

OHIO BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

INTERVIEW OF MATTHEW PUTNAM

CASE NUMBER: SI-18-12-82-1493

EXHIBIT: 26

DATE OF INTERVIEW:

AGENTS ASSIGNED: Eric Lehnhart

Legend:

ER = Eric Lehnhart

SS = Scott Stranahan

MP = Matthew Putnam

RP = Robert Phillips

... = unintelligible, undistinguishable

Transcribed by: Sandra Balderson

ER: First name?

MP: Matthew, (spells out) M.a.t.t.h.e.w (long pause) middle initial T., Putnam, (spells out), P.u.t.n.a.m, November, Adam, White

ER: Can I have your birthdate, Matt?

MP: [REDACTED]

ER: Address?

MP: [REDACTED]

ER: Do you a have a cell phone?

MP: [REDACTED].

ER: Okay, (long pause) is that right?

MP: Ya.

ER: Alright, to give you an idea of what is going on here, and to help lay this out for you, initially we've been asked by the prosecuting attorney to put together the facts of the case, on the criminal side of things, and so what we're doing is, getting interviews and gathering forensics off the cars and all that stuff. We will reduce all that to writing and then that stuff will go to the prosecutor's office and they will decide what to do with it from there. Whether they, whether he does something with it or whether they turn it over to a grand jury, that is completely up to them, and at that point we would be completely out of it, okay. But, keeping in mind that because we're not doing the civil side of things or the administrative set of things that would, but in order to be consistent we are offering everyone the Miranda. So what I will do is read you that Miranda now and then at the end of it, you can uh, uh, ask any question or consult with counsel or your union reps., on whether we will continue at that point, okay?

MP: Understood.

ER: Alright, uh, you have the right to remain silent, anything you say can or will be used against you in court, you have a right to consult with an attorney, or have an attorney present during questioning, if you cannot afford an attorney one can be provided to you before questioning at no cost. Do you understand these rights, with a these rights in mind do you wish to speak with us now?

MP: Yes.

ER: Alright, we got your basic information, what we've been trying to do, is in order to keep some consistency is, we have developed a questionnaire and we will be going through that. I tend not to mince words, I sometimes mix questions together but we will get to all the information, so.

MP: Okay.

ER: Anytime you don't understand a question or if you need clarification, feel free to ask me or consult with, with a your counsel and we will get through it the best we can, and a get you out of here, okay.

MP: Okay.

ER: First couple of things are pretty easy we understand that through these situations its high stress and a lot of anxiety so the first thing we kind of want to ask out of everybody is how you've been since the event's taken place?

MP: Well, thank you.

ER: So, you've been sleeping well and all that jazz, so you holding your own?

MP: yah.

ER: Alright.

ER: You're current assignment?

MP: Um, Vice Sargent, 3rd District, City of Cleveland.

ER: And how many years you been with Cleveland?

MP: (coughing in background) Um, 97 um, 13.

ER: (coughing in background) any prior experience before coming to Cleveland?

MP: I'm sorry, 15, math was never my forte.

ER: I'm with ya.

(Chuckling in background)

MP: Yeah, exactly.

ER: Any other prior service?

MP: I was with ... in Cleveland uh, 3 years before that so the clock started ticking in 94, I got about 18 years in Cleveland with law enforcement.

ER: What shift do you work?

MP: ... 17:30 to 01:30.

ER: Do you have a supervisor?

MP: Um Lt. Barrow, Jerome Barrow.

ER: (spelling out) D.a.r

MP: (spelling out) B.a.r.r.o.w

ER: and your days off?

MP: they flex um, this, this happened in November, so we were off a, I think it was Saturday, Sunday, I believe that it is Saturday, Sunday. Sunday, Monday was this month it doesn't matter.

ER: What I've been doing with these guys ... is to search the process on how you guys ... schedules and reschedule

MP: Ya, reschedule, right

ER: What I have been doing is writing varies, is that how you guys

MP: yam that safe to say

RP: Weekend are week days

ER: any extra details you working outside of the PD, Indians, Browns, Cavs any of that stuff

MP: No part time work

ER: Nothing work, prior to the 48 hours before that incident on the 20th?

MP: No, No

ER: Feel pretty rested today?

MP:

ER: Did you work a shift early this morning?

MP: No, I'm going in after a, this

ER: So you work tonight?

MP: right

ER: Any drugs, alcohol and drugs, alcohol use, any prescription medication, anything like that currently?

MP: No

ER: Were you on any, under any influence of drugs, alcohol, any prescription medication and medical conditions the night of the 29th.

MP: No

ER: Health is good overall?

