



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2022-1726

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 15266 Gilchrist Rd., Mt.
Vernon (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Deputy Mark Kern (W)
Date of Activity: 08/20/2022
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriffs Office – Business – 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt Vernon, OH 43050, Knox County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Saturday August 20, 2022, at 1512 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Delaware County Sheriff Deputy Mark Kern (Deputy Kern). The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's office located at 11540 Upper Gilchrist Rd., Mt Vernon, OH 43050. Deputy Kern was identified as being a police officer who responded to the barricade situation which involved the now deceased Randy Wilhelm (R. Wilhelm) and Bradley Wilhelm (B. Wilhelm). The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to the interview SA Poole advised Deputy Kern that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Deputy Kern verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged he would like to continue with the interview.

Deputy Kern said he received a call around 0100 in the morning to respond to a barricade situation involving two males shooting at a bail bondsman and an Ohio State Highway Patrol chopper with long guns. He also explained there was one girlfriend and a mother still on the property. Deputy Kern clarified that he is assigned to the Delaware County Defensive Tactical Unit (DTU). Deputy Kern said when he arrived at the meeting location he was assigned to an eight man team using the Marysville tactical vehicle. He stated his team was assigned as a relief vehicle and would stage down the street from the incident.

When the team arrived at scene, they were reallocated to respond to Randy's address at, 15159

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Monroe Mills Rd, Mt Vernon, OH 43050, in order to hold security. Once they pulled up to the house Deputy Kern said the driver of the tactical vehicle parked sideways blocking the garage and facing the front door. Deputy Kern was told to get out and set up a security position around the tactical vehicle.

Deputy Kern stated he heard gunfire in the distance and then heard gunfire coming at the team he was with. Deputy Kern said he could not remember how many shots were fired, but that the team immediately got back in the tactical vehicle and drove back to the main road. Deputy Kern stated he could clearly see that there were multiple gunshot rounds in the front windshield of the tactical vehicle.

Deputy Kern stated the team then got out and used the tactical vehicle as cover. He explained they held that position for a long time before they were told another team had engaged with the suspects resulting in their deaths.

Deputy Kern explained he did not see the critical incident resulting in the deaths of Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm.

Deputy Kern drew a picture depicting the house and location of the tactical vehicle throughout the incident. The drawing is attached and saved electronically to the case file.

SA Poole asked what weapon did Deputy Kern have out during the incident. Deputy Kern stated his Glock 22.

SA Poole asked if Deputy Kern or any other officers around him discharged their weapons. Deputy Kern said, "No and no."

Deputy Kern did not have a body camera on during the incident due to being on call.

The interview concluded at 1524 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Deputy Mark kern Delaware 08.20.22

Attachment # 02: Deputy Mark Kern Drawling

8/20/22

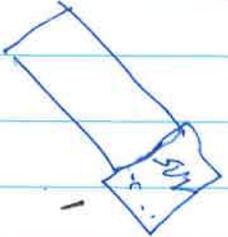
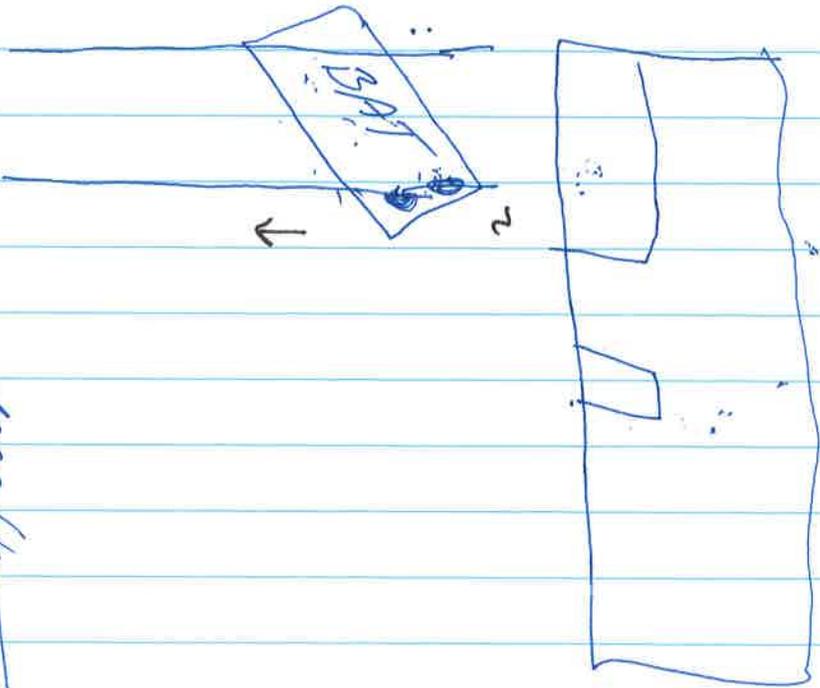
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