

May 28, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into warning shots fired by an RCMP officer during attempted arrest

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident where a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer discharged his service pistol twice in the air as warning shots, during an attempted arrest in Roblin, Manitoba, on June 1, 2019.

RCMP notified the IIU of the incident on June 13, 2019. It began when two RCMP officers responded to a family disturbance call on a farm in Roblin. Officers attempted to arrest a male, who was a known methamphetamine user, and reported to be intoxicated or high on drugs.

The male ran from the officers, eventually making his way to a tractor and cultivator, which he started and drove towards one of the officers in a manner that threatened his safety. To avoid injury and in an attempt to get the male to stop the tractor, the officer fired two warning shots into the air. The affected male eventually drove the tractor to an ATV, and used the ATV to flee the area. There were no injuries.

The subject officer provided his notes and reports to IIU investigators and participated in an interview. Investigators also interviewed two witness officers and a civilian witness. In addition, investigators obtained and examined officers' notes and reports, a general report, audio of the 911 telephone calls, audio of the RCMP radio communications, the subject officer's firearms qualification records, and the RCMP firearms discharge policy.

Following the completion of the investigation, the civilian director forwarded the IIU investigative file to the Manitoba Prosecution Service (MPS), and requested a review and opinion on whether any Criminal Code charges should be authorized against the subject officer.

Following the review of the IIU investigative file, MPS advised IIU that the matter did not meet the prosecution-charging standard, and that based on the exigent circumstances, the subject officer's response met a standard of care that would have been employed by a reasonable person in the same situation. Accordingly, MPS would not recommend any Criminal Code offences against the subject officer.

The IIU investigation is now complete and the file is closed.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on September 16, 2019.



Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba