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Police: Las Vegas officer kills wife, son and then himself in burning home

By **Lateef Mungin**, CNN

updated 10:43 PM EST, Tue January 22, 2013

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Lt. Hans Walters and his wife, former officer Michelle Walters.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

The officer called 911 to say he had killed his wife and son

His home was burning when the SWAT team arrived

After the fire was put out officers found three bodies in the home

Survey: Last year, 126 police officer killed themselves

(CNN) -- Even for stone-faced, seen-it-all-before officers, the act that took place at a police lieutenant's Las Vegas-area home Monday was deeply distressing.

The 52-year-old lawman, police said, killed his wife and child, called 911 to say he was burning his house down and warned he would take the life of anyone who tried to stop him.

Then he waited.

When a SWAT team arrived at the lieutenant's Boulder City home, they found Hans Pieter Walters outside with what looked like a handgun.

Officers asked him to drop the weapon -- commands the lieutenant must have screamed many times before in his 20-year career. He ignored them and ducked back into the blazing home.

It was then, police believe, that he killed himself.



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Once firefighters put out the blaze that tore through the home, they found **Walters's** body, his 46-year-old wife's, and their **five-year-old** son's.

The lieutenant worked for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, where he supervised patrol officers, [CNN affiliate KVVU](#) reported.

The station had interviewed him before about other crimes.

The wife, Kathryn, worked for some time as a Las Vegas police officer, the Las Vegas Review-Journal said.

She won a community service award and a lifesaving award before leaving the department in 2004.

"Anyone involved with law enforcement for any amount of time is usually prepared for any scenario, but nobody can prepare for something like this," Las Vegas Metro Sheriff Doug Gillespie told reporters.

Last year, 126 police officers killed themselves, according to the National Study of Police Suicides by the nonprofit The Badge of Life.

It's a steep drop from the other two years the survey was conducted: 143 in 2009 and 141 in 2008.

Yet, it's cause for concern.

"In spite of this encouraging news, the fact is that police suicides continue at a rate much higher than the number of police officers killed by felons," the group said.

Folks who knew Walters were also trying to make sense of it. The soul-searching was agonizing for some.

Retired Las Vegas lieutenant Randy Sutton told KVVU he had worked alongside Walters for years.

"There's no rhyme or reason," Sutton said, saying the lieutenant was hard-working and seemed well-adjusted.

This is "the most unconscionable, dishonorable thing to do I can ever imagine," he added.

"The memories I have of him, they mean nothing to me anymore."

Read more about this story from [CNN affiliate KVVU](#).

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rightened · a year ago

And just think... we want to have armed guards and policemen in our school now--not knowing how many of them might have mental illness and/or overwhelming stress issues to deal with. Yea, let's have an influx of weapon-carrying individuals march right in and protect our children...

First thing's first. This country is acting on raw fear and demanding armed protection in public schools LONG before we sit down and set some ground rules. What kind of screening techniques should be used? Do gun-approved people have the right to carry their weapons at a school on days when they're not supposed to be there? Do students know who the Great Protector is by his security or police uniform, and what if someone replaces or imitates that person? What happens when (not if, WHEN) we have another security guard leave their gun behind in a bathroom, or in an unlocked car?

C'mon, folks, if we're going to do this, let's take a few weeks and figure out how to do it right...

386 ^ | 10 v · Reply · Share ›



kempvet → **rightened** · a year ago

very good point, if this bloke is willing to kill his own family, then what value would be perhaps place on strangers, if he were the guard at the local school

202 ^ | 4 v · Reply · Share ›



Selendis → **kempvet** · a year ago

except of course, most violence is perpetrated against friends, family member s and the like. violence against strangers is much lower statistically.

70 ^ | 19 v · Reply · Share ›



chickeninoven → **Selendis** · a year ago

Why not take a walk in the hood and test those low statistics for yourself?

184 ^ | 9 v · Reply · Share ›



Robert Mccall → **chickeninoven** · a year ago

First of all that is racist stereotyping and second of all it is not

accurate. Even in the "hood" most violence and killing is between family, friends, and acquaintances. Just like every where else in America. Sorry David Duke...try again.

