



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 Kenneth Aurand (W)
Date of Activity: 09/01/2022
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriffs Office – Business – 11540 Upper Gilchrist
Road, Mt Vernon, OH 43050, Knox County
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On September 1, 2022, at approximately 1046 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) and SA Joe Goudy (Goudy) interviewed Deputy (Dep.) Kenneth Aurand (Aurand) of the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) who was accompanied by Douglas Behringer, attorney, from the Fraternal Order of Police/Ohio Labor Council. The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's Office which is located at 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Dep. Aurand was identified as being a law enforcement officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the August 20, 2022 Officer-Involved Critical Incident which occurred in the area of 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Aurand did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be 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 nor is it a word for word translation of either the questions or answers. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Prior to the interview, SA Tingley advised Dep. Aurand that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Dep. Burgess verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged that he would like to continue with the interview.

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The interview then began at approximately 1046 hours.

Dep. Aurand stated his radio call sign on August 20, 2022, was 4211. During the incident, Dep. Aurand wore his standard green tactical uniform with KCSO patches on each shoulder. He also wore an outer carrier tactical ballistic vest. Dep. Burgess stated that he does wear corrective lenses/contacts but does not have any other physical disabilities or issues. His normal shift is 0800 to 1600 hours. When asked, Dep. Aurand stated that he was not wearing a body camera. Dep. Aurand was then asked to describe his knowledge of the Officer-Involved Critical Incident.

Dep. Aurand advised that he was called out Friday, August 19, 2022 at about 2350 hours, and was told that Randy Wilhelm had shot at a bail bondsman. He was instructed by KCSO Lieutenant Feeney to report to a staging area located at Robertson's Funeral Home located on Coshocton Avenue, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. While there, he monitored the radio traffic from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) helicopter as the helicopter flew over the Wilhelm property. He stated that he was there about six (6) to six and one half (6 1/2) hours before being told to report to the new staging area located at Cumberland Gas on Danville-Amity Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Dep. Aurand stated that once he was at the new staging area, he was assigned to the Richland County Allied Special Operations Response Team (ASORT) and their BearCat. Once Dep. Aurand joined up with ASORT, they were directed to go to a location on Monroe Mills Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, just south of the Wilhelm property and Randy Wilhelm's house which is located at 15159 Monroe Mills Road. The ASORT Team was advised that Randy and Bradley Wilhelm were at Randy Wilhelm's house and that there was a vehicle at the rear of the house. The team was assigned the task of going onto the property and disabling the aforementioned vehicle so as to prevent it from being used to leave the area of the house.

Dep. Aurand continuing by saying that the ASORT BearCat breached the locked gate blocking the driveway at Randy Wilhelm's house and went down the driveway towards the house. The ASORT BearCat pulled up perpendicular to the aforementioned vehicle on the passenger side of the vehicle. The vehicle, which Aurand identified as a Chevrolet Trailblazer, had the rear hatch open and was unoccupied. Aurand, who was in the front passenger seat of the BearCat, saw Randy Wilhelm exit the house wearing a camouflage jacket and carrying an "M-16" military style rifle. Dep. Aurand then heard shots being fired by Randy Wilhelm and a hissing noise which he believed came from the tires on the BearCat being shot out. However, he was not sure how many shots had been fired. He also advised that during this time, bullets began hitting the open turret on the BearCat causing bullet fragments to come into the main compartment of the BearCat with some of the fragments hitting Aurand. Dep. Aurand stated that when the shots were being fired, he called out shots fired over the radio.

Dep. Aurand stated that after the gunfire stopped, Bradley Wilhelm comes out of the house and stands in front of the BearCat. The ASORT team member driving, known to Dep. Aurand only as ██████ (Mansfield Police Department Lieutenant ██████ ██████) gets on the public address (PA) system and says "Lets resolve this peacefully." However, Bradley Wilhelm ignores Lieutenant ██████ and gets in the passenger door of the Trailblazer. Bradley Wilhelm then crawls across and gets in the driver's seat. At this time, the BearCat rams the Trailblazer pushing it broadside across the yard. Once the BearCat stops pushing the vehicle, Bradley Wilhelm jumps out of the vehicle and runs into the house. At about this same time, Dep. Aurand hears that the Marysville

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armored vehicle, which had followed the ASORT BearCat down the driveway towards the house, was backing back out the driveway.

Dep. Aurand advised that he then observed a side by side ATV style vehicle coming around the house heading west. He also heard radio traffic advising the other tactical teams that the side by side was heading west. The ASORT team had been instructed to keep eyes on the side by side so they followed them westbound in the BearCat, eventually ending up with the BearCat in a field between Randy Wilhelm's house and the mother's house located at 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Dep. Aurand then heard over the radio "Green light, green light, green light". Dep. Aurand stated that shortly thereafter he heard radio traffic that the side by side had stopped.

Dep. Aurand advised that the ASORT team then remained in the BearCat until released by the Bomb Squad.

SA Tingley asked what radio frequency Dep. Aurand was monitoring during the incident and he replied XSO42. SA Tingley continued by asking if it was on that channel that Dep. Aurand heard the green light, green light, green light radio traffic. Dep. Aurand stated that he thought it was, but he was not absolutely sure as it could have been on another radio being monitored in the BearCat.

SA Tingley then asked if Dep. Aurand had witnessed the actual shooting incident with the Wilhelm brothers at their mother's house. Dep. Aurand stated "No".

SA Tingley asked if Lieutenant [REDACTED] was the only officer who fired any shots from the BearCat. Dep. Aurand stated yes, shots were only fired to immobilize the Trailblazer.

SA Goudy then asked how long Dep. Aurand had been with the KCSO. Dep. Aurand stated nineteen (19) years.

SA Goudy then asked if Bradley Wilhelm was in the side by side that left the house. Dep. Aurand stated yes and said that there were two (2) people in the side by side.

The interview then concluded at approximately 1038 hours.

This interview was audio recorded and is attached to this case file. Please review the audio recording for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-1726 KCSO DEPUTY AURAND INTERVIEW

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