



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



2023-2812

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 16178 SR 160, Vinton 45686
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Date of Activity: 11/02/2023
Activity Location: Gallia County Sheriff's Office – Business – 18 Locust Street,
Gallipolis, OH 45631
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On November 2, 2023, BCI Special Agent Craig Call (SA) Call met with Gallia County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) Deputy ██████████ (Deputy ██████████) at the GCSO in order to obtain a voluntary statement from Deputy ██████████ in reference to his involvement in the October 22, 2023, Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving Roger Meade (Meade) and members of the GCSO. Attorney Jeff Finley (Attorney Finley) was present during all of SA Call's contact with Deputy ██████████

Prior to any questioning, Deputy ██████████ was provided with BCI's Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) form which Deputy ██████████ indicated he understood and did not have any clarifying questions. Deputy ██████████ signed the CIN form and it has been added to the case file. Deputy ██████████ prepared a written witness statement of his account of the events on the above date, which is approximately two full pages in length. SA Call asked Deputy ██████████ to sign the statement if he was willing to add it to BCI's case file and Deputy ██████████ did so.

The audio interview began at approximately 1141 hours.

Deputy ██████████ badge number ██████████ and has been employed with the GCSO for approximately three months as a uniformed patrol officer. Deputy ██████████ has approximately 10 total years of law enforcement experience. On the date of the incident, Deputy ██████████ was working his regularly scheduled dayshift (0600-1600 hours). Deputy ██████████ identified Deputy ██████████ as the supervisor during the shift. Deputy ██████████ confirmed he was not under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or anything that would have hindered his ability to perform his regular duties.

Deputy ██████████ described his dress on the date of the incident as black boots, black pants, black uniform shirt with deputy sheriff patches on the shoulders, a duty style gun belt, and an external body armor carrier with law enforcement identifying placarding. Deputy ██████████ was not equipped with a body worn camera or any other recording devices. Deputy ██████████

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
01/11/2024

reported using his GCSO issued Glock 45 9mm handgun during the incident. Deputy ██████ confirmed his qualifications are current with the above mentioned firearm.

Deputy ██████ reported receiving a minor abrasion to his lip as a result of the incident.

In reference to the original response to Meade's residence, Deputy ██████ described learning of Nancy Johnson (Johnson) having an active warrant for her arrest through a list sent out by the sheriff. Deputy ██████ explained he had reason to believe Johnson maybe located at Meade's residence based off of previous interactions there.

Deputy ██████ described Deputy ██████ deputy ██████ himself parked near the intersection of Bull Run Road and State Route 160 and approached Meade's residence on foot. Deputy ██████ described Meade's residence as an older camper just off of State Route 160 near the town of Vinton. Deputy ██████ said he approached and knocked on the front door of Meade's camper while Deputy ██████ took a position on the east side of the camper, and Deputy ██████ taking a position where he could observe the back of the camper. Deputy ██████ observed an exterior lock on the front door which was unlocked. Deputy ██████ described getting no response on his initial knocks. Deputy ██████ observed the blinds open on the front window of the camper and positioned himself to look through the window. Deputy ██████ said he had previously been inside Meade's camper on a previous law enforcement encounter and observed the bed area of the camper to be positioned inside the above window.

Deputy ██████ said he looked through the window and observed Meade and a female he believed to be Johnson beneath a blanket. Deputy ██████ said he knocked on the window and Meade asked who it was. Deputy ██████ described replying, "It's ██████ with the sheriff's office. Get your ass out here and tell her to get her ass out here too." Deputy ██████ said he could hear his voice echoing inside the camper leading him to believe there was some kind of surveillance device at the camper. Deputy ██████ said Meade acknowledged hearing him and indicated he would be coming out. Deputy ██████ described moving back to the area in front of the camper door. Prior to the door opening, Deputy ██████ described hearing some kind of unexplained wrestling activity in what he believed to be behind the front door. Deputy ██████ believed this to be out of the ordinary, so he positioned himself the left (West) of the front door.

