



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Date of Activity: 02/02/2023
Author: SA Jason A. Snyder, #176

To: Marion County Prosecutor's Office

CC: SAS Scott Stranahan

From: SA Jason Snyder

Date: 02/03/2023

Case Title: OICI; 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Oh. 43332

Case Number: 2022-2876

On 12/20/22, the Marion Sheriff's Office (Marion SO) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred in their jurisdiction.

This report is intended to be a synopsis of the investigation into the allegations made by Marion SO. This report only summarizes the information that Special Agent Jason Snyder (SA Snyder) determined to be most useful in achieving an overall understanding of the facts that occurred in this case. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and video recordings exist and have been attached to this case file which reveals even further details of the case.

Summary of Process:

The following is a partial list of the investigative activities and/or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this case:

Interviews of the following involved parties:

- o Lt. Mike Wheeler
- o Lt. [REDACTED]

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- o Lt. Jared Robinson
- o Ptl. Jared Robinson
- o Ptl. [REDACTED]
- o Dpt. [REDACTED]
- o Ptl. Brett Thomas
- o Dpt. [REDACTED]
- o Ptl. [REDACTED]
- o Dpt. [REDACTED]
- o Ptl. [REDACTED]
- o Dpt. Jesse Allen
- o Ptl. Matt Cochell
- o Ptl. [REDACTED]
- o Ptl. Ryan Beveridge
- o Dpt. [REDACTED]
- o Dpt. Jacob Johnson
- o Dpt. Ty Williams
- o Dpt. Larry Yoder
- o Cpt. Jason Dutton
- o Maj. Chris Adkins
- o Cpt. Ken Rittenour
- o Ptl. Matt Baldridge
- o Ptl. Colin Lowe
- o Ptl. Jamie Ralston
- o Dpt. Stacy McCurry
- o Sheriff Matt Bayles
- o Chief Jay McDonald

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- o Pro. Ray Grogan
- o Dpt. Ryan Zempster
- o Briana Outcult
- o Amanda C. Labounty
- o Briana Outcult
- o Tracy Crabtree
- o Clarence Friend
- o Wendy Crabtree
- o Jeff McCleese
- o Richard Rudd
- o April Russell
- o Michael Cress
- o Brook Price
- o Jeremiah Haile
- o Imal Riley
- o Joseph Ralph
- o Chelsie Ralph
- o Jessica Tuttle
- o Samantha L. Byrd
- o Wendy Fown
- o Dean E. Bowsher
- o Bethany Taylor
- o Shawn Cress
- o Cameron Thrasher
- o Ptl. T.J. Ryan
- o Ptl. Brian Schwartz

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- o Ptl. Aaron Dickerson
- o Ofc. Phil Hetzel
- o Dpt. Matt Pate
- o Ofc. Dan Jividen
- o Ofc. Jake Stull
- o Ofc. Chris Bates
- o Ofc. Robin Valentine
- o Dpt. Mark Kern
- o Ofc. Matt Cook
- o Ptl. Brian Gavaghan
- o Ptl. Will Bogantz
- o Dpt. Aaron Stegel
- o Dpt. David Johnson
- o Ptl. Jason Flynn
- o Sgt. Dereck Keller
- o Sgt. Ramon Diaz

A synopsis is also included of the following:

- o Body/helmet/drone video X 46
- o Inventory and analysis of evidence
- o Laboratory reports
- o Review of officers' use of force policy, training, and prior use of disciplines
- o 911 calls, radio traffic and patrol computer data
- o Autopsy Report
- o Audio Interviews

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- o EMS Run Report
- o Jail Audio
- o Photographs
- o ATF e-Trace

Incident Summary:

On 12/20/22, Marion SO requested BCI to conduct an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) investigation. Officers from several agencies were involved with an officer involved shooting in LaRue, Ohio. Travis Hellinger (Hellinger) had succumbed to gunshot wounds he received near the search warrant location in LaRue, Ohio. BCI accepted this case.

The MARMET Drug Task Force conducted a building search warrant at 256 N. Swain Ave., LaRue, Oh. 43332. The focus of the investigation was to obtain illegal drugs and items from the location. It was believed that Hellinger, who lived at the address, was distributing illegal drugs and weapons from the location. An extensive investigation was ongoing and this search warrant would further the investigation.

During the preparation of the search warrant, the MARMET Drug Task Force requested the assistance of the Marion County Joint Special Response Team (SRT) and the Delaware Tactical Response Team (TRT). Members from both teams assisted in forming the operation plan for the search warrant. The TRT was asked to assist due to hardware and manpower they had available for the search warrant.

On 12/20/22, a morning briefing was held for everyone who would be involved with the search warrant execution. During the briefing, it was stated that the search warrant was a property search warrant. The items to be seized were described and up to date information on the location was disseminated.

The officers at the briefing were advised that Hellinger was known to carry firearms and had access to body armor. Hellinger was also a known member of a local motorcycle club which has been investigated in the past for criminal activities. Hellinger was convicted in the past and had spent time in prison for felonies. Hellinger had also made statements in the past that he was not going back to prison. He stated he was either going to run or have a "shootout" with law enforcement officers.