60 ^ | 5 v · Reply · Share ›



Mike F. Scholes → Robert Mccall · a year ago

I got lost in Buffalo once when leaving the airport and found myself in a very depressed part of town. It was about 12:30am so I stopped at a Dominos pizza to ask for directions back to the I-190. There were two employees working that night, 1 white and 1 black.....they both had the same look of shock when I walked in. The white man told me to get out of this area immediately as I was in grave danger in this neighborhood. The black man insisted I lock my car doors and not to stop for any red lights if ANYONE (he did not mention colour) even looked at my car. As a lost traveller trying to find his way back to the Canadian border I can personally attest to the imminent danger of straying into the wrong neighborhood.....found the ramp for the I-190 around the next corner and never looked back.

66 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



Mortabo → Mike F. Scholes · a year ago

Either you are full of it or somebody got the best of you. Dominos doesn't operate in neighborhoods with high rates of crime. I'm a white guy and I work in some very bad parts of Dallas. As long as I keep to myself and treat others with respect I haven't had any problems. Been doing it for the last six years and it hasn't let me down.

29 ^ | 5 v · Reply · Share ›



in4d net → Mortabo · a year ago

Unfortunately, I can attest that Dominos does operate in some neighborhoods with high crime. I should know; I've worked more than one. It doesn't always start out as a neighborhood of high crime, neighborhoods can and do turn for the worst after a business opens.

But what I am thinking likely shocked the Dominos workers the most when he walked through the door was the fact that he got in. Most Dominos I know of close at least by midnight, and quite a few an hour earlier than that, therefore that door he walked through should likely have been locked, as even when they are still open for business they start locking the door after a certain time that is earlier than closing time.

14 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Concerned → Mortabo · a year ago

I had the same thing happen to me while in Houston, Texas at a convention. I went for a walk outside the hotel. Later I came back and they asked where I had been. I told them where I had walked and they said that is called shooters alley. They were amazed I was not mugged, robbed or beaten. I for one believe Mike Scholes.

10 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



momof2in1year → Concerned · a year ago

My question has to do with the fact that I happen to live in one of

the wealthiest suburbs of Buffalo, and I am just to the east (and a couple of blocks to the north) of the airport. If you head north on the street that borders the airport, you again drive into a wealthy suburb. Seems to me that you would need to be lost for awhile to wind up in an area where you would find a "white guy" mysteriously working where he would advise someone to get out with their life (yet somehow he's fine there). I'd like to know where exactly this guy drove, and how far out of a direct expressway route to Canada he went.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



momof2in1year → Mike F. Scholes · a year ago

The Buffalo airport is a pretty decent drive from downtown Buffalo. Just North and East of it are two of the wealthiest suburbs. It would be interesting to see where you were.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



sean → momof2in1year · a year ago

Sounds like he's Canadian, do you know how easily Canadians get lost? Put them in a car in a garage, they'd need a gps to get out...just saying

7 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → sean · a year ago

Don't kidd your self "sean" ... when I see Yankees traveling that is one of the most hilarious scenes ...

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



ghanderman → Guest · 11 months ago

they also commonly mistake canadians for "yankees"...in fact, they think everyone is canadian because they are so dumb and small minded they cant comprehend that a world outside their tiny one exists.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



ChaeHun Cho → Mike F. Scholes · a year ago

It gives impression to me (and more likely to anyone else reading your post) the description of the place and overall situation that you feared it could endanger your life was totally overblown.. As the other fellow commented back(i can't agree more) if you could find such eateries as Domino's it is probably safe to say that it's the district even around Buffalo, that has basic security response from law enforcement is already established. and it more like feels & comes to me that, due to lack of illumination along the street maybe? and anquitated smell around (such as buildings, etc) that made you feel creepy and scared. America is for people with courage and bold enough to approach people who you haven't met with..Certainly, America don't have to, and should not become like Canada or any other European countries at all.. That's what America's spirit and way of living is all about. thankfully, most people, even in economically affluent class in U.S (besides from their materialistic pride) have not lost faith on such values as Obama invoked in his inaugural speech.

