



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Special Agent Cory Momchilov's Response to Scene

Activity Date: August 23, 2023

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

On Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) was notified by Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Jon Lieber (Lieber) that a officer-involved shooting had occurred in Howland Township. SA Lieber further advised and that the Howland Township Police Department was requesting the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to conduct the investigation.

SA Momchilov was advised that the shooting occurred at [REDACTED] Howland Township, Ohio. While en-route to the scene, SA Momchilov obtained further information about the incident. SA Momchilov was informed that on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, Howland Township Police officers responded to [REDACTED] Howland Township, in reference to a 911 domestic violence complaint. When officers arrived, they went to the rear of the residence and encountered Randall Fife (Fife). It was reported that Fife popped his head out from the rear of the residence at which point officers observed Fife holding a shotgun. Fife then retreated back into the residence and closed the blinds around the house. Fife's mother, brother, and his brother's girlfriend when also inside the residence.

At this point, the Howland Township officers backed away from the residence and the Mahoning Valley Regional Crisis Response Team (SWAT) was activated and a stand off ensued. On August 23, 2023, at approximately 0630 hours, the decision was made for SWAT Team members to breach and enter the residence. As the SWAT Team breached the residence it was reported that Fife discharged a buckshot type shotgun round at officers. Three SWAT Team members returned fire striking Fife. Fife was extracted from the residence and transported to the hospital. It was reported that Fife condition was critical (Fife later died as a result of the shooting).

At approximately 1024 hours, SA Momchilov arrived on scene. SA Momchilov then met with SAS Lieber and SA Andrew Harasimchuk (Harasimchuk). SA Momchilov was advised by SA Lieber that that the following SWAT Team members discharged their firearm during the incident:

- Officer [REDACTED] Warren Police Department (Pistol)
- Officer [REDACTED] Youngstown Police Department (Pistol)
- Sergeant [REDACTED] Youngstown Police Department (Rifle)

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It was also reported that four officers were possibly struck by Fife's shotgun blast and received minimal injuries. Those officers were identified as:

- Sergeant ██████████ Youngstown Police Department
- Officer ██████████ Warren Police Department
- Officer ██████████ Boardman Police Department
- Officer ██████████ Youngstown Police Department

SA Momchilov learned the SA Joseph Goudy (Goudy) was currently at the Howland Township Police Department conducting interviews of the other individuals who were inside the residence during the standoff. Those individuals were identified as:

- ██████████ (Randall Fife's mother)
- ██████████ (Randall Fife's brother)
- ██████████ (██████████ end)

SA Momchilov also learned that SA Harasimchuk had conducted a neighborhood canvass and possibly located doorbell camera footage from a residence across the street (Agents did later obtain that footage-See Investigative report titled-Video Footage from "3650 Highlawn Avenue SE" for further detail). It was also reported that Officer ██████████ was wearing a body-worn camera at the time of the breach/shooting (Agents also later obtained that footage-See Investigative Report titled "Body-Worn Camera Footage From Incident" for further detail).

As Ohio BCI Crime Scene Agents were preparing to process the scene, SA Momchilov inquired if a search warrant for ██████████ was obtained. At this point, agents were aware that the shooting occurred in a common area of the residence and it was believed that SA Goudy was going to obtain consent from ██████████

SA Momchilov then made contact with Chris Becker (Prosecutor Becker) the First Assistant Prosecutor of Trumbull County via phone. SA Momchilov provided Prosecutor Becker the facts of the case as he knew them, and asked his opinion about possibly obtaining a search warrant for the residence. Prosecutor Becker asked SA Momchilov who was the owner of the residence and if Randall Fife actually lived at the residence. SA Momchilov advised Prosecutor Becker that he did not know the answer but that SA Goudy was currently in the process of interviewing family members. Prosecutor Becker went on the Trumbull County Auditor's website and advised that property belonged to Randall Fife. SA Momchilov advised Prosecutor Becker that the individual involved in this incident was named Randall Fife, however, it is possible that the individual involved was Randall Fife Jr. Prosecutor Becker advised that he would need more information before rendering an opinion.

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SA Momchilov then spoke with SA Goudy via phone and explained to him the conversation he had with Prosecutor Becker. SA Goudy advised that he would obtain the requested information from ██████████

A few minutes later, SA Momchilov once again spoke with SA Goudy. SA Goudy explained that ██████████ advised him that the property is in her deceased husband's name, Randall Fife Sr. SA Goudy further advised that Randall Fife Jr. does live at the residence but he sleeps/lives on the couch in the common area living room and does not have a private room at the residence.

SA Momchilov then re-contacted Prosecutor Becker via phone. SA Momchilov relayed the information he obtained from SA Goudy. Prosecutor Becker advised that he believed a search warrant was not necessary if consent from ██████████ was obtained. Agents did obtain written consent from ██████████ (See Investigative Report titled, "Consent to Search Residence Report" for further detail). Prosecutor Becker further instructed SA Momchilov that if an item such as a backpack or briefcase was found in the common area or in the area of the couch, do not open it or search it without first obtaining a search warrant.

After consent was obtained, Ohio BCI Crime Scene Agents began processing the scene. SA Momchilov remained on scene and assisted.