



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



2023-2008
Officer Involved Critical Incident – Terminal Road By Dayton
Airport, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Lt. Bryan Mangin (W)
Date of Activity: 08/21/2023
Activity Location: Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team – Business –
1583 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, OH 43224, Franklin County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Thursday, August 21, 2023 at 0845 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Perry Roeser met with Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Special Response Team (SRT) Tactical Commander Lt. Bryan Mangin at OSHP SRT headquarters, 1583 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, August 2, 2023, London Police Sergeant Michael Orahod conducted a traffic stop on Rodney and Elaine Helman in the City of London for various traffic violations. During the interaction between Orahod and the Helmans, false information was provided reference their identity and ultimately fled from the stop in the vehicle both occupied. The Helmans fled to a nearby Travel America where both fled on foot; during which Rodney Helman pointed a handgun at Orahod. Both Rodney and Elaine Helman entered a stationary semi-truck occupied by [REDACTED] who used a hammer to fend off the Helmans, but was shot in the hand by Rodney Helman. The Helmans gained control of the semi-truck and fled the area. After a prolonged pursuit and standoff, which culminated near the Dayton International Airport, both Rodney and Elaine Helman were shot and killed by Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers.

Lt. Mangin has been employed with the OSHP for 19 years and a SRT member for 16 years. Mangin is responsible for the day to day operations and is tactical commander for the entire state. Lieutenant Seth Douthitt was the staff lieutenant and handles logistics.

On Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at approximately 0150, Lt. Mangin was contacted by Lt. Douthitt and informed a commercial vehicle had been stolen with a potential hostage situation. Additionally, the hostage taker(s) may be armed with a handgun and were traveling westbound on I-70 toward Springfield from the London area. Based upon the circumstances, the local OSHP post had requested an SRT response. Mangin began to contact SRT members closest to

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the area of the incident to get SRT assets on scene, which included team leader OSHP Sergeant Erik Lofland. Mangin was further briefed by Douthitt that London Police attempted a traffic stop on a male and female; the officer unsuccessfully attempted a Taser deployment and a handgun may have been pointed at the officer. A 9mm live round was located in the vicinity where the male subject fell, which bolstered probability of a handgun was in play.

Lt. Mangin who resides close to the oncoming pursuit, proceeded to the location with the BEAR, a tactical vehicle. Mangin had the BEAR for an event the previous day at his residence and was able to intercept the pursuit on I-70 near I-675. Once the pursuit stopped, Mangin remained back several yards from the semi-truck until other SRT members arrived who could utilize the BEAR for cover. Once three SRT members arrived, Mangin moved the BEAR parallel to the semi's west side. Mangin began communications via the public announcement system (PA) in the BEAR with the occupants of the semi. Mangin stated visibility inside the semi was purposely obstructed from view with a black curtain placed on the interior windows. This was also indicated by Trooper/Sniper [REDACTED] who had attempted various positions to obtain visual on the semi's interior. When the subjects were asked by Mangin how many people were inside the semi, a hand appeared from underneath the curtain which indicated four.

After a few minutes on the scene, the London Police Chief Glenn Nicol arrived and provided Mangin with additional details, which confirmed there was a person, possibly a hostage/truck driver, inside the semi. When the subjects were asked by Mangin if everyone one inside was okay, via the PA, he received three to four thumbs up through out in the same manner, which indicated everyone was okay. Mangin was able to obtain the truck driver's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] cellular telephone and spoke with male hostage taker [Rodney Helman]. During his conversations with Helman, Mangin stated Helman did not appear to be agitated nor did he make any threats. The only time Helman became upset was when the wrong type of cigarettes were delivered to him. Helman informed Mangin he would not let the hostage go because he needed him for leverage. Mangin communicated only with Rodney, but once the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office negotiators arrived; the two deputies assumed negotiations utilizing Mangin's work cellular phone. Mangin overheard some of the ongoing negotiations and knew there was communications with the female, Elaine Helman. The Helmans made several requests that were fulfilled; specifically, Mountain Dew and additional cigarettes, but the requested eye drops were withheld. Mangin stated the requested eye drops were withheld for the purpose to be used as a bargaining chip.

