



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



To: Chip McConville, Knox County Prosecutor

CC: Scott Stranahan SAS, Ohio BCI

From: John Tingley, Special Agent, Ohio BCI

Date: January 5, 2023

Case Title: Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

Case Number: 2022-1726

Investigative Request:

On August 20, 2022, Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Sheriff David Shaffer requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident. The officer-involved critical incident reportedly occurred on August 20, 2022, in the area of 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio, and resulted in the deaths of Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the Saturday, August 20, 2022, officer-involved critical incident in Knox County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this officer-involved shooting incident. Every fact and detail of this investigation is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident. This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team:

BCI Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA

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Tingley received assistance in the investigation from SA Lehnhart, SA Butterworth, SA Poole, SA Gore, SA Russell, SA Douglas, SA Wieging, SA Mulford, SAS Barbeau and SAS Posten, Furthermore, BCI Special Agents Staley, Holcomb, Chung and Taylor of the Crime Scene Unit processed multiple incident scenes by documenting, preserving and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan.

Summary of Process:

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interviews of the officers who discharged their weapons.
- Recorded interviews of the witness officers.
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene.
- Recorded interviews of others directly involved in the incident.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed source biographical information of Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available body-camera videos from the involved and witness officers.
- Review of all available drone videos from both the Delaware County Sheriff's Office drone and the Delaware Police Department drone.
- Review of all videos from the Ohio State Highway Patrol helicopter.
- Processing of all of the scenes for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting).
- Received and reviewed personnel files for all of the involved officers, including OPOTA Polaris results.
- Received and reviewed qualification records for all of the involved officers.
- Review of the autopsy reports for both Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm.

Incident Overview and Summary:

The overall incident began on Friday August 19, 2022, at approximately 2300 hours, as Bail Bondsman, Kenneth Collins (Collins), was looking for Randy Wilhelm regarding an outstanding arrest warrant for Randy Wilhelm. While in the area of the Wilhelm Bottled Gas business, at 15266 Gilchrist Road, Collins began receiving gunfire from Randy Wilhelm, who was firing from the area of the Wilhelm Bottled Gas business. Collins immediately left the area of Gilchrist Road and went to the KCSO to report the incident.

It was decided by the KCSO command to request extra law enforcement support. Accordingly, the Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU), Richland County Allied Special Operations Response Team (ASORT), the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Tactical Team and the OSHP Aviation Unit began responding.

The OSHP Aviation Unit helicopter was the first to arrive at the scene at approximately 0003 hours. The helicopter began to orbit the property and provide intelligence to the incident command post. Beginning at approximately 0030 hours, the OSHP helicopter was fired upon

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on three separate occasions by an unknown subject standing near the garage doors to Sandra Wilhelm's residence at 15266 Gilchrist Road. The helicopter altered its orbit and continued monitoring the area without any further incidents.

Sometime between the hours of 0645 to 0853 hours, on Saturday, August 20, 2022, Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm traveled from Sandra Wilhelm's residence on Gilchrist Road to Randy Wilhelm's residence at 15159 Monroe Mills Road in a tan Chevrolet SUV.

At approximately 0902 hours, Incident Command gives the order to execute a plan intended to contain the Wilhelm brothers at the residence on Monroe Mills Road and evacuate Sandra Wilhelm from her residence on Gilchrist Road. Accordingly, the ASORT Bearcat crashes through the gate at the entrance to the driveway leading to Randy Wilhelm's residence at 15159 Monroe Mills Road. The ASORT Bearcat continues westbound down the driveway, drives around the south end of the residence, enters the rear yard and approaches and bumps the unoccupied tan Chevrolet SUV. At about the same time, the DTU BATT enters the driveway on Monroe Mills Road and drives westbound down the driveway before stopping and taking a position in the driveway in front of the garage.

During this same time period, the DTU Bearcat crashes through the gate blocking the driveway to Sandra Wilhelm's residence at 15266 Gilchrist Road, followed shortly thereafter by the DTU MRAP. The DTU Bearcat drives around the propane tanker truck in the driveway and stops and takes a position on the southeast corner of the aforementioned residence. The DTU MRAP stops in the driveway to the west of the tanker truck.

