



Deputy-Involved Shooting Update

Brief Overview

This note covering [law enforcement incident](#) was created from the [Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux gives update on deputy-involved shooting](#) YouTube video. It summarizes the suspect's profile, the tactical response by multiple agencies, details about the fallen officer, and the community evacuation efforts.

Key Points

- Expect a concise profile of the suspect and his weapons history.
- Review the coordinated SWAT, police, and air-support actions during the breach.
- Learn about the circumstances surrounding Detective Randy Hoppert's death.
- See how residents were evacuated and supported by local shelters.



Suspect Profile

- **Name:** David Eric Morales
- **Date of birth:** September 30 1966
- **Residence:** Lives alone; no known children, spouse, or girlfriend
- **Criminal background:** *No prior arrests or criminal record* reported in local jurisdictions
- **Firearms registered:** 18 handguns (no rifles registered)

Definition: **Handgun** – a portable firearm designed to be fired with one hand.

Note: Despite only handguns being registered, the suspect has been observed using **rifles** during the incident.



Incident Timeline & Current Status

Time (approx.)	Event	Agency Involved	Key Details
Earlier today	Initial update on suspect's status	Kern County Sheriff's Office	SWAT team deployed with tactical vehicle

			equipped with gas-dispensing pole
~5 min before update	House breached	Visalia PD “BearCat” (tactical vehicle)	Gas introduced; windows breached; suspect exited through a window
During breach	Drone engagement	Visalia PD & Kern County	Suspect shot down one drone; other drone remains airborne
Current	Aerial surveillance	Airplane & drones	Aircraft using sensors to locate suspect in brush; suspect wearing camouflage
35 min ago	Last known shot fired (by suspect)	–	No recent shots from law-enforcement personnel
Now	Area evacuation	Multiple agencies	Four blocks (≈ 3-4 homes) cleared; sanctuary of Holy Cross Church used for displaced families

Definition: **BearCat** – a heavily armored, wheeled vehicle used by police SWAT units for tactical entry and protection.

Tactical Resources & Agencies

- **Kern County Sheriff’s Office** – Provides SWAT team, gas-dispensing pole, and BearCat support.
- **Visalia Police Department** – Operates tactical vehicle, introduced gas, and engaged suspect with rifle fire.
- **Fresno Police Department** – Supplies intelligence on suspect’s communications with family.
- **Air Support** – Aircraft equipped with sensors for locating suspect in vegetation.

- **Drones** – Two aerial units; one downed by suspect’s rifle fire.

Equipment Highlights

- **Tactical vehicle pole** – Deploys gas and can breach walls.
- **Gas** – Non-lethal tactical agent (appears as smoke).
- **Rifles with scopes** – Used by suspect against law-enforcement vehicles.



Fallen Officer: Detective Randy Hoppert

- **Full name:** Randy Hoppert (spelled HOPPERT)
- **Background:** Navy Corpsman (2010-2015); joined agency on Jan 5 2020.
- **Family ties:** Grandson of Doyle Hoppert, former Tulare County Undersheriff.
- **Incident:** Killed during the current operation; family requested privacy pending media inquiries.

Definition: **Navy Corpsman** – enlisted medical specialist in the United States Navy, providing first-aid and health services.



Community Response & Support

- **Evacuation:** All residences within four-block radius cleared; neighborhoods declared safe.
- **Shelter:** Holy Cross Church sanctuary converted to temporary housing; provisions of food and water supplied.
- **Family assistance:** Ongoing efforts to locate and support families of displaced residents; coordination with local charities.



Key Statistics

Category	Count / Detail
Registered firearms	18 handguns
Unregistered rifles observed	At least 1 (used by suspect)
Drones deployed	2 (1 destroyed)
Homes evacuated	≈ 4 blocks (3-4 homes)
Law-enforcement agencies involved	4 (Kern Sheriff, Visalia PD, Fresno PD, Air support)

Time since last suspect shot	~35 minutes
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Operational Challenges

- **Nightfall approaching:** Reduces visibility, complicates aerial surveillance and ground tactics.
- **Unregistered weapons:** Discrepancy between registered handguns and observed rifle usage hampers threat assessment.
- **Emotional impact:** Families of fallen officer and displaced residents experiencing significant distress; limited information shared to protect privacy.

Key point: The situation remains **fluid** with ongoing attempts to isolate the suspect while minimizing further casualties.