



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



2022-1726

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 15266 Gilchrist Rd., Mt.
Vernon (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Ryan Parsons (W)
Date of Activity: 08/20/2022
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriffs Office – Business – 11540 Upper Gilchrist
Road, Mt Vernon, OH 43050, Knox County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Saturday August 20, 2022, at 1535 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Genoa Township Officer Ryan Parsons (Officer Parsons). The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's office located at 11540 Upper Gilchrist Rd., Mt Vernon, OH 43050. Officer Parsons was identified as being a police officer who responded to the barricade situation which involved the now deceased Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to the interview SA Poole advised Officer Parsons that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Officer Parsons verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged he would like to continue with the interview.

Officer Parsons stated he received a call around 0100 in the morning to respond to a barricade situation involving two males shooting at a bail bondsman and an Ohio State Highway Patrol chopper with long guns. Officer Parson clarified that he is a full time police officer with Genoa Township, but is also assigned to the Delaware County Defensive Tactical Unit (DTU). Officer Parsons said when he arrived at the meeting location he was assigned to a eight man team using the Marysville tactical vehicle. He stated his team was assigned as a relief vehicle and would stage down the street from the incident.

When the team arrived on scene, they were reallocated to respond to Randy's address at 15159

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Monroe Mills Rd., Mt Vernon, OH 43050, in order to hold security. Once they pulled up to the house, Officer Parsons stated the driver of the tactical vehicle parked sideways blocking the garage and facing the front door. Officer Parsons was told to get out and set up a security position around the tactical vehicle.

Officer Parsons stated when he got out, he could see another law enforcement tactical vehicle in the rear of the house blocking a silver SUV. He said he could hear gunfire exchange and saw a White male dressed in a black long sleeve shirt and blue jeans jump out of the SUV and run into the back of the house.

Officer Parsons explained as soon as the White male disappeared into the house, they immediately were being fired at from the second story window of the house. Officer Parsons stated the other officers got back into the tactical vehicle for cover. Once back in the vehicle, Officer Parsons saw the front windshield take two rounds and begin to break. The driver immediately drove back down the driveway to a safer location on the street.

Officer Parsons stated the team then got out and used the tactical vehicle as cover. Officer Parsons got out his rifle and held security on the house from about 330 yards. Officer Parsons then noticed the tires of the tactical vehicle began to deflate due to the bullet holes in them.

Officer Parsons explained they held that security position for around two hours before they were told another team had engaged the suspects resulting in their deaths.

Officer Parsons explained he did not see the critical incident resulting in the deaths of Randy Wilhelm and Bradley Wilhelm.

SA Poole asked what weapon did Officer Parsons have out during the incident. Officer Parsons stated his 308 Falcon Global sniper rifle.

SA Poole asked if Officer Ryan or any other officers around him discharged their weapons. Officer Parsons said, "No and no."

Officer Parsons did not have a body camera on due to being on call.

The interview concluded at 1552 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Officer Ryan Parsons 08.20.22