

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

DONALD CLELAND: I'm Sergeant Cleland with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office; this is Sergeant Pinkney also with the Sheriff's Office. So, you understand, okay, we are going to be going over basically a standardize questions, everybody basically being asked the same format...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Okay...

DONALD CLELAND: ...of questions through the course of this particular action. Uh, one thing I do need to do, is to read you your Miranda rights.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, you have the right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court. You have the right to consult with an attorney and have an attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, one can be provided for you before questioning at no cost. Do you understand these rights?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I do.

DONALD CLELAND: With these rights in mind do you wish to speak with me now?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: I'm going to start out with some back ground information. And we start with your full name please?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Alan Eugene Almeida, A L A N Spelling of last name is A L M as in Mary, E I D as in David, A. A L M.

DONALD CLELAND: A L M.

ALAN ALMEIDA: E I D A.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay and the middle name again, was?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Eugene.

DONALD CLELAND: Eugene? E U...

ALAN ALMEIDA: E U G E N...

DONALD CLELAND: ...G E N E...

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ALAN ALMEIDA: ...E.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. And it is currently the---today's the 6th...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...The 6th, yes...

DONALD CLELAND: ...1 2 6 and it is 10 12. Could I get your address please?

ALAN ALMEIDA: [REDACTED]

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Is that two words or one?

ALAN ALMEIDA: One word. [REDACTED]

DONALD CLELAND: Okay and your date of birth?

ALAN ALMEIDA: [REDACTED]

DONALD CLELAND: And your phone number?

ALAN ALMEIDA: [REDACTED]

DONALD CLELAND: Is that a home phone or is that a...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...cell..

DONALD CLELAND: ...cell? Is that your personal cell or is...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...uh hun...

DONALD CLELAND: ...or is it a department issue as well?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I do have one. I do have a city phone. That's not it though.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Get to that a little bit later. Okay. Well, I guess that is the next one on the questionnaire, okay so what is your city number...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...You want city number...

DONALD CLELAND: ...yes...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...2 1 6 8 5 7 5 0 6 1.

DONALD CLELAND: 5 0 6 1?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, huh.

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DONALD CLELAND: 8 5 7 5 0 6 1. Okay. How you holding up with all this going on?

ALAN ALMEIDA: So far so good.

DONALD CLELAND: So far so good, okay. What is the current assignment with the Cleveland Police?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I'm with our Mobile Support Unit, we are the tech support sort of speak, for the technology that is in our vehicles. Software, hardware, I'm the geek squad basically.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, so for the most part, uh, whether it be radios, M D T's...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh, not radio, thanks ...

DONALD CLELAND: ...not radio...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...is someone else's quagmire.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, so you deal with anything...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Everything in the car we'll---we'll start with that...

DONALD CLELAND: ...okay. And how many years have you been doing the geek squad?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Seven.

DONALD CLELAND: Seven years?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: And that would be that specific mobile support unit?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Correct.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. And how many with the department total?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Eighteen.

DONALD CLELAND: Eighteen. Okay, and what shift do you normally work?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, night shift, I usually start at twenty-one hundred to five hundred.

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DONALD CLELAND: And that is your standard shift?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: And your shift supervisor would be?

ALAN ALMEIDA: ((I've an O I C)) but he is not there at night, I'm the only one there.

DONALD CLELAND: You're the only one for mobile support that works...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Right, at night.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Who, uh, who is the shift supervisor though?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Sergeant Todd Melzer, M E L Z E R. Is the O I C.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: I'm sorry give me the last name M E.

ALAN ALMEIDA: L Z E R.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Okay, thanks.

DONALD CLELAND: He is the unit O I C?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Correct.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. And he works day shift?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes, usually, uh, 8 to 4pm. The, uh, 8 in the morning to 4pm, usually. His changes base on meetings and stuff.

DONALD CLELAND: Sure. Okay, what are your schedule days off?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Saturday, Sunday.

