



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



2022-1726

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 15266 Gilchrist Rd., Mt.
Vernon (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Deputy Aaron Siegel (W)
Date of Activity: 08/20/2022
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriffs Office – Business – 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt Vernon, OH 43050, Knox County
Author: SA James H Gore, #168

Narrative:

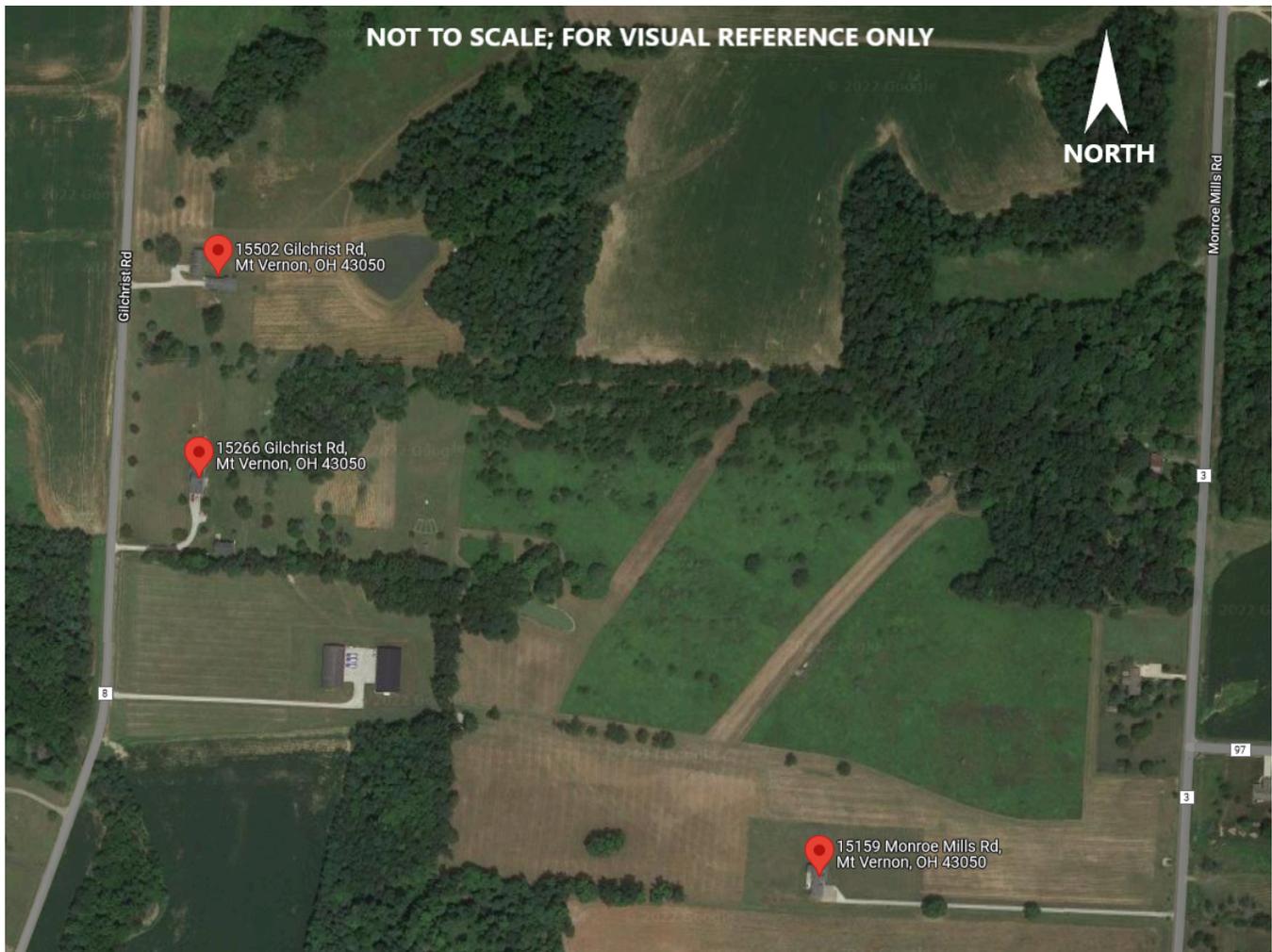
On the afternoon of August 20, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) James Gore interviewed Delaware County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) Deputy Aaron Siegel (Siegel) at the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). Deputy Siegel was identified as one of several witnesses to an officer-involved critical incident which took place earlier on the same date at the Wilhelm family compound in Knox County. Deputy Siegel was present as a member of the Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU). Deputy Siegel reported that he is presently assigned as a School Resource Officer and he has been with DCSO for approximately five years. Deputy Siegel's duties on the DTU include those of operator and marksman observer.

