

KENEDY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

TX 1310000

INCIDENT REPORT

02/11/2006

NUMBER: 06020136

REPORT DATE: 02/15/2006

ORI: TX1310000

LOCATION: ARMSTRONG RANCH

ZONE: ARMSTRONG

On Tuesday February 14, 2006 I spoke with Gerardo Medellin who dictated to me as I wrote his affidavit. (See Affidavit for further details.) I was also taken to the area where the incident occurred. The pasture name is the Comal Pasture and it is located at approximately four miles west of U.S. Highway 77. The GPS readings for this incident was retrieved from my phone as N 26* 56.352' W 97* 50.420" while on location. I was able to understand more how Mr. Cheney and Katharine Armstrong described the area in their statement.

On Wednesday February 15, 2006 I was able to make contact with Katharine Armstrong, Sarita Armstrong Hixon, Pamela Willeford, and Michael Hubert. I requested a written affidavit from each one of them. I was able to get everyone's affidavit except for Mr. Hubert's affidavit. He told he would be in the area sometime Friday February 17, 2006 and would get in contact with me.

STATUS: CLOSED

STATUS DATE: 02/15/2006

OFFICER: SAN MIGUEL, GILBERTO JR. 502

Tracking February 11, 2006

My name is Gerardo Medellin and I live on
the Armstrong Ranch, Armstrong TX. My mailing
address is P.O. Box 395, Armstrong TX 79338
and I am 45 years of age

~~6m~~
On Saturday February 11, 2006 at approximately
5:30 or 5:45 the dog handlers dog found a
covey facing west. We flushed the covey and
everyone shot and Mr. Whittington had a double
after that I worked the lab dog to find one
of the birds of the double shot ~~shot~~ ^{6m} Mr. Whittington
assisted me in finding the first bird. After finding
the first bird, Mr. Whittington asked me if I
saw where the second bird had fallen. I
told him yes and went to find it. As I
was looking for the second bird Mr. Whittington
went back to the hunting jeep. It took me
approximately 5 minutes to locate the second
bird. At that time, I saw Mr. Whittington
walking towards the other hunters I yelled
to him that I had found his other bird

Shortly after that the cotricor (coon) pointing
where the other covey was at. At this time I
was walking towards them also to get them

When I was walking towards the hunters a
single bird flew behind the vice president

towards Mr. Washington. That is, when the
President shot towards the bird and Mr.
Washington was in the line of fire.

Harold Mitchell

Pamela P. Willeford

To: Chief Deputy Gilbert Sanmiguel, Jr.
From: Pamela Willeford
Date: February 15, 2006
RE: Statement on hunting accident of 2/11/06

I, Pamela Willeford, of [REDACTED], provide the following information regarding the hunting accident on the Armstrong Ranch on February 11, 2006:

I was a member of a group hunting quail on Saturday afternoon, February 11, 2006, at the Armstrong Ranch. Included in the group were Katharine Armstrong, Sarita Hixon, Harry Whittington, Vice President Dick Cheney, and myself. The hunting vehicle was driven by a staff member from the Armstrong Ranch; other vehicles included dog handlers and members of the Vice President's group (security detail and others).

At approximately 5:30 p.m., the Vice President, Mr. Whittington and I left the vehicle to shoot a covey of quail that had been spotted by the outrider. A second covey was also spotted to the left of our position. Katharine Armstrong and Sarita Hixon remained in the vehicle so that there were three hunters "on the ground." I was on the left, the Vice President was in the center, and Mr. Whittington was on the right. We flushed the first covey, and Mr. Whittington shot twice and killed two birds. He stopped to pick up his birds and spent several minutes looking, as the second bird was difficult to find.

The Vice President and I watched him for a few seconds and decided to proceed to the second covey. We turned left about 90 degrees and proceeded forward; I was on the left with Mr. Cheney on the right. Mr. Whittington was directly behind us at that time.

