



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: Ross Eubanks (S)
Date of Activity: 08/09/2022
Activity Location: East District CCSO – Business – 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, OH 45502, Clark County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1406 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ross Eubanks at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Eubanks' representative/union Attorney, John Sauter. On July 24, 2022, Eubanks and other Clark County Sheriff's personnel responded to an "Officer Down" call at 1132 Ashwood Drive where Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by Cole White.

Agent Ward read Deputy Eubanks the *Notice of Criminal Investigation Notification (attached below)* provided by the standard BCI form, which Eubanks acknowledged and signed. Eubanks has been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office since 2012. Eubanks has worked for Clark County Sheriff's Office for eleven years and was assigned to road patrol, second shift (1500–2300).

On July 24, 2022, Deputy Eubanks stated he was off-duty when he was informed of an "Officer Down" in Harmony Estates. Eubanks proceeded to the scene and arrived earlier than most of the tactical units. Eubanks was briefed by the first responding deputies of the events that led to the officer down.

Agent Ward asked Deputy Eubanks what he witnessed during the attempted recovery of Deputy Yates and Eubanks stated he positioned himself behind a large tree as the team approached the trailer. Eubanks stated he was positioned on the right side of the tree and had a clear shot of the doorway. Once one or two of the members were inside the trailer, the team began to "take fire". Eubanks indicated on a grease board the main doorway of the trailer the team approached and the positions of other deputies near/behind a shed. Because of taking fire, the team retreated from the trailer as some or all of the team members fled onto the ground.

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Eubanks believed the subject, Cole White fired three or four times from inside the trailer and observed what may have been rounds striking in front of the tree he was behind. Eubanks fired four rounds from his Aero Precision .223 AR 15 rifle into the front door of the trailer. Eubanks retreated to the shed previously described, but the MRAP began to strike the rear of the trailer and the deputies had to move their positions.

Deputy Eubanks stated he was still near the trailer when the second attempt [Springfield Police Department SWAT] was made to recover Deputy Yates and that team took fire and retreated in a more orderly fashion. Eubanks observed team members dragging Detective Nawman from the area. Eubanks stated he and other Clark County Sheriff personnel were removed and fell back to the rear during the remainder of the incident.

Agent Ward concluded the interview at 1424 hours. The audio recorded interview with Deputy Eubanks is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-09 / Dep. Ross Eubanks interview

Attachment # 02: Notice of Crim. Invest R. Eubanks

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2



MIKE DEWINE

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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).

Ross Eubanks

Printed Name of Interviewee

8-9-2022 1404

Date / Time

Ross Eubanks

Signature of Interviewee

S/A R. WARD

BCI Agent (Printed)

R. Ward

BCI Agent (Signature)