



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 1345 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent David Wieging (SA Wieging) interviewed Officer Shane Gess (Gess) 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 Gess 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.

Gess has been a patrolman with the Mansfield Police Department for nine years and works first shift. Gess was asleep when the call was made at approximately 0118 hours, but he slept through that and did not awake until he received a call from the ASORT Commander, Sergeant Jered Kingsborough. ASORT arrived first at the KCSO and then traveled to the command post near the scene. After staging, ASORT got the green light to immobilize the Wilhelm's transportation (Trailblazer). They put their BearCat on the front end of the Trailblazer at which time the main target, R. Wilhelm, steps out of the back door with an AR pointed right at them "scoping" the BearCat's windows and ports. Gess mentioned the other tactical team on scene had begun to exit their vehicle and were vulnerable so they (ASORT) communicated with the

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command post to advise.

Next, R. Wilhelm's brother, B. Wilhelm, comes out of the door with his hands up. Gess stated Lieutenant (Lt.) ██████ got on the PA system and gave commands. B. Wilhelm entered the Trailblazer and started the vehicle. ASORT then begins to push the Trailblazer with the BearCat when R. Wilhelm began shooting at the BearCat. R. Wilhelm shot out their rear tire. They could not open their port holes to engage R. Wilhelm as he (R. Wilhelm) was "on target with everything." They opened their turret to get a sniper up in there, but R. Wilhelm immediately shot it. ASORT pushed the Trailblazer about 75 yards before B. Wilhelm jumped out and returned back inside the house.

Gess stated no one returned fire on R. Wilhelm or B. Wilhelm. The only rounds fired were the rounds Lt. ██████ fired to take out the tires on the Trailblazer to completely immobilize it. He said the Wilhelm's took off in an UTV and they (ASORT) were advised to cut off the back side. ASORT maintained their position until they were notified that they (Wilhelm's) were encountered by another tactical team.

SA Wieging's interview with Gess ended at approximately 1353 hours.

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

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-20 Audio Interview with Officer Shane Gess