MP: Ya

ER: Corrected lenses, eyeglasses?

MP: Uh, yes, 20

ER: Both?

MP: uh, I'm sorry, glasses just wear them at night for driving and.

ER: are they cheaters?

MP: No, I have 20/50, I don't use them during the day, but just so you guys know I wear them in the evening, and I was wearing them the night of the 29th.

ER: What um soft clothing, uniform of the day.

MP: Technical outer, uh, or undercover, but on that particular evening technical outer carrier

ER: What do you normally carry for like um, ... equipment firearm?

MP: What on uh, my vest?

ER: Ya

MP: I have uh, extra magazines, I carry a Glock 19 9 millimeter, um a pair of handcuffs, what else is on my vest, I have a tactical... (coughing in the background) on there, um ya, I'll be honest with you it varies, uh depending on the

ER: uh, other than your service weapons, any back up weapons

MP: I had uh AR 15 uh with me, which pretty much was the whole reason I was there that evening

ER: What do you normally keep that on the car, trunk?

MP: No, I keep it in a locker per departmental policy, we are only allow to deploy it if there is a proof ... um ... or a um non hot if you will a trunk a, a trunk release, so a

ER: Is that generally like a with a key access

MP: Exactly, it could be ...

ER:

MP: Right if you could get it from there and hand carry it.

ER: Okay

MP: um so it was in the locker prior to this incident, I um drew my weapon upon ... but I'm sure will get to that but, I drew my weapon upon receiving the radio call for the

ER: Uh, magazines full, in the 19?

MP: Uh, yes. I carry one uh 28 round, it's a 30 by combat loaded 28 on my um my tactical bust and I have one 28 round magazine in uh, in the uh outer carrier, carrying case if you will for the AR

ER: so the magazines you have here 19 that carrying around your ... or is there just one in the weapon?

MP: Uh

ER: ...

MP: Uh, I have one in my weapon and two in my carrier

ER: and then you have on in the chamber plus one?

MP: Correct

ER: then the 28 rounds on the vest and 28 in the outer carrier for the AR?

MP: Correct

ER: Is there one in the AR or do you...

MP: Not always, yeah, um and in that evening it was never deployed

ER: Okay, any personal recording devices do you own or were they implemented that evening?

MP: No

ER: Those little tiny cameras

MP: No

ER: Didn't have any of those cameras

MP: No

ER: The vehicle you were in uh, did it have a number assigned to it?

MP: It did and it was uh and there was a little discrepancy, uh when I made my initial statement when I was ... I called it 382, and then it is, uh so I would put 382 but technically 388

ER: Okay

MP: That what because it was a ... equipped, so it would follow under 388, um and for the reason for the mix up is within the unit we named a 382 but when the department issued it was 388. So just a ... for you guys 388 is the technical

ER: Ya, because that was what I was going over before I had a list of ADL's

MP: Right, that would fall under 388

ER: okay, so ... so, you know so

MP: Because they name it one thing but it is officially ...

ER: when they program it, uh is it a Dodge, Chevy

MP: it's a Crown Vic and I do not know the year, I apologize.

ER: That's fine, do you have a call sign?

MP: Uh my call sign is 3Sam80

ER: Uh one or two man

MP: Uh, that evening I grabbed the detective to drive me, so it was a two man car

ER: and who was that?

MP: It was a Detective Christopher Ereg

ER: (Spelling last name out) E.r.e.g.

MP: Correct.

ER: Who was driving?

MP: He was driving

ER: any in car camera, uh, I'm assuming the ...

MP: ..., I'm sorry

ER: Uh, emergency equipment on the ...and all that stuff on the unmarked

MP:

ER: Lights, siren or anything like that?

MP: Ya it had lights and siren, it has a screen in it, it has a computer, it is a

ER: So it has a ..., in it

MP: Correct

ER: as far as radios, uh mobile or portable both, or just mobile in the car?

MP: Uh, I have a portable, uh I can't speak for Det. Eret, I have a portable on my carrier, I should have listed that on my equipment, I apologize

ER: That's alright

MP: and uh, and uh that was on my bust and uh there was a hard mounted uh radio ...
mounted

ER: What channel do you normally listen to?

MP: we work off the tactical channel, tack three, so

ER: Just so I understand cause I know there is, so each, each one of you guys has your
own, so like two has what three channels, and three has three channels

MP: Two channels, we have a regular channel and a technical channel

ER: and each has a um

MP: each district

ER: each district

MP: Correct ...

