



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



2022-1726

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 15266 Gilchrist Rd., Mt.
Vernon, Knox County, Ohio, 43050 (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review
Involves: Deputy Chris Stayer (W)
Date of Activity: 11/07/2022
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On November 7, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) reviewed body-camera video footage from Delaware County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) Deputy (Dep.) Stayer who is also assigned to the Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU). The video footage is related to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on August 20, 2022, at 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio, and involved Randy and Bradley Wilhelm and members of the DTU.

The listed narrative is a synopsis of the activities and conversations recorded on Dep. Stayer's body camera and only documents those activities which the author deems to be the most relevant. Furthermore, the narrative does not cover all of the activities or conversations of Dep. Stayer and the other members of the DTU, which were recorded, nor is it a word-for-word translation of the conversations. It is suggested that the full recordings be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information documented in the narrative.

It should also be noted that due to the DTU members wearing earpieces, radio traffic cannot be heard.

It should also be noted that this video recording took place after the officer-involved critical incident had occurred.

SA Tingley reviewed the video listed as: qka01796_20220820161716e0, and noted the following:

This video is 66:14 minutes in length and begins on August 20, 2022, at 12:16:45 hours, as Dep. Stayer is inside of the DTU van, in the driveway of Randy Wilhelm's (Wilhelm) residence located at 15159 Monroe Mills Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The van is facing the garage, and other DTU members are observed in the same van. However, there is no audio.

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At approximately 12:46:20 hours, Dep. Stayer and other DTU members, as well as a bomb squad technician, move toward Wilhelm's residence. Entry is made into the garage through an open garage door.

At approximately 12:57:05 hours, Dep. Stayer enters the living area of the residence. Dep. Stayer then assists other DTU members with clearing the residence.

At approximately 1:18:39 hours, Dep. Stayer exits the residence and returns to the DTU van parked in the driveway.

The video concludes with Dep. Stayer standing in the driveway of the Wilhelm residence, near the DTU BATT armored vehicle, which was parked in front of the DTU van.

It should be noted that there was no audio throughout this video.

This video recording is attached to this case file as Reference Item A.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR EVALUATING THE VIDEO RECORDINGS

There are numerous other factors that need to be considered when reviewing and evaluating the videos and audio recordings of this incident. Those factors are:

- Video recording devices record within the video and sound capabilities available, and they record objectively. Video recordings lack the history, perspective and interest of the people involved. The positions, angles, obstacles, lighting and distance from the incident are also factors that need serious consideration.
- Video recording devices also record more information about a particular scene or incident than the person(s) involved in the incident can process during the critical incident.
- Video recording devices rarely record an event from the same perspective of the officer. It captures the action but not the perception, decision making, focus or intent of the officer.
- Video recordings often miss tactile cues or other actions of a subject. The speed of the incident is remarkable. The speed and complexity of rapidly evolving situation(s) that occur during use-of-force encounters are difficult concepts to comprehend by only watching the video.

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