



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



2022-1115
Officer Involved Critical Incident – SR 339 near mile marker 3,
Belpre (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Deputy [REDACTED] (S), Devon Lee Taylor (S)
Date of Activity: 05/27/2022
Activity Location: Washington County Sheriffs Office – Business – 205 Putnam Street,
Marietta, OH 45750, Washington County
Author: SA Shane R. Hanshaw, #102

Narrative:

On Friday, May 27, 2022, at 1033 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Shane Hanshaw (Hanshaw) interviewed Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSSO) Deputy Sergeant (Sgt.) McConnell (McConnell) relative to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The interview took place at the Washington County Sheriff's Office located at 309 4th Street in Marietta, Ohio. Also present during the interview was Union Representative Mike Dickerson. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred on State Route 339 in Washington County. Prior to conducting the interview, SA Hanshaw advised Sgt. McConnell that the investigation was a criminal investigation. The interview was audio recorded.

Sgt. McConnell was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 19, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of State Route 339 in Washington County, Ohio. Reportedly, Sgt. McConnell did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident.

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 interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

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At the onset of the interview SA Hanshaw identified himself as a BCI Special Agent and began by asking some preliminary questions. Sgt. McConnell stated his radio call sign on May 19, 2022, was 507. He has been employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office for about fifteen years, and had worked as a road deputy for about ten years. During the incident, Sgt. McConnell wore his standard police uniform consisting of black Tactical Dress Uniform (TDU). Sgt. McConnell stated he was carrying a Smith & Wesson MP 9mm duty weapon with two additional magazines. He also wore a duty belt consisting Taser, handcuffs, duty firearm, magazines, and radio. Sgt. McConnell was driving a marked WCSO vehicle. Sgt. McConnell was not wearing a body camera, nor is his vehicle outfitted with a vehicle camera.

Sgt. McConnell considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses. Sgt. McConnell has never been involved in an OICI and has no prior disciplines for excessive force.

On the date of the incident, Sgt. McConnell stated he was at his station working on a report. Sgt. McConnell said he was advised by dispatch that there had been a pursuit and shots were fired. Sgt. McConnell traveled to the scene, arriving sometime after 0430 hours.

Upon arrival, Sgt. McConnell said he saw Deputy Wallace's police vehicle and an Ohio State Patrol (OSP) vehicle blocking traffic. Sgt. McConnell drove his vehicle to Deputy ██████'s location. Sgt. McConnell stated Deputy ██████'s vehicle was parked near the vehicle that was being pursued. Sgt. McConnell stated he saw a Belpre officer and an Athens officer with Deputy ██████

Sgt. McConnell stated when he arrived at Deputy ██████'s location, Deputy ██████ said he got into a pursuit, the driver hit a car, and then wrecked. Deputy ██████ said the driver of the wrecked car fired and he, Deputy ██████ fired back.

Sgt. McConnell said at that point, they watched the vehicle and discussed what they could do next. Sgt. McConnell said he recognized the Belpre officer as being part of their SWAT team and asked his opinion on what to do next. Sgt. McConnell said the Belpre officer said he thought they should wait until additional officers could arrived at the scene.

Sgt. McConnell said he then began to verbally speak to the driver of the vehicle as he is also the department negotiator. Sgt. McConnell said from a location near the front driver door of Deputy ██████'s vehicle, he continued to try to verbally contact the driver of the vehicle, but got no response. Sgt. McConnell stated that even though Deputy ██████'s spotlight was on the vehicle, he could not see the occupant of the vehicle because the vehicle airbags were down. Sgt. McConnell said they waited for Captain

Lockhart, Lt. Gherke, and Sgt. Johnson to arrive with a shield so they could approach the car.

Sgt. McConnell said he was aware that the additional officers were getting ready to arrive, so he told Deputy ██████ that he wanted Deputy ██████ to holster his gun and separate himself from the incident. Sgt. McConnell said as OSP unit arrived at the scene and stayed with Deputy ██████

Sgt. McConnell said when the additional officers arrived at the scene, they approached the vehicle with the use of two shields. After approaching the vehicle, Sgt. McConnell said Sgt. Johnson took his ASP baton and broke the rear driver side window in an attempt to see inside the vehicle. After breaking the rear driver side window, Sgt. Johnson moved to the front driver side window, broke the window and looked inside the vehicle. Sgt. McConnell said at no point did he approach the vehicle, but stayed near the front of Deputy ██████'s vehicle.

Sgt. McConnell stated that eventually Deputy Aultman arrived and checked the driver for a pulse. Deputy Aultman advised that he did see a gun in the vehicle. At that point, Sgt. McConnell stated they told Deputy ██████ that a gun had been seen in the vehicle.

Sgt. McConnell said at that point it was determined that Deputy ██████ would be taken to the hospital.

When asked, Sgt. McConnell stated he did not fire his duty weapon, deploy any less lethal weapon, contact the vehicle, or the vehicle operator.

At approximately 1056 hours, SA Hanshaw concluded the interview with Sgt. McConnell.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Interview with Sgt. J. McConnel