



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 Officer
Involves: Officer Scott Nicholson (W)
Date of Activity: 08/20/2022
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On August 20, 2022, at approximately 1451 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and Ryan Scheiderer (SA Scheiderer) interviewed Dublin Police Department (DPD) Officer Scott Nicholson (Officer Nicholson) in reference to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred August 20, 2022, between the Mansfield Police Department/Richland County Allied Special Operation Response Team (ASORT), Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU), Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), and Randy Wilhelm and Brad Wilhelm. Officer Nicholson responded to the incident as an operator for DTU. Officer Nicholson's interview was conducted in a meeting room at the KCSO office in Mount Vernon, OH.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

On August 20, 2022, Officer Nicholson and other DTU operators were dispatched to the area near 15266 Gilchrist Road in Mount Vernon, OH. It was reported that Randy Wilhelm (Randy) had a warrant for his arrest after failing to comply with the terms of his bail. A bail bondsman located Randy and was reportedly shot at by Randy. Multiple SWAT teams responded to the Wilhelm property where it was reported that Randy and his brother Brad were firing weapons at law enforcement. SWAT operators from DTU discharged their firearms during an interaction with both Brad and Randy. Brad and Randy were shot and pronounced deceased at the scene.

Prior to beginning the interview, Officer Nicholson was advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that DPD may be conducting. Officer Nicholson was informed his statement was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time, which Officer Nicholson verbally confirmed he understood.

Officer Nicholson reported DTU receiving a callout at approximately 0100 hours for SWAT response to a barricaded gunman situation in Knox County. Officer Nicholson reported to the KCSO office for briefing. Officer Nicholson left KCSO in the DTU armored vehicle (DTU Cat) at

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Finalized by SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
09/12/2022

approximately 0500 hours. DTU was assigned to stage at the road near the residence due to explosive blast radius concerns. DTU staged on a hilltop until daylight.

Officer Nicholson reported the two involved male individuals drove past the garage buildings to another house on the property and the DTU Cat moved up to the rear side of the residence which Officer Nicholson believed belonged to the mother of the involved individuals. Officer Nicholson and another negotiator remained inside the DTU Cat, while the other DTU operators exited the DTU Cat. The other DTU operators “stacked” on the house and made announcements over the DTU Cat’s PA speaker to attempt to get the mother to come out of the house. The mother was unaccounted for at this point.

DTU received radio calls that shots had been fired, and the involved individuals were coming towards them in a side-by-side ATV vehicle. Officer Nicholson observed the involved individuals in the ATV driving east towards them, then making a sharp left turn before the ATV came to a stop. Officer Nicholson heard shots being fired from DTU operators outside of the Cat, and in the Cat turret. Only Officer Nicholson and another DTU negotiator were still inside the DTU Cat, facing towards the house at the time shooting began. Officer Nicholson was unsure if he saw or heard shots being fired by the involved individuals. Officer Nicholson did not directly see any of the shots fired by DTU, and only heard the shots audibly.

Officer Nicholson stated five DTU operators fired shots during the exchange, and their five rifles were collected after the incident had concluded. Officer Nicholson was armed with a Sig Sauer P320 pistol, which he did not discharge during the incident. A DTU operator from another agency told Officer Nicholson that he had fired his weapon, but Officer Nicholson could not recall the DTU operator’s name. Officer Nicholson was not aware of any law enforcement injuries during the incident. The ATV driven by the involved individuals was cleared by a blue armored vehicle which Officer Nicholson believed belonged to either Mansfield Police Department or the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP).

Officer Nicholson was not wearing a body cam during the incident and there was no video recording from the DTU Cat. Officer Nicholson believed most the other DTU operators wear body cams during tactical responses. The involved individuals’ mother was located after the incident had concluded and Officer Nicholson helped her off the scene to an ambulance. Officer Nicholson said the mother appeared to be uninjured.

Officer Nicholson did not believe the DTU Cat had been struck by gunfire from the involved individuals during the incident. Officer Nicholson recalled seeing brass 5.56 rifle casings on the driveway near the garage after the incident had concluded, which he believed had been fired by the involved individuals earlier in the incident.

Interview concluded at approximately 1511 hours.