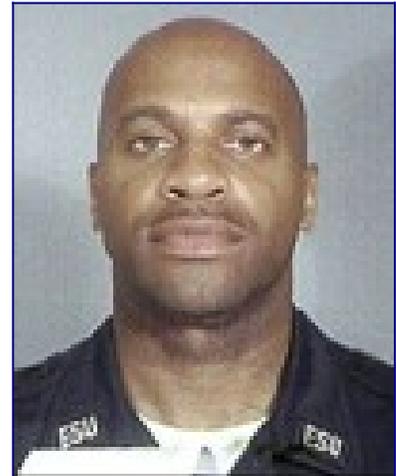
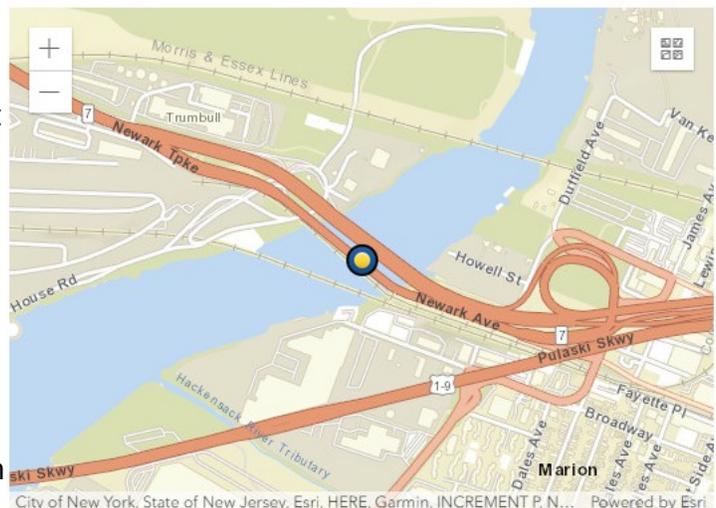


12-25-2005 Carson – Nguyen - NJ Car Off Bridge Accident**Police Officer Shawn Carson**<https://www.odmp.org/officer/18090-police-officer-shawn-carson>**Jersey City Police Department, New Jersey****End of Watch Sunday, December 25, 2005****BIO****Age** 40**Tour** 16 years**Badge** 2366**INCIDENT DETAILS****Cause** Automobile crash**Police Officer Robert Nguyen**<https://www.odmp.org/officer/18091-police-officer-robert-nguyen>**Jersey City Police Department, New Jersey****End of Watch Sunday, December 25, 2005****BIO****Age** 30**Tour** 6 years**Badge** 2805**INCIDENT DETAILS****Cause** Automobile crash

Police Officer Shawn Carson and Police Officer Robert Nguyen were killed when their patrol truck drove off of the Hackensack River Bridge and plunged 45-feet into the Hackensack River during a period of heavy fog at 8:20 pm.

The officers had driven across the lift-bridge to place flares on the Newark side to warn drivers about a problem with the bridge's operations. As they set the flares, the bridge operator opened the span to allow a tugboat to pass underneath. The bridge's safety bar and warning lights, which had not been functional for two days, failed to activate when the span opened.

As the officers returned to the Jersey City side of the bridge, their vehicle drove off of the open portion of the span and fell to the river below, killing both



officers.

Officer Carson was pulled from the water two hours after the incident and taken to University Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Officer Nguyen's body was recovered on December 29th, 2005, by members of the New York City Police Department's Dive Unit. His body was snagged under concrete pilings in 50 feet of water some 90 feet from where the truck went into the river.

Officer Carson had served with the Jersey City Police Department for 16 years.

Officer Nguyen had served with the Jersey City Police Department for 6 years.

2 Jersey Police Officers Drive Off Bridge in Fatal Accident

<https://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/26/nyregion/2-jersey-police-officers-drive-off-bridge-in-fatal-accident.html>

Dec. 26, 2005 By [Nate Schweber](#)

JERSEY CITY, Dec. 26 - One Jersey City police officer was killed and another is believed dead after their vehicle drove off a vertical lift bridge in dense fog on Christmas Day and plunged 45 feet into the frigid waters of the Hackensack River, the authorities said today.

After the officers - identified as Shawn Carson, 40, and Robert Nguyen, 30 - drove across the Lincoln Highway Bridge connecting Jersey City and Newark on Sunday evening, it was apparently lifted in order to let a tugboat pass underneath.

"They were not aware that the bridge had been lifted," Police Chief Robert Troy said at a news conference this morning. "They could not see because of the conditions."

The accident occurred Sunday about 8:20 p.m. after the two officers, assigned to the Jersey City Police Department's Emergency Services Unit, drove over the bridge to deliver flares to other officers who were warning motorists that the safety gate was not working. The gate's arms were damaged during a Dec. 23rd accident, authorities said.

After dropping off the flares, Officers Carson, a 16-year veteran of the department, and Nguyen, a 6-year veteran, attempted to return east across the bridge, but were unaware that the bridge's central span had been raised to allow a boat to go through.

Their vehicle dropped into the river's 41-degree waters.

The bridge's operator called police to report the accident.

It remains unclear whether the operator was aware that the police vehicle was on the adjacent part of the bridge at the time that the central span was lifted. Several units, including divers from the New York City Police Department, responded to the accident.

Mr. Carson's body has been recovered. Police divers continue to search for Mr. Nguyen, though he is believed to be dead, the authorities said. "The irony is they were responding to the very situation that caused their demise," said Mayor Jerramiah Healy of Jersey City.