DONALD CLELAND: Saturday, Sunday?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh hun.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, do you do extra duty details?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Part-time?

JEFFREY FOLLMER: Part-time.

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DONALD CLELAND: Part-time...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Stadium...

DONALD CLELAND: ...overtime?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Cleveland Stadium and also part of our marine patrol. Just considered...

DONALD CLELAND: Let's go part-time first. That is for...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...The Stadium, Cleveland Brown's Stadium...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Stadium...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh hun.

DONALD CLELAND: And what was the last home game you would might have worked?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Whenever the last home game was, what was it two weeks ago? I work all home games.

DONALD CLELAND: All home games.

ALAN ALMEIDA: So, I'll be there in the next two weeks.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, and your specialty unit that...?

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...The Marine Patrol?

DONALD CLELAND: ...you mention the marine patrol...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...That is also considered overt---uh, part-time, ((call up))...

DONALD CLELAND: ...It's considered part-time?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Right. And ended in October, was the last time? The Northern Board Initiative.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay and your last time out on that would have been October?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah, I think we ended in October.

DONALD CLELAND: Any other part-time or overtime situations that...

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ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh. That's it.

DONALD CLELAND: Was there any overtime or part-time that you worked just prior to Thursday of last week?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No. Okay, so, when your shift commenced how were you feeling that day? (())

ALAN ALMEIDA: Normal, fine, nothing out of the ordinary...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Were you sick, were you stressed...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...no, nothing out of the ordinary.

DONALD CLELAND: Nothing out of the ordinary?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, were then or are you now on any type prescription medications?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No. And, any alcohol the night before or?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No. Okay, do you have any medical conditions that we need to know about?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No. Do you wear corrective lenses or contact lenses?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Any do you usually work in uniform or in civilian...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uniform.

DONALD CLELAND: Uniform.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

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DONALD CLELAND: Now for your duty belt, do you usually---if you're working on a vehicle, are you usually wearing your duty belt at the time you're doing so or not?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: I will be now. It hangs up in the trunk, under the trunks of cars a lot. I was finding it would catch, so I got out of that habit. But I have it in my office.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay and your office is located where in the (())?

ALAN ALMEIDA: West 205, er, 205 West St. Clair.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay where in the building?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, third floor.

DONALD CLELAND: Third floor. And that is the Justice Center?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No.

ALAN ALMEIDA: It's across the street.

DONALD CLELAND: It's across the street 205?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, third floor, 2 0 5 St. Clair.

ALAN ALMEIDA: West St. Clair.

DONALD CLELAND: West St. Clair.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: While he is writing that, real quick, is this (pointing at Alan Almeida's uniform) pretty much what you had on, on the 29th ?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Short sleeves.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: You had on short sleeves, but the same belt and holster?

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ALAN ALMEIDA: Well I didn't have my holster on at the time of the incident, but yes.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: But you had...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...This is how---this is my uniform but I didn't have my gun on at the time.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Okay.

DONALD CLELAND: Do you normally use a duty belt or is it...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...I have a duty belt that I keep upstairs. If I leave the building, I'll put on my vest on and I'll put my duty belt on.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Gottcha.

DONALD CLELAND: And what does your duty belt basically comprise of, the?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Gun, cuffs, radio holder, cell phone holder and taser.

DONALD CLELAND: Cuffs.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Radio holder, cell phone holder and Taser.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. For the most part, which firearm---what firearm are you assigned?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Glock nineteen.

DONALD CLELAND: Nineteen?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh hun.

DONALD CLELAND: And do you have a personal weapon?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No. Do you carry extra magazines on your duty belt?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay so you're normal...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...My normal duty belt is that one, the light---the lessor duty belt.

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DONALD CLELAND: Okay, so you would've only had the magazine that was in...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...in the gun

DONALD CLELAND: ...the gun?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: And what would have been the capacity of the magazine?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Fifteen rounds plus one in the chamber, so sixteen.