During this briefing, three snipers were deployed and drone surveillance was started near the search warrant location. The officers in the area updated the search warrant teams about the location. When search warrant teams finished their briefing, they proceeded to the search warrant location. In route they were advised that Hellinger was outside attempting to locate the drones which were in the area. He was also observed with at least one firearm on his person.

Amanda LaBounty (LaBounty), who was with Hellinger that night/morning, reported that she

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fell asleep during the night. Hellinger continued to stay up and use methamphetamine (meth). Hellinger was a daily user of meth and had ingested meth that night.

Later in the morning, LaBounty was awakened by Hellinger. He appeared nervous and told LaBounty that there were drones outside watching him. He had a firearm on him and a flashlight. He escorted her to the trailer and continued to use his flashlight, pointing it in an area looking for the drones.

During the interview with LaBounty, she stated Hellinger stated to her if he "got raided" he was not ever going to be arrested again. He would "go out shooting," referring to having a shoot-out with officers, and possibly die during the act.

When the search warrant teams arrived, they started implementing the operational plan. A temporary command trailer was established near the water tower in LaRue, Oh. The drone trailer and the equipment was also on the location of the command trailer.

Several SRT members entered the search warrant trailer. A perimeter was secured in a block radius of the search warrant location by Marion SO Deputies.

The search warrant trailer was cleared and two people were detained while the search continued. These individuals were Kimberly Speck (Speck) and LaBounty. The Delaware TRT secured the pole barn next to the trailer. It was later searched by those members.

Two snipers, Police Officer (Ofc.) [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and Ofc. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), observed Hellinger walking east on the railroad tracks approaching their hiding spots. Ofc. [REDACTED] waited until Hellinger was close to his position and announced himself as a law enforcement officer. Ofc. [REDACTED] then joined Ofc. [REDACTED] and also identified himself. Both officers saw that Hellinger had a bright light and at least one firearm on him. They also thought, due Hellinger's appearance, he could be wearing body armor.

Lt. Jared Robinson (Robinson), the third sniper officer on the scene, heard Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] talking to Hellinger, and he also joined them. He told Hellinger that he was being detained and to lay on the ground. Hellinger refused. After talking to Hellinger and noticing a firearm on him, Lt. Robinson told Hellinger he was under arrest and to give up. This was repeated several times to Hellinger. Lt. Robinson talked to Hellinger so much that he "started to lose my voice." Hellinger refused all orders from the law enforcement officers. Due to this, Lt. Robinson requested additional officers in apprehending Hellinger. It was later determined by several officers that they planned to apprehend Hellinger due to him trespassing on railroad property and having a weapon under disability.

Lt. Robinson's request for additional officers was granted. Lt. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), Dep. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), Det. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), Ofc. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), Ofc. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), Ofc. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and Dpt. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) responded. Lt. Robinson left this location and Dpt. [REDACTED] arrived soon after. The rest of the officers arrived on the railroad tracks with the snipers, just northwest of the pole barn. Drone footage of their contact has been recorded and verifies their arrival.

The officers on the tracks with Hellinger told him several times he was being detained/under

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arrest. They told him to lay down and give up. Hellinger refused to comply with their demands. Hellinger kept pointing his flashlight at officers and back to the direction he was walking. The officers discussed several options to facilitate Hellinger's apprehension. Some of the options were the use of less than lethal beanbag rounds and deploying a K-9. The option of deploying a K-9 was requested and granted.

Hellinger proceeded to walk westbound on the railroad tracks. It was decided that the K-9, [REDACTED], would be deployed to assist in apprehending Hellinger. Hellinger was told the K-9 would be sent to him and it may bite him. Hellinger stated he would shoot the K-9 if it came near him. An officer stated if Hellinger pulled out a firearm, he would be shot.

K-9 [REDACTED] was deployed. On drone and body camera footage, Hellinger draws out an unknown manufactured (ghost gun) 9mm pistol with an extended clip and shoots two rounds, in an easterly direction. In the drone footage, it appears the rounds fired by Hellinger are near the K-9. This was due to heat impressions on thermal imaging left on the ground. The K-9 was between Hellinger and officers. Hellinger missed hitting the K-9 or officers. Several of the officers stated they could see the weapon was pointed in their direction and feared for their life and their fellow officers. Due to this, several officers engaged Hellinger.

Eight of the nine officers engaged Hellinger with their weapons. Dpt. [REDACTED] did not engage with his weapon due to the fact he did not have a clear shot and he was attempting to retrieve his K-9. Due to officers engaging Hellinger with both lethal and non-lethal force, he fell to the ground. Based on videos and interviews, between 14 to 16 lethal and non-lethal rounds were fired by officers. It was later determined at the autopsy, Hellinger was hit with nine rounds.

Officers then approached Hellinger and disarmed him. He had a total of three firearms on him and he was not wearing body armor. He was given medical treatment at the scene by the officers and a medical technician who was on the scene during the search warrant. EMS took over medical treatment and transported Hellinger to the hospital. Due to the injuries Hellinger received, he was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Jason Snyder. SA Snyder can be reached via email at Jason.Snyder@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 419-419-3618.