



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



2023-2008

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Terminal Road By Dayton
Airport, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sergeant Michael Orahood (W)
Date of Activity: 08/10/2023
Activity Location: Orahood, Sergeant Michael – Business – 10 East First Street,
London, OH 43140, Madison County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 0803 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations Special Agents Richard Ward and Perry Roeser met with London Police Sergeant Michael Orahood at London Police Department, 10 East 1st Street, London, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, August 2, 2023, Sergeant Orahood conducted a traffic stop on Rodney and Elaine Helman in the City of London for various traffic violations. During the interaction between Orahood and the Helmans, false information was provided in reference to their identity. They ultimately fled from the stop in their vehicle. The Helmans fled to a nearby Travel America where both fled on foot; during which Rodney Helman pointed a handgun at Orahood. Both Rodney and Elaine Helman entered a stationary semi-truck occupied by [REDACTED] who used a hammer to fend off the Helmans, but was shot in the hand by Rodney Helman. The Helmans gained control of the semi-truck and fled the area. After a prolonged pursuit and standoff, which culminated near the Dayton International Airport, both Rodney and Elaine Helman were shot and killed by Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers.

Sergeant Orahood has been employed with the London Police Department for seven years and is assigned to road patrol, 2400-0800 hours. On August 2nd at approximately 0100 hours, Orahood observed a van with no taillights and conducted a traffic stop on the Dodge van at Layette Street. No visible license plate was present as Orahood approached the van from the passenger side and noticed a female passenger, a dog and male driver. Orahood described the male driver's view to be obstructed because of clutter inside the vehicle. Orahood explained the reason for the traffic stop and requested identification, which neither could provide. Rodney Helman informed Orahood his identification was stolen and could not provide or recall his social security number. Elaine Helman (passenger) identified herself as Barbara Taylor, but could not recall what information Rodney Helman (driver) provided.

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Rodney informed Sergeant Orahood that he had recently purchased the van, but did not provide proof of ownership when asked. Orahood noticed a Colorado temporary tag affixed to the rear window of the van, which was nearly unreadable. When Orahood stepped away from the vehicle, Rodney revved the engine then fled the area. Orahood pursued the van into the parking lot of the Travel America on US 42; the van continued over the median that separated trucks from cars and both Rodney and Elaine Helman, fled on foot. Orahood pursued on foot, gained ground on Rodney and was nearly in range to utilize his Taser. As Orahood approached Rodney, he turned and faced him, and with both hands pointed a handgun "directly" at him. Still holding the Taser, Orahood lowered himself and discharged the Taser. Orahood dropped the Taser, shouted "gun" while he utilized a nearby vehicle for cover. Orahood observed Rodney Helman fall to the pavement and a [Madison County] deputy who had responded for back-up believed Orahood was fighting with Rodney and moved that direction, but stopped when he heard Orahood shouting "gun...gun...he's got a gun" from another location. Orahood described the handgun as a small semi-automatic handgun.

Sergeant Orahood observed the handgun still in Rodney's hand when he stood up from the pavement. Orahood continued to shout drop the gun, but did not hear Rodney or Elaine respond. Rodney (entered the divers' side) and Elaine (entered the passenger side) ran to and entered a semi-trailer, began to rev the semi's engine then activated the semi's high beams. The revving of the semi's engine and the high beams made it difficult to hear or see. Once other officers arrived including air support, the truck driver, clad in an orange shirt, was observed inside the semi-truck. A determination was made to deploy stop spikes, which was done while Orahood and other officers providing lethal cover. Shortly after the spikes were deployed, the semi began to move and struck a London police vehicle as it exited the parking lot of the Travel America.

The semi-truck continued north on US 42 and Orahood remained on scene to process the Helman's van while other officers pursued. While searching for the components of his Taser, Orahood located a live round.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Sergeant Orahood at 0830 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Orahood.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-08-10 / Sgt. Mike Orahood audio interview

Sergeant Orahood's body worn camera and cruiser camera are stored on the SIU Company D shared drive.

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.