



## PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**To: Metro Atlanta Media**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Paulding County Deputy and his Family Tragically Murdered**

**(Paulding County, GA) On January 6, 2015 Corporal Sam Driskell, who worked as the custodian of the Sex Offender Registry in the Crimes Against Children Division of the Paulding County Sheriff's Office, did not show up for a court case where he was scheduled to be a witness. Since the court case was in Cherokee County, his supervisors did not realize he did not show up for quite a while. Once it was determined that Corporal Driskell was not at work and was not answering his phone, Deputies responded to his residence at 7419 Ridge Road Douglasville, GA 30134 to perform a welfare check.**

**When Deputies arrived at his home around 1:37 pm they knocked on the door and received no response. Once they looked inside the residence they saw what looked like a family member in distress laying on the floor. At that point, Deputies forced entry into the residence and discovered a horrific scene. The Deputies then contacted Detectives to be enroute to the scene. Once it was determined that it was Corporal Driskell and his family who were deceased, Sheriff Gary Gulledge contacted the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and requested their assistance in the investigation.**

**Once the search warrant was signed, Crime Scene Investigators with the GBI processed the scene and determined the preliminary results of what occurred. As a result of analyzing the physical and forensic evidence the following has been preliminarily determined about the incident:**

**Sometime in the overnight hours (between 01/05/15 and 01/06/15) while the Driskell family was sleeping, 21 year Felix Almonte took what is believed to be Corporal Sam Driskell's service weapon (Glock Model 21 .45 ACP) and killed the entire family while they were sleeping. Corporal Driskell was shot while sleeping in his**



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bed, his 12 year old daughter Carolyn Driskell was shot while sleeping in her bed, and his 36 year old wife Muachin Driskell was shot in a doorway between the living room and the bedroom of the daughter. At some point after that, Almonte turned the gun on himself and died as a result of self inflicted gun shot wound to the head.

As of now, we do not have a motive or any reasoning as to why Almonte would have done this. GBI Agents will be speaking with friends, neighbors, and other family members to see if they can determine what may have motivated Almonte.

All members of the Driskell family have been taken to the GBI Crime Lab to have an autopsy performed. Once funeral arrangements have been made, we will be sure to let everyone know.

On behalf of Sheriff Gary Gullede and the Deputies and staff of the Paulding County Sheriff's office, we want to thank everyone in the media, our community, and all the surrounding areas for your condolences for the loss of Corporal Sam Driskell and his family. Sheriff Gary Gullede stated, "Sam was a "Paulding County Boy" born and raised; he was a 1980 graduate of Paulding County High School, a decorated Army veteran, and a ten year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. He was an excellent employee and an even better person. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sorrowful time."