DONALD CLELAND: And was that fully loaded that night?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Again that was on the 29th...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Yes...

DONALD CLELAND: ...last Thursday?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, do you normally carry any type of personal recording device with you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Would you have on that night?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Does your cell phone or the departmental cell phone capture audio or video (what he said)?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: And that would be audio and vidian?

ALAN ALMEIDA: My phone yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Your personal?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

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DONALD CLELAND: And on that night did you use your cell phone to capture audio or video?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: When you're not servicing equipment or vehicle, do you have an assigned cruiser?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, and that would be?

ALAN ALMEIDA: The number?

DONALD CLELAND: Yes.

ALAN ALMEIDA: 7 7 0 7.

DONALD CLELAND: And along with that do you have an assigned call sign?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Simon 7 7 0 7.

DONALD CLELAND: You have no other call sign individually?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No that is me.

DONALD CLELAND: That is you. Okay. Uhm, let's go to the 29th. Can you give me a basic break down of how your day went, from the point when you came on duty?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay, when I come in I check emails---I would view emails that would have been sent to me about thing---from day shift folks that telling me what needs to be done. Outside supervisors telling me they need this or that. So I would view my emails, check my voice messages for whatever issues may be sitting there for people---for me to call folks back. Uh, monitor---make sure our A V L Server is up---our Automatic Vehicle Locator Server is up. Our video server is up, and then I start calling people back.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, and on that night who did you call back in regards to whatever was...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Oh, several...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Several...

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ALAN ALMEIDA: ...I talk to a lot of people.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Usually password reset and things along those lines.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. And that night you started at about twenty-one hundred hours...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Twenty-one hundred, Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Around the time of twenty-two thirty or in that vicinity.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Were you asked to service a vehicle's equipment, or had you schedule something to service a vehicle's equipment?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, I had an officer coming to bring me a piece of equipment down?

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, and what officer was that?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Vic Nan.

DONALD CLELAND: Was that something that was prescheduled or was that?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I knew he was coming and I told him call me when he was on St. Clair.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: I'm sorry, What---Officer Mann...

ALAN ALMEIDA: Nan. N A N

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Nan.

ALAN ALMEIDA: I'd---Vic is not his real first name, I don't know it is. We all call him Vic, it's...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Vasila V A S I L A Nan.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Uh...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...N A N.

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CLIFFORD PINKNEY: N A N. What did uh, I might have missed it what did you have him bring down to you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: He was bringing down a desktop that needed repaired.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: A desktop?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: It was this a departmental desktop computer?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: No. This was?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I believe his.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Is this something you would do at home, part-time?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah, he was just dropping it off to me.

DONALD CLELAND: He was just dropping it off, okay. Okay. Was it that day that he called and asked you to do this or was it another day that he had set it up?

ALAN ALMEIDA: We had talked about it and when he had it with him and he was, you know, working, to give me a call.

DONALD CLELAND: And that night he called you.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah, he said I had it today would you be to pick it up and yeah drop it off.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, do you recall what time he made that phone call to you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I don't know, it was probably the day before I told him to just call me when you're on St. Clair. It's kind of a standard thing, just call me when you're on St. Clair

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. So what time did you make that phone call to you that he was on St. Clair?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh around 1 0 3 0.

DONALD CLELAND: Around 1 0 3 0?

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ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, you left your office to go down to...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh huh, pick it up...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: And that was on St. Clair?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Correct, West St. Clair, yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. So, right in front of where your office sits or...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Right in front of my front door.

DONALD CLELAND: Right in front of your front door?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Is that on the Southside of ...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Southside of St. Clair...

DONALD CLELAND: ... Southside of St. Clair or North? Southside?

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. And the address for you're is?

ALAN ALMEIDA: The office, 2 0 5.

