



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



2022-1545
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4851 Westchester Dr. Apt 101,
Austintown, Ohio 44515

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: ██████████ (O)
Date of Activity: 09/21/2022
Author: SA Eric Lehnhart, #84

Narrative:

On Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 1000 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart (Lehnhart) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper ██████████ (████████). The interview took place at 1583 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43209. The interview was audio recorded.

Trooper ██████████ was identified as being an OSHP Trooper who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the Tuesday, July 19, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 4851 Westchester Drive, Building A, Apartment #101, Youngstown, Ohio 44515. Reportedly, Trooper ██████████ did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this trooper.

Upon Trooper ██████████'s arrival on Westchester Drive, he was assigned a part of the sniper/observer team with Trooper ██████████. The pair made their way to meet up with the FBI sniper team, who were already set up at 4853 Westchester Drive, Building A, in a community laundry room, approximately 38 yards south of Ms. Hackett's apartment.

The pair agreed that Trooper ██████████ would be "on scope" for the first 30 minutes, and the pair would then switch to alleviate eye fatigue. It was also agreed that the person on the scope would concentrate on the number three window (Hackett's living room), and the observer would train their attention in the number one and two windows. This was done as the FBI witnessed movement in that window earlier in the day.

During the third rotation, Trooper ██████████ noticed that the curtains in the observed apartment were moving. Trooper ██████████ advised that he moved his focus toward the

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number three window to observe the apartment blinds open, the window slide open and a handgun appear. Trooper [REDACTED] continued to advise that he witnessed what he believed were two shots fired from the observed window toward an armored FBI vehicle and members of the OSHP SRT team who were positioned in that area.

Trooper [REDACTED] stated that Trooper [REDACTED] fired one round toward the threat in the apartment and stated, "shot out," which Trooper [REDACTED] transmitted to the other team members via his radio. After Trooper [REDACTED] fired his weapon, Trooper [REDACTED] advised that he didn't observe any additional movement at the window.

Trooper [REDACTED] and Trooper [REDACTED] remained at their post until they received word that the OSHP breach team had made entry and secured the apartment. Trooper [REDACTED] advised that he and Trooper [REDACTED] were relieved by another trooper who secured their position until members of the BCI Crime Scene Unit arrived to collect Trooper [REDACTED]'s rifle.

The interview concluded at approximately 1025 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-05 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Statement
Attachment # 02: 2022-09-21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Interview



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

STATEMENT

REPORT # P2207190000107	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 08/05/2022/0545 hours	OTHER REFERENCE #
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I, Trooper [REDACTED], hereby make this voluntary statement to [REDACTED] at 08/05/2022 0545 hours on

On July 19th, 2022 at approximately 1430 hours, I was assigned to the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Special Response Team (SRT) and arrived at 4851 Westchester Dr, Austintown Ohio to assist with a barricaded suspect. Prior to my arrival I received several updates stating that a mother was barricaded in her apartment with her 10-year-old son and that she had access to a handgun and a rifle.

When I arrived on scene, I spoke with Trooper [REDACTED] in which he stated that him and I would be a sniper/observer team in an adjacent building. At the command post I was notified that the FBI was in command of the incident and as more members of OSP SRT arrived we would take over command. FBI and OSP negotiators were on scene and tried to make contact with the suspect.

Trooper [REDACTED] and I deployed to a building directly south of the suspect apartment. The buildings were separated by a grass area and the buildings seemed to be identical. We went to the second floor and into a small community laundry area. FBI SWAT had a sniper observer team in this room already. They had pushed the washer and dryers together and up against the window to use as a platform. They had put up a sheet to black out the window. The suspects apartment had three windows and all three windows were closed and the blinds were down. The FBI stated that all the movement they observed was in the 3rd window. They stated that they saw her earlier in the day at that window and believe it was the living room window.

At approximately 1500 hours we took over for the FBI sniper/observer team. Trooper [REDACTED] took the first 30 minute shift as the sniper and I was the observer. Tpr. [REDACTED] would concentrate on the 3rd window and I would watch window 1 and 2. With us laying on the washer and dryer as a shooting platform I took off my ballistic vest and Body Worn Camera (BWC). A member of the FBI team remained in the laundry room with us until OSP took over command. At 1530 hours I took over as the sniper and Tpr. [REDACTED] took over as the spotter. At this time OSP SRT took over command of the scene with Lt. Seth Douhitt the on scene commander. A FBI armored vehicle was stationed in the parking lot on the southwest corner of the suspects apartment and four OSP SRT were on the 3/4 corner of the suspects apartment building.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X	STREET ADDRESS		
PRINT NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
WITNESS SIGNATURE X			
REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE X [Signature]	UNIT [REDACTED]	DATE 8-5-22	

(OSP-203.07)

REPORT # P2207190000107	STATEMENT DATE/TIME (MM/DD/YY HH:MM) 08/05/2022/0545 hours	OTHER REFERENCE #
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At approximately 1600 hours Tpr. [REDACTED] and I switched positions. I was now the spotter and Tpr. [REDACTED] was the sniper. OSP SRT was placing a robot into the suspects apartment building to make contact with the suspect. Within a few mins Tpr. [REDACTED] stated that he saw movement at the 3rd window. I relayed this information over the radio to the command center. I observed the blinds on the 3rd window open, the window open and another hand with a pistol come out of the opened window. The suspect was pointing the gun towards the west where the FBI armored vehicle and OSP SRT were located. The suspect fired at least two shots when Tpr. [REDACTED] fired one round from his sniper rifle. I relayed over that radio that shoots were fired and shot out from the sniper. Tpr. [REDACTED] stated that he could not see the suspect and I again relayed this information over the radio. A OSP team that was stationed inside and adjacent apartment made entry into the suspects apartment, secured the suspect and evacuated the 10-year-old boy. Once the apartment was secured Tpr. Bumgarder relieved Tpr. [REDACTED] and myself and we went to the Canfield Patrol Post to wait for BCI agents.

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE X	STREET ADDRESS		
PRINT NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
WITNESS SIGNATURE X			
REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE X <i>TBL</i>	UNIT	DATE	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	08/05/2022	