At approximately 0905:02, Randy Wilhelm is observed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol helicopter, which is orbiting the property on Monroe Mills Road, pointing a rifle out the rear garage door with the rifle being pointed at the ASORT Bearcat. At approximately 0906:25, Bradley Wilhelm enters the tan Chevrolet SUV, which is still parked in the backyard (west side) of the Monroe Mills Road residence. The ASORT Bearcat then begins pushing the tan Chevrolet SUV, with Bradley Wilhelm inside, westbound across the backyard. Randy Wilhelm then begins firing multiple rounds at the ASORT Bearcat. The ASORT team in the Bearcat announce over the radio that they are taking fire. Shortly thereafter, Bradley Wilhelm exits the tan Chevrolet SUV and goes back to and enters Randy Wilhelm's residence.

At approximately 0909:56 hours, the DTU BATT begins backing eastbound down the driveway at Randy Wilhelm's residence. At approximately 0911:07, Randy Wilhelm is seen from the Ohio State Highway Patrol helicopter camera pointing a rifle out of a second-floor window at the DTU BATT. Randy Wilhelm fires multiple rounds at the DTU BATT, including shots, which strike both the driver's side and passenger side front windshields. During this time, the DTU BATT team members announce over the radio that they are taking fire and the BATT's front windows are compromised. The BATT continues to go down the driveway and eventually takes up a position blocking the driveway at Monroe Mills Road.

At approximately 0913:04, a Razor side-by-side ATV leaves 15159 Monroe Mills Road through a garage door and begins traveling westbound with Bradley Wilhelm driving and Randy Wilhelm as the front seat passenger. At approximately 0913:50, the Razor cuts through the tree line, which runs east/west between the Wilhelm Bottled Gas business and the outbuilding and Sandra Wilhelm's residence.

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Once through the tree line, the Razor begins heading almost directly towards the DTU Bearcat, which is at the southeast corner of Sandra Wilhelm's residence. Three DTU members at the Bearcat (Lieutenant [REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED]) open fire on the Razor. Two other DTU members (Deputy [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]), who are stationed at the outbuilding southeast of Sandra Wilhelm's residence, also open fire on the Razor.

At approximately 0913:56, the Razor makes a sharp turn to the south and begins moving towards the tree line. As the turn is being made, an AR 15-style rifle is seen coming from the Razor and landing in the grass. At approximately 0914:10, the last shots are fired by the DTU members.

Physical Evidence:

BCI CSU agents eventually processed multiple scenes related to this investigation by processing all of the scenes for potential evidence, including: photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting the evidence.

Collected evidence of significant value included:

- Twelve 223-caliber shell casings from the area of the rear garage door at 15159 Monroe Mills Road where Randy Wilhelm had fired at the ASORT Bearcat.
- Six 223-caliber shell casings from the second floor bedroom of 15159 Monroe Mills Road where Randy Wilhelm had fired at the DTU BATT.
- Twenty-seven 223-caliber shell casings on or near the DTU Bearcat at 15266 Gilchrist Road.
- Twenty-two 223-caliber shell casings in the driveway near a vehicle at 15266 Gilchrist Road.
- Twenty-two 223-caliber shell casings located near the southwest corner of the outbuilding at 15266 Gilchrist Road.
- Eleven 223-caliber shell casings located near the northwest corner of the outbuilding at 15266 Gilchrist Road.
- One Colt LE Carbine – 223-caliber, found in the yard where the Razor had turned at 15266 Gilchrist Road.
- From Randy Wilhelm's jacket pockets – 5 rifle magazines for the aforementioned Colt rifle with 110 rounds of 223 ammunition.
- one Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun recovered beside Bradley Wilhelm in the Razor at 15266 Gilchrist Road.
- Eighteen rounds of 12-gauge shells located in Bradley Wilhelm's jacket pocket.

Involved Officer's Interviews/Statements:

SA Tingley and SA Russell conducted interviews with each of the five involved officers. Those officers being Lieutenant [REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED], Deputy [REDACTED], Deputy [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]. Each interview consisted of the individual officer reading their prepared written statements and then being asked follow-up questions. It is suggested that the full written statements be reviewed to clarify any questions.