DONALD CLELAND: 2 0 5, okay. Okay, and from the point that you went downstairs could you tell us what took place?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Sure. We're standing on St. Clair, he's giving me a brief rundown of what his issued was with the machine and we're chatting for a minute and we hear an engine come up, really stepped on it hard. The engine is really revving. We look up in time to see the vehicle, now going extremely fast, I'd say easy sixty miles an hour. As that vehicle passing in front us, which is now between us and our entrance to our police garage. As they pass us we hear a round go off. That vehicle then goes up to West 3rd, which is the next intersection and turns south. You can briefly smell powder from this thing, the---the shot. So, I take the computer which is now on the street, throw it back in Nan's car and close it, because I didn't have the proper equipment to get in the car with him. And he turns

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around, he does a U-turn in middle of the street and turns and goes up St Cl---uh, West 3rd behind--- you know, to go after the suspect.

DONALD CLELAND: So turn right on...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...So I go, oh I'm sorry, say again.

DONALD CLELAND: So he turns right on St. Clair?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes. There was no one else around, there were other cars at all moving, no people, so he just (make whistling noses)

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, need to know that.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, just going step back just a little bit, uh, after you heard round go off, the car went north or south on West 3rd?

ALAN ALMEIDA: South on West 3rd. The vehicle was traveling westbound on St. Clair turning southbound onto West 3rd.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, let's go back to right where you left off there, where he did a U-turn on St. Clair and?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I ran back into my office to put on my equipment, to get on my vest, get my gun belt, to grab my zone car keys.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: And then my zone car is in our parking garage which is across the street and in the bottom of the Justice Center. So I ran across the St. Clair, passed the security guard who raises our gates to let people in. As I'm doing that, she's like, their shooting at us. So, I run down to my zone car, get into my zone car and come up, and by now I hear on the radio that their pursuing the vehicle on St.---uh I90 eastbound and they were approaching dead man's curve. So I take West St.---Uh, I take West 3rd, I take West 3rd to get on the highway and join---join the chase. By then they are at 55th street as I'm getting on. So I---I really didn't catch up to the---to the front of the pack there.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. You entered off West 3rd?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah I got on the highway at West 3rd.

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DONALD CLELAND: Going eastbound...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...by the stadium. Going eastbound, yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: And you said the rest of the?

ALAN ALMEIDA: As I was getting on I heard them say that they were approaching fifty---East 55th street.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Continue.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Follow the pursuit, they got off at East 72nd street, as I caught up I did as well, uh then making several turns, you know, through local streets. I'm not exactly sure which street they went on. They ended up on Euclid Avenue heading towards East Cleveland.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, were you, able to see other vehicle in front of you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I was other---I was able to see other zone cars. But the zone cars I was around we were nowhere near the suspect's vehicle or the main officer vehicles that were directly behind him, who had vision. I never saw the zone---the suspect vehicles or zone cars that were right behind it, we were---I was too far back.

DONALD CLELAND: Uh, approximately how many cars did you see in front of you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: A number, a lot, beyond a lot, I don't know. Seem like a lot to me anyway.

DONALD CLELAND: And did you fall in line with those vehicles, in regards to your travel?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Right, yeah, it was kind of the follow the leader thing. We were listening to the broadcast, you know, saying their turning here. I actually had two channels on, as I was getting dress I was just--- cuz Vic Nan is in the second district, I put a portable on channel 2 and rad---my car radio is defaulted to channel 3 because that where my building sets. So I'm listening to channel 2 on a portable and channel 3 on my car.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Channel 3 is the car? Radio?

ALAN ALMEIDA: The vehicle radio is on channel 3 yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, what kind of traffic were you hearing between the two radio, could you tell which was which as they were?

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ALAN ALMEIDA: No, I'd---with two radios going like that---I heard what was said but I couldn't tell you which radio it was coming from. At the time, I was just focused on catching up, playing follow the leader. But, I heard several different things, uh, I heard at one point a broadcast come over, saying that it appeared that the passenger was pointing a weapon in---through the backs---you know, through the backseat, through the back window at responding cars. Another broadcast stated---another officer stated that he felt that they were reloading a weapon. It appeared that they were reloading a weapon. It's just getting more and more frantic at this point. You know the radio transmission was getting a little more--- a little more frantic.

