

BLM HIT MAN

Agent Dan Love's sad and cruel history.
By Marjorie Haun

Dan Love, the Bureau of Land Management agent now under investigation by the agency's inspector general for ethics violations related to the 2016 Burning Man festival in Nevada, has a history of cruel and ruthless behavior predating recent uproars over his thuggish tactics. Prior to Love's involvement in the failed raid on the Cliven Bundy Ranch in 2014, he led the 2009 federal antiquities sting, Operation Cerberus Action, in southeastern Utah. The sting took several years and climaxed with raids on dozens of homes by hundreds of armed BLM and FBI agents, and led to the deaths of four men with ties to the case.

Dr. James Redd, a beloved father, church leader and community physician, became a suspect in Operation Cerberus, and took his own life following a day of inhumane treatment by agents under the direction of Special Agent (SA) Dan Love. Following are accounts from those close to Dr. Redd who witnessed Love's activities and interacted with him in Blanding and other Utah locations during the course of the investigation.

Operation Cerberus: The Aftermath

The night following the raid on his home, after hours of harsh treatment by federal officers and his arrest and arraignment before a federal judge in Moab, Dr. Redd recorded a message for his family. About 40 minutes in length, the message expressed love for his wife and children, and delivered individual messages to each family member. James Redd spoke at length about his devotion to his Latter-day Saint faith, and the importance of living right. But within his loving farewell, Redd made the case for taking his own life, saying that with all the trumped-up charges and so-called evidence the government claimed to have against him and his family, "there will be one less charge to contend with."

The "one charge" to which Dr. Redd was referring was related to a tiny Indian bead he once picked up off the ground and kept in his home as a curiosity. As lead officer in the operation, SA Love asserted that the quarter-



inch bead was worth \$1,000, and Dr. Redd's possession of it broke Native American antiquities law, when, in fact, the actual appraised value of the bead was \$75. Approximately 24 hours after Love and other federal officers raided his home, Dr. Redd asphyxiated himself in his Jeep.

The Redd family has always taken their Mormon faith very personally. About a month after Dr. Redd's death, SA Love, BLM agent Brent Range and an FBI agent returned to the home of James and Jeanne Redd. While there, Love noticed a picture of the Latter-day Saint prophet, Joseph Smith, on the kitchen table and said to Jeanne and daughter, Jericca, "It's good you have his picture there, keep praying to him." Anyone familiar with Mormon belief knows that Joseph Smith is not a subject of worship, but is revered as a leader. Love's comment appears to have been a sadistic jab at the Redds' tender religious feelings.

Love had worked with the key informant in the case, Ted Gardiner, who spent time at the Redd home wearing a hidden camera to gather information about their alleged trade of artifacts. During the meeting, Love received a phone call and, after hanging up, callously said he had just spoken to Gardiner and then complained that he wanted more money for his work in gathering information on James and Jeanne.

As SA Love and agent Range were leaving the Redd home following that meeting, Love gave Dr. Redd's three-year-old grandson, Sebastian, a child's BLM badge and told him he could call him "Uncle Dan." Little Sebastian, who idolized his grandfather, did not comprehend that this was the man whose actions led to the death of his beloved "Poppy."

In another instance, Dan Love was with Brent Range in the Provo apartment of Jamaica Redd Lyman, along with Jeanne and two other daughters. During the course of their conversation, Jericca asked Love why he thought her father took his own life. Love responded coldly, "He took one for the team." Love also told Jeanne and her daughters that he had read all of Dr. Redd's private journals, then criticized his "poor penmanship." In his ignorance, it appears Love failed to understand that as a physician, Dr. Redd used shorthand and medical abbreviations in his writing.

During a two-day discussion with Love and others at the BLM office in Salt Lake, Jericca saw photos of Operation Cerberus

DAN LOVE PHOTOS © SHANNON BUSHMAN - PEEK PROMOTION



Dressed in body armor, supervising Special Agent Dan Love talks to members of the press and locals who arrived at Cliven Bundy's ranch to protest the BLM's military-style raid and attempts to remove cattle. The cows were calving and temperatures were close to 100 degrees. It was a dangerous time to gather.

defendants on the walls. As she sat down she noticed a map on the floor with a photo of her father and asked Love about it. She recalled that Love shrugged his shoulders and said, “Yeah we need to get rid of that.” Yet the following day the picture was still on the floor.

When Jeanne Redd filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the federal agents involved in Operation Cerberus, SA Love lied about his relationship with Dr. Redd. The *Deseret News* reported: “His widow, Jeanne, said in a wrongful death suit filed in

investigations in the protection of renewable and non-renewable resources.... The investigation could not have been completed without the unparalleled dedication of Agent Love.... Special Agent Love’s exemplary effort on this investigation has brought great credit upon him and the BLM.”

Sometime after the Utah raids, Dan Love was promoted, and by September 2014 he was head of BLM law enforcement in Utah and Nevada. In April 2014, Love directed the paramilitary raid on the Bundy Ranch in Bunkerville, Nev. Hundreds of armed agents, many in full body armor and carrying automatic weapons, swarmed the Bundy Ranch. [See page 66] The raid was initially an attempt to confiscate cattle, but escalated into a tense standoff with hundreds of locals and ranchers, many on horseback, who arrived at the ranch to protect Cliven Bundy’s livestock. After federal agents killed several dozen head of cows, bulls and calves and disabled or destroyed the watering system (improvements) on the ranch, the raid was called off.

There are many more accounts of Dan Love’s cruel, childish, dishonest, and self-serving actions, both past and present, and this agent’s arrogance has become a defining quality of the BLM. But with the new administration in place the agency is undergoing systemic changes designed to root out its rotten elements. Recent revelations about Love’s theft and use of antiquities, obtained in Operation Cerberus, are focusing scrutiny on this BLM hit man with increasing intensity.

For the Redd family, their years-long ordeal will never fully be reconciled. But there is a hope that all who’ve been victimized by Dan Love, and his cruel and unusual federal “law-enforcement” tactics, will soon have redress. ■

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For the complete Cliven Bundy special report that ran in RANGE, Fall 2014, go to “Tyranny” at www.rangemagazine.com and click on Vin Suprynowicz’ award-winning story called “Onslaught at Bunkerville.”

PHOTO COURTESY REDD FAMILY



Sebastian, Dr. James Redd’s grandson, sits on the lap of his beloved “Poppy.”

May, that federal agents’ ‘excessive, over-reaching and abusive treatment’ pushed her husband to suicide. She claims that agents ‘manhandled’ her husband and interrogated him for hours in the garage. Nevertheless, Love claimed Dr. Redd had no animosity nor anger toward officers for the way he was treated that day. Love actually said Redd shook his hand and thanked him for being treated ‘with respect and dignity.’ The family said Redd never made such a statement, and it was Love’s attempt to dodge culpability for the brutal interrogation of their husband and father.”

For his role in Operation Cerberus, which resulted in four lives lost—three to suicide and one to a drug overdose—BLM awarded Dan Love “Special Agent of the Year 2009.” BLM’s “year-end review” journal stated: “Agent Love was selected for the award because of his outstanding work conducting