We walked forward, and a bird flushed in front of the Vice President and flew to our right. We both raised our guns, but I did not fire as the bird flew away from me. As I turned to my right to follow the flight of the bird, and at the same time that the Vice President was aiming and firing, I spotted Mr. Whittington in our field of sight. Neither the Vice President nor I realized he had left his former position behind us and was now about 30 yards to the right (west) and slightly below us. Mr. Whittington was hit by the Vice President's shot and immediately fell to the ground. The Vice President rushed to Mr. Whittington's position; at the same time medical personnel came to his aid. From my position, I could see that Mr. Whittington was moving his arm and leg while on the ground. We remained in the field until the ambulance arrived and took Mr. Whittington away to the hospital.

There was no alcohol consumed during the afternoon of the hunt in the field. I did consume a glass of wine at lunch, approximately 4- 4 ½ hours earlier.

Pamela P. Willeford
2/15/06

My name is Sara Armstrong Hixon. I am one of the owners of the Armstrong Ranch in Kennedy County. I also have a home at ~~_____~~

I was quail hunting at the Armstrong Ranch the afternoon of February 11, 2006 and was an eye-witness to the shooting of Harry Whittington on that date.

At about 5:30 p.m. the hunting car my group was riding in stopped near a covey of quail which had been located by the out-rider, Oscar Medellin. Those present in the car were Gerry Medellin, the driver, Vice President Richard Cheney, Ambassador Pam Willeford, Katharine Armstrong, Harry Whittington and myself. We decided that the shooters on the covey would be Vice President Cheney, Ambassador Willeford and Mr. Whittington. The three shooters approached the covey. It flushed and Mr. Whittington shot two times, hitting two birds. Both birds fell near some mesquite trees in tall grass ahead and to the right of the car. Mr. Whittington and Gerry Medellin walked to where the two birds fell and

begin searching for the quail with a Labrador dog. They had trouble finding the birds in the tall grass and continued searching for them at least five or more minutes. At one point Mr. Whittington walked back to the car and I congratulated him on his "double". He then rejoined Gerry Medellin searching for the missing, downed bird in the tall grass.

Shortly after the first covey flushed, a second covey was located by the bird dog (pointer) up ahead and to the left of the car. While Mr. Whittington and Gerry Medellin started searching for Mr. Whittington's two quail, Ambassador Willeford and Vice President Cheney walked ahead to shoot the second covey located by the pointer. Ambassador Willeford was on the left and Vice President Cheney was on the right as they approached the second covey. Before they flushed the second covey, Mr. Whittington started walking towards them from where he and Gerry Medellin had been searching for his quail.

Mr. Whittington
~~He~~ approached the shooters from behind
and to their right with the sun behind
him I did not hear him call out to
warn the shooters of his approach. Mr.
Whittington appeared to be about 30 yards
from the shooters when a quail flushed
near the shooters and flew in Mr.
Whittington's direction. The shooters swung
their shot guns following the bird, I
heard a shot and saw Mr. Whittington
fall to the ground. I learned a few
minutes later that the Vice President had
fired the shot. Katharine Armstrong and
I were both in the hunting car when
I witnessed the shooting. I would estimate
the time to have been between 5:45 and
6:00 p.m.

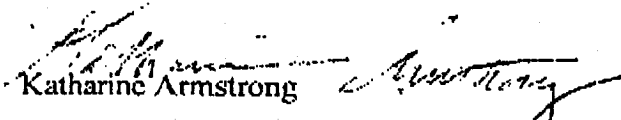
Katharine Armstrong Hixon
2/15/66

I Michael Andrew Hubert live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was a guide on the
Armstrong Road on the day of 2-11-06
Around the time of 5:40 pm my dog
had pointed a covey. I was the first to
get to the dog and then Jerry was shortly
there after. Jerry was down the car
Mr. Chaney was in Pam, Mr. Chaney,
and Harry were the hunters. We walk
up to the dog and shot the covey raise.
We had 3 birds down. Mr. Chaney shot
1 and Harry shot 2. We had found 2
of the 3 birds. While we were looking
for the 3rd bird Oscar the outcrier
flushed another covey. Pam & Mr. Chaney
walked over to Oscar. Harry at this
time had made his way over to
the area where Pam & Mr. Chaney were
shooting. A bird got up in front of Mr. Chaney
and flew in the direction of Harry. Mr. Chaney
not knowing that Harry had made his
way into the shooting area shot at
the bird. And at that time is when Harry
was shot.