DONALD CLELAND: I'm going to step back...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Okay...

DONALD CLELAND: ...just a few seconds here. When you first observed the vehicle,

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay.

DONALD CLELAND: Could you tell what type of vehicle it was?

ALAN ALMEIDA: It was an older model car. Early eighties, boxy like maybe a Bu--- Buick, or Pontiac kind of vehicle.

DONALD CLELAND: And could you tell what color it was?

ALAN ALMEIDA: It went by really fast, it---rig---right off the top, based off--- because it's not a very bright street right there at night. I thought it was a light color goldish color is what I thought it was. But again, it wasn't on that street for very long.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, (()) okay from your position in the line, let's go from that point. Uh, radio traffic any additional radio traffic, that you may have hear, that the---let's go from the point---the last one that you may have heard in regards that you had mention traffic of them reloading weapons in vehicle?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay.

DONALD CLELAND: Uh, approximately where you at that time that that traffic took place...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...The reloading of the weapon...

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DONALD CLELAND: ...right.

ALAN ALMEIDA: It was a little bit after we got off East 72nd Street, so somewhere between East 72nd and St. Clair area, through Donald, Addison, Superior, which is the next east-west street is Superior so there are many side streets in there so somewhere in there, so very shortly after we got off the highway is when I heard that, the reloading of the weapon.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. If you would just continue with what took place from point on?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay. This point we are just following along, foll—you know, following the originating cars telling us where we are. We ended up on Euclid Avenue at one point, and now we're in East Cleveland, and I think the street is Wymore---Waymore, there is a big hill and now I'm heading up that hill which is where they are supposed to be at the top of this hill is the last location I had heard. So a number of zone cars, as well as myself, were heading up that hill.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, and what did you hear during that time period?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, as we---as we are approaching, as we're coming up that hill, as we first got up on that hill, we did hear a call over the radio of shots fired.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Continue up the hill but now there's too many vehicles to keep driving. So I had to stop the car and now a group of us were now running up the rest of the way up the hill, approximately two blocks, a block and a half, two blocks to get to where they say they are. Probably from the time we got on that street until the time I got out of my car it was probably a minute and a half, two minuteish.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, from your car to the scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: To my car where I could not go any further, then we had to get out and---and take the rest on foot.

DONALD CLELAND: Approximately two minutes?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah. From Euclid to the hill.

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DONALD CLELAND: Okay. When you arrived what---what did you see?

ALAN ALMEIDA: That this time all of the---everything is over, so to speak, I didn't see---everybody was being pulled aside by supervisors had them all pulling aside. Saw the suspect vehicle and two of our zone cars in the, uh, middle of the street, I believe that's Terrace, I believe that's Terrace. They were getting ready---you know they were taking out crime scene tape and starting to secure that perimeter there.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, did you approach the scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes, I went up, kind of everyone was in place---general area, most of the officers were in a general area, so, that's where I went. I went up to them. Making sure everyone was okay, cuz, I got to the scene and I thought one officer, I don't know if he thought he had been shot, he was checking himself (patting his chest demonstrating checking) he pull his vest off and was checking his chest, I don't know who that officer was. As soon as I got to the top that's what I saw. Him peeled his vest off and checked. I assume he was ok because he joined the main group of officers.

DONALD CLELAND: About how long did you remain on that scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, I didn't leave until about four in the morning.

DONALD CLELAND: Is that an approximate time or did ya?

ALAN ALMEIDA: It was about four, I had to leave one other time. I left to fuel my car at the sixth district and then I returned, cuz I didn't know who they wanted there or what investigator needed to talk to who and so I just stayed on scene until I was released. But I had to get gas or I wouldn't have made it home.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: It's actually the fifth district, they changed it, I---I---that was my district prior to going downtown and I still call it the sixth.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Retuned until you were released by someone to go back to your duty?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Right.