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Lieutenant [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]'s statement detailed the activities of he and his DTU team leading up to the officer-involved critical incident. [REDACTED] then describes the officer-involved critical incident and his use of lethal force. [REDACTED] concludes by stating that he fired because, "I fired as the ATV moved at a high rate of speed towards my position and the position of the other DTU members assigned to the Bearcat. I saw the buttstock of a long gun and movement by the passenger that I perceived as an attempt to raise his rifle...When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect myself and my fellow officers, who were in imminent danger of being killed or severely wounded, based upon the totality of the actions of the suspect and his brother..."

Officer [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]'s statement detailed the activities of he and his DTU team, commanded by [REDACTED] leading up to the officer-involved critical incident. [REDACTED] then describes the officer-involved critical incident and his use of lethal force. [REDACTED] stated that he fired because, "At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my my life and the lives of the other DTU members who were by the Bearcat...They fired at the OSP helicopter and several minutes before this incident they fired multiple high caliber rounds at the Marysville BATT. Immediately before I fired my weapon, the suspects were coming towards us at a high rate of speed on an ATV/side-by-side and I saw the passenger raise up a rifle and I heard a loud boom...I truly believe that the suspect intended to kill or seriously injure me or another member of the DTU team."

Deputy [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]'s statement detailed the activities of he and his DTU team leading up to the officer-involved critical incident. [REDACTED] then describes the officer-involved critical incident and his use of lethal force. [REDACTED] stated that he fired because, "Command then advised that the two subjects were on a quad vehicle and they were coming back to the East and coming fast...The side-by-side began turning towards the house and I observed the passenger pointing a rifle towards me and the other DTU members outside of the Bearcat, Fearing for my life and the safety of the DTU members outside of the Bearcat, I engaged the armed passenger with my rifle...I engaged the armed passenger because I feared for my life and the lives of the DTU members who were outside of the Bearcat when the passenger pointed his rifle in our direction."

Deputy [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]'s statement detailed the activities of he and his DTU teammate, Officer [REDACTED] leading up to the officer-involved critical incident. [REDACTED] then describes the officer-involved critical incident and his use of deadly force. [REDACTED] stated that he fired because, "Shortly after, Command advised the two armed suspects were leaving the other structure on an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle), and were heading back to our position. The ATV was traveling at a high rate of speed and came into my view near the rear of the detached garage/apartment building. (The two suspects traveling in the ATV were known to have firearms that were just utilized to fire at/on other officers prior to them approaching my position). As the ATV began to turn

towards my position, I heard the sound of gunfire. When I heard the gunfire as well as visualizing the ATV turning and moving in my direction, I feared for my fellow officer's lives as well as my own life, I engaged the two-armed suspects in the ATV with my service rifle..."

Officer ██████████ (██████████)

██████████'s statement detailed the activities of he and his DTU teammate, Deputy ██████████ leading up to the officer-involved critical incident. ██████████ then describes the officer-involved critical incident and his use of lethal force. ██████████ stated that he fired because, "Suddenly, (I believe) Sgt. Diaz aired that the suspects were in an ATV and quickly heading in our direction. Sgt. Diaz added that the suspects had just shot at officers...Finally, another officer (possibly Sgt. Diaz) aired that the suspects were armed...Seconds later, I saw the suspects in a side-by-side ATV rapidly cross through the tree line northeast towards the Bearcat in the driveway...I quickly ran north as multiple gunshots rang out. I moved around Deputy ██████████ (to his left/north), saw that the passenger-suspect had a long gun in his hands and that the ATV was rapidly turning in our direction, and fired at the passenger-suspect...At the times I fired, I did not believe I had any alternative to protect my life or the lives of the other officers from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions..."

Video Recordings (body worn cameras, helicopter cameras, drone cameras):

Video recordings were reviewed from a variety of sources, including: body-worn camera footage from four of the five involved officers and numerous witness officers, helicopter camera footage from the OSHP helicopter, and camera footage from both the DCSO drone and the Delaware Police Department (DPD) drone.

Involved Officers' Body-Worn Camera Videos

Four of the five involved officers' (██████████ ██████████ ██████████ and ██████████) body-camera footage was reviewed. All four of the videos aligned with the sequence of events leading up to, and including, the deadly use of force by the officers in the officer-involved critical incident as reported in the officers' written statements. However, due to the distance of the Razor from the DTU members when they opened fire, certain actions of those in the Razor cannot be clearly seen.