1 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›



sean → ChaeHun Cho · a year ago

Mike F. Scholes said: "Guest" is not a name, it's a title. You can't

-  maybe ne was wearing a Canadiens nockey snirt in Sabers territory....that'll do it
4 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **ghanderman** → ChaeHun Cho · 11 months ago
you said it.....canada is full of passive aggressive neurotic types who are raised on censored media that makes the us look like its psycho. but the reality is that out of 300 million people, the incidence of psychos is grossly exaggerated by the media and are actually a minority.
^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Jim** → Robert McCall · a year ago
B.S. its racist. Second, its accurate. How many times do we see videos on Youtube of black youth attack white people as they shout epitaphs? And you accuse the previous poster of racism? I'm sorry, but look at the facts. EVEN JESSE JACKSON said he's glad when walking alone in the dark, hearing footsteps and relieved to turn around seeing a Caucasian person. It isn't racist to note the fact that the black community has been falling apart for generations due to big city progressive liberalism.
28 ^ | 4 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Lissa** → Jim · a year ago
Epitaphs are on gravestones. I am pretty sure you meant "epithets."

Unless, of course, they are shouting things like, "Here lays Butch, we planted him raw. He was quick on the trigger but slow on the draw." If that's the case, then you used the correct word.
23 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **gorgegirl** → Jim · a year ago
Interesting comment until you got to the last sentence. The black community has been falling apart since manufacturing jobs left for China. There are no more jobs for low skilled workers - plain and simple.
8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Sherron Teal** → Jim · a year ago
Blame the liberals We are responsible for everything even your biased closed minded attitude!!!
17 ^ | 7 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **NoodleStruedel** → Sherron Teal · a year ago
You got that right. Liberals are to blame, I'm glad that you admitted it. Theres hope for you yet.
13 ^ | 12 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Tinwoods** → NoodleStruedel · a year ago
Winner: Most Childish Comment of the Day award.
Congratulations, 3rd grader (no offense to actual 3rd graders)
18 ^ | 3 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **sean** → Sherron Teal · a year ago
Not everything, just the crappy things...ha
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

-  **obamamama** → Jim · a year ago
we got obamaphones though!!
5 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **PikeRver** → obamamama · a year ago
Correction they were Bushphoneslook it up
9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **ghanderman** → Jim · 11 months ago
rodney king? lynchings? organized crime in police forces?...and what those youtube videos dont show is those dumb racist white people calling the black kids the n word or otherwise disrespecting them.
^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **WaRottie** → Robert Mccall · a year ago
Even if you think it is stereotyping I think most levelheaded people wouldn't take anyone up on the offer to take a stroll through the hood. There is a reason that MLK Drive is in the creepy part of town in just about every city. You figure it out.
10 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **PikeRver** → WaRottie · a year ago
I am a truck driver and I see MLK Drives all over and usually in very nice parts of towns or major roads. I guess, Don, you don't get out much.
11 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **sean** → PikeRver · a year ago
Try MLK in Mattapan, MA, nicknamed 'murderpan' for a reason
2 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›
-  **jsnight** → Robert Mccall · a year ago
What do facts stated have to do with racism ? The truth is that there are over 17,000 murders on US soil every year. Stop the killing no mater what the race.
4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **DaveNice** → Robert Mccall · a year ago
Stating the existence of bad neighborhoods known as "hoods," with no mention of color, mind you... is racist? How?
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **Guest** → Robert Mccall · a year ago
Racist stereotyping ? Give me a break ...
1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **PTgoBOOM** → Robert Mccall · a year ago
So true. My old neighborhood was a helluva lot more dangerous for the denizens than for day trippers.
^ | v · Reply · Share ›
-  **veggiedude** → chickeninoven · a year ago
Your comment is not valid. Part of the reason those statistics are true is that common sense prevails and sensible people do not

put themselves in harms way.

