



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: 10/22/2023
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 [REDACTED] (Deputy [REDACTED]) at the GCSO in order to obtain a voluntary statement from Deputy [REDACTED] in reference to his involvement in the October 22, 2023, Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving Roger Meade (Meade) and members of the GCSO. Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Attorney Keith Washburn (Attorney Washburn) was present during all of SA Call's contact with Deputy [REDACTED]

Prior to any questioning, Deputy [REDACTED] was provided with BCI's Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) form which Deputy [REDACTED] indicated he understood and did not have any clarifying questions. Deputy [REDACTED] signed the CIN form and it has been added to the case file.

Deputy [REDACTED] prepared a written witness statement of his account of the events on the above date, which is one two sided page with text approximately the full length of each page. SA Call asked Deputy [REDACTED] to sign the statement if he was willing to add it to BCI's case file and Deputy [REDACTED] did so.

The audio interview began at approximately 0940 hours.

Deputy [REDACTED] badge number is [REDACTED] and is currently assigned to dayshift (0600-1600 hours) on the uniformed road patrol division of the GCSO. Deputy [REDACTED] explained his badge number is the same as his cruiser number and is how he is identified on radio traffic. Deputy [REDACTED] was the acting shift supervisor on the date of the incident. Deputy [REDACTED] has been with the GCSO for approximately seven years with no previous law enforcement service at other agencies. Deputy [REDACTED] confirmed he was not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or have any other issue that would have prevented or hindered him performing his regular duties.

Deputy [REDACTED] described his uniform of the day as black pants and a black shirt bearing

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

the standard deputy sheriff patches. Deputy ██████ indicated members of the GCSO are not issued body worn cameras and his cruiser is also not equipped with a camera. Deputy ██████ said he did use some issued medical supplies during the incident (chest seals and gauze), however none of his issued equipment was damaged in any way. Deputy ██████ reported he was not physically injured as a result of the incident.

Deputy ██████ reported the only firearm he carried during the incident was his issued Glock 45, which is a 9mm handgun. Deputy ██████ did have his firearm out of the holster during the incident, however he confirmed he did not fire at any time.

Deputy ██████ signed written witness statement (statement) indicates Deputy ██████ (Deputy ██████, Deputy ██████ Deputy ██████ and he proceeded to Meade's camper in an attempt to locate and arrest Nancy Johnson (Johnson) on an active warrant. Deputy ██████ described previously encountering Johnson at the residence in the recent past.

Deputy ██████'s statement describes the three deputies parking out of sight and approaching the camper on foot with Deputy ██████ proceeding to the front door to initiate contact, while he and Deputy ██████ maintained a position on the front corner of the camper. Deputy ██████ statement describes Deputy ██████ as knocking on the front door "approximately 9 times" and receiving no response. Deputy ██████'s statement indicates there was a window near his position that Deputy ██████ moved to and looked in.

In reference to the events of Deputy ██████ looking through the window and immediately surrounding the shooting Deputy ██████ wrote the following:

"Deputy ██████ then came over to where I was standing and was able to see through the window. He then advised me that he had a visual on Rodger Meade and a female laying in the bed. Deputy ██████ then announced "Rodger, it's ██████ with the Sheriff's Office. Get your ass out here and talk to me." At that point it sounded as though someone got up and began moving inside. Deputy ██████ then moved back to the door which was on the North End of the camper."

"We could hear noise at the door which sounded like someone shaking the door knob. About that time a gunshot rang out. I then drew my firearm and looked towards Deputy ██████ The door of the camper then opened, however from my point of view I could not see directly into the camper. By that point Deputy ██████ had drawn his firearm as well and was pointing towards the camper door. Deputy ██████ then discharged his firearm three times."

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

"I immediately ran to Deputy ██████ and we approached the door of the camper. I was able to pull the door open and could see inside the camper. Deputy ██████ then reached down and grabbed the firearm and threw it out of the camper. We began yelling verbal commands for the occupants to show us their hands. The female that was inside then came to the doorway and exited the camper. Deputy ██████ took her and began securing her."

