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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
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**REPORT OF DEATH INVESTIGATION
AND POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION FINDINGS**

CASE NO. WV-2006-763...

WEBB, Robert Allen

Date of Birth: July 1, 1962

Age: 44 years

Date of Death: July 4, 2006

Date of Pronouncement: July 4, 2006 @ 1:26 a.m.

Body Received at OCME: July 4, 2006 @ 12:10 p.m.

Date of Examination: July 5, 2006

Examination Commenced: 9:00 a.m.

Autopsy Performed at:

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
619 Virginia Street, W.
Charleston, WV 25302

Autopsy Performed by:

Zia Sabet, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

County Investigator:
Investigating Agency:
FIU Investigator:

Brian Bjork, Raleigh County Medical Examiner
Det. Canaday, Raleigh County Sheriffs' Dept.
Rodney Sloan, OCME Investigator

Attached:

Toxicology Report



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IDENTIFICATION

Identification of the body is accomplished by the name of the decedent on the body bag and body tag attached to the left great toe. The body bag is sealed with body bag tag #0840774; which is verified to be intact by documentation of the tag number on the OCME-1. Confirmation of the identification is by visual recognition.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is received supine, with hands enclosed in brown paper bags, wrapped in a white sheet, within a sealed body bag.

CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS ACCOMPANYING THE BODY:

The body is received wearing a previously cut gray t-shirt and white underwear shorts. The gray t-shirt shows gunshot entry defect, with absence of surrounding visible evidence of gunpowder residue, corresponding to a gunshot wound of the chest, to be detailed below.

BODY DESCRIPTION:

The body is that of a normally developed, well nourished, white male appearing the stated age of 44 years. The body weighs 173 lbs. and measures 6' 4" in length.

Body temperature is cold to the touch following refrigeration. Rigor mortis is well developed and generalized. Unfixed purple livor mortis is moderately developed involving the posterior aspects of the body except in areas exposed to pressure. The body is well-preserved.

The face is well-formed and symmetric with shotgun pellet injuries, to be detailed below. There is a normal hairline. Scalp hair is brown measuring up to 15". Facial hair is comprised of a beard and moustache. Eyelids are closed. Iridial color is brown. Sclerae are white. Conjunctivae are without petechial hemorrhages noted. Ears are unremarkable. Earlobes are not pierced. The nares and oral cavity are unremarkable. The upper and lower jaws possess natural teeth in overall fair condition. The lips and buccal surfaces are without evidence of injury. The scalp on external examination displays no evidence of injury.

The neck, chest and abdomen are well developed and symmetric with gunshot wound entry of the anterior chest, to be detailed below. The breasts are unremarkable, without palpable masses.

The extremities are well developed and symmetric with an abrasion on the dorsal aspect of the right thumb, to be detailed below. The fingernails and toenails are unremarkable.

The back and buttocks are well developed and symmetric, without evidence of external injury. Body hair is normal in amount and distribution. External genitalia are those of an adult circumcised male, without evidence of injury or other abnormality. The anus is unremarkable.

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SCARS, TATTOOS, AND GENERAL SURFACE FEATURES:

Scars:

Present on the dorsal aspect of the right hand in horizontal orientation is a 2 3/4" linear scar.

Tattoos and general surface features: No remarkable findings.

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY

Cardiac monitor patches are seen on the right and left upper chest and left quadrant of abdomen.

EVIDENCE OF POSTMORTEM ORGAN/TISSUE PROCUREMENT

None.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There is evidence of shotgun and gunshot injuries which are numbered for ease of description without regard to the chronological sequence of firing nor the relative severity of the injuries.

Gunshot injury of the right chest:

1. **Entrance wound:** A round entrance wound with eccentric abrasion is noted on the anterior chest, 15" from the top of the head and 1/4" to the right from anterior midline, measuring 3/4" x 3/4". No evidence of soot or gunpowder stippling is noted around the entrance wound on the skin.

Path of wound: The projectile track associated with this anterior chest entrance wound perforates the right 2nd intercostal space, ascending aorta, lower lobe of the right lung, and body of the 8th and 9th thoracic vertebrae, with subsequent penetration of the soft tissue and muscle of the right back.

A large caliber, jacketed, deformed bullet is recovered beneath the skin of the right mid-back, 23" from the top of the head and 1 1/2" to the right from posterior midline. Associated right hemothorax (1300 c.c.) is observed.

Direction of fire: Front to back, slightly left to right and downward.

Shotgun pellet (two) associated injuries:

1. **Entrance wound:** An oval shaped large pellet entrance wound with circumferential abrasion is noted on the left forehead, 4" from the top of the head and 2 1/2" to the right from anterior midline, measuring 2/3" x 1/2" in diameter. No evidence of soot or gunpowder stippling is noted around the entrance wound on the skin. Sparse small abrasions (up to 1/8") are present adjacent to the entrance wound.

