

Police: Man behind deadly shootings dies

by UPI

KINSTON, N.C. -- Police in Lenoir County, N.C., said Wednesday the man accused of killing his girlfriend and a police deputy in separate shootings has died of his injuries.

The Lenoir County Sheriff's Office said Clarence Phillips suffered multiple gunshot wounds Tuesday after he allegedly fired on deputies responding to a call about a man firing a gun in the woods, WITN-TV of Greenville, N.C., said.

Officials allege Phillips ignored orders by deputies to stop firing his gun Tuesday night and turned his high-powered rifle on police, fatally shooting Detective Allen Pearson and hitting Detective Ryan Dawson in the neck.

Dawson's current medical condition wasn't reported.

Police traced the ownership of a car at the scene to Phillips' girlfriend, Cynthia Tillet Knighten, and found the woman dead in her New Bern, N.C., home.

Authorities told WITN-TV that Phillips was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill and communicating threats in 2004. He also had a 1999 conviction for assault on his record.

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