Deputy Siegel reported that at approximately 1230 hours, he started receiving text messages from team members regarding a potential call out. At approximately 0105 hours, he received an automated alert on his phone regarding the call out for Knox County. Deputy Siegel recalled the content of the alert mentioning an armed male subject who shot at a bail bondsman and an Ohio State Patrol (OSP) helicopter. The names of the involved subjects were not provided to Deputy Siegel on the initial alerts.

Deputy Siegel said he arrived at the KCSO at approximately 0215 hours. Deputy Siegel said he learned that the DTU's role would be to take subjects into custody if they left the property. After briefing, the DTU deployed from the sheriff's office in the DTU's Bearcat armored vehicle, Siegel explained. The DTU's Bearcat was initially positioned on the roadway, north of the property (*later determined to be on the Gilchrist Road side*), according to Deputy Siegel.

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Finalized by SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
09/28/2022



Wilhelm Family Compound Overhead Reference Map

Deputy Siegel explained that negotiators began a lengthy process of attempting to contact the subjects and their girlfriends. Deputy Siegel said the negotiators were somewhat unsuccessful. Deputy Siegel said he was able to see the two subjects (brothers, Bradley and Randy Wilhelm) moving "erratically" around the property, via a live feed from an aerial drone. Deputy Siegel said the subjects were sometimes on foot and, at other times, in a vehicle or on an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV).

Deputy Siegel the DTU finally made entry to the property once the two subjects went back to the residence of the "primary target," whose name he believed was Randy. Deputy Siegel said that residence was on the opposite side of the property from where the DTU was staged. (Note: The address of record for Randy Wilhelm was determined to be 15159 Monroe Mills Rd.) Deputy Siegel advised the DTU Bearcat breached a chain link gate at the house of the subjects' mother (Saundra Wilhelm, 15266 Gilchrist Road).

Deputy Siegel recalled observing on the drone footage that both male subjects were armed. One of the weapons, according to Deputy Siegel, distinctly appeared to be a scoped rifle.

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Deputy Siegel described the two subjects as white males in their 40's or 50's.

Deputy Siegel advised that once his team's Bearcat got positioned on a corner of the mother's house, he heard radio traffic from another team affirming that they had visual contact with the subjects. Deputy Siegel mentioned that shortly afterward, he heard several volleys of gunshots. He said there was additional radio traffic which indicated that the subjects were leaving that residence on an ATV.

Deputy Siegel mentioned, at the time he heard the gunshots in the distance, he and several other DTU members had exited their Bearcat and taken up positions of cover around the mother's residence. Deputy Siegel recalled hearing another DTU member state that the subjects were heading in their direction, and then he heard more gunshots. Deputy Siegel said he tried to position himself where he could observe the subjects on the ATV, while at the same time monitor the mother's house. Deputy Siegel said that by the time he could observe the location of the subjects and their ATV, the gunfire had ceased and the subjects were not moving. Deputy Siegel estimated that he was 70–80 yards from the ATV.

Deputy Siegel advised that the DTU members from his Bearcat which engaged the subjects were Officer (Ofc.) ██████████ (Westerville Police), Ofc. ██████████ (Dublin Police), Ofc. ██████████ (Westerville Police), Deputy ██████████ (Delaware County) and Deputy ██████████ (Delaware County). Deputy Siegel later clarified that Ofc. ██████████ and Deputy ██████████ were not at the Bearcat, but he heard that they did engage the subjects from a different position. Deputy Siegel believed that all of the involved officers engaged the subjects with their duty rifles. Deputy Siegel mentioned that he did not hear any commands given by the officers; he further stated, he did not think the officers had an opportunity to do so. Deputy Siegel said he was not in a position to witness the subjects being struck by gunfire.

Deputy Siegel said he took part in conducting a protective sweep of the mother's house and he said the mother was present. Deputy Siegel said the mother was reluctant to leave her house and she appeared to be confused.

An audio copy of Deputy Siegel's interview was attached to this report for reference.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-0820-14-59-18 Delaware Dep. Aaron Siegel Interview – SA Gore