



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



2022-2876

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- Travis Hellinger

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Deputy Aaron Siegel

Activity Date: 12/21/2022

Activity Location: 100 Dillmont Drive, Columbus, Ohio

Authoring Agent: SAS Scott Stranahan

Narrative:

On Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at approximately 0905 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Scott Stranahan conducted an interview with Deputy Aaron Siegel of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Siegel is a member of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team. The Delaware County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team was requested to assist the Marion County Sheriff's Office with a search warrant in LaRue, Ohio on the morning of December 20, 2022. Deputy Siegel was present during this operation. The interview took place at 100 Dillmont Drive, Columbus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

SAS Stranahan began the interview by identifying himself and explained that BCI was requested to conduct an investigation into the Officer Involved Critical Incident that occurred in LaRue, Ohio the previous day. Deputy Siegel confirmed he was present during this operation. Deputy Siegel stated he has worked for the Delaware County Sheriff's Office for approximately 5 years and has been assigned to the Delaware County SWAT Team for approximately 3 years. SAS Stranahan then asked Deputy Siegel to describe his involvement in this incident.

Deputy Siegel stated he attended a mission briefing at 0315 hours. Deputy Siegel learned the Delaware County SWAT Team would be assisting the Marion County Sheriff's Office with the execution of a search warrant in Marion County. According to Deputy Siegel, for this mission, he was assigned to the "reserve team." Deputy Siegel stated he and other members of the reserve team were in a black van and their duties were to provide additional manpower if needed and to bring equipment to the scene if necessary during the operation.

Deputy Siegel stated as units arrived on scene in Marion County to execute the search warrant, the reserve team he was assigned to take a position in the area of Price Street and Swain Street.

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According to Deputy Siegel, his team was a short distance away from the target location (256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio). While waiting in this area, Deputy Siegel overheard radio traffic indicating the target of the search warrant (Travis Hellinger) departed the residence. Deputy Siegel was not certain if Hellinger fled the residence or walked away. Deputy Siegel stated he was aware Hellinger departed the area on foot. According to Deputy Siegel, he was unable to see Hellinger's exact location. Deputy Siegel stated he observed the drone following above Hellinger and shining light down onto Hellinger's location. Deputy Siegel stated he was able to hear SWAT operators (possibly Marion County Officers) issuing verbal commands to Hellinger such as "stop." Deputy Siegel stated he was able to hear "a lot of talking" however he was unable to hear what they were talking about. A short time later, Deputy Siegel stated he heard several gun shots.

Deputy Siegel stated he did not observe the incident unfold due to the distance he was from Hellinger's location. Deputy Siegel estimated he was "at least a couple hundred yards" away from the area where the incident took place. Deputy Siegel stated he did not know how many rounds were fired during this incident.

Deputy Siegel stated immediately following the incident he and other members took positions of cover. According to Deputy Siegel, a tactical medic arrived at their location and went to the Marion County equipment truck which was staged with Deputy Siegel's team and requested to be transported to Hellinger's location so he could provide aid. The tactical medic was then transported from the staging area. Deputy Siegel said at this point, he and other members of the reserve team moved to the primary target location (Hellinger's residence) to provide additional manpower support. Upon arrival at Hellinger's residence, Deputy Siegel entered Hellinger's residence where two females were located. Deputy Siegel assisted in securing Hellinger's residence throughout the remainder of his involvement. Deputy Siegel was unable to provide additional details regarding this incident and the interview was concluded.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.