ER: okay, so you work off the tack

MP: Predominately, because that's uh yeah I mean a personal version of our protocol
is radio broadcast come over regular channel our a drug operations buy bust
would have you work off the tactical channel

ER: Alright over all train uh additional training specialties uh swat training,
certifications as instructor, defensive tactics, sharp shooter, military, anything like
that, any additional

MP: I'm uh, uh a pro, uh what's the official term for that, operator, certified in
the city of Cleveland, martial instructor in the Police Academy

ER: So just a basic instructor certificate, or a

MP: in the Police Academy, uh I currently teach uh Vice related topics

ER: So like investigative block, like block 11 or something like that or

MP: Ya, we ... block 11 so

ER: Any military experience?

MP: I was in the Marine Corp

ER: How many years?

MP: Just one 87 to 88

ER: Okay, when was the last time you qualified with your weapon?

MP: Uh, which one?

ER: Uh, good question uh let's do your 19 or a Glock 19 first

MP: Glock 19 I believe was in uh last October

ER: Was that during in service

MP: Yes, yes, I believe ...

ER: and the

MP: Rifle, I believe that was in September

ER: Cause there's been a lot of guys

MP: It's been this fall

ER: I understand you guys had in service like back in May so the guys coming back from laying off and there was some in service from October, November and so

MP: ya

ER: So if we really need to know we will

MP:

ER: get that training ya know, use of force training was that all done around qualifications during in service do you remember?

MP: Yes

ER: You remember, I'll put October, September somewhere in there. Current OPOTA peace officer certification updated as far as legal updates and so on and so forth you get that through the Cleveland?

MP: In service

ER: Academy

MP: Ya, I believe so

ER: In your uh years of experience have you been involved in Police involved shooting in the past?

MP: I have been shot at, only return fire, well I've never, I've shot a couple dogs um but

ER: nothing like

MP: Nothing resulting in

ER: How did you first become involved in this whole incident?

MP: We have just completed a direct buy uh my unit and uh I was back at the district and the detective was actually had just turned his portable on to uh get a RMS number a report number and which time we heard the pursuit in the 3rd district that's how first became aware of it.

ER: Was there any active

MP: yes

ER: okay, describe to us in the best detail you can your involvement in the pursuit, from the time you guys heard what was happening what, what transpired from there.

MP: okay, this is a good time to give my whole ... oh okay, um as I have mentioned we had just got done doing a direct buy, um where was that ...

ER: Unrelated to the pursuit

MP: Uh yah, you know so my unit was kind of scared out some people was taking the suspect down um Heard the initial pursuit on channel three um and then uh at some point um because there was lack of information on three and the someone said it originated with the second district officer we switched to two, became aware that an officer was shot at and began monitoring the chase at that point I believe was on the West side I remember hearing it was in the uh first district and then the second district,... then it started getting a little farther East West then they would call it coming East

ER: So when, I don't mean to stop you but

MP: No, that's okay

ER: But when you guys got actively moving on it, was it early in

MP: Oh no, No we were at this point, I should have been more clear, we were in the office still

ER: Okay, so so

MP: We're monitoring the comments

ER: So what you're hearing, is Steel Yard Commons

MP: We're still in the office

ER: You're still in the office okay, very good

MP: We're still in the office um, um, at the Steel Yard Commons area, I believe it is right around the turn around where we heard uh "be careful he's pointing the gun" or um at that point I retrieved uh my rifle and set it on the desk, um we just a little bit longer when it became apparent it was coming East and a that I could be of some tactical value to um the situation that a I grabbed Detective Eret and said "you'll have to drive me". Uh I grabbed my rifle and made my way towards 8288car and um at that point and that is when it was coming east. But uh the catalyst for me deploying that rifle was that we heard

ER: That radio transition

MP: Ya, we heard "be careful their pointing guns" and I want to say it was right around that turn around area at the Steel Yard, but then shortly after that it became apparent that the uh shooter was moving Eastbound with the vehicle.

ER: Okay, so you guys get in the car um and he was driving, so where do you take off to?

MP: We uh, um monitoring channel two at that time take off uh northbound um down on MLK Blvd. exit uh uh 105 northbound MLK that puts us in the area of uh where the shooters um you know where vehicle, I fully anticipated um well I don't want to say fully but I, I but the whole reason I deployed that rifle was to assist in the search um in my past experience this wasn't going to be any pursuit it had already we listened to it at any minute they were going to bail, and it may even been radio transmission saying they were going to bail. I employed that rifle to assist in the backyard search for the armed suspect.