D
DATE: 2-17-06

I, Katharine Armstrong, am one of the owners of the Armstrong Ranch in Kenedy County, Texas and was present and an eye witness to the hunting accident that occurred on Feb. 12th, at approximately 5:30pm in the Comal pasture of the Armstrong Ranch. Although it was late in the afternoon and the sun was low, there was plenty of sunlight. All three shooters were wearing blaze orange gear and to the best of my knowledge there was no alcohol involved.

After being alerted by an outrider our hunting vehicle pulled up to the location where a covey of quail had been found. When the Vice President, Larry Whittington and Pam Willeford got out of the vehicle to work the covey they were told that there was a second covey ahead and to the left. They moved forward on the first covey and Mr. Whittington shot two birds that fell to his right in some tall grass and brush. Mr. Whittington, with the assistance of Gerry Medellin and a Labrador went to the spot where the birds had fallen to find them. The two men and the dog had difficulty finding one of the birds and spent several minutes attempting to find it in the tall grass. While Mr. Whittington stayed behind to look for his bird, the Vice President and Ambassador Willeford moved towards the second covey that was located further ahead and to the left of the first covey. In the meantime, Mr. Whittington returned briefly to the car then went back to look again for his lost bird. A short time later I noticed that Larry was moving forward to rejoin the Vice President and Ambassador Willeford. As he was moving forward I did not hear him announce himself or call to them to let them know he was approaching from behind and to their right. A single bird flushed in front of the Vice President and Ambassador Willeford. The Vice President swung through to his right and shot at the bird. Mr. Whittington fell to the ground about 30 yards away from the Vice President with his head facing towards the hunting vehicle. I saw the Vice President rush towards Mr. Whittington and almost in the same instant the Vice President's security detail was rushing to his side as well. My sister, Sarita Hixon, Ambassador Willeford and I remained out of the way a short distance from Mr. Whittington until the ambulance arrived about 20 to 25 minutes later.


Katharine Armstrong

Feb. 15, 2006

Whitting February 13, 2006

KENEDY COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF KENEDY

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, ON THIS DAY PERSONALLY APPEARED Oscar Medellin AND AFTER BEING DULY SWORN, STATES UPON OATH THAT:

My name is Oscar Medellin and I live on the Armstrong Ranch,

Armstrong, TX, my mailing address is P.O. Box [redacted] Armstrong,

TX 78338, and I am 19 years of age.

I was an outrider on the day of the incident. I had found a covey of quail. I called it in through the walkie talkie and the group said they were on the way. On the way to my covey they encountered another covey that flushed up about 100 yards away from the one I found. They decided to shoot at that one first. After they were done they shooting at the covey the vice president asked me if I would take him to the covey I found. The covey that I had found was in walking distance so the vice president, a lady, a secret service personnel, and I walked towards the next covey. We walked about 75 yards and birds popped up. There was a single that stayed in the grass so I flushed it up. The bird flew behind towards the sunset and that was where Mr. Whittington was at walking from the last covey about 30-40yards away from us in a lower spot from us. The vice president followed the bird and shot and accidentally hit Mr. Whittington. My dad ran to him and checked on him. Then a doctor that the vice president had ran from the truck also. After that I ran my horse towards him and saw him laying on the ground with a bloody face. I then ran to the jeep to help put the dogs on the jeep and then I was told to leave so I rode back towards the trailer.

Oscar Medellin