



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



2023-2008
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – Terminal Road By Dayton
 Airport, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Victim
Involves: ██████████ (V)
Date of Activity: 08/02/2023
Activity Location: Miami Valley Hospital – 1 Wyoming Way, Dayton, OH 45402,
 Montgomery County
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 2, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on August 2, 2023, between OSP Troopers and two subjects, Rodney Helman and Elaine Helman.

The Helman's kidnapped a semi-truck driver, ██████████ where Rodney shot ██████████ in the hand, and stole his semi cab. A pursuit ensued and the semi eventually became disabled. After a standoff, OSP Troopers attempted to breach the semi, when Rodney fired shots at officers, and Troopers returned fire, striking Rodney and Elaine.

On August 2, 2023, Special Agents Lauren Frazier (SA Frazier) and Douglas Eveslage (SA Eveslage) responded to the Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, where Rodney Helman, Elaine Helman, and ██████████ were all transported for medical assistance around approximately 0830 hours.

SA Frazier and SA Eveslage interviewed ██████████ in Room #25 in the Emergency Room (ER). Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Investigator Russ Davis was also present for the interview. The interview began at approximately 1024 hours. SA Frazier read ██████████ a Consent to Search form regarding consent to search his semi. ██████████ gave agents consent to search the semi and signed the consent form (attachment #01). (Agent note: SA Frazier filled out the form in ██████████ presence due to the gunshot wound to ██████████ right hand.) Later on, ██████████ also gave agents consent to search his cell phone, a black Samsung S, that was used by the subjects during the incident. Therefore, the cell phone was added to the consent form and verbal consent was audio recorded (see attachment #02).

██████████ stated that on August 2, 2023 at approximately 0230 hours, he was at the TA

(TravelCenters of America) gas station in London, Ohio. He stated that he had just used the bathroom and returned to his semi. ██████ thought that he locked the truck doors but stated he must have hit the unlock button on accident. ██████ said that he was lying down on his bunk for approximately 20 minutes, when two subjects came into his truck, shut the doors behind them, and manually locked the doors.

██████ stated a female subject came in on the passenger side and described her as a chubby White female, later identified as Elaine Helman. He stated that a male subject came in on the driver's side, described as a White male approximately the same age as him, later identified as Rodney Helman. ██████ stated that he grabbed a hammer, waved it around, and told them to "get the hell out of [his] truck." He said that the male subject was sitting on the driver's seat when he pulled out a gun and shot ██████ in the hand. ██████ described the gun as a smaller handgun, approximately 6–8 inches, and silver in color. ██████ stated that the female was "panicking" in the passenger seat.

At this time, ██████ said that the male wanted to get the truck moving. ██████ said that he was sitting on the back bunk and was compliant to everything they wanted. ██████ told the subject how to start the truck and that they needed to run the truck for a while before leaving. ██████ stated that after the male subject shot him, the subject opened the curtains slightly and he was able to see blue police lights outside in the parking lot. Soon after, the male subject pointed the gun at ██████ and said that they needed to leave. The male subject started the truck, began to drive, and hit a police car in the lot while he was leaving.

██████ advised that the male subject drove around back roads for a few hours, possibly going speeds up to 65 mph, where trucks shouldn't be driving. ██████ said that he could see police lights outside and thought that the male subject was going to flip the semi, when he drove around police cars and trees. At some point, ██████ said that the police put down stop sticks, which disabled a few of the tires, but the male subject continued driving. ██████ said that the driver's side front tire blew and possibly took out an air line, eventually disabling the semi.

██████ said that police were there immediately. The subjects did not have a cell phone and ██████ gave them his cell phone to use. The police were attempting to make contact with the subjects and ██████ said that they received approximately 20–30 calls from police. ██████ said one of the negotiators made contact with the male subject. ██████ said that the police wanted ██████ to get out of the passenger door and run, but ██████ said he did not feel safe trying to leave with a gun pointed at him. ██████ described that himself and both subjects were now sitting on the bunk because the subjects didn't want to be close to the windows.

After a few hours, ██████ stated that police breached the truck and broke the front windows. ██████ said that he could see a police officer outside of the truck on the front passenger side. ██████ observed the male subject inside on the passenger side, lean over the front seat, point a gun towards the front of the truck, and fire shots at officers. ██████ could not recall how many times the subject fired but possibly more than once.

██████ saw at least one officer outside and saw officers return gunfire towards the male subject, but he could not recall how many shots were fired by police. ██████ observed the male subject fall to the ground and the female subject went to help him. ██████ could not recall what happened with the gun after the subject fired at officers but stated that the last

time he saw the gun it was in the male subject's hand. ██████ saw bullet holes in the front windshield, before he exited the passenger side door and ran towards police. From there, police placed ██████ in a cruiser and transported him to medics already staged on scene.

██████ stated that both subjects ate 3–4 bottles of his prescribed medication, which he described as a 90 day supply that had been filled approximately two weeks ago. ██████ also noted that his semi has an outside forward facing camera, but no interior cameras. The interview concluded at approximately 1041 hours. A copy of the audio recorded interview is attached (attachment #03).

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 2023-08-02 ██████ Consent to Search
- Attachment # 02: 2023-08-02 ██████ Audio Cell Phone Consent
- Attachment # 03: 2023-08-02 ██████ Audio Interview

Exhibit 1



CONSENT TO SEARCH



Date & Time 8/2/2023 10:24 AM

Location Miami Valley Hospital

I, [REDACTED], having been informed of the constitutional right not to have a search made of the premises, property, or items hereinafter mentioned without a search warrant (and of my right to refuse to consent to such a search), hereby authorize

BCI

to conduct a complete search of my

premises, and all curtilage

any vehicles (semi-truck)

personal property, to wit: _____

computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device, (including data acquisition, copying, and analysis), to wit: Samung S black

located at

Montgomery County, OH

These above-named officers/agents are authorized by me to take from my premises, curtilage, vehicles, property, computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device (as specified above) any letters, papers, materials, data, or other property which they desire. I state that I am a person who is authorized to give consent for the search of the above mentioned property.

This written permission is being given by me to the above-named officers/agents voluntarily, of my own free will, without threats or promises of any kind, I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol that prevent me from understand this document, and I understand this document and the English language.

[REDACTED]

Aug 2, 2023
Date/Time

[REDACTED]

Printed Name

Exhibit 2

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 3

Included as a separate file.