



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



2023-2307

Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-75 Southbound at Mile
Marker 110

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review, Dash Camera Review
Involves: Logan Patton (W)
Date of Activity: 10/02/2023
Author: SA Tiffany Najmulski, #49

Narrative:

On 09/06/2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Najmulski (SA Najmulski) received video footage from the Lima Police Department. SA Najmulski was informed that the videos contained footage from the dash camera and body camera of Officer Logan Patton (Officer Patton).

SA Najmulski reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Officer Patton's dash camera contained no audio. The video was approximately 57 minutes in length. Officer Patton entered the pursuit at approximately 10 minutes 39 seconds into the video. At approximately 27 minutes and 02 seconds, the Ohio State Patrol stopped pursuing the subject's vehicle when it went into the median in the northbound direction of I-75. Troopers exited their vehicles, pulled out their weapons and staged behind marked units.

Officer Patton exited his patrol car with his K9 and joined the Troopers, staging behind a marked unit for cover. Smoke could be seen coming from the location of the subject's vehicle. Traffic in the northbound lane of I-75 could be seen driving past. The subject's vehicle was on fire. Officer Patton and his K9 moved closer behind a marked state patrol vehicle on the left side of the highway.

At 31 minutes into the video, the last civilian vehicle driving northbound was seen. At this point, traffic had been stopped by the state patrol and patrol lights can be seen flashing in the distance.

At approximately 38 minutes and 20 seconds, the subject emerged from the vehicle and walked away from his car. A state patrol vehicle began to slowly drive forward with Troopers on foot using the patrol car as a moving shelter. The subject walked

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
10/19/2023

from each lane and back into the median during the incident. Officer Patton was seen with his K9 keeping up with the Troopers as they attempted to close the gap with the subject.

At approximately 40 minutes and 35 seconds into the video, as the law enforcement team began to close in on the subject, the video becomes blurry because Officer Patton's patrol car was too far away. At 54 minutes and 18 seconds, the subject's vehicle was engulfed in flames. A fire truck and EMS arrived on scene to put out the fire and treat the subject for injuries.

Officer Patton's body camera video is approximately 49 minutes and 45 seconds long. At approximately 23 minutes and 30 seconds into the video, Officer Patton was heard telling someone on the phone that the subject had no front tires, the car was on fire, and Officer Patton expected the subject to bail out of the car.

Someone on the radio was heard saying that when Troopers got past Wapakoneta, to "take him out" and that the best option for less traffic was that particular area because there are no exits until the city of Botkins. Also, heard over the radio was to be advised of a possible signal 61 (gun).

At 22 minutes and 53 seconds, Officer Patton was heard telling the person on the phone that they just took out the subject. Officer Patton got out of his patrol car at approximately 26 minutes and 09 seconds into the video. Law enforcement could be heard giving verbal commands to the subject telling him to show his hands. Troopers had their weapons out and aimed toward the subject's direction. Officer Patton and his K9 were with the Troopers taking cover. Officer Patton expressed his concern about crossfire and relayed information that the subject was making movements and reaching toward his left side while sitting in his vehicle.

The subject opened his car door. Multiple officers could be heard saying to put the gun down, drop it and throw it out and to come out of the vehicle. Officers were trading information that the subject had the gun in his right hand and was holding it from the grip at times and by the trigger guard other times. Officer Patton told Troopers he wanted to get to an approximate 10'-15' from the subject before he deployed the K9. A Trooper relayed that the subject said he did not want to hurt them, only himself. The subject could be seen putting the gun to his head.

At 41 minutes and 52 seconds into the video, a shot fired was heard. The subject was seen falling to the ground. The subject was handcuffed. One of the law enforcement officers stated he shot the subject. Medical aid was rendered to the subject and an ambulance that had been on standby was called to the scene once the subject was under control. Officer Patton was seen taking his K9 back to the patrol car and then moving his car out of the way for fire and rescue. The video stopped shortly after.

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The body and dash cam video footage were submitted to the physical BCI case file as exhibit 1.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Ex 1 23-2307

ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR EVALUATING THE VIDEO RECORDINGS

There are numerous other factors that need to be considered when reviewing and evaluating the videos and audio recordings of this incident. Those factors are:

A. Video recording devices record within the video and sound capabilities available, and they record objectively. Video recordings lack the history, perspective, and interest of the people involved. The positions, angles, obstacles, lighting, and distance from the incident are also factors that need serious consideration.

B. Video recording devices also record more information about a particular scene or incident than the person(s) involved in the incident can process during the critical incident. Video recording devices rarely record an event from the same perspective of the officer. It captures the action but not the perception, decision making, focus, or intent of the officer. Video recordings often miss tactile cues or other actions of a subject.

C. The speed of the incident is remarkable. The speed and complexity of rapidly evolving situation(s) that occur during use of force encounters are difficult concepts to comprehend by only watching the video.

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