ER: Um

MP: Northbound on MLK

ER: Okay, ya just

MP: Northbound on MLK um at some point it enters the side streets over there we uh, I wanna say around Donald, maybe Seventy First and Donald is where we um encountered um the marked units that were in pursuit um we were at a side street and they came by, I didn't see the suspect vehicle come by, at no time during this uh situation did I ever see the suspect vehicle. Um but

ER: Where was that at Seventy First?

MP: Right around Seventy First and Donald andwould be able to add ... um

ER: So, line of cars at this point

MP: yeah, but I don't know if it was right there but uh there was cars but there was cars that were stopping, I refer to it as leap frogging, but they were stopping at intersections to keep civilians from and uh and other police cars, you know keeping a flow if you will

ER: An officer safety thing or a tactic almost

MP: An officer safety and civilian safety, you know from keeping

ER: from crossing, I'm with ya

MP: and that's what we observed on Seventy First, we observed it multiple times throughout this uh we were always on the rear, in fact uh I instructed Captain Eret to stay back you know, uh our purpose was to get in the area when the suspect that had shot you know bailed out of their vehicle so I could bring my uh specialty weapon to bare

ER: So at that point you, you haven't seen the suspect vehicle at all

MP: I had never saw the suspect vehicle rolling, no

ER: You guys continue is this almost like, at this point is it almost like parallel?

MP: I wouldn't say parallel, there were times, that we were not behind directly, literally behind, we were always behind we were never up front like I say never had a visual vehicle, uh sometimes we were peripheral street in the most, but most of the times we were lagging behind um because of you know per policy marked cars take the lead um we were....

ER: So we're, we're still going Eastbound at this point, right?

MP: Um, well Seventy First I would believe would be Southbound

ER: Ok

MP: and then I, I wanna say went Eastbound either at Sinclair, Superior you know its

ER: Did you end up, did you eventually end up at the school?

MP: Yes, yes

ER: Okay, from kind of where we're at now, how did, how did, how did we get to the school?

MP: Um, there, um, um the shooters proceeded eastbound not directly, I mean there was some zigging, zagging if you will but a um they proceeded eastbound and uh at one point I think it was like Wade Park, maybe, Addison somewhere radio transmission came over that the zone car had been rammed, um um and I wish I could remember um Addison, Wade Park, not to long after we became involved the a radio broadcast came over and said the suspects had in fact rammed the zone car. Um, the whole incident proceeded Eastbound down Euclid Ave. um that there's another uh I think we were on a Hundred Eighteenth maybe a Hundred and Fifteenth traveling Southbound from Euclid Ave. and there again multiple zone cars stopped and those major intersections to block it off and then the shooters proceeded Eastbound um into East Cleveland.

ER: At this point your still way back

MP: Way back, ya um there was one radio transmission where um I thought it went in um I can't even remember that they were in a gas station or fast food thing, and I thought maybe we would close in a little bit and get a visual but that was short lived and they proceeded Eastbound.

ER: Do you remember was there much traffic at that point, radio traffic as far as when they got to that convenient store, gas station as far as um, do you remember much about hearing anything, like bailing out or anything?

MP: I remember um there was like a stutter stuff if you will I believe that because I remember you know everything I was thinking about you know about my weapon deploying it um I remember thinking oh now might be the time, I think it is important to note that the weapon was still at my left in the carrying case um and I remember at that point thinking it may be the time to deploy but it was very short lived and the shooters proceeded Eastbound down Euclid.

ER: At that point in time was there any traffic about the lead car losing the lead and another ,did the pursuit caller change as far as voice, sex anything, do you know what I mean

MP: I can't ...

ER: Do you remember most of that just coming through dispatch.

MP: You know what I, I can't

ER: That's fine

MP: I'm sorry

ER: If you can't remember ...

MP: There is a lot of fill in the blanks.

ER: So, so at this point your kind of thinking maybe they'll bail, they don't, it keeps continuing

MP: Eastbound correct.

ER: and where, what do you guys end up doing?

MP: Eastbound um at some point um the suspect vehicle, what would that be, Southbound um down a street being elevation I remember there was like a hill Um, somebody and there was a stream of cars that went up there our whole intent was to you know get in the area so there was no offense going on there, we actually went ah another street Eastbound um well we were thinking this is where they will bail seems like it residential so um Det. Eret went one street Eastbound and then traveled Southbound, sorry I don't remember the name

ER: That's fine

MP: um and that's uh there was a radio broadcast uh, that there was a water treatment plant I believe

ER: At this point you're in East Cleveland?

MP: Ya, ya

ER: Um, do you remember any specifics about that radio broadcast as far as were they just trying to call out landmarks so everyone knows where their at or

MP: Ya, I think um, best recollection was uh um I think maybe someone said it looks like a one way you know I don't want to fill in the blanks I just remem, because that may be just what I perceived, but I remember them saying were going to a water treatment plant.