There are numerous videos from other members of the DTU who were assigned to other vehicles and who did not participate in the actual officer-involved critical incident.

It is recommended that all of the videos and video reports be reviewed for further information.

OSHP Helicopter Camera Footage

The OSHP camera footage shows the moment that Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm leave 15159 Monroe Mills Road and begin traveling eastbound in a Razor ATV. The camera follows the progression of the Razor as the Razor goes through the tree line between the Wilhelm Bottled Gas business and the outbuilding near Sandra Wilhelm's residence at 15266 Gilchrist Road. The Razor is seen going through the tree line, but the Razor moves out of the camera view due to the trees blocking the view of the actual officer-involved critical incident.

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Drone Camera Footage

Only one video from a DCSO drone provided good footage at the time of the officer-involved critical incident. The drone camera footage shows the moment that Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm leave 15159 Monroe Mills Road and begin traveling eastbound in a Razor ATV. The camera follows the progression as the Razor goes through the tree line between the Wilhelm Bottled Gas business and the outbuilding near Sandra Wilhelm's residence at 15266 Gilchrist Road. The Razor can be seen for a few moments after coming through the tree line, turning sharply to the south and shortly coming to rest near the tree line. Due to the distance of the drone from the property, the actual officer-involved critical incident cannot be clearly seen (especially the actions of the involved officers).

Conclusion:

On Friday, August 19, 2022, Randy Wilhelm fired shots at Bail Bondsman Kenneth Collins, while Collins was in his red Toyota Tundra truck on Gilchrist Road in front of the Wilhelm Bottled Gas Business at 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Collins reported the incident to the Knox County Sheriff's Office. KCSO requested assistance from the Richland County Allied Special Operations Response Team (ASORT), the Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU), the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Tactical Unit and the OSHP Aviation Unit. As the tactical teams were organizing, the OSHP helicopter arrived over the 15266 Gilchrist Road property early on the morning of August 20, 2022. While orbiting the property and providing surveillance and intelligence, an unknown male, on three separate occasions, fired multiple rounds towards the helicopter. During the early morning hours, Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm left their mother's residence at 15266 Gilchrist Road and drove to Randy Wilhelm's residence at 15159 Monroe Mills Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in a tan Chevrolet SUV.

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, at approximately 0900 hours, the decision was made and orders given for the ASORT Team and DTU Team, in their respective armored vehicles, to go to Randy Wilhelm's residence on Monroe Mills Road and attempt to contain the Wilhelm brothers on the property. The ASORT Team arrived first in their Bearcat and drove to where the aforementioned tan Chevrolet SUV was parked and bumped the vehicle. The DTU Team in their BATT then took position at the front of Randy Wilhelm's residence. At approximately 0906 hours, Bradley Wilhelm enters the tan Chevrolet SUV and the ASORT Bearcat begins pushing the SUV across the yard. At this time, Bradley Wilhelm begins firing multiple rounds at the ASORT Bearcat. Eventually, Bradley Wilhelm exits the tan SUV and returns to the inside of Randy Wilhelm's residence. A short time later, Randy Wilhelm begins firing at the DTU BATT from a second floor window. At approximately 0909 hours, the DTU BATT vehicle then retreats eastbound down the driveway.

At approximately 0913 hours, Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm leave the Monroe Mills property in a Razor side-by-side, with Bradley Wilhelm driving and Randy Wilhelm sitting in the passenger seat. The Razor travels westbound; and, at approximately 09:13:51 hours, the Razor goes through a tree line between the Wilhelm Bottled Gas business and the outbuilding which is south of the mother's residence at 15266 Gilchrist Road. After exiting the tree line, the Razor begins traveling almost directly towards a DTU Bearcat which is parked at the southeast corner of the mother's residence. At approximately 09:13:54, three DTU members at the Bearcat parked at the southeast corner of the mother's residence and two DTU

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members at the outbuilding south of the mother's residence open fire. Almost immediately, the Razor turns south and eventually stops near the aforementioned tree line and a short distance from the outbuilding with no movement coming from within the vehicle.

Both Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm were checked at the Razor by a Tactical Medic and both were determined to be deceased.

Contact Information:

The preceding information comprises only a small portion of the facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent John Tingley. Special Agent Tingley can be reached via email at John.Tingley@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 216-218-2425.