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Thursday, February 3, 2022

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Ref: Homicide Investigation of Paul and Margaret Murdaugh
BGA Case 2022-01 SC

As requested by your office a physical evidence and scene analysis has been conducted on the above case.

Crime Scene Reconstruction is defined as the forensic science discipline, which employs the scientific method of analysis to identify the best explanation and sequence of objective actions for the incident in question. Information from all sources such as scene documentation, physical evidence, lab analysis, autopsy, photographs, and statements, are considered in identifying viable hypotheses that are possible within the context and limited universe of this crime scene. CSR provides for formal objective analysis versus subjective analysis of complex issues and in a holistic approach.

Should additional evidence or information become available, the analyst will consider its importance and may revise portions of the event analysis.

The physical evidence analysis is then used, as a benchmark, upon which any statements may be compared against.

Victims: Margaret Murdaugh
WF, [REDACTED]
DOD: 06-07-2021, DOB: [REDACTED]

Paul Murdaugh
WM [REDACTED]
DOD: 06-07-2021, DOB: [REDACTED]

Husband/Father to victim's: Alec Murdaugh
DOB: [REDACTED]

Location: 4147 Moselle Road Islandton, SC 29929
Near dog kennels on this property

Incident Date: June 07, 2021
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Murdaugh

Brief Case Synopsis:

Alec Murdaugh stated that he drove to the dog kennel on his property and found his son and wife shot and non-response. Alex touched both victims in checking them for life signs. Alec stated he tried to roll Paul but could not. He called 911 to report the deaths and drove to his house to get a shotgun for protection and drove back to the scene to wait for first responders to arrive.

The following information was considered in this analysis:

First interview with Alex Murdaugh – 34:45 mins.
Crime Scene Investigation Summary – 46 pages
Autopsy Report for Paul Murdaugh – 6 pages
Autopsy Report for Margaret Murdaugh – 8 pages
DNA Report of June 25, 2021 – 18 pages
DNA Report of June 25, 2021 – 17 pages
Evidence processing EP – 449 photos
Evidence processing – 357 photos
Paul autopsy photos – 34 photos
Margaret autopsy photos – 38 photos
L21-09074 Lab photos of Shotgun – 30 photos
Firearms Report July 23, 2021, -10 pages
Mercedes GLS processing – 138 photos
Lab photos of victim's clothing – 200 photos
Evidence processing – 25 photos
Trace evidence report June 15, 2021 – 3 pages
Trace evidence report June 18, 2021 – 2 pages
Trace evidence report June 15, 2021 – 2 pages
Trace evidence report October 25, 2021 – 2 pages
David Greene body cam recording – 57 mins.
L21-09074 Photos of inside feed room – 304 photos

Evidence collected to include:

- 1 - shotshell was located on floor in the feed room
- 2 - 1 cartridge case S&B .300 AAC BLK, on gravel between overhang and kennels
- 3 - 1 cartridge S&B, on gravel between overhang and kennels
- 4 - 1 cartridge S&B, where gravel meets grass between overhang and kennels
- 5 - 1 cartridge S&B, on the dirt near the female's right side
- 6 - 1 cartridge S&B, on the dirt near the female's right side
- 8 - Tire impressions consistent with dog's caretaker's vehicle
- 12 - Brain matter in grass between gravel and female

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- 13 - Possible bullet strike in gravel between the overhang and dog kennels with

metal fragments recovered
#18 GSR kit from Richard Murdaugh
#19 white t-shirt
#20 pair of green shorts
#21 pair of red/yellow/white Nike tennis shoes
#8 one fired bullet near tire impression in dirt
#9-10 two fired 12 GA shotshells
#12 one fired bullet from dog bedding
#13 One buckshot pellet from table storage room window
#22 Benelli Model Super Black Eagle 3, semiautomatic 12 GA with one unfired shotshell
Item 35-39 Five fired 300 Blackout cartridges from ground at side entrance door
48 birdshot pellets from left shoulder and head of Paul
One piece of plastic from shoulder and head of Paul
One combination wad from left axilla of Paul
Scene diagram (See PP #1)



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IQ-4: Are the bloodstains on Alex's white t-shirt consistent with back spatter from a gunshot?

- Data IQ-4:***
1. Two (2) areas that are positive for blood using LCV (See PP #42-43)
 2. No misting size blood spatter
 3. Edges of stains appear diffuse

Opinion IQ-4: The stains on the white t-shirt are consistent with transfers and ***not*** back spatter from a bullet wound.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

In this double shooting I would always look for back spatter on the weapons and the clothing of the shooter if the clothing worn at the time of the shooting is known and available, and if the weapons are known and available. For there to be little to no back spatter on the shooter or they're clothing is certainly possible for this incident.

If you have any questions on this report, please contact me at the above listed contact numbers.

Respectfully,

Tom Bevel
Certified Crime Scene Reconstructionist (awaiting 2nd recertification test under development)

Technical review by Ken Martin

Attachment PP

FITSNEWS