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## 2 Marion County Sheriff's Office majors resign

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### **MARION COUNTY, Fla. -**

Two high-ranking Marion County Sheriff's Office employees have resigned just days after they were suspended by interim Sheriff Emery Gainey.

Maj. Don Maines, who oversaw the Bureau of Professional Standards, and Maj. Tommy Bibb, who oversaw the Bureau of Special Investigations, resigned from their positions this week.

Bibb was with the sheriff's office for 28 years. Maines was employed by the sheriff's office for three years. They were both appointed to their positions by Marion County Sheriff Chris Blair in 2011.

Both men were placed on administrative leave one day after Blair was arrested. The sheriff's office did comment on why either of the men had been suspended.

Blair is charged with two counts of perjury in an official proceeding and one count of official misconduct, both felony charges.

Court records show the grand jury had been investigating the conduct of Blair's deputies and the possible use of excessive force. Blair had been subpoenaed to testify, and jurors found probable cause that Blair lied when he was questioned about injuries suffered by a suspect.

From the indictment, the grand jury found probable cause that Blair knowingly gave false testimony in the case of Dustin Heathman.

Heathman was accused of shooting at a SWAT team during a 2014 standoff in northwest Marion County. According to court documents, that suspect appeared to have injuries to his face.

But when Blair was asked if he could see the suspect's injuries, Blair said no and that he only saw his back.

However, the indictment reads that Blair was actually so close to the suspect that he had to move out of the way when deputies escorted the suspect from the scene.

Gov. Rick Scott appointed Gainey to take the helm until a new sheriff is elected in November.

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