28 ^ | 7 v · Reply · Share ›



Mark Samuels → veggiedude · a year ago

Even out of harms way, living in small town Vermont, we had an armed invasion into our home two years ago. It's quick, its sudden, and even for a combat Vet, and a person whose been shooting competitive since age 8, plus hunting, there was no time to reach into my nightstand for my 9mm. The 200 year old, 4" oak door came down, and they were in the foyer in under 2 seconds. If not for my 100 lb Chessie putting herself between the stairs and us, they would have been on us in under five seconds. Thankfully, she drove them back out the door, before I had to take a life, and go through years of court time.

102 ^ | 3 v · Reply · Share ›



Cinders → Mark Samuels · a year ago

Well, just think, Mark, you're lucky. Because in Michigan, they are trying to ban large dog breeds in certain areas, following the example of bsl in regards to pit bulls. You would have had to trust a chihuahua or spaniel to protect you. Personally? I'm all for dogs as protectors. While there were reports in our neighborhood of break-ins, people never bothered us, because our dogs were outside, and boxer/husky/mastiff mixes. (Which, btw, wouldn't work in some places in Michigan, apparently, because huskies are dangerous. lol Brilliant!) I bet your dog is spoiled ROTTEN, now, huh? :) We don't have guns in our house, but part of the reason is my husband has PTSD, and so does my 12 year old step-son. It would be incredibly irresponsible of us TO have firearms in the house when my hubby was a soldier, and sometimes he goes back. That being said, we are all trained in self-defense (my husband in aikido and shotokan, the kids and I in shotokan), and quite frankly, if anyone can get past our doors with our Winnie-girl and her bark? They aren't making it OUT of our house. I am SO with veggiedude and his "sensible people do

[see more](#)

52 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



tomtomtom → Cinders · a year ago

You are a sensible family to recognize that a gun might be a bad idea in a house where someone has mental issues. But not everyone is so sensible. That is why we need better gun controls (including complete mental screening) to keep gun away from those with mental issues.

33 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



ghanderman → tomtomtom · 11 months ago

and yet how many cops murder family every year? how come mental health screening doesnt work for them?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



DottiesMom → Cinders · a year ago

I grew up with attack trained Great Danes, 180 and 120 pounds worth. They were extremely gentle with children. I never saw what they could do when they were given an attack order. It was never necessary! Their effectiveness was demonstrated to the people who mattered and we were very well protected. But the

people who mattered and we were very well protected. By the way, no guns in the family home.

15 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Patrick White → DottiesMom · a year ago

what happens when someone shoots your dogs?

10 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



sean → Patrick White · a year ago

That time spent shooting my dogs was enough time for me to retrieve my assault rifle, activate the laser(for accuracy) and stop the killers of my dogs. And I would be really sad if I lost my dogs in that way, but its better than losing a human life(family) not intruders

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



DottiesMom → Patrick White · a year ago

Never happened, two or more Great Danes and a cop two houses down took care of that.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Flavia Lancia → DottiesMom · a year ago

"Attack" Great Danes? No way. That's one of the purposes they were bred for, and they bombed. Working class dogs with big voices.

2 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



jsnight → Flavia Lancia · a year ago

All animals will attack when they feel threatened. Granted a small animal will do less damage than a large animal. (usually)

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



ghanderman → jsnight · 11 months ago

no actually they arent guaranteed to automatically attack if threatened...they will either fight (assert aggressive dominance) OR run away (submit). it really depends on the breed and its training. wild animals will deploy a variety of strategies since they are hard wired for survival...if it seems to the animal that their chances of winning a fight are slim, they will most certainly submit (run away). domesticated dogs are different because their hard wiring has been modified with genetic manipulation (thanks to human dog breeding practices) to the wolf instinct impulses...this is what makes it possible to train dogs to take on an attacker much larger than themselves and not submit (run away) even when being assaulted brutally.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



DottiesMom → Flavia Lancia · a year ago

You never saw 'Jeffy' take care of things, I did!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Norman Dostal → DottiesMom · a year ago

silly-"Attack" Danes? dont exist...

1 ^ | 3 v · Reply · Share ›



DottiesMom → Norman Dostal · a year ago

Did in my house and they kept the bad guys away!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



J Scott → Cinders · a year ago

I don't approve this message...

4 ^ | 5 v · Reply · Share ›

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