



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Matthew J Cook (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 12/21/2022  
**Author:** SA Christopher Hamberg, #69

**Narrative:**

On December 20, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident (OICI) that occurred on the railroad tracks near Section Street, in LaRue, in Marion County, OH. The OICI occurred when the Marion County SWAT Team (MCST) [which encompasses deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, along with police officers from the Marion Ohio Police Department] came in contact with Travis Hellinger (Hellinger) as the MCST was attempting to execute a search warrant at the Hellinger residence. Hellinger succumbed to his injuries.

On December 21, 2022, BCI Special Agent (SA) Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) interviewed Officer Matt Cook (Cook) of the Powell Police Department. [It should be noted that Cook is part of the Delaware County Tactical Unit (DTU), and they assisted on the Marion County Operation that involved the OICI.] The interview took place at the Coliseum X laser tag, 100 Dillmont Dr., Columbus, OH, as the DTU had training. The interview was digitally recorded. The audio file is attached to the case file.

The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what Cook may have witnessed at the scene of the of the Marion OICI.

SA Hamberg asked Cook to describe how the events unfolded and what he witnessed in regard to the OICI in Marion, OH. Cook stated they assisted the Marion County SWAT on executing a search warrant on a residence in LaRue, OH. Cook said he was assigned to an armored vehicle and placed behind the Marion SWAT, when the subject took off. Cook stated he could observe a person [Hellinger] walking backwards on the railroad tracks and was pointing a flashlight out in front of himself. Cook added that the radio traffic indicated that the Marion SWAT officers were following the person on the tracks. Cook stated because of the position of the armored vehicle, the person went out of the viewing angle, and he could not see the shooting incident take place.

Cook had no additional information to share on the shooting incident.

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This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the audio recording. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions or responses. It is suggested that the reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Interview with Matt Cook Powell PD

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