



## **OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**RISA VETRI FERMAN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**KEVIN R. STEELE**  
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**SAMUEL J. GALLEN**  
CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

**STEVEN J. LATZER**  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX**  
**COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU**

**(610) 278-3090**  
**(610) 278-3095**  
**(610) 278-3368**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **State Police Corporal Charged With Recklessly Endangering Other Persons**



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Pennsylvania State Police Acting Commissioner Marcus L. Brown announce the arrest of State Police Corporal Richard Schroeter for five counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. On September 30, 2014, Schroeter conducted a firearm training session at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus in Plymouth Township. The training session was to transition the Troopers to a new firearm. Shortly after beginning the session Corporal Schroeter was discussing the trigger mechanics when he pulled the trigger on his duty issued firearm. The weapon discharged a live round, fatally wounding Trooper David Kedra, who attended the training with four other Troopers.

Montgomery County Detectives and the Pennsylvania State Police investigated Trooper Kedra's shooting, and those findings were presented to the Montgomery County Investigating Grand Jury. The Grand Jury heard testimony and read statements from responding police officers, EMS personnel, Campus employees, firearms expert(s), and the other Troopers who were present. Extensive photographs, diagrams, ballistics reports, and police reports were also reviewed.

At the conclusion of all testimony, prosecutors submitted to the Grand Jury for consideration a homicide charge, Involuntary Manslaughter, as well as the charge of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. The Grand Jurors received jury instructions detailing the legal elements the Commonwealth must prove to establish probable cause to support the filing of these charges.

On January 7, 2014, after careful and deliberate consideration of all the potential charges submitted by the attorney for the Commonwealth, and the definitions of Involuntary Manslaughter and Recklessly Endangering Another Person, as contained within standard Pennsylvania jury instructions, the Grand Jury determined the evidence sufficient to establish probable cause that Schroeter recklessly endangered those present, including Trooper Kedra. The Grand Jury found insufficient evidence that Schroeter consciously disregarded human life, and therefore could not establish probable cause that he committed Involuntary Manslaughter.

The Grand Jury concluded that although Schroeter is an experienced officer and highly-qualified firearms instructor who is very familiar with generally accepted safety procedures, he did not follow necessary precautions during the September 30th training. Specifically, Schroeter breached routine, yet critical safety protocol by failing to visually and physically check to ensure his weapon was unloaded, failing to obtain confirmation from another that his firearm was not loaded, and failing to point his weapon away from the direction of everyone present (including Trooper Kedra).

The Grand Jury issued a presentment recommending the District Attorney charge Schroeter with five counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. The presentment was filed with the Court, and submitted to the District Attorney for consideration. It is important to note that while the Grand Jury considered only whether probable cause existed to support the filing of charges, once charges are filed the Commonwealth bears the burden of proving them beyond a reasonable doubt.

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman accepted the Grand Jury's recommendation, and approved the filing of five counts of Recklessly Endangering Another Person. District Attorney Ferman said "the criminal charges filed against Corporal Schroeter are consistent with the Grand Jury's final recommendations, and serve to demonstrate that every individual should be governed by the same standard of law without regard for professional or socioeconomic status. Although respected by many within our community as a dedicated law enforcement officer, the interests of justice mandate that Corporal Schroeter be held criminally accountable for his conduct."

"This four-month investigation was conducted jointly with the Pennsylvania State Police and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office," said Pennsylvania State Police Acting Commissioner Marcus L. Brown. "This is one of the hardest things for this department to go through – but I believe the charges recommended by the grand jury are appropriate."

"The corporal involved should be held accountable for his actions and today's joint decision is meant to impose a substantial punishment for the behavior of a law enforcement officer," said Brown. "Clearly standard protocols were not followed by the corporal and we need to make sure that this type of accident will never happen again."

Schroeter was arrested this morning and was arraigned by Magisterial District Justice Francis J. Bernhardt. Bail was set at \$50,000.00 – unsecured. Schroeter waived his preliminary hearing at the time of his preliminary arraignment. The case will be prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Cauffman.

Approved for Release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.