

Driver error led to Bush motorcade death

by UPI

ALBUQUERQUE -- Albuquerque officials said Friday that driver error contributed to the death of a Rio Rancho, N.M., police officer in President Bush's motorcade in August. Germaine Casey, 40, died when he lost control of his motorcycle, overran a curb, and hit a tree. An investigation into the investigation released findings Thursday citing speed, driver decisions, and pedestrian distractions as contributing to the accident. Officers involved in the motorcade told the Albuquerque Journal that officers lost radio communication during the escort due to a computer failure. The Secret Service issued a radio broadcast to escorting officers that the motorcade was ending and that officers could stand down. Casey did not receive the message and sped to catch up with the presidential motorcade, speeding ahead of fellow officers and crashing moments later. The official investigation did not cite radio failure as contributing to the accident.

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