



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 1325 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent David Wieging (SA Wieging) interviewed Officer Bryce Edwards (Edwards) with the Mansfield Police Department at the Knox County Sheriff's Office located at 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, 43050. The purpose of the interview with Edwards 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), Delaware Tactical Unit (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.

Edwards is a new team member of ASORT and shared that he is a patrol officer with the Mansfield Police Department. He works the night shift from 2200 hours to 0600 hours. Edwards was on his day off when he received a call at approximately 0115 hours regarding an armed and dangerous barricaded subject. Edwards related ASORT first arrived at the KCSO and stood by while their commander had gone inside to meet everyone. Edwards does not recall the time when ASORT arrived on scene. This was Edwards first call out. Edwards stated ASORT first stopped by the command post near the scene. Their responsibility and support on scene kept changing. ASORT linked up with an SRT team who were up the road with eyes on the house.

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Once on scene, ASORT knocked the gate down with their BearCat with the goal of not allowing the vehicle behind the house to escape. Edwards believed it was B. Wilhelm who walked out and approached the vehicle ASORT was blocking while R. Wilhelm stood inside the back door pointing a rifle at them. Commands over the PA system were given to B. Wilhelm to stop, but he entered the vehicle. ASORT proceeded to hit the vehicle with the BearCat in attempts to disable it at which time R. Wilhelm begins firing upon them. R. Wilhelm hits one of the BearCat's tires. B. Wilhelm subsequently returned inside with R. Wilhelm continuing to fire upon them. Edwards stated team members remained inside their BearCat as they were deciding how best to defend themselves. An attempt was made by one ASORT member (Rod Roose) to open the turret and return fire, but once it was opened, they took more fire and he could not return any rounds.

Uncertain about the vehicle being out of commission, they positioned their BearCat so someone could open the door and shoot the tires of the vehicle to prevent any escape. The Wilhelm's disappeared in the house for awhile and then Edwards stated there was an UTV "flying" toward the rear of the property.

SA Wieging's interview with Edwards ended at approximately 1333 hours.

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

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-20 Audio Interview with Office Bryce Edwards