little bit of sage had been put on the rocks as well as a "sacred" substance. Phillips did not know if the sacred substance was some kind of wood, herb, or what it was. However, she said she did know that several people were having trouble breathing and were disoriented both before and after the sacred substance was added to the rocks. Phillips also said she had not seen it happen, but knew someone had fallen into the hot rocks and it had burned his hand and arm.

After leaving the sweat lodge, she returned to her room and took a hot shower. She said she did not know who called 911, but when she asked the staff about it she was told 911 had already been called.

I asked Phillips if she would be willing to sign a release form for her medical records and she said yes. I filled out the form and Phillips signed it. I was told by Sgt. Detective Boelts to put the form in Detective Edgerton's box, which I did later that night.

I have no further information to this case.

Thu Oct 15 22:26:48 MST 2009 Deputy T. Tieman 8378