



IOWA STATE PATROL

SERGEANT JIM SMITH KILLED IN GRUNDY CENTER STANDOFF

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GRUNDY CENTER, Iowa - On Friday, April 9, 2021, Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim Smith #462, a 27-year-veteran of the Patrol, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a barricaded subject in Grundy Center.

According to the Division of Criminal Investigation, on Friday, April 9, at approximately 7:22 p.m., Grundy Center Police attempted to conduct a traffic stop on Michael Thomas Lang, within Grundy Center City limits. Lang fled from Grundy Center Police and he was chased to an area southeast of town. Lang pulled over on 250th Avenue, exited his vehicle and assaulted the Grundy Center Police Officer who chased him. During the assault, Lang yelled, "shoot me" multiple times to the Officer. Lang disarmed the officer of his Taser, removed his radio and put the Officer in a chokehold.

Law enforcement responded to the area of the assault. A Grundy County Deputy arrived on scene and witnessed the Officer recovering from the assault and Lang in the area of the Officer's patrol vehicle. The Deputy drew his weapon and gave commands to Lang to put his hands up. Lang did not comply, stating, "Come get me," and subsequently got into his vehicle and fled the area.

The Deputy pursued Lang back into Grundy Center but lost sight of him. The Deputy went to Lang's residence located at 305 G Avenue, saw Lang's vehicle parked in the driveway, and Lang walking into the residence through the garage. The Deputy requested assistance from other law enforcement officers. Responding law enforcement set up a perimeter around the house. Lang's father arrived at the house and advised law enforcement that Lang had multiple firearms inside the residence, including a .410 shotgun.

At approximately 8:55 p.m., Sgt. Smith, three additional ISP Troopers, and a Hardin County Sheriff's Deputy K-9 unit made entry into the residence through the door of the garage leading into the residence. Prior to entering the residence, Sgt. Smith and the entry team verbally identified themselves as law enforcement. They also announced that they would send in a K-9. As Sgt. Smith and the entry team began to clear the upstairs of the residence, Sgt. Smith was hit by gunfire coming from inside the residence. After Sgt. Smith was shot, members of the entry team observed Lang emerge from the doorway holding a black pump action shotgun.

Two members of the entry team retreated into the basement while other members of the entry team pulled Sgt. Smith from the residence. Lang then barricaded himself inside the residence and refused to come out. Members of the entry team that remained in the basement stated that Lang made several statements about having shot Sgt. Smith and expressed a desire to shoot more police officers. Lang remained barricaded inside the residence for several hours.

personnel carrier. Lang was subsequently taken into custody by ISP tactical team members.

Sergeant Smith and Iowa State Patrol Line-Of-Duty Deaths

Sergeant Smith began his career as a member of the Department of Public Safety's 19th Basic Academy in 1993. Upon graduation, he was first stationed in Fairfield at District 13, and in 1996 relocated to District 10 located in Oelwein. Trooper Jim Smith was proud and humbled by his position as an Iowa State Trooper. He consistently performed his duties everyday with the motoring public safety, which was his number one priority, along with having the "I can make a difference" mindset. He took on the role of leader with the Area C Tactical Team, devoting time on and off duty, to complete the tactical team mission.

A total of 11 Iowa State Troopers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This is only the second time a Trooper has been shot and killed in the line of duty since Trooper Oran Pape on April 29, 1936.

This incident continues to be an ongoing investigation.

[Michael Thomas Lang Complaint & Affidavit](#)

PHOTO: **[Sergeant Jim Smith](#)**



ABOUT THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) is the largest law enforcement agency in the state. It includes six divisions and several bureaus, all working together with local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to keep Iowa a safe place by following our core values: leadership, integrity, professionalism, courtesy, service and protection. Divisions within the Iowa DPS: Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa State Fire Marshal Division, Iowa Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center, and Administrative Services Division. The Department of Public Safety is led by the Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor.