— Phillip Whitley/Special

A Florida Highway Patrol dog, Major, was killed when troopers stopped a truck on I-95 in St. Johns County, and the animal was called on to search for drugs. Major darted into the northbound lane and was struck by a car, troopers said.

Drug-sniffing dog killed in I-95 accident

By Andrea Bisconti
Staff writer

Canine Major, a Florida Highway Patrol dog who sniffed out about $100,000 worth of drugs during his career, was killed yesterday after being struck by a car on Interstate 95 in St. Johns County.

The accident happened during a drug search just south of Florida 210, said Lt. Randy Brown of the Highway Patrol.

"It's certainly a sad day for us," Brown said. "Naturally, we feel like we lost a trooper."

About 1:45 p.m., troopers Mike King and Mike Smith stopped a rental truck on I-95 for following too closely to the car in front of it, Brown said. The driver, Jerry Matthew Ryan, 22, of Homestead acted nervous, so the troopers asked to search the truck.

The troopers found a bag of marijuana, so Smith — who worked with and cared for the dog — brought Major into the search, Brown said.

Smith commanded the 1½-year-old German shepherd to jump into the truck, but Major had trouble getting in, Brown said. After a few more commands from the trooper, Major apparently got confused and decided to find another way into the truck, Brown said.

The dog bolted around the front of the truck and was hit by a car driving in the right northbound lane, Brown said.

Brown said the death was an accident and that no one would be charged. Ryan was charged with possession of marijuana under 14 grams. A 14-year-old girl traveling with him was not charged.

The Highway Patrol paid $2,500 to have Major imported from Germany. The dog then spent 500 hours training for tracking, obedience and searching, and another 200 hours learning to detect cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana and heroin, Brown said. Major wore a gold trooper's badge on his collar.

Since he began working with Smith in January, Major has detected about $100,000 worth of drugs hidden in vehicles on highways in Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. He also played a role in numerous arrests of drug traffickers, car thieves and fugitives, Brown said.

FLORIDA TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT

MAIL TO: DEPT. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY & MOTOR VEHICLES
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RECORDS

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Time & Location

DATE OF ACCIDENT	TIME OF ACCIDENT	TIME OFFICER NOTIFIED	TIME OFFICER ARRIVED	INVEST. AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	HSMV ACCIDENT REPORT NUMBER
11/29/90	2:10 ☐ AM ■ PM	2:12 ☐ AM ■ PM	2:23 ☐ AM ■ PM	90-38-03136-20	13902800

COUNTY/CITY CODE: 20/00

CITY OR TOWN (Check if in City or Town) ☐: Feet or 11 Miles N ■ S ☐ E ☐ W of St. Augustine

COUNTY: St. Johns

AT NODE NO. _____ OR 6/10 FEET/MILES 1 ☐ 2 ■ FROM NODE NO. 1095 NEXT NODE NO. ON ROAD 1089 NO. OF LANES 4 1 ■ DIVIDED 2 ☐ UNDIVIDED ON STREET, ROAD OR HIGHWAY: SR-9 (I-95)

AT INTERSECTION OF 1 ☐ 2 ■ ☐ N ■ S ☐ E ☐ W OR 6/10 FEET/MILES OF INTERSECTION OF: County Road 210

Vehicle 1

DRIVER ACTION 1 Phantom 2 Hit & Run 3 N/A	YEAR	MAKE	TYPE	VEH. LICENSE NUMBER	STATE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
3	88	Merc	01	[redacted]	NJ	[redacted]
TRAILER OR TOWED VEHICLE INFORMATION						

POINT OF IMPACT: 2 (CIRCLE AREA OF DAMAGE)

VEHICLE TRAVELING ■ N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ON SR-9 (I-95) At 45 Est. MPH | Posted Speed 55 | EST. VEHICLE DAMAGE $ 250.00 (1 Disabling 2 Functional 3 No Damage: 2) | EST. TRAILER DAMAGE $

INSURANCE CO. (LIABILITY OR PIP) [redacted] | POLICY NUMBER [redacted] | VEHICLE REMOVED BY: Driver (1 Tow Rotation List 2 Tow Owner's Request 3 Driver 4 Other: 3)

OWNER'S FULL NAME (Check if Driver ■) | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE

OWNER'S FULL NAME (Trailer or Towed Vehicle) | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE

Pedestrian

DRIVER (Exactly as on Driver's License)/Pedestrian | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE | DATE OF BIRTH

[redacted]

DRIVER'S LICENSE [redacted]

#	PASSENGER'S NAME	CURRENT ADDRESS	CITY & STATE/ZIP CODE	AGE	LOC.	INJ.	S. EQUIP.	EJECT.
1	[redacted]							

Vehicle 2

DRIVER ACTION 1 Phantom 2 Hit & Run 3 N/A	YEAR	MAKE	TYPE	VEH. LICENSE NUMBER	STATE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
TRAILER OR TOWED VEHICLE INFORMATION						

POINT OF IMPACT: ☐ (CIRCLE AREA OF DAMAGE)

VEHICLE TRAVELING ☐ N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ON At Est. MPH | Posted Speed | EST. VEHICLE DAMAGE $ (1 Disabling 2 Functional 3 No Damage: ☐) | EST. TRAILER DAMAGE $

INSURANCE CO. (LIABILITY OR PIP) | POLICY NUMBER | VEHICLE REMOVED BY: (1 Tow Rotation List 2 Tow Owner's Request 3 Driver 4 Other: ☐)

OWNER'S FULL NAME (Check if Driver ☐) | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE

OWNER'S FULL NAME (Trailer or Towed Vehicle) | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE

Pedestrian

DRIVER (Exactly as on Driver's License)/Pedestrian | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE | DATE OF BIRTH

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER | STATE | LIC. TYPE | BAC TEST (1 Blood 2 Breath 3 Urine 4 Refused 5 None) ☐ | RESULTS % | AL/DRUG | PHYS. DEF. | RES | RACE | SEX | INJ. | S. EQUIP. | EJECT.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BEING TRANSPORTED 1 None 2 Flammable Liquid 3 Explosives 4 Poisonous Gas 5 Corrosive Materials 6 Radioactive Materials 7 Other ☐

Driving Ability Questionable RECOMMEND RE-EXAM 1 YES 2 NO 3 NOT APPLICABLE If YES, Explain in Narrative ☐

Driver's Phone No. ( )

#	PASSENGER'S NAME	CURRENT ADDRESS	CITY & STATE/ZIP CODE	AGE	LOC.	INJ.	S. EQUIP.	EJECT.
1								
2								
3								

Code Information

VEHICLE TYPE
01 Passenger Vehicle
02 Passenger Van
03 Recreational
04 Truck (Light) Pickup
05 Truck (Heavy)
06 Truck Tractor
07 Motorcycle
08 Off-Road Vehicle
09 Moped
10 Bicycle
11 Law Enforcement Vehicle
12 Fire Vehicle
13 Ambulance
14 Rescue Unit
15 Taxicab
16 Public School Bus
17 Private School Bus
18 City Transit Bus
19 Commercial Bus
20 Other Type Bus
21 Special Mobile Equipment
22 Farm Equipment
23 Government
24 Military
25 Train
26 Trailer
27 Towed Vehicle
28 Other

RESIDENCE (DRIVER ONLY)
1 County of Accident
2 Elsewhere in State
3 Non-Resident State
4 Foreign 5 Unknown

LICENSE TYPE
1 Operator 4 Motorcycle
2 Chauffeur
3 Res. Operator 5 None

RACE
1 White
2 Black
3 Hispanic
4 Other

SEX
1 Male
2 Female

PHYSICAL DEFECTS
1 No Defects Known
2 Eyesight Defect
3 Fatigue/Asleep
4 Hearing Defect
5 ILL
6 Seizure, Epilepsy, Blackout
7 Other Physical Defect

INJURY SEVERITY
1 No Injury
2 Possible Injury
3 Non-Incapacitating Injury
4 Incapacitating Injury
5 Fatal (Within 90 Days) Injury
6 Non-Traffic Fatality

ALCOHOL/DRUG USE
1 Not Drinking or Using Drugs
2 Alcohol-Under Influence
3 Drugs-Under Influence
4 Alcohol & Drugs-Under Influence
5 Had Been Drinking
6 Pending BAC Test Result

SAFETY EQUIPMENT IN USE
1 Not in Use
2 Seat Belt/Shoulder Harness
3 Child Restraint
4 Safety Helmet/Eye Protection
5 Air Bag
6 Other

LOCATION (IN VEHICLE)
1 Front Left
2 Front Center
3 Front Right
4 Rear Left
5 Rear Center
6 Rear Right
7 In Body of Truck
8 Bus Passenger
9 Other

EJECTED
1 No
2 Yes
3 Partial

INVESTIGATOR — RANK AND SIGNATURE: Timothy S. Flynn | Sergeant | ID/BADGE NUMBER 239 | DEPARTMENT: Florida Highway Patrol 1 ■ FHP 2 ☐ SO 3 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

Timothy S. Flynn

DRIVER : Phantom ACTION 2 Hit & Run 3 N/A	YEAR	MAKE	TYPE	VEH. LICENSE NUMBER	STATE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
TRAILER OR TOWED VEHICLE INFORMATION						

POINT OF IMPACT: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

CIRCLE AREA OF DAMAGE: 18 Undercarriage 19 Overturn 20 Windshield 21 Fire 22 Trailer

Vehicle

VEHICLE TRAVELING ☐ N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ON At Est. MPH | Posted Speed | EST. VEHICLE DAMAGE $ 1 Disabling 2 Functional 3 No Damage | EST. TRAILER DAMAGE $

INSURANCE CO. (LIABILITY OR PIP) | POLICY NUMBER | VEHICLE REMOVED BY: 1 Tow Rotation List 2 Tow Owner's Request 3 Driver 4 Other

OWNER'S FULL NAME (Check if Driver ☐) | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE

OWNER'S FULL NAME (Trailer or Towed Vehicle) | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE

Pedestrian

DRIVER (Exactly as on Driver's License)/Pedestrian | CURRENT ADDRESS (Number and Street) | CITY AND STATE | ZIP CODE | DATE OF BIRTH

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	STATE	LIC. TYPE	BAC TEST 1 Blood 2 Breath 3 Urine 4 Refused 5 None	RESULTS %	AL/DRUG	PHYS. DEF.	RES	RACE	SEX	INJ.	S. EQUIP.	EJECT.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BEING TRANSPORTED 1 None 2 Flammable Liquid 3 Explosives 4 Poisonous Gas 5 Corrosive Materials 6 Radioactive Materials 7 Other | Driving Ability Questionable RECOMMEND RE-EXAM 1 YES 2 NO 3 NOT APPLICABLE If YES, Explain in Narrative | Driver's Phone No. ( )

# PASSENGER'S NAME	CURRENT ADDRESS	CITY & STATE/ZIP CODE	AGE	LOC	INJ.	S. EQUIP.	EJECT.
1							
2							
3							

# PROPERTY DAMAGED - OTHER THAN VEHICLES	EST. AMOUNT	OWNER'S NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
1 Police Canine Name: Major	$ 5000.	Department Of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles	Neil Kirkman Bldg.	Tallahassee	Florida	32301
2	$					

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES-DRIVER/PED

01 No Improper Driving/Action
02 Careless Driving
03 Failed to Yield Right-of-Way
04 Improper Backing
05 Improper Lane Change
06 Improper Turn
07 Alcohol-Under Influence
08 Drugs-Under Influence
09 Alcohol & Drugs-Under Influence
10 Followed Too Closely
11 Disregarded Traffic Signal
12 Exceeded Safe Speed Limit
13 Disregarded Stop Sign
14 Failed to Maintain Equip./Vehicle
15 Improper Passing
16 Drove Left of Center
17 Exceeded Stated Speed Limit
18 Obstructing Traffic
19 Improper Load
20 Disregarded Other Traffic Control
21 Driving Wrong Side/Way
77 All Other (Explain in Narrative)

1: 01 | 2: | 3:

VEHICLE DEFECT

01 No Defects
02 Def. Brakes
03 Worn/Smooth Tires
04 Defective/Improper Lights
05 Puncture/Blowout
06 Steering Mech.
07 Windshield Wipers
08 Equipment/Vehicle Defect
77 All Other (Explain in Narrative)

1: 01 | 2: | 3:

VEHICLE MOVEMENT

01 Straight Ahead
02 Slowing/Stopped/Stalled
03 Making Left Turn
04 Backing
05 Making Right Turn
06 Changing Lanes
07 Entering/Leaving Parking Space
08 Properly Parked
09 Improperly Parked
10 Making U-Turn
11 Passing
12 Driverless or Runaway Veh.
77 All Other (Explain in Narrative)

1: 01 | 2: | 3:

VEHICLE FUNCTION

01 None
02 Pulling Semi-Trailer
03 Pulling Other Veh.
04 Emergency Operation
05 Pulling Tandem Trailer/Double Bottom
06 Pulling Tank Trailer
07 Pulling House Trailer
08 Pulling Small Trailer
09 Veh. Being Towed/Pushed
10 Pulling Pole Trailer
11 Pulling Saddle Mount
12 Police Pursuit
77 All Other (Explain)

1: 01 | 2: | 3:

VEHICLE MODIFIED

01 Yes (If Yes, Explain)
02 No
03 Not Applicable

1: 02 | 2: | 3:

LOCATION ON ROADWAY

01 On Road
02 Not On Road
03 Shoulder
04 Median
05 Turn Lane/Safety Zone

1: 01 | 2: | 3:

PEDESTRIAN ACTION

01 Crossing Not at Intersection
02 Crossing at Intersection
03 Walking Along Road With Traffic
04 Walking Along Road Against Traffic
05 Pushing/Working on Vehicle in Road
06 Other Working in Road
07 Standing/Playing in Road
77 All Other (Explain)
88 Unknown

1: | 2: | 3:

FIRST/SUBSEQUENT HARMFUL EVENT

01 Collision With MV in Transport (Rear-end)
02 Collision With MV in Transport (Angle)
03 Collision With MV in Transport (Left Turn)
04 Collision With Parked Car
05 Collision With MV in Transport (Sideswipe)
06 Collision With MV in Transport (Backed Into)
07 Collision With MV in Transport (Right Turn)
08 MV Hit Other Fixed Object
09 MV Hit Utility Pole/Light Pole
10 Collision With MV in Transport (Head-on)
11 Collision With Pedestrian
12 Collision With Moped
13 MV Hit Tree/Shrubbery
14 Collision With Bicycle
15 Collision With Bicycle (Bike Lane)
16 MV Ran into Ditch/Culvert
17 Ran Off Road into Water
18 Overturned
19 MV Hit Fence
20 Collision With MV on Other Roadway
21 MV Hit Sign/Sign Post
22 MV Hit Guardrail
23 Collision With Fixed Object Above Road
24 Fire
25 Collision With Animal
26 Collision With Moveable Object On Road
27 MV Hit Concrete Barrier Wall
28 MV Hit Bridge/Pier/Abutment Rail
29 Occupant Fell From Vehicle
30 Tractor/Trailer Jackknifed
31 Collision With Construction Barricade/Sign In Road
32 Collision With Traffic Gate
33 Collision With Crash Attenuators
34 Collision With Train
35 Explosion
77 All Other (Explain)

F: 25 | S:

ROAD SYSTEM IDENTIFIER

01 Interstate
02 U.S.
03 State
04 County
05 Local
06 Turnpike
07 Other Full Control
08 Other Major Arterial
77 All Other (Explain)

01

LIGHTING CONDITION

01 Daylight
02 Dusk
03 Dawn
04 Dark (Street Light)
05 Dark (No Street Light)
88 Unknown

01

ROAD SURFACE/CONDITION

01 Dry
02 Wet
03 Slippery
04 Icy
77 All Other (Explain)

01

WEATHER

01 Clear
02 Cloudy
03 Rain
04 Fog
77 All Other (Explain)

02

ROAD SURFACE TYPE

01 Slag/Gravel/Stone
02 Blacktop
03 Brick/Block
04 Concrete
05 Dirt
77 All Other (Explain)

02

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES-ROAD

01 No Defects
02 Obstruction With/Without Warning
03 Road Under Repair/Construction
04 Loose Surface Materials
05 Shoulders-Soft/Low/High
06 Holes/Ruts/Unsafe Paved Edge
07 Standing Water
08 Worn/Polished Road Surface
77 All Other (Explain)

01

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES-ENVIRONMENT

01 Vision Not Obscured
02 Inclement Weather
03 Parked/Stopped Vehicle
04 Trees/Crops/Bushes
05 Load on Vehicle
06 Building/Fixed Object
07 Signs/Billboards
08 Fog
09 Smoke
10 Glare
77 All Other (Explain)

01

TRAFFIC CONTROL

01 No Control
02 Speed Control Zone
03 Traffic Signal
04 Stop Sign
05 Yield Sign
06 Flashing Light
07 Railroad Signal
08 Officer/Guard/Flagman
09 Posted No U-Turn
10 School Zone
77 All Other (Explain)

02

SITE LOCATION

01 Not At Intersection/RR X'ing/Bridge
02 At Intersection
03 Influenced By Intersection
04 Driveway Access
05 Railroad Crossing
06 Bridge
07 Entrance Ramp
08 Exit Ramp
09 Parking Lot-Public
10 Parking Lot-Private
11 Private Property
77 All Other (Explain)

01

TRAFFICWAY CHARACTER

01 Straight-Level
02 Straight-Upgrade/Downgrade
03 Curve-Level
04 Curve-Upgrade/Downgrade

01

TYPE SHOULDER

01 Paved
02 Unpaved

01

WITNESS NAME	ADDRESS	CITY & STATE	ZIP
1 None			
2			

VIOLATOR	FL STATUTE NUMBER	NAME	CHARGE
		None	

FLORIDA TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT ☐ Check Only If Update

NARRATIVE AND DIAGRAM

MAIL TO: DEPT. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY & MOTOR VEHICLES
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RECORDS, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

EMS INFO. FATALS ONLY	TIME EMS NOTIFIED	TIME EMS ARRIVED	COUNTY/CITY CODE	DATE OF ACCIDENT	INVEST. AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	HSMV ACCIDENT REPORT NUMBER
	AM PM	AM PM	20/00	11-29-90	90-38-03136-20	13902800

On 11-29-90 at approximately 2:10 pm on SR-9 (I-95), 6/10 miles south of CR-210. A Felony Team consisting of Trooper Michael D. King, ID# 913, Trooper Michael A. Smith, ID# 924 and Canine Major team designation G-2, were in the process of a vehicle drug search. This search was being conducted on the north bound emergency lane of SR-9 (I-95). During the search, Canine Major for unknown reasons bolted from his position on the east side of the suspect vehicle and ran north bound around the front of the suspect vehicle and into the path of vehicle #1. Canine Major was struck by the right front of vehicle #1 and thrown 44 feet onto the east shoulder of SR-9 (I-95).

Vehicle # 1 was traveling north bound on the outside lane of SR-9 (I-95) prior to collision with Canine Major. There were no visible skid marks left by vehicle #1 prior to collision.

Canine Major died at the scene as the result of his injuries.

This incident and traffic crash was referred to:

Lt. Malcom P. Jowers, ID# 91, Investigation Section Troop G, Jacksonville.

Photographs taken by Trooper Michael D. King, ID# 913 at Sergeant T. S. Flynn request.

FIRST AID GIVEN BY - NAME		INJURED TAKEN TO:	BY - NAME:
None	☐ 1 Physician or Nurse ☐ 2 Paramedic Or EMT ☐ 3 Police Officer ☐ 4 Certified 1st Aider ☐ 5 Other	None	None

WAS INVESTIGATION MADE AT SCENE?	IS INVESTIGATION COMPLETE?	DATE OF REPORT	PHOTOS TAKEN?
■ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No-Where?	■ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No-Why?	11 29 90	■ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No ■ 3 Investigating Agency ☐ 4 Other

INVESTIGATOR - RANK AND SIGNATURE		ID/BADGE NUMBER	DEPARTMENT	
Timothy S. Flynn	Sergeant	239	Florida Highway Patrol	1 ■ FHP 2 ☐ SO 3 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

Timothy S. Flynn

HSMV 90005 (REV. 5/88)S

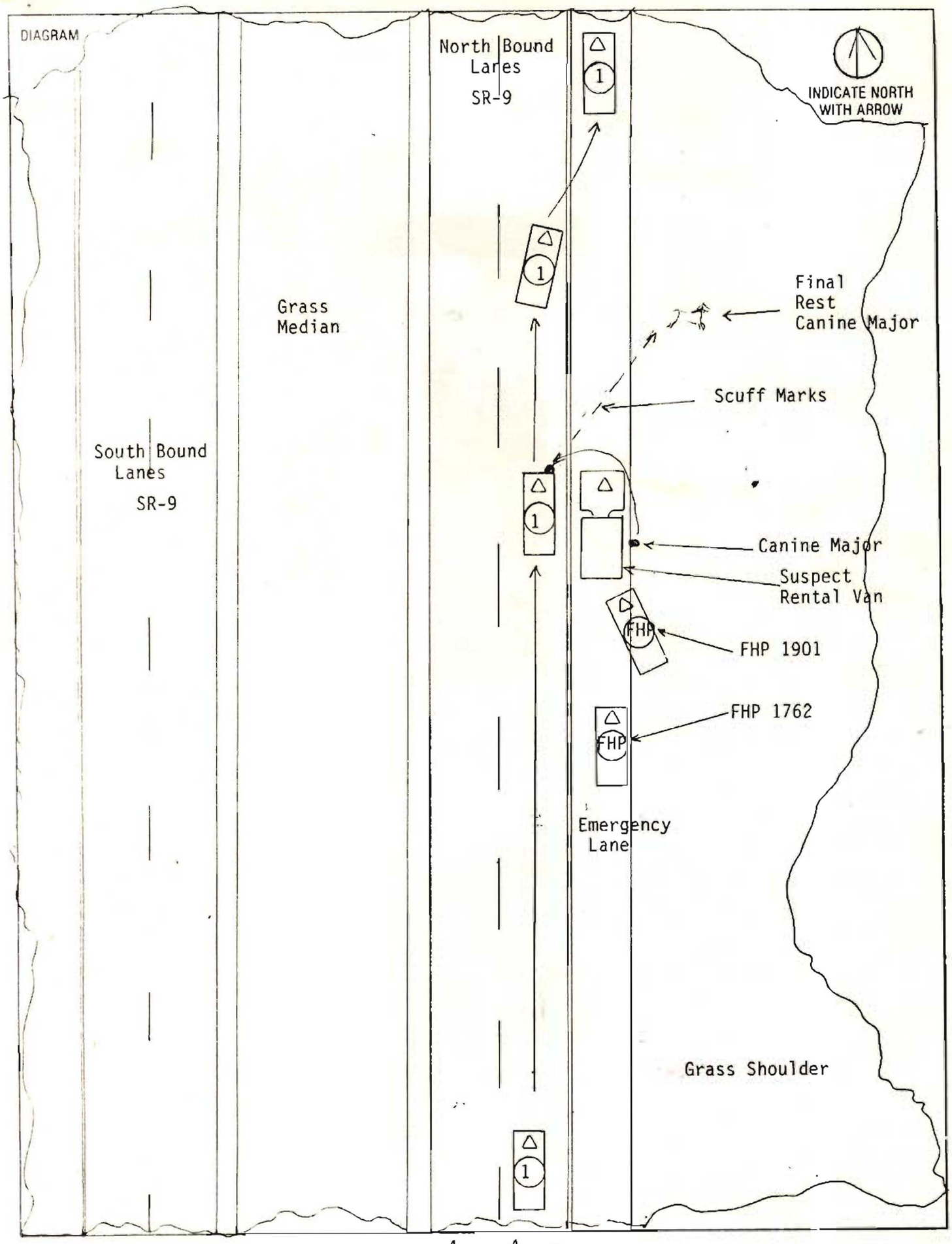
DIAGRAM
North Bound Lanes
SR-9
INDICATE NORTH WITH ARROW
Grass Median
Final Rest Canine Major
Scuff Marks
South Bound Lanes
SR-9
Canine Major
Suspect Rental Van
FHP 1901
FHP 1762
Emergency Lane
Grass Shoulder