



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Brandon McDaniels
Activity Date: December 12, 2023
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 1358 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Joseph Goudy (Goudy) interviewed Howland Police Officer Brandon McDaniels (Officer McDaniels), who was accompanied by his attorney, Dan Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Boardman Police Department. The interview was audio recorded.

Officer McDaniels was identified as being a police officer who responded to the initial call at [REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484. Reportedly, Officer McDaniels 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 officer.

SA Momchilov stated to Officer McDaniels that it was his understanding that he responded to an incident that occurred on August 22, 2023. Officer McDaniels advised that was correct and that he was aware of what incident SA Momchilov was referring to. SA Momchilov asked Officer McDaniels if he could explain how he became involved in that incident and what had occurred.

Officer McDaniels explained that he was on station when a call came in about, "An armed subject in a house" and "There was a couple different callers, third-party callers, family to the subject and there was a call from also, one of the people in the house." The callers also advised that the subject "possibly had a shotgun in his hands."

Officer McDaniels advised that he responded to the scene with his cruiser lights and sirens activated. Once on scene, Officer McDaniels exited his cruiser and retrieved the department issued AR-15 rifle from his cruiser. Officer McDaniels then stated, "I saw the subject in the window, holding what appeared to be a shotgun. He closed the curtains and then I returned to my cruiser."

Officer McDaniels stated he attempted to make contact with the subject via phone, as well as a female who was in the residence who was previously on the phone with dispatch.

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Officer McDaniels advised that he also called over the loudspeaker, multiple times for the subject to, "Come out and talk to us." Officer McDaniels that stated, "I actually reached him on the telephone, when I reached him on the telephone, um, tried to use some deescalating type stuff to talk to him, asked him what was going on inside. At that time, he said, 'I think you know' and he hung up the phone on me."

Officer McDaniels stated that units from other agencies began responding to provide assistance. A perimeter was established around the house and SRT (Special Response Team) and negotiators were also contacted. Officer McDaniels stated, "After that it was stage perimeter and waiting for the most part." Officer McDaniels advised that he remained on scene for the entire duration of the incident.

SA Momchilov asked Officer McDaniels what he was doing while he was on scene during the standoff. Officer McDaniels replied, "For most of the night, I actually held my position in my cruiser, against my door and then, I eventually moved around the block because we had people (civilians) wanting to leave for work and stuff, trying to get people out of there, safely, in case anything else were to happen. I had moved over by my chief and assistant chief, um, and then when we entered the house, yes, I heard all of the shots fired, stuff like that. I heard the shots fired, I ran to the back of the house, um, couple of the guys that were there were holding their legs, they were cutting their pants off of one of the CRT guys and I had left recently after that to go talk to the prosecutors about everything that happened."

SA Momchilov stated, "You said you heard the shooting, I mean, could you tell who was firing?" Officer McDaniels replied, "At the time I could hear ARs but that's about it, I mean it was, I heard a boom and then a bunch of shooting. Like a boom, like a door breach and then a bunch of shooting after that." SA Momchilov asked Officer McDaniels if he observed the shooting. Officer McDaniels replied, "No, sir."

During the standoff, Officer McDaniels advised that he did observe an individual inside the house, "Check the window, front window and walk back and forth."

Officer McDaniels advised that he had had no prior contact with the subject, Randall Fife. Officer McDaniels was wearing a body-worn camera during the incident (Review Investigative Report titled, "Body-Worn Camera Footage Review-Howland Township" for further details).

The interview with Officer McDaniels was recorded via audio. The audio recording is attached to this Investigative Report.

Attachments

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- Audio interview of Officer Brandon McDaniels

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