



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: Cole Matthew White (S), Scott Cultice (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 0956 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Cultice at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Cultice's 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 Cultice the *Notice of Criminal Investigation Notification* (attached below) provided by the standard BCI form, which Cultice acknowledged and signed.

Cultice had been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office since 2006 and assigned to "plain clothes" Narcotics Division and a member of the Special Operations Team (SOT) from its inception 13 months ago. On July 24, 2022, Cultice received a call on "Active 911" an application administration and SOT members use for notifications. Further details on the text portion of the app indicated an officer down and the location. Once he arrived, Cultice was briefed by Major Chris Clark of the events known; specifically, Deputy Yates, a male subject (Cole White), a female and possibly an additional female were inside the trailer. Cultice was informed to compile at least five SOT members and approach the trailer with the BearCat. The groups of possible six SOT members approached in the BearCat to the front of the trailer and remained to gather additional intelligence. Cultice indicated the area was chaotic with neighbors and a heavy police presence while he considered the safest way to proceed. The team was informed by Major Clark via the radio to begin their approach. Cultice believed, based on what was known, exigency circumstances existed to rescue Yates and any other possible hostages.

Deputy Cultice stated the team exited the BearCat on the driver's/cover side (the side faced

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away from the trailer), Sergeant Denise Jones (shield), Deputy Spencer Wheeler, Deputy Ryan Weaver, Deputy Jordan Bean, Deputy William Crump and he were the stack when the entry was made. Cultice described the approach as the "Snake of Death", which was ill advised. Cultice was on the bottom step and the team moved up the stairs, Jones and possibly Wheeler both step inside the threshold of the trailer when they received gunfire. Just prior to the shots, Cultice heard Jones say, "Matt...Matt...are you okay...we're gonna get you." and observed Jones bend over with the shield and reach toward Yates when the gunfire began. Cultice observed a muzzle flash inside a small elevated window on the entry side of the trailer; he stepped back and fired with his Rock River M4, 5.56 caliber rifle into that window. Cultice observed along with the muzzle flash, "shredded" debris come spraying outward from the window and believed he fired one additional round into the window, but could not say how many rounds he fired in total. Cultice stated he maintains twenty-five rounds in his rifle magazines. The team withdrew and Cultice fell back toward the BearCat next to Sergeant Eubanks who had discharged his rifle. Because Chad Eubanks and he were side by side, Cultice stated the sound from Eubanks' rifle was "deafening." Cultice observed an unmarked detective vehicle near their location struck by the gunfire. During the withdrawal, Cultice stated Jones had fell to the ground, but was uninjured.

Deputy Cultice stated the team remained while other police personnel arrived to assist. Cultice remembered seeing North Hampton Police Officer Steven Harrison and Deputy Brandon McDuffie arrive and inside the BearCat. After observing movement, Cultice stated McDuffie discharged a "Peeper Ball" into the same window the round(s) came from.

Deputy Cultice asked deputies holding cover, if they needed to be relieved and assessed the condition of the personnel. Cultice heard via the radio Springfield Police were preparing for another approach. Major Clark asked Cultice if they could attach the ram to the BearCat and he advised only if the BearCat can be moved. According to Cultice, the BearCat remained in front of the trailer to maintain cover on the roadside window. Cultice was advised the Springfield Police MRAPs were to approach from the rear and front and make contact with the trailer, which did so and moved the trailer from its foundation. Cultice observed the Springfield Police Department SWAT team along with Deputy Justin Nawman approach the same trailer door with double shields. Once at least three SPD entered the threshold of the trailer, immediately gunfire was heard and he observed debris in concert with the gunfire from the same window.

Cultice observed Nawman fall to the ground and believed he was shot, but the injury was communicated as mechanical.

Deputy Cultice was informed by Major Clark to withdraw from the scene to the command post. Prior to leaving, Greene County Regional SWAT arrived to relieve Clack County and used the BearCat for cover until their armor arrived. While at the command post, Sergeant Jones informed Clark Deputy Yates displayed no movement.

The remainder of the scene, Cultice heard via the radio once Deputy Yates was recovered and provided the BearCat for transport. Cultice heard the flash bangs, CS gas being deployed and ultimately the trailer become engulfed in flames.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Deputy Scott Cultice at 1040 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Cultice.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-09 / Dep. Scott Cultice audio interview

Attachment # 02: Notice of Crim. Invest. Dep. Scott Cultice

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office 740-845-2181
Fax 740-845-2020

1560 SR 56, PO Box 365
London, OH 43140
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

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).

SCOTT CHITICE

Printed Name of Interviewee

8-9-22

Date / Time

[Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

R. W. Jones

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)