

May 11, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into self-inflicted gunshot injury by RCMP member

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident involving an off-duty RCMP member (the subject officer (SO)) who accidentally shot himself in the foot while goose hunting in September 2019 in the area of Grunthal, Manitoba.

On November 29, 2019, RCMP notified the IIU of an incident that occurred on September 7, 2019, during which an off-duty RCMP Constable called to report he had accidentally discharged his firearm into his left foot. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and St. Pierre RCMP were dispatched. Attending officers reported that the SO was treated by EMS and had a bandage over the big toe on his left foot. No further details were provided.

As an injury caused by the discharge of a firearm is defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, an IIU investigation was mandatory.

A lack of information significantly affected the ability of IIU investigators to gather evidence. Scene examination was impossible, since the notification of the IIU was received nearly three months after the incident occurred. Witness officers failed to make notes of their contact with the SO on the date of the incident, and they did not identify, inspect or seize the SO's firearm. A potential eyewitness was never identified, nor was contact information recorded.

The SO declined to participate in an interview with IIU investigators. SO also declined to consent to the release of his medical information, which prevented the IIU from substantiating the nature and extent of SO's injuries.

These issues rendered the IIU's investigation null. Therefore, the IIU investigation is now complete and the matter is closed.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on December 2, 2019.

Media inquiries may be directed to: Communications Services Manitoba, 204-945-3765.

Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IUManitoba