DONALD CLELAND: And did you return to your normal tour of duty?

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ALAN ALMEIDA: I was just about done, my--my tour ends at five so I'd closed out my---our duty report that we have to do every day. I filled that out and I ended up leaving at normal time.

DONALD CLELAND: During the time period when you were there, did you use your cell phone or any other recording device or any type of camera to take pictures of the crime scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Cell phone, yes. To use it to record, no. I made a phone call. I received a text message from a supervisor in the fourth district and I answered her back. She wanted to know if officers were okay, you know, if there was anything, you know, any injuries.

DONALD CLELAND: And what was that supervisor's name?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, Lieutenant Renee Kane.

DONALD CLELAND: Cane with a C or...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...K, K A N E. I told her no, everyone was just stunned. I just said---they seem to be, you know they're all physically okay, they were just---she was just wanting to know was---was injured and I said, they're stunned.

DONALD CLELAND: What about photographs or anything of the crime scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Not with my phone, I didn't see anyone taking photos.

DONALD CLELAND: And you were in the car alone. You didn't have anyone else with you at the...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...No...

DONALD CLELAND: ...time you were doing this. Uh, does your vehicle have a dashcam?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: And your emergency lights were on?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: And your siren?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

DONALD CLELAND: And your vehicle equipment with a M D T?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay and was it on and functioning?

ALAN ALMEIDA: It would have been--- it was not turned on---it functions, but it wasn't on.

DONALD CLELAND: It wasn't turned on.

ALAN ALMEIDA: If I can't keep that up and running I'm chan---I'd better be changing units.

DONALD CLELAND: Have you had any specialty training within the department?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I don't follow the question?

DONALD CLELAND: Specialty unit training, other---other than your assigned unit. Have you had any other specialty unit training?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Just the, uh, no, not specialty training. We'd had the academy training...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Right...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...so I've gone through all the in-service...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Right...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...and things along those lines, cell phones...

JEFFREY FOLLMER: ...Explain the in-services.

ALAN ALMEIDA: In-service training, un, mandate by state, you know, we have Chapter 10, we now have a new thing given by our range this year, surprisingly enough, on shooting both to and from a vehicle. How to do that in a safer manner and procedure for that, uh, that was new this year and then of course, standard classroom stuff, taser recertification, things along those lines.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: So that the, uh, training you received that---that---was it like a technically training, the in-service training as far as discharging your weapon...

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...From---from the vehicle...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Yeah...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Yes that was a new thing for us. Just happened this year, a tactical, uh, how to fire from inside your vehicle as you are exiting out, procedures to disable the seatbelt, disable the holster, how to present your body, you know, maneuvering around the steering wheel, bracing, exiting the vehicle, propping it open. So, yeah more of a tactically thing and then how to retreat to the back of the vehicle if you needed to if you have oncoming rounds...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...For cover and stuff like that...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Right concealing cover things along those lines, yes.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: And when was that training? You said this year...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh, that was this year, right.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Summer?...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Do you recall what month?...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...That I went?...

DONALD CLELAND: Yes.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Did I go in September? I believe I went in September, but I---but it goes all year round, there someone.(trails off) I believe it was September when I went. The academy can give you the exact date.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Are you qualified with any specialty weapons?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No.

DONALD CLELAND: Do you recall when your taser certification was done?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, in in-service training.

DONALD CLELAND: At in-service training?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh. That's another thing they do if you have taser the re-certify.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

DONALD CLELAND: Do you recall when last use of force training that you attended, would have been?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, that is also part of in-service, Use of Deadly Force, and the uh, whole for force continuum, the range, er, uh, the gym staff does the non-lethal, the arm bars, the take downs, things along those lines. It's all part of in-service...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Part of in-service, and that would have been through the year?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Not necessary September, it would have been...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...It's given throughout the year. I took it in September.