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Path of wound: The pellet passed through the left frontal bone and left fronto-parieto-occipital lobes of the brain. Two fragments of the pellet are recovered from the left occipital lobe of the brain and retained.

Direction of fire: The wound track is front to back, slightly left to right and upward.

- Entrance wound:** An oval shaped pellet entrance wound with circumferential abrasion is present on the left mid face anterior to the left ear, 6" from the top of the head and 4 1/2" to the left from anterior midline, measuring 2/3" x 1/2". No evidence of soot or gunpowder stippling is noted around the entrance wound on the skin.

Path of wound: The projectile track associated with this mid face entrance wound perforates the skin and soft tissue of the left side of the face, inner aspect of the left ramus of the mandible and base of the skull with penetration of the left mastoid process.

A deformed pellet fragment is recovered from the mastoid process and retained.

Direction of fire: The wound track is front to back, left to right and slightly upward.

Other injuries:

Present on the right forehead is an abrasion measuring 1" x 1 1/2".

A small abrasion is noted on the dorsal aspect of the right thumb measuring 3/4" x 1/8".

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Head and central nervous system: Shotgun pellet associated injury of the calvarium, dura and left hemisphere has been described. The brain weighs 1,660 grams. There is a large area of subarachnoid hemorrhage over the left hemisphere of the brain without gross organization. There are no subdural or epidural hemorrhages. Cerebrospinal fluid is bloody. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical with pellet injury of the left fronto-parieto-occipital lobes. The cerebellar hemispheres are symmetrical with unremarkable foliae. There is no evidence of increased intracranial pressure. Intracranial vasculature shows no significant atheromatous involvement or malformation. Serial sections of the cerebrum and brainstem show multiple small striate hemorrhages and pellet wound track. There are scattered hemorrhages through the upper portion of the brainstem. Cerebellum is unremarkable. Removal of the dura from the base of the skull demonstrates no pathology away from the previously described injury. The upper cervical spinal cord viewed in situ is unremarkable.

Neck: Examination of the soft and bony tissues of the neck reveals no abnormalities.

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Body cavities: The thoracic and abdominal cavities are entered through the usual Y shaped incision. All organ systems display normal anatomic relationships. Approximately 1300 cc. of clotted and non-clotted blood is present within the right chest cavity. The left chest, pericardial and peritoneal cavities are free of pathologic fluid accumulation. The serosal surfaces are smooth and glistening without significant adhesions. The diaphragm is intact. The abdominal wall adipose measures 1/2" at the level of the umbilicus.

Cardiovascular system: The heart weighs 360 grams. The epicardial surface is unremarkable. The chambers and cardiac valves demonstrate a normal architecture. The myocardium displays no focal or generalized pathology. The coronary arteries and ostia are normally disposed and free of significant atheromatous involvement. Patchy areas of atherosclerosis of the left coronary results in luminal compromise with maximal 30% stenosis. The right coronary artery is unremarkable. Gunshot wound injury of the ascending aorta has been described.

Respiratory system: Gunshot wound injury to the lower lobe of the right lung has been described. Examination of the larynx, trachea, and bronchial tree shows no abnormalities. The right and left lungs weigh 620 grams and 700 grams respectively. Cut surfaces exude a moderate amount of blood with admixed moderate amount of edema fluid. The pulmonary parenchyma is otherwise free of pathologic findings. The pulmonary vasculature is unremarkable.

Hepato-biliary system: The pale liver weighs 1,640 grams and displays an unremarkable capsular surface. Cut surfaces are tan brown with the usual anatomical landmarks. The gallbladder contains fluid bile without gallstones. The biliary tree is patent.

Lymphoreticular system: The spleen weighs 130 grams. The splenic capsule is smooth and glistening. Cut parenchymal surface is unremarkable. The thymus is involuted. The lymph nodes, where visualized show no pathologic change.

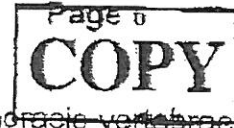
Urinary system: The pale right and left kidneys weigh 160 grams and 165 grams respectively. The renal capsules strip easily and the cortical surface is smooth. Cortical thickness is normal. Renal medullae, pelvis and ureters display normal architecture bilaterally. The bladder contains an estimated 60 cc. of straw colored urine.

Gastro-intestinal system: No pharyngeal pathology is identified. The tongue is unremarkable. The esophagus shows no abnormalities. The stomach contains 300 cc. of corn and other unidentifiable food fragments and fluid. The gastric mucosa displays no pathologic lesions. The small and large intestines are unremarkable. The appendix is unremarkable.

Endocrine system: The pituitary, thyroid, adrenals and pancreas are unremarkable.

Internal genitalia: The prostate and seminal vesicles are free of abnormalities.

