



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



2022-1115

Officer Involved Critical Incident – SR 339 near mile marker 3,
Belpre (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Captain Bryan Lockhart (W)
Date of Activity: 05/27/2022
Activity Location: McConnell, Sgt. – Business – 309 4h Street , Marietta, OH 45750,
Washington County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On May 27, 2022, at approximately 0949 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Captain Bryan Lockhart (Cpt. Lockhart) at 309 4th St., Marietta, OH. The interview was conducted to gain more knowledge regarding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at SR 339 near mile marker 3, Belpre, OH. Washington County Sherriff's Office (WCSSO) deputy was involved in a vehicle pursuit with an unknown subject. The involved vehicle crashed into a civilian truck then ultimately spun-out and crashed into a ditch. As the deputy approached the vehicle, shots were fired. The involved party, later identified as Devon Taylor (Taylor), died from unknown injuries.

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.

SA Poole identified himself and advised Cpt. Lockhart that their conversation was voluntary, and he could end the interview at any time. Cpt. Lockhart voluntarily agreed to talk with SA Poole.

Cpt. Lockhart explained he has worked 15 years at the Washington County Sherriff's Office and is currently a Captain for the uniformed patrol division. Cpt. Lockhart clarified that morning around 0430 he was called by dispatch at home. Dispatch explained that Deputy ██████ was just involved in a critical incident and still possibly had an individual barricaded in a vehicle. Cpt. Lockhart immediately called Lieutenant Pat Gherke (Lt. Gherke) and Sergeant Billy Johnson (Sgt. Johnson) due to the fact they have ballistic shields and are on the Strategic Response Team (SRT).

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Cpt. Lockhart stated once they all arrived at scene, they proceeded to Taylor's vehicle in a "tactical 'V' formation," to the driver's side rear window. Cpt. Lockhart explained that Lt. Gherke and Sgt. Johnson had ballistic shield while he held a rifle. Cpt. Lockhart noticed that all the airbags were deployed down over the windows, preventing deputies from being able to see inside. Cpt. Lockhart explained that Sgt. Johnson used his ASP to break the driver's rear window in order to look inside. Cpt. Lockhart still could not see inside so they moved forward to the driver's window. Cpt. Lockhart stated Sgt. Johnson then broke out the driver's window with his ASP. After lifting the airbags up, Cpt. Lockhart stated he could see Taylor, who was not responsive. Cpt. Lockhart then ordered Deputy Aultman, who is the SRT medic, to check for signs of life, in which he did not find any.

Cpt. Lockhart explained he then ordered his deputies to secure the scene and started the process of calling BCI and (Ohio) State Highway Patrol.

Cpt. Lockhart then spoke with Deputy [REDACTED] and explained the process of being in an Officer-Involved Critical Incident. Cpt. Lockhart traded Deputy [REDACTED]'s duty weapon with his own, later turning it over to a crime scene BCI Special Agent.

After the scene was secure, Cpt. Lockhart then transported Deputy [REDACTED] to Marietta Memorial Hospital where he was given an alcohol standardize test.

SA Poole asked Cpt. Lockhart if he could describe the scene. Cpt. Lockhart stated Taylor's vehicle was stuck in the ditch on the side of the road facing south. The ditch appeared to be deep, causing the roof of the vehicle to be almost parallel with the roadway. He explained this made it difficult to get down to the vehicle. Cpt. Lockhart stated that Deputy [REDACTED]'s vehicle was parked on the roadway, around 20 yards behind Taylor's vehicle facing south.

SA Poole asked if Cpt. Lockhart had seen any evidence while clearing the vehicle. Cpt. Lockhart explained BCI retrieved all known evidence in the vehicle, but he did remember seeing the barrel of a pistol that was under Taylor's body as he was slumped over the center console onto the passenger seat.

SA Poole asked what type of weapon Cpt. Lockhart was carrying. Cpt. Lockhart stated he had his Colt AR-15 duty rifle that carried 5.56 mm duty rounds.

SA Poole asked if Cpt. Lockhart had discharged his weapon or had seen any other deputies discharge their weapons. Cpt. Lockhart stated, "No, and No."

The interview ended at 0958 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-05-27 Cpt Bryan Lockhart Interview