"It was then that Deputy ██████ had made it to me and we made entry inside the camper. As I entered immediately to my left was Mr. Meade laying facedown in the bathroom area of the

camper. Deputy [REDACTED] and I continued giving verbal commands as we moved towards him. Once I realized he was unresponsive we began pulling him out into the larger portion of the camper.

Deputy [REDACTED] came back in to assist us briefly. I was able to get handcuffs on Mr. Meade and then lay him on his back where we began our initial assessment of what medical aid he would need."

Deputy [REDACTED]'s statement continues to describe the medical aid the deputies provided Meade until additional officers and emergency medical services arrived on scene.

Deputy [REDACTED] agreed to answer follow up questions about his statement and the answers did not change any of the content.

Deputy [REDACTED] indicated he was familiar with the location of Meade's camper based off of previous contacts there, however he did not know the specific address. Deputy [REDACTED] described the camper's location as being on State Route 160 near the intersection of Bull Run Road, which is in the Northern end of Gallia County near the town of Vinton.

SA Call asked Deputy [REDACTED] to elaborate on his previous contact with Johnson at Meade's residence. Deputy [REDACTED] described Johnson being present at the camper within the past 2-3 months while Deputy [REDACTED] and he were attempting to get information about the location of another subject with a warrant. Deputy [REDACTED] said Deputy [REDACTED] interviewed Meade during this encounter. Deputy [REDACTED] indicated his belief was Meade would "without a doubt" have knowledge Deputy [REDACTED] is a law enforcement officer.

Deputy [REDACTED] described having knowledge Meade had a criminal history involving narcotics offenses and indicated he had multiple contacts with Meade while on duty. Deputy [REDACTED] reported Meade was usually "cordial" with him during these encounters. Deputy [REDACTED] said he did not have a personal relationship with Meade.

In reference to the initial gunshot Deputy [REDACTED] heard, Deputy [REDACTED] could not recall if the shot occurred while the front door was closed or as it was being opened. Deputy [REDACTED] did describe the door being completely open incident to the initial shot being fired by Deputy [REDACTED]. Deputy [REDACTED] further described Deputy [REDACTED] actions after the initial shot being fired and the door opening as backpedaling as he returned fire.

Deputy [REDACTED] described the involved firearm he observed as a "long gun of some kind with a short stock."

Deputy [REDACTED] described Deputy [REDACTED] lip as being struck by the shot or some kind of shrapnel from the shot, however he indicated the injury was minor enough it did not require medical attention.

Deputy [REDACTED] did not know who the female inside the camper was other than she did not end up being Johnson. Deputy [REDACTED] said he never got a good look at the female during the incident.

Deputy [REDACTED] confirmed he had not been threatened or coerced in any way to give a statement to BCI.

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The interview concluded at approximately 1014 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Deputy ██████ Interview

Attachment # 02: Deputy ██████ page 2

Attachment # 03: Deputy ██████ page 1

Attachment # 04: Deputy ██████ CIN

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It was then that Deputy [REDACTED] had made it to me and we made entry inside the camper. As I entered immediately to my left was Mr. Meade laying facedown in the bathroom area of the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] and I continued giving verbal commands as we moved towards him. Once I realized he was unresponsive we began pulling him out into the larger portion of the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] came back in to assist us briefly. I was able to get handcuffs on Mr. Meade and then lay him on his back where we began our initial assessment of what medical aid he would need.

I advised Deputy [REDACTED] to go check Deputy [REDACTED] for injuries he then exited the camper to complete that task. I then began CPR on Mr. Meade as I could see that he was not breathing. Once Deputy [REDACTED] came back inside, I advised him to take over CPR as I was going to retrieve my patrol car for medical supplies. I then sprinted back to Bull Run Road and got my patrol car. While running back I radioed dispatch and advised them that shots had been fired and one individual was down. I requested they notify Sheriff Champlin, Chief Deputy Johnson, and Lieutenant Holcomb. I also requested that Gallia Emergency Medical Services respond, along with dispatch contacting air medical and putting them on standby. I then drove back to the driveway leading to the camper where I had to exit briefly to remove small branches and pieces of wood that were blocking entry into the driveway.

