

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Courter, formerly of Imperial, returned to work July 2 after reportedly shooting a man during a response to a domestic disturbance.

Courter allegedly shot and killed Robbin W. Gastineau, 26, of North Platte, after Gastineau allegedly attacked the deputy with a decorative Samurai sword.

Courter was responding to a 911 call in Hershey. The incident occurred at the home of Gastineau's former wife, Karin Gastineau.

Courter reportedly kicked in the door of the home after hearing a woman screaming. He reportedly tazed Gastineau twice, but the stun gun wasn't effective.

When Gastineau allegedly attacked the deputy with a Samurai sword that hung on the wall, the suspect was shot twice.

The Nebraska State Patrol was called in to investigate the incident. A grand jury will be convened to hear the facts concerning the shooting as required by Nebraska law.

Courter, 25, was a 2003 Chase County High School graduate.

He served in Iraq from August, 2007 to April, 2008 as a Marine Reserve Corporal.

Courter trained at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island and has been with the Lincoln County Sheriff's department for about a year, according to mother Roxane Miller of Imperial. His father is Marty Courter, also of Imperial.