



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



2022-1726

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

Date of Activity: 08/20/2022
Author: SA David Wieging, #122

Narrative:

On August 20, 2022, at approximately 1503 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent David Wieging (SA Wieging) interviewed Detective Sean Franks (Franks) with the Delaware Police Department assigned to the Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU) at the Knox County Sheriff's Office located at 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, 43050. The purpose of the interview with Franks was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred on this date near the property at 15266 Gilchrist Road in Mount Vernon.

It was reported that the Mansfield Allied Special Operation Response Team (ASORT), DTU and the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) responded to the property on Gilchrist Road after learning that a bail bondsman, and subsequently an Ohio State Patrol helicopter, were reportedly shot at by Randy Wilhelm (R. Wilhelm) and R. Wilhelm's brother, Brad Wilhelm (B. Wilhelm). R. Wilhelm had a warrant for his arrest for failing to comply with the terms of his bail. As the incident progressed with ASORT, DTU and KCSO, BCI Agents learned that SWAT operators from DTU discharged their firearms during an interaction with the Wilhelm's. The Wilhelm's were shot and pronounced deceased at the scene.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Franks is a detective with the Delaware City Police Department working 0800 hours to 1600 hours Monday through Friday. He also a member of DTU. Franks recalled receiving a call after 0100 hours at which time he was sleeping. He said he picked up their MRAP and drove it to KCSO. Franks related he did not stay with the MRAP and was assigned to a smaller team in a BearCat. Lieutenant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the Westerville Police Department was their team leader.

Franks related their team was at KCSO for a couple of hours before leaving to go to the staging area. Franks said he pretty much stayed with the armored vehicle. Their objective was to

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position themselves north of R. Wilhelm and B. Wilhelm's mother's residence on Gilchrist Road to hold the high ground. OSP SRT was positioned south of the residence. As they were getting radio updates from command and attempting to view the drone footage, the Wilhelm's were observed "basically prepping for us." They were walking in and out of the house and other buildings on the property. They were armed and moving weapons and vehicles throughout the area.

According to Franks, what prompted them to move closer to the scene was that they had been advised the Wilhelm's got into a vehicle and moved east away from their mother's residence. The decision was made to occupy the mother's residence and the immediate area to prevent the Wilhelm's from returning to whatever they were planning. The BearCat smashed through the gate to the mother's residence and went up the hill and parked on the southeast corner of her house. Soon thereafter, gunfire could be heard in the distance and radio traffic revealed that the Wilhelm's were shooting at law enforcement. It was then communicated over the radio that the Wilhelm's were in an ATV (side-by-side) and were headed back over to their mother's residence.

Franks communicated that the team was initially outside the BearCat keeping an eye on their surroundings before moving to the driver side when the gunfire happened. A path in the woods from the eastern part of the property was identified where the Wilhelm's may make their way back to them. Franks said he moved to the "B pillar" of the BearCat with Aaron Siegal (Delaware County Sheriff's Office) and covered the northeast area. The rest of the team were at the rear corner of the BearCat on the driver side watching the wood line and trail. Franks could hear radio traffic indicating that the Wilhelm's are coming up to them really fast. Next, he heard gunfire. Franks turned around, did a shoulder check and observed their guys engaged in gunfire, shooting from the back rear corner of the BearCat. Franks stated [REDACTED] was shooting in the direction of the trail from the woods. Franks moved over to their position to provide support. Franks came up on [REDACTED] back who was still shooting and whom he believed was [REDACTED] (Dublin Police Department) crouching down or kneeling and shooting as well.

There was no space for Franks to engage behind cover so he left their position and went back to the front of the BearCat where he teamed up again with Aaron Siegal on the passenger front side of the armored vehicle. Franks said that was the first time he observed the ATV, which was stopped facing south in the wood line. Franks could not see anyone inside the ATV, nor any threat, and did not fire his weapon at all.

SA Wieging's interview with Franks ended at approximately 1329 hours.

A copy of the audio-recorded interview with Franks is attached to this report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-20 Audio Interview with Detective Sean Franks

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