ER: Uh huh, you guys are still headed that direction?

MP: We're Southbound

ER: Going up a hill

MP: Going up a hill, correct

ER:

MP: maybe

ER: Will give you some photos, and see if it helps

MP: Oh yeah ...

ER: jogs your memory, if it doesn't

(Talking in background)

ER: they don't have one close enough

ER: This one is of the course the school, um this was Terrace here that runs through these are little close photos but this track here comes out here and meets Terrace, and then this is Lee that runs straight and Wimer it right about in here

MP: ...

ER: This is a, this would be a photograph

MP: Ya, we came up, a

ER: Mark that on here if you can

MP: our direction of travel and our final resting was somewhere there

(talking in background)

ER: It's just I needed ... yeah.

MP: Final resting

ER: Okay

MP: you let me know

ER: Ya that would be fine, great

MP: final resting, this is ah elevated um if memory served

ER: Okay

MP: and then so this would be ... direction of travel and this is suspect vehicle correct?

ER: Yes

MP: okay, so yeah this is our final resting

ER: while we're on this, real quick without interrupting you too much does this, does this, is this pretty good, pretty fair description of where the vehicle were at the end of this

MP: yah, I'll tell you I can't stipulate to anything here

ER: Okay

MP: as far as my um action involved in this, this, this car involved the only thing and this, and if this is the car that had the window shot out, um then yeah,

ER: Okay

MP: because I, I can definitely, remember this old car because I used this as cover and uh this old car is what I saw the windshield shot out

ER: Okay, so you guys are coming up the road here on the drive access, so radio traffic at that point do you hear

MP: um, um, yah um, we come up here our vehicle stops here um there was shooting as our vehicle was rolling

ER: Shooting that you could hear?

MP: Yeah

ER: Okay

MP: my window's down uh I just, technical necessity to have my window down, um in any critical incident, um the uh so we're still rolling the vehicle comes to a stop but as were rolling, boom,boom,boom,boom um, I immediately get down, I put my head down airport airplane head down and I yell uh uh, to Chris, uh "get low,

get low”, um cause it’sdetective driver on the passenger right there, my side unfortunately is where the fire is coming from, so I get low, get low tell Det. Eret to” get low” um a radio broadcast comes over “shots fired, shots fired, officers are being shot” at or something to that effect, I don’t remember the exact, so that the radio broadcast over “shots fired officers being shot” at um the shots are coming I don’t know, that 50, 75 feet.

ER: okay

MP: whatever that distant is, I put my head down, uh tell Det. Eret to” get low” and then for a split second um, I think to myself, I don’t want to die in this fucking car

ER: right

MP: fuck this, this, those were my exact thoughts, because a lot are blurry but that is um and I just remembering thinking those bullets would be piercing that ... in the skin of the door, so um and I still remember I took a deep, I don’t know why, I took a deep breath but uh I picked my head up, took a deep breath and opened that door into the line of fire, and uh even as short as I am made myself even smaller

ER: shorter yeah

MP: I made myself short and I observed this uh zone car right here and uh the fire was coming from this vehicle, uh right there so I used that uh car as cover to keep myself to heed cover as best cover as I could being in that elevated position that’s why I got low and made my way down the hill using that car as cover. Um, and then my final spot uh, is the uh, vehicular final resting and then, I was uh you know in this area. I was moving around a lot but uh, I would characterize my um area right here.

ER: Was there, was one of the zone guys also somewhere in that area?

MP: one of the zone car guys?

ER: Yeah

MP: There was multiple zone cars

ER:

MP: guys, uh throughout there

ER: Okay

MP: as I proceed down

ER: this was, now this was at the, at the, had the engagement stopped? Was there anymore firing going on?

MP: Oh there was firing going on the ah

ER: Yeah

MP: Ya, the whole time

ER: so is your rolling coming to a stop your start hearing it

MP: There's, there's yeah, as were

ER: Okay

MP: yeah, that's why I said, that's why

ER: At that point they were engaged

MP: Yeah, yeah

ER: And you end up getting out of the car and make your way down here

MP: Ya, there was a like I said, and I don't know why I can't measure in science, while I was down there, but the reason I got out of that vehicle, because I had no cover and if I was going to die I wasn't gonna die in that car, I was gonna, you know get out there and do something

ER: So you make it down here, is there, is there still engagements by officers?

