



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Lt. Beau Collins (W)
Date of Activity: 08/10/2022
Activity Location: Springfield Police Department SWAT Training – 130 North Fountain
Ave, Springfield, OH 45502, Clark County
Author: SA Kenneth J. Smith, #53

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Clark County. During the OICI, Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by the involved subject, Cole White. This occurred after White had killed his mother, Jodie Arbuckle. Multiple agencies and SWAT teams responded and attempted multiple rescue efforts of Deputy Yates. During the standoff the mobile home caught fire and White was killed in the fire.

On August 10, 2022 at 1040 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Springfield Police Lieutenant Beau Collins (Lt. Collins) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at an off-site Springfield Police SWAT facility.

The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

Lt. Collins has been with the Springfield Police Department for 21 years. He is currently the evening Shift Commander. He has been the MRAP driver for SWAT for three years.

On July 24, 2022, he was off duty and received the alert on his phone. He responded to the city garage, picked up an MRAP, and responded to the scene in Harmony Estates. At the scene they met up with Captain Kranz and came up with the plan to bump the trailer in the rear to distract the suspect. Lt. Collins was the driver of the MRAP at the rear of the trailer. They

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heard pops initially when they rolled up and believed the suspect was firing at them. Lt. Collins was able to manipulate the MRAP and create a hole the corner of the structure while he was continuously hitting the trailer. After the first unsuccessful attempt to extract Dep. Yates, Lt. Collins could no longer bump the trailer because there was an exposed gas line and electric panel he was afraid of hitting. Lt. Collins stood by while distraction devices and gas were deployed by personnel from his MRAP. After the second successful attempt, when Dep. Yates was extracted, Lt. Collins could see the smoke inside the trailer and heard about the fire over the radio. The MRAP had to eventually pull back for safety reasons when the trailer became engulfed.

Lt. Collins did not discharge his weapon or deploy any less lethal munitions.

The interview was concluded at 1052 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-10 / Lt. Beau Collins audio interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.