DONALD CLELAND: You took it in September, okay. Okay. And your OPOTA Peace Officer Certification is current, correct?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Have you been involved in any officer involved shooting incident?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Not...

DONALD CLELAND: ...in the last...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Not against a human. I had a dog bite a partner, and I---and I had to shoot the dog. That's my only other thing. This was many years ago.

DONALD CLELAND: Approximately how many years?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Shhhhh, six---eleven?

DONALD CLELAND: That's an approximate?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, I like to go back to how---when you first became involved in this?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay.

DONALD CLELAND: And the vehicle came by you at a high rate of speed. How was your attention first drawn to that?

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

- ALAN ALMEIDA: The acceleration, if that vehicle hadn't even accelerated. I probably wouldn't have given it another thought, because we have cars drive by us all the time when I'm down there. I'd say at Ontario and St. Clair, uh, is when I first noticed the vehicle, because the engine came up, he must---he must have really stepped on the gas, because it came up hard. And by the tim---in that short period ti---of distance from Ontario and the front of my building they were easily going sixty miles an hour. I can't tell you if they were on St. Clair or if they turned on Ontario onto St. Clair. They were already on it, I don't know. I didn't even think about that car until I heard the engine.
- DONALD CLELAND: And at that point they were on St. Clair?
- ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh yeah, absolutely. By the time I noticed them they were at Ontario, they were coming off pretty good speed and like I said by the time they passed up, I'd put them easy at sixty miles an hour. They even squealed tires a little when they made the turned onto West 3rd street, after firing the round.
- DONALD CLELAND: Were you looking at the vehicle when you heard the sound of?
- ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah we glanced up. I was, you know, standing right at the corner---right at the curb and as the engine came up; just glanced up and saw it was in the middle of the street and it wasn't hard to see.
- DONALD CLELAND: Okay, did you see a flash?
- ALAN ALMEIDA: I did not see a flash.
- CLIFFORD PINKNEY: When uh, when you noticed the vehicle, could you see how many occupants were in the vehicle?
- ALAN ALMEIDA: I couldn't, but the sound of the shot sounded, to me, sounded like it came from the driver's---uh, I'm sorry, the passenger's side. I could not see how many people were in the car, it was just going by too fast.
- CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Did you notice if, you know, that---that building that, what is it Medical Mart or whatever...
- ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Hmmm...
- CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...right there...

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...on the other side of---one the east side of Ontario?

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Yes.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Okay.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Uh, Did you noticed if they were working that night or if...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...I didn't noticed. I don't know.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Yeah.

ALAN ALMEIDA: I don't know if they were working.

DONALD CLELAND: Were there any other vehicle in the immediate vicinity that were moving...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...No...

DONALD CLELAND: ...at that time and point? I'm going to place a map in front of you here. (placing the map in front of Alan Almeida) And what I'd like for you to do is mark, for me, where your vehicle...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Where are we...

DONALD CLELAND: ...was. This is (pointing to the picture)...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...That's the school (pointing to the picture).

DONALD CLELAND: ...This is the school..

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...this is Terrace...

DONALD CLELAND: ...this is the parking lot where, this is the driveway...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...I think this...

DONALD CLELAND: ...This is the driveway...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...this is the driveway...

(Both Pat D'Angelo and Clifford Pinkney point to the picture)

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...The streets are marked...

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...The street are marked.

ALAN ALMEIDA: I'm trying to find Waymore. Oh, here we go. (Turning the picture around) Okay. I would say, when I got out of my car, I would say I was around this area (marking on the picture).

DONALD CLELAND: Yeah, sure. Okay, good. Just place---put an "X" there. (())

ALAN ALMEIDA: (()) move the whole thing.

DONALD CLELAND: Sure, yes.