MP: Yes, um when I get down from there uhthrough my quick Because I'm not trying to take a round in the head, but I'm trying to ascertain what is going on there, um and I observe as I was looking around I saw multiple uniform officers um around, I did see officers onside and there was officers kind of in front of me, so my initial reaction to that was watch your cross fire, watch your cross fire. I was just concerned.

ER: That is something you're thinking to yourself right?

MP: No, I yelled it

ER: Okay, you're yelling it.

MP: I yelled it um, that's, that's, I, I not saying if you were

ER: Right, right, you're making ...

MP: because in the process of you know eliminating the threat, I didn't want anybody getting clipped by friendly fire.

ER: at what point is this start to get quiet?

MP: Um, it gets quiet when it gets quiet, I don't know

ER: Is it, did, are you there, by the time you get here does it, does it, are you there a while

MP: No, No

ER: or was it pretty short and then

MP: Ya, pretty short, I don't know the time but it was not like a protracted

ER: Right

MP: Most of the engagement I believe happened you know, because the shooting started happened while we were there and I don't know the duration for my, I remember like just barely having time to you know yell, "watch your cross fire" then seemingly

ER: Then everything seems to pause for a minute or whatever um, what happens then?

MP: um, well um is that the end of engagement?

ER: Ya

MP: um, basically I looked at the officers around me and my first inclination was who got hit, you know I was, although I did, and my portable should have been at two I remember calling for a EMS. Um, I don't know if it came over the way our radio's work, I'm sure a lot of people were almost like jeopardy, everybody talking over everyone the same time.

ER: everyone talking at the same time

MP: but you can't talk over each other on our radios system, you just can't go through if someone..... here

ER: Okay

MP: um, but I did say out there "we need an EMS, we need EMS".

ER: So if you guys have open mikes somewhere, it pretty much cancels everyone else out.

MP: It can, it or the dispatcher can override that.

ER: okay

MP: yeah, but uh, um, we needed a EMS up there with the amount of shots fired, uh for uh, suspects, officers alike, so I keyed up or attempted to key, I don't even know if it ever came over, asked for an EMS and then just immediately started looking for the men, didn't see any, god forbid ... had holes in them

ER: other than the radio traffic that we've went over that you heard

MP: Yes

ER: um, from the time you guys um, you know got in the car and took off, until the time this thing kind of settled, other than what you kind of already mentioned, which you mentioned quite a bit of little things here and there, anything else, that you remember coming across the radio that as far as um, I'll give you an example, you, were, were you guys already out in the street by the time the pursuit was around quickly?

MP: No

ER: and in that area?

MP: No, that'sthe second district

ER: and they had already went through there by now.

MP: Ya, um I think they, try to piece it together without looking at uh, you know, a map or anything.

ER: right

MP: I would probably say they were already um, already on 90 East suspect vehicle was probably traveling that way, um I think that would be accurate.

ER: So other than calling for an EMS, uh was there any other radio traffic transmitted by you or um

MP: I don't believe so, I don't know

ER: You would've probably been the one because he was driving, right, if, as far, if you would have transmitted anything, other than

MP: No, I mean anyone would, oh you mean during this course?

ER: Ya, just you guys

MP: While the pursuit was going?

ER: Yes

MP: No, I never

ER: Okay

MP: No

ER: The only transmission that your guy's car or any, either one of you guys was the calling for help.

MP: Ya, from my portable

ER: portable

MP: Ya on my bust, I, I can't speak for Det. Eret, while we were in the vehicle he was driving.

ER: ...

MP: yeah,

ER: and then we talked about hearing the gun fire coming up the drive way here, at any point in time, I know we have already mentioned that you were pretty distant from the pursuit, but any time did you see a gun a, or hear gun fire from the suspect's during the pursuit?

MP: I never had a visual on the vehicle, so

ER: Um, did you ever, a lot of times I know the answer but, see a gun or any other objects discarded from the vehicle during the pursuit.

MP: I wasn't close enough, no.

ER: okay

ER: Just to guess, this will be your observation, how the closest that you ever got to the lead car in this pursuit or the suspect vehicle? Would it be a determination, would this been the closest time

MP: oh definitely, ya, even my final resting?

ER: Yes

MP: if in fact, I don't even know who ... (coughing in background) the vehicle was

ER: Okay

MP: I don't know um, you know, from my, to be honest with you, I still don't know, what, what happened over there, I only know what happened over here, so I don't know who the lead vehicle is, if, if, in fact that final resting right there is going to be the closest.

ER: The closest you ever got to it at all.