In reference to the shooting and events immediately surrounding, Deputy ██████ wrote the following:

"While standing in front of the door, I heard some movement coming from inside of the door, and just off of the right side of the door inside of the camper. Based on the noise that I heard coming from the camper, I moved away from the front door just to the left and back away from the door slightly and lowered the retaining hood on my holster. After just a few seconds, front door of the camper began to open and as it opened, I seen a yellow tape measure strung out in the doorway. I heard the sound of a metal tape measure, bending and snapping and directly after that, I heard a gunshot coming from the area of the doorway of the camper. I then felt multiple things hit me. At that time, I observed Mr. Meade holding a gun and the gun in my direction. Fearing for my life as well as the life of Deputy ██████ and Deputy ██████ unholster my service weapon and fired three rounds at Mr. Meade. Immediately Dep. ██████ and Myself

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began advising dispatch of shots fired and that deputies were fired upon first. We also began advising them as far as getting medical help started our way as well as supervisors."

The rest of Deputy ██████'s written statement describes the medical aid rendered by the three officers on scene until additional units arrived and relieved them.

Deputy ██████ said his point of aim was the center mass of Meade's upper chest and was unsure if he initially hit Meade or not. Deputy ██████ did not have a less lethal force option available to him, however he indicated he did not believe a lesser means of force would have been appropriate due to being faced with a firearm. Deputy ██████ described being positioned the left (West) side of the front door when he fired.

Deputy ██████ said he did not observe Meade make any statements or movements after the shooting occurred.

Deputy ██████ described having a previous contact with Meade at the camper approximately two months ago while he was looking for another individual unrelated to the above incident. It was during this contact Deputy ██████ observed Johnson. Deputy ██████ indicated he is aware the GCSO has also received tips indicating Meade to be involved in narcotics.

Deputy ██████ indicated he was aware the female in the camper was ultimately identified as Erin McMillian, but did not learn of this until after the incident concluded.

Deputy ██████ confirmed he was not pressured in any way to give a statement to BCI. Deputy ██████ confirmed he was not pressured in any way to alter the statement he provided to BCI.

The interview concluded at approximately 1212 hours.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Deputy ██████ Interview
- Attachment # 02: Deputy ██████ written statement
- Attachment # 03: Deputy ██████ CIN

On October 22nd 2023, Myself, Deputy [REDACTED], and Deputy [REDACTED] parked our cruisers near the intersection of State Route 160 and Bull Run Rd. We then began to walk toward the residence of Roger Meade. The residence is identified as a small camper that sit roughly 60 yards or so off the roadway. We were going to the residence to attempt to make contact with a female by the name of Nancy Johnson for an active arrest warrant. I had prior knowledge of Nancy being at the residence from a previous encounter with Mr. Meade at the camper. As we approached the camper, Deputy [REDACTED] stayed along the right side of the camper as to being able to see the rear of the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] placed himself off the front right corner of the camper while I went to the front door to attempt to make contact. Upon approaching the front door, I walked up onto the pallet that was at the front door of the camper and begin to knock. After knocking several times and not getting an answer from anyone inside of the camper. I knocked again. Again no one came to the door of the camper. There was a small window on the front right of the camper that appeared to be open enough to be able to see inside. I walked to that window to look inside to see if I was able to see anyone inside of the camper. As I looked in the window, I observed a male identified as Roger Meade, as well as a female, whom I believed to be Nancy Johnson on the bed area of the camper.

When I knocked on the window, Mr. Meade asked who it was and I told him that it was Waldron from the Sheriff's Office and for him to get his ass out of the camper and speak with me, I also advised him to tell the female that was with him to get her ass out of the camper and speak with me. While I was talking to Mr. Meade, I could hear myself echoing so I had assumed that there was some sort of audio and or camera device on the front of the camper. Mr. Meade stated that he was coming. I then returned back to the door area of the camper.

