A Border Patrol agent with a history of run-ins with law enforcement agencies in Santa Cruz County is a "very strong" suspect in a Louisiana homicide, authorities say.

Agent Jason Wood, 30, is suspected in the November killing of his uncle, Doug Wood, said Shreveport, La., police detective Russell Ross.

Doug Wood was found shot to death Nov. 15 in the cab of his pickup, which was parked in a hotel lot with the engine running and lights on.

The 33-year-old father of two was last seen alive about three hours earlier, driving away from his workplace with Jason Wood sitting in the front passenger seat, police said.

Shreveport detectives followed the investigative trail to Tucson, to Doug's estranged stepbrother, Aubrey Wood, 60, and Aubrey Wood's son, Jason.

Jason Wood and Aubrey Wood, who allegedly "hated" Doug Wood, are "both very strong suspects," in the homicide investigation, Ross said.

In 1997, a Nogales police sergeant contacted the Border Patrol after Wood allegedly had a run-in at a local gym over the music playing on the CD player. The gym's receptionist called police after Wood allegedly pushed his way behind the counter.
Wood reportedly became confrontational with officers and called Nogales police a "bunch of holes," according to police reports.

The police sergeant wrote in a memo that he talked to Wood's field supervisor, "but he stated there was not much he could do except advise his superiors.

"I would appreciate that a copy of this memorandum be forwarded through the proper channels at the U.S. Border Patrol office so they can rectify this potentially explosive situation," the sergeant wrote.

On Oct. 6, 1998, Wood was arrested for aggravated assault, intimidation, stalking and domestic violence. According to Santa Cruz County sheriff's reports, he allegedly assaulted his girlfriend's sons, ages 10 and 14. They were treated at the hospital for "minor injuries," according to reports.

Wood was booked and released the same day. He never was charged. Santa Cruz County Attorney Martha Chase said there was "insufficient evidence" in the case.

On the Thursday afternoon Doug Wood was killed, Jason Wood arrived in Shreveport on a flight from Tucson, said Russell Ross, the police detective.

Witnesses saw Jason and Aubrey waiting in the parking lot of Libbey Glass about 7 p.m., when Doug's shift ended, police said. When Doug walked outside, Jason was waiting by his uncle's new Chevy pickup, and Aubrey was parked nearby in a rental car, police said.

"They said Jason just wanted to surprise Doug," Ross said. "But Aubrey and Doug hated each other, and Jason didn't even know Doug."

"And just a short time after their reunion, Doug was shot to death," Ross added.

Jason told investigators he came into town to check on his father, who he said was ill. Aubrey Wood, 60, told police he was driving from Louisiana to Tucson by himself at about 9 p.m. - just hours after Jason Wood arrived, Ross said.

At about 5 a.m. Friday, Jason Wood boarded a flight back to Tucson.

Ross said he is still gathering evidence in the case and plans to present it to local prosecutors some time this month.

"I haven't discovered any other motive for anybody to kill Doug," Ross said. "He was a good old boy. He liked to hunt and fish, and work and then go home and play with his kids."

Tracy Wood, Doug's widow, is raising the couple's two boys, ages 5 and 7. She cries when she talks about her husband.

"Doug was a wonderful person. He was a loving husband and father," Tracy Wood said. "He was actually one of the good ones."

Doug Wood's sister, Robin Wall, said Jason was a little boy the last time she was aware he visited Shreveport.
She said Doug and Aubrey, her stepbrother, had argued several times in the past few years, after Aubrey moved in with their mother.

Doug was concerned that Aubrey was taking advantage of his mother, Wall said. The most recent argument was over executorship of the will made out by their mother, who died Oct. 31, family members say.

"I just want justice to be done," said Wall, 41. "It won't bring (Doug) back, but it shouldn't go unpunished."