MP: yeah

ER: when do you first become aware of the sex, and or the race of the vehicle on the

MP: well, radio broadcasting two males, um, on scene, uh after the uh, the engagement two males, um, probably after the engagement, then um, that they the race, I don't think you know, I don't believe there was ah, ah, ah, radio broadcasting addressing race, if there was I don't recall, I remember two males, because I remember hearing, what I do remember most specifically is that males pointed the gun so that was a male, I remember a radio broadcaster that a, a another officer was warning an officer um get back, get back, ah, the male got a gun or pointing a gun.

ER: do you have any prior ... of the suspects at the time

MP: No, I had no idea

ER: Ever had any contact with them in the past, anything like that

MP: No, if I did

ER: well now that we kind of know the identities or at least what the news has put out

MP: Nothing I recollect,

ER: You don't remember dealing with him before in the past

MP: No, your speaking of Russell Williams, is that correct?

ER: Yes

MP: If I have and for the record, I can deal with people four times and still don't remember them.

ER: Well, with your career you've probably dealt with thousand and thousand

MP: yeah, people cross my path and I still don't, you know make a connection, but no, not that day, or not even now I don't recall dealing with him.

ER: we kinda went over what was heard in the school parking lot, as far as what you observed or anything Your position relative to this vehicle here would you say it was about 40 how many

MP: You know I've never really good with this distant ... whatever you easily you know attainable because we were parked here and that vehicle was parked there so if I had to guess I would say about 50 to 75 feet

ER: Okay

MP: whatever the measurements say you know.

ER: what would you say um in your opinion was the lighting conditions in the area of the school that evening?

MP: Um, I think it was uh, it wasn't pitch black, dimly lit um

ER: I'm assuming since I wasn't there, but um assuming the overheads were on

MP: Oh yeah

ER: and all the marked units and

MP: oh yes, there were multiple lights, strobes, I believe that there was some overhead lighting, you know along the way, sparse, ... parking lot, not like highway lighting but

ER: Other than you making other officer aware of potential cross fire situation, were you ever in any position to hear a verbal command from any other officers, the suspect or any other supervision commands to ah

MP: no, speaking to that um, what I do recollect, one of those thing that is um, embedded in law enforcement, you know when you're at the range and your firing and some talking and you take your and boom it's real loud, and it's like gosh, geeze, whatever amount was fired and there was a lot of shots fired, I don't know final count, but to this day I'm still dismayed. It was very soft, but that's all I could hear, it was, ...shots, but they were just small, like pops, in the, it's like

everything I have kind of like focused in that direction, and then like pops, but that's, that's it.

ER: where you in any position to see any of the movements of the suspect by the time you guys got here, once you're here?

MP: No, like I said, I was using this car as a cover, I, I, was doing some quick peeks but, once again I wasn't staring because I didn't want to get shot in the head.

ER: you don't, you didn't ... with either one of your weapons?

MP: No, my AR was never deployed, out of the bag and in stayed in the vehicle.

ER: uh, when you guys get there and you end up getting out um, officer ... we talked that there was officers behind the car, over here and between

MP: Right

ER: any other observations of any other officers, and I know you said once before that you weren't really worried, you weren't concerned up here but, anything of, anything catches your eyes far as movement of

MP: What, concerned me my, my field of view I had officers in front of me and I had officers there.

ER: Behind here

MP: Yeah, so anytime, you know in a shooting situation. I don't mean to be redundant

ER: That's fine

MP: that, that the crossfire situation.

ER: Was medical treatment eventually provided to the, the um suspects in the car?

MP: Yes

ER: Do you remember who was there?

MP: Um, I do remember seeing an E, uh East Cleveland EMS Unit, I do not know if Cleveland responded.

ER: You, you at least made an attempt to get on the radio and summons for

MP: Yes, the only radio transition I made uh, that evening

ER: After everything calms down what happens then. I know you're checking on people making sure everyone is okay.

MP: Ya

ER: So after you check on everybody what

MP: Other supervisors arrived on scene, um, and ah, a ah, impromptu um, I don't want Say command post ah, but ah, officers around this playground area, um, is this the playground area?

ER: Yes

MP: Okay, so um you look around this area um, people with balls uh start getting, start going there and then, supervisors, you know who fired their weapons, those who didn't fire their weapons, everybody, the investigator aspect kind of starts taking shape.

ER: so people start separating, separating?

MP: Correct, correct

ER: everyone is checking their weapons, checking their vests, and all that to make Sure they are not injured is all that kind of going on at the same time?

MP: Yea, um, yeah, people are definitely asking uh know, are you okay, how are you with it.

ER: Were you at all injured as a result of this

MP: No

ER: pursuit, was your partner in the car was he injured as a result

MP: No, not to the best of my knowledge

ER: did you check your vest or anything to make sure of that um, or did you guys Just know that you weren't injured?