While standing in front of the door, I heard some movement coming from inside of the door, and just off of the right side of the door inside of the camper. Based on the noises that I heard coming from the camper, I moved away from the front door just to the left and back away from the door slightly and lowered the retaining hood on my holster. After just a few seconds, the front door of the camper began to open and as it opened, I seen a yellow tape measure strung out in the doorway. I heard the sound of a metal tape measure, bending and snapping and directly after that, I heard a gunshot coming from the area of the doorway of the camper. I then felt multiple things hit me. At that time, I observed Mr. Meade holding a gun and he was raising the gun in my direction. Fearing for my life as well as the life of Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] I unholster my service weapon and fire three rounds at Mr. Meade. Immediately Dep. [REDACTED] and Myself began advising dispatch of shots fired and that deputies were fired upon first. We also began advising them as far as getting medical help started our way as well as supervisors.

After firing the three rounds, I began giving verbal commands to show me his hands. I then went to the front door of the camper as Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] were approaching me. I open the front door, which had swung back to more of a closed position and was not able to see Mr. Meade however I was able to see the gun, which I believed was a shotgun, laying just inside the doorway of the camper. At that time, I grabbed the gun and threw it outside of the

camper. The female then began saying that he was shot. I ordered her to come out of the camper and she did. I ordered the female to the ground to which she complied, and I placed her into handcuffs. Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] then entered the camper. After checking on the female to verify that she was not injured, I returned back into the camper to help get Mr. Meade out of the bathroom area in which he had fallen into. I was able to help Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] get him out of the bathroom area and Deputy [REDACTED], and Deputy [REDACTED] then began to administer first aid. I then went back outside of the camper and spoke with the female. I stated "Nancy what the hell was he thinking and why did he do that". She stated "I'm not Nancy". I stated "Then what is your name". She stated "Erin". I then walked off to the side and wiped my upper lip area which was one of the areas I felt something hit me. As I wiped my lip and looked at my hand there was a small amount of blood. Dep. [REDACTED] came outside to check on me and unzipped my vest, causing my notepad to fall to the ground. Dep. [REDACTED] looked me over to make sure I was not hit. I advised Dep. [REDACTED] that the only place I was bleeding from was a spot on my upper lip. Dep. [REDACTED] then went back inside the camper. Dep. [REDACTED] then came outside and ran off in the direction of our patrol cars.

After just a few moments Dep. [REDACTED] arrived back on scene with his patrol car and retrieved his medical supplies from his car. Dep. [REDACTED] then went back in the camper with Dep. [REDACTED]. I then zipped my vest back up and went inside to assist in rendering aid. I asked Dep. [REDACTED] what they needed and he request I go back out and check on the female outside. I then went back outside and got the female up off the ground and sat her in a chair that was outside. I again asked her if she was okay or if she needed any medical attention and she stated, "No, I'm okay". Dep. [REDACTED] then began to advise me to go to his car and get a box of gloves, another first aid kit that contained chest seals, and a breathing bag. Dep. [REDACTED] then came out and escorted the female into the back of Dep. [REDACTED]'s patrol car while I went to his car to get more medical supplies.

Dep. [REDACTED] and I both arrived back at the camper with the medical supplies. I began to located a chest seal and after locating it advised Dep. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that I was placing the chest seal on. Dep. [REDACTED] was using the breathing bag on Mr. Meade. At that time. Trp. Jim Trelka arrived on scene. Trp. Trelka walked me away from the camper to the back of Dep. [REDACTED]'s patrol car. While standing at the back of the car Sgt. Bobby Haislop arrived on scene. After a few minutes a squad with Gallia County EMS, and Chief Deputy Troy Johnson arrived on scene. A short time after that Lt. Chris Gruber, Sheriff Matt Champlin arrived on scene. After some time, Sgt. Seth Argabright arrived on scene and transported Dep. [REDACTED], Dep. [REDACTED], and I back to the Gallia County Sheriff's Office.

x

[REDACTED]

11/2/23

BCI T. Gil



Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation



Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).


 Printed Name of Interviewee

11/2/23 1130 ^{HRS}
 Date / Time


 Signature of Interviewee

T. Craig Call
 BCI Agent (Printed)

T. Craig Call
 BCI Agent (Signature)