



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Kevin Miller (W)
Date of Activity: 08/10/2022
Activity Location: Miller, Kevin – Business – 130 N Fountain Ave, Springfield, OH
45502, Clark County
Author: SA Kenneth J. Smith, #53

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Clark County. During the OICI, Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by subject Cole White. This occurred after White had killed his mother, Jodie Arbuckle. Multiple agencies and SWAT teams responded and attempted multiple rescue attempts of Deputy Yates. During the standoff the mobile home caught fire and White was killed in the fire.

On August 10, 2022 at 0938 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Springfield detective and SWAT team member Kevin Miller (Det. Miller) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the off site, SWAT training facility in Springfield. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

Det. Miller has worked for the Springfield Police Department for a total of six and a half years. He had a two year break in service from Springfield where he worked for the Indianapolis Metro PD. He has been on the SWAT team for approximately two and a half years.

On July 24, 2022, Det. Miller was off and in the Columbus area when he received an alert notification on his phone. He contacted his sergeant who advised there was a deputy down inside a trailer which was the basis for the callout. He responded home to get his equipment

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and his department issued vehicle and responded directly to the scene. At the scene he spoke to Captain Michael Kranz and began unloading a robot and staging equipment.

When it was decided that there was going to be a rescue attempt, Det. Miller got on one of the Springfield PD armored MRAPs and was assigned to the team led by Ofc. Eric Fleming. Ofc. Fleming and Det. Miller had shields, Dep. Justin Nawman, Det. William Sanders and Det. Aaron Hayes and several other Springfield PD members made up the remainder of the team. The MRAP arrived as gas and distraction devices were being used to distract the subject. As the team approached and Fleming made entry and posted with the shield, Det. Miller from the front doorway area, observed Dep. Yates face down on the floor. At that point Fleming moved to cover the hallway to the left and the team began receiving fire from the left end of the trailer.

Fleming yelled "shots fired" and the team began to extract from the trailer. As Det. Miller was moving to exit the trailer, he saw Dep. Nawman fall and yell something about his leg. Det. Miller assumed Nawman had been shot. Det. Miller saw Det. Sanders assist Dep. Nawman back to the cover of the armored vehicle.

A second plan was developed for Springfield PD to attempt a second rescue of Dep. Yates. The plan again included distraction devices and gas. Det. Miller was unsure of who deployed them or where from but that there were none deployed from the MRAP used by his team during the second attempt. Det. Calvin Burch replaced Nawman on the team with rest of the same members. Ofc. Sanders had to remain outside due to not having a gas mask. The team again entered the trailer. Det. Burch was able to grab Dep. Yates right leg and begin to pull Yates to the door. Det. Miller assisted Det. Burch. They were able to get Dep. Yates out the door. Det. Miller recalls someone yelling that the trailer was on fire and recalled seeing smoke to his right, towards the street side of the trailer. They were able to get Dep. Yates to the MRAP and were assisted by others. Det. Miller saw no signs of life in Dep. Yates. Det. Miller states the trailer became fully engulfed within about ten minutes.

Det. Miller then provided perimeter security and assisted the firefighters with attempting to put out the fire. Det. Miller nor anyone on his team discharged their firearms during the incident. Det. Miller was unaware that the county (Clark) had been involved in a shooting with the subject, until he saw fired casings on the ground and was told by others there had been a shooting.

The interview was concluded at 0954 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-10 / Interview of Det. Kevin Miller Springfield PD

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.