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Musculoskeletal system: Gunshot wound injury to the 8th and 9th thoracic vertebrae and shotgun pellet injury of the skull has been described. The remainder of bony tissues is unremarkable. The musculature is well developed.

Miscellaneous: No auxillary dissection procedures are performed and no additional tissue specimens are submitted for examination.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

No histologic examination is performed.

AUTOPSY IMAGING

PHOTOGRAPHY: Routine/relevant photographs obtained at autopsy; archived at OCME.

RADIOGRAPHY: Postmortem head and chest radiography is performed; x-rays archived at OCME.

ANCILLARY PROCEDURES

None.

MATERIAL RETAINED

EVIDENCE COLLECTED:

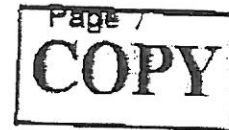
- Retained for potential DNA analysis: Blood sample cards.
- Gunshot residue kit sampling from the hands and face
- Right and left hand nail scraping
- Head and pubic hair
- A large caliber, deformed, jacketed bullet
- Fragments of shotgun pellets from the head
- Paper bags
- White sheet
- Clothing

TISSUE/FLUID SAMPLES RETAINED:

- Preserved in formalin: Routine organ tissue samples.
- Frozen for toxicologic analysis: Samples of subclavian blood, urine, gastric contents, liver and vitreous.

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FINDINGS



- I **Gunshot wound of chest.**
 - A. Entrance wound: right chest without evidence of close range firing on the skin.
 - B. Perforation of the aorta and right lung; right hemothorax (1300 cc.)
 - C. A large caliber, slightly deformed, jacketed bullet recovered from the right back.
 - D. Direction of fire: Front to back, slightly left to right and downward.

- II **Shotgun pellet injury of the head (left forehead).**
 - A. Entrance wound: left forehead without evidence of close range firing on the skin.
 - B. Perforation of the brain.
 - C. Pellet fragments (2) recovered from the left occipital lobe.
 - D. Direction of fire: Front to back, slightly left to right and upward.

- III **Shotgun pellet injury of the head (left cheek).**
 - A. Entrance wound: left mid-face without evidence of close range firing on the skin.
 - B. Perforation of the base of the skull and penetration of the left mastoid bone.
 - C. A pellet fragment is recovered from the left mastoid bone.
 - D. Direction of fire: Front to back, slightly left to right and upward.

- IV **Abrasions of the forehead and right thumb, likely attributable to agonal collapse; judged to be non-contributory to death.**

- V **No contributory natural disease.**

- VI **Toxicology: Alcohol intoxication and recent marijuana use.**

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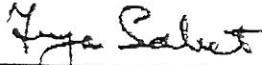
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FACTORS


OPINION: CAUSE OF DEATH AND CONTRIBUTORY CONDITIONS

It is our opinion that Robert A. Webb, a 44 year old man, died as the result of firearm injuries including a gunshot wound of the chest and shotgun pellet (two) associated injuries of the head resulting in significant internal injury of vital organs within the chest and head. A bullet and multiple fragments of pellets were recovered at the time of autopsy. Toxicology analysis revealed evidence indicating that the decedent consumed ethyl alcohol and marijuana prior to death. The decedent was reportedly fatally shot during an apparent armed confrontation with law enforcement using a handgun and a shotgun loaded with 00-buckshot pellet type ammunition.

RULING: MANNER OF DEATH

The circumstances surrounding the death as well as the investigative and postmortem findings indicate that the manner of death is Homicide.

 8/23/06
Zia Sabet, M.D. Date
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

 8.23.06
Nabila Hafkal, M.D. Date
First Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

APPENDED: Toxicology Laboratory Report #2006-763.

ZS/NH/rkm
8.11/8.21/8.22

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
TOXICOLOGY REPORT

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Name of Deceased: Webb, Robert A.
Case Number: 06-763
Pathologist: Dr. Sabet

Date of Request: 07-05-06
Date Received: 07-05-06

Samples Received

- Subclavian Blood
- Heart Blood
- Gastric Contents
- Urine
- Liver
- Vitreous Fluid
- Tissue
- Other

Analysis Performed

- Blood Alcohol
- Drugs of Abuse Immunoassay (Blood)
- Drugs of Abuse Immunoassay (Urine)
- Alkaline Drug Screen (Urine)
- Alkaline Drug Screen (Blood)
- Acidic and Neutral Drug Screen (Blood)
- Drug Confirmation and Quantitation (Blood)
- Other

Results

Sample	Drug	Concentration	Therapeutic	Toxic	Lethal
Blood	Ethanol	0.22%			
Blood	Marijuana Metabolite (Carboxy-THC)	66 ng/mL			

Comments

Alcohol was present in the blood at a concentration of 0.22%, with an inactive metabolite formed from the consumption of marijuana was also detected in the blood.

James C. Kraner
James C. Kraner, Ph.D.
Chief Toxicologist

7/21/06
Date