MP: I totally speak for myself, um, I, I didn't check, I didn't feel any impact on myself, thankfully, um, but I don't know what they did

ER: overall atmosphere of the, after the shooting, was there statements made by officers any conversations, what would you say the overall atmosphere at that point?

MP: Um, mine was almost like shock, um, like um, I, I was probably still in shock you know, still uh, still kind of trying to catch my breath.

ER: Anybody you spoken to regarding the incident since it happened?

MP: I've ah, my guys you know I looked to my detective you know to make sure their okay

ER:

MP: Correct

ER: uh, any family members

MP: my wife, my wife knows

ER: Uh, let me see, did you have detectives out there as well?

MP: I did, well Det. Ereg who drove me

ER: Okay

MP: there was Det. Demchek and O'Donnell

ER: Okay

MP: and actually Det. Demchek and O'Donnell ah, um, engaged the suspect and then My other detectives were there like, long after the fact

ER: Okay, anyone ask you to lie or otherwise influence your statements today?

MP: No

ER: Um, can you describe to us at what point, is there a point during this that you have concerns for your safety or maybe the safety of the officers around you, I mean other than what you already explained earlier as far trying to get cover because You're in a tin can, uh

MP: Ya, from the

ER: Do you guys have concerns as your trying to get caught up to the ah pursuit as far Are you thinking about um,

MP: From the origin of this incident I had concerns, the whole reason that I became involved the second that I heard that an officer was shot at and they were

brandishing a weapon, I, I had concern for

ER: Does your concern elevate as this thing goes on, or

MP: I think I wasn't conditioned right pretty much from the second that I received information that an officer was shot at, then hear continue with them brandishing a weapon.

ER: So based on the radio traffic that you're hearing, I think you made comments at One point there was radio traffic about "get back, get back"

MP: Ya

ER: Cause somebody's pointing a gun, and so is it, and I don't want to put words in Your mouth so is it, do I assume you hear this as you hear this traffic, your concern becomes, more and more heightened

MP: Ya, um, ya I mean I don't know if it could get much more heightened from hearing an officer has been shot at and their still brandishing a weapon, um I did become, maybe if it's possible more heightened, when they rammed On a because, you know that was the second time they used that deadly force Against a police officer.

ER: I had a thought and it left me, it will probably come back later, but, um, you had made mention earlier that you guys thought, maybe this vehicle was going to stop and bail, is that kind of a typical thing you run into?

MP: Ah, ya.

ER: In these pursuits and things

MP: ya, I can't come up with a percentage but that's

ER: it happens often?

MP: Yes, more often than not

ER: that they just try to take off and lose everybody on foot

MP: Yes, they

ER: So when this guy doesn't stop, does this give you additional reasons for concern?

MP: um, like he's a dead ender, like this, um, um, in hindsight that is definitely a piece Of the a puzzle, um, but, I don't think I could get more heightened than knowing A police officer was shot, and that their not, or shot at and their not giving up. I, I

think that just stays in condition, you know made to ... to like when they rammed the car again, and continually point the weapon but

ER: The actions that you took through this thing, do you feel that they were consistent with the training that you've received from the Cleveland Academy or the other Academy's that you've been too?

MP: Ya

ER: As far as the officer's that were around you, at different facets of this, do you believe that their actions were consistent with the training that they received at the Cleveland Academy or any other Academy's that they may have been too?

MP: Yes, the individual's around me.

ER: That's all you can contest to.

MP: Yes, I can't, ya I can't contest to any other individuals

ER: At any time, while you're on scene did you happen to use your cell phone?

MP: I didn't have my cell phone with me, in fact got in trouble from my commander for not having with me.

ER: Oh, I'll ask you any how (Chuckle) camera, did you have a camera in the car or take any photos with your cell phone?

MP: No

ER: see anyone use cell phone or take pictures ...

MP: No

ER: Any comments or concerns for us

MP: No, no, that's pretty much in a nut shell

ER: you guys were in a different situation because you kind of got in on the ballgame a Behind, in that fortunate or unfortunate, as it is, it's just

MP: Tragic the way it all

ER: oh, absolutely, but you got my card

MP: Okay

ER: um, if you got questions call me, if you don't want to call me call one of these Guys, and they can get ahold of us but.

MP: Okay

ER: I don't know about the other two but right now, not even sure, I know we had a question earlier from one of the guys this morning about a time frame, and, um

MP: I understand

ER: Between the forensic in the car and the lab reports, and the autopsy, it's, it's Kind of getting overwhelming.

MP: It's going to take some time.

(Everyone thanking everyone)