Once back on scene I collected my medical supplies and rushed back into the camper. I then began to cut off the shirt of Mr. Meade to better see his chest and back. I located a hole in the center of his chest right around his solar plexus. I applied a chest seal to this area. I then cleared the airway of Mr. Meade as it appeared he was regurgitating blood clots. We then turned Mr. Meade onto his side and I was able to locate a second hole near the center of his back. I then applied another Chest seal and we turned him back over.

I advised Deputy [REDACTED] to begin applying chest compressions once more. I then opened my manual resuscitator pump and used it to administer breaths. Deputy [REDACTED] and I continued administering CPR and first aid until additional Law enforcement showed up. Trooper J. Trelka and Sgt. B. Haislop of the Ohio State Highway Patrol had arrived on scene to assist us. Trooper Trelka eventually came inside and relieved me. Once outside I went to my patrol car with Deputy [REDACTED]. At this point Gallia County Emergency Medical Services had arrived on scene along with additional Law Enforcement units.

x Dep. [REDACTED]

BCI T. G. Hill 11/2/23

On October 22, 2023, I, Deputy [REDACTED] along with Deputies [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] went to the residence of Rodger Meade in an attempt to serve an arrest warrant on Nancy Johnson. Deputy [REDACTED] and I had been to the residence of Mr. Meade together over the last two to three months. When previously there we encountered Ms. Johnson, therefore we believed there was a high probability that she would be present at the residence again. Mr. Meade's residence was a camper/travel trailer that set parallel to State Route 160 and approximately 60 yards off the roadway with trees surround much of the area.

We arrived at the intersection of Bull Run Road and State Route 160 where we parked and secured our patrol cars. We elected to walk in on foot to maintain a tactical and safe advantage. It was approximately 175 to 200 yards from our patrol cars to the residence of Mr. Meade. We made our approach to the residence coming from the south on State Route 160. We entered the driveway and approached the camper. There were several vehicles in the driveway one we recognized as Mr. Meade's pickup truck.

We made it to the camper where I stood at the front corner on the south end, Deputy [REDACTED] was standing behind me initially looking at the front and rear of the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] then approached the door and began knocking on it. Deputy [REDACTED] knocked approximately 9 times in a respectful manner. However, we never got a response from inside the camper. It was then I noticed the window just above my head had no covering on it.

Deputy [REDACTED] then came over to where I was standing and was able to see through the window. He then advised me that he had a visual on Rodger Meade and a female laying in the bed. Deputy [REDACTED] then announced "Rodger, it's [REDACTED] with the Sheriff's Office. Get your ass out here and talk to me." At that point it sounded as though someone got up and began moving inside. Deputy [REDACTED] then moved back to the door which was on the North End of the camper.

We could hear noise at the door which sounded like someone shaking the door knob. About that time a gunshot rang out. I then drew my firearm and looked towards Deputy [REDACTED]. The door of the camper then opened, however from my point of view I could not see directly into the camper. By that point Deputy [REDACTED] had drawn his firearm as well and was pointing towards the camper door. Deputy [REDACTED] then discharged his firearm three times.

I immediately ran to Deputy [REDACTED] and we approached the door of the camper. I was able to pull the door on open and could see inside the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] then reached down and grabbed a firearm which was some type of long gun with a short stalk on it. Deputy [REDACTED] then grabbed the firearm and threw it out of the camper. We began yelling verbal commands for the occupants to show us their hands. The female that was inside then came to the doorway and exited the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] took her and began securing her.



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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).

[Redacted]
Printed Name of Interviewee

11/02/2023 10:14
Date / Time

[Redacted]

T. Craig Call
BCI Agent (Printed)

T. Call
BCI Agent (Signature)