Lt. Mangin stated on more than one occasion, he observed Rodney Helman, who he could see periodically display the handgun from around or underneath the drivers' side area curtains. On one occasion, Rodney Helman pointed the handgun in Trooper [REDACTED] direction while he had moved to the front of the BEAR. Because Helman kept revving the engine and the brake lights would activate, Mangin had commercial spikes placed between the driver's side rear tires and had the "air lines" cut to the brakes to stop the semi from becoming mobile again.

Lt. Mangin stated the prolonged negotiations with the Helmans were unsuccessful and other options were discussed. Once Lt. Seth Douthitt and Captain Jim Tracy arrived, a plan was devised to assault the semi. According to Mangin, the plan was a collaborative effort between Douthitt, Tracy and himself, but the execution of the assault was his responsibility. Mangin stated the plan was to have a team approach the driver's side of the semi with a shield, rake

& brake tool with lethal cover and the passenger side team with the same. Lt. Douthitt would deploy two distraction devices to the front of the semi and a sniper [Trooper ██████████] was positioned on the fence line east of the semi facing the passenger side. Once the distraction devices were deployed, the driver's side team would rake and brake the window then move to the front of the BEAR for cover. According to Mangin, if any shots were to be fired, it would be from the driver's side team to use the BEAR as a backstop. Mangin communicated via the radio, "I have control...assault...assault...assault." Douthitt deployed two distraction devices to the front of the semi followed by both teams moving to their respective sides of the semi. Both driver and passenger semi windows were broken out by SRT members and Mangin pulled a curtain from inside the semi out from the passenger window.

Agent Ward presented the aviation video to Mangin where he identified Trooper Hector Burgos looking into the semi's passenger side window when Burgos yelled, "He has a gun!" and stepped down. Agent Ward asked Mangin if he heard a gunshot and he stated no. Agent Ward asked Mangin about a particular portion of the video where an apparent gunshot is observed. Mangin stated, "somebody shot" either the suspect or Justin [Trooper ██████████]. Prior to shots fired, Mangin communicated to his team if they had nothing, the team would pull back and reassess the situation now the curtains were out. Moments after that statement, Mangin stated the shooting began. From the aviation video, Mangin identified Trooper ██████████ had discharged his handgun and Trooper ██████████ discharge his rifle.

After the shooting stopped, Lt. Mangin stated Trooper ██████████ requested a shield and he moved toward the front. Mangin deployed a gas cannister into the passenger side of the semi and approximately 10 seconds later the hostage exited the interior of the semi via the passenger side door. Agent Ward asked Mangin if he knew when Trooper ██████████ fired and Mangin stated after the gas was deployed and the hostage exited is when he heard ██████████ round strike the BEAR. Mangin believed that was ██████████'s second shot, which both rounds struck the BEAR.

Once the hostage was out, SRT members withdrew back to the BEAR. Commands were shouted to the Helmans who remained inside the semi, but no movement was observed from the Helmans. Another gas cannister was deployed by Lt. Douthitt from the BEAR into the driver side door of the semi, which appeared to drop onto Rodney Helman's lap. Commands continued to be shouted to show their hands and eventually, Mangin observed enough of Rodney Helman's hands that he instructed the SRT members outside to move up, which they did with double shields to the passenger side door. Rodney Helman was removed to the rear of the semi where life saving efforts were performed. Secondly, Elaine Helman was removed from the semi and life saving efforts were started on Elaine until medics arrived. Mangin stated once both were extracted, the interior of the semi was cleared. During the interior of the semi being cleared, Mangin observed a handgun between the two seats and believed Rodney Helman would have been seated on the handgun.

The SRT team relocated the Dayton OSHP post and the SRT members were photographed dressed as they were on scene by BCI. Mangin did not collect any weapons and all were collected by BCI.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Lt. Bryan Mangin at 0928 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Mangin.

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Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-08-21 / Lt. Bryan Mangin OSHP audio interview

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.