ALAN ALMEIDA: (()) Yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay and you said it too you approximately two minutes to get from your vehicle to here (())...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...No it took me about two minutes to get to that stop. From Euclid Avenue when they said shots fired I was still on Euclid Avenue. Coming up Waymore/Waymore stopping here...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Okay...

ALAN ALMEIDA: was about two minutes and then, I mean, and then maybe to go the rest of the way, uh maybe two---two minutes to go up on foot.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. Just want to be sure so I have it right.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Oh, I---I got it down the same way you did.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, did I say it...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...Initially that you were saying...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...did I say it wrong...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...No you didn't say it wrong, it's just the way it came across. I had it that you said two---two minutes up to the scene on foot verse two minutes from the broadcast to where you stopped the car.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, okay.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: It's about the same time anyway, so.

DONALD CLELAND: It is I just wanted to make sure I had it correctly, as to what he is telling me. Okay so approximately two minutes and if you could--

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

-where did you from this point (pointing to the picture) your direction of travel was it...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Straight up the street...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Straight up the street, the hill?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: Uh, where did you end up spending your time during that period when you were at the scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Just waiting at the school (pointing to picture)...

DONALD CLELAND: ...just waiting at the school...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...around (pointing at the picture). When I went to get gas and came back. The school had been opened. I don't know if they called them in, but there was a representative of the school there and the majority of us were inside the school.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: You know waiting for Investigators to talk and decide who's doing what.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. When you first arrived and saw the other officer checking his vest...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh huh...

DONALD CLELAND: ...where...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Right at the top of the hill, here...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Right at the top of the hill, so---it was still down in this area (pointing of picture)

ALAN ALMEIDA: Uh, like right on the corner here, so, right

DONALD CLELAND: Uh let me see if...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Terrace...

DONALD CLELAND: ...I---I think I might have a little more---I don't even know if that is included in this other map that I have, nah, so there's not even a

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

point in bringing the other map out. You didn't even get up to that point, so.

ALAN ALMEIDA: (looking a picture) This street continues on doesn't it?

DONALD CLELAND: Right, well...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...It (()) through this...

DONALD CLELAND: (())

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...no no I was definitely on Waymore.

DONALD CLELAND: You were definitely on Waymore.

ALAN ALMEIDA: For sure.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Sergeant I think with the other statements there's a...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...There's an intersection...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ... service---eh, service road, or something they call it...

DONALD CLELAND: ...Right...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...that comes right through here.

DONALD CLELAND: Uh huh.

ALAN ALMEIDA: So my vehicle when it stopped it was probably actually closer to here then (marking on the picture.) I didn't realize that this went--- I went all the way---so, it---it was close, but let's go with right here instead.

DONALD CLELAND: Just initial that then.

ALAN ALMEIDA: And then right when I got to the top of the hill is when I saw that officer.

DONALD CLELAND: Was it at the intersection or was it...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...I was at the intersection...

DONALD CLELAND: ...you were at the intersection?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: He wasn't, I, you know, I could look over and I could see him. (Picking up marker and writing on picture) Hate to do this to you, but I keep forgetting that this (()) all the way through. The intersection what I'm calling the intersection, was probably this road here and not Terrace. So it was here when I saw that officer.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: That makes sense, unless your superman and can see through trees.

DONALD CLELAND: Uh, right...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Right...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...I'm looking at this map and maps are not---well sometimes maps are a little changeling for me. But that---that makes more sense to me. I keep forgetting this goes through (pointing to the picture).

DONALD CLELAND: Well that will be then, let's, ((I already have this one)) set aside. That shows your parking and where you went to. This will be the end of that service road...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Ah!, Okay, I was like here...

DONALD CLELAND: ...and the driveway at the end...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...here when I saw that officer.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, can't you precede any farther into the scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I believe the scene was right here (making circling motion on the picture) in general. And this---Oh this is the playground, so I was---officers were being---were standing round right here (pointing to the picture).

DONALD CLELAND: Okay go ahead and draw that...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Want me to draw that...

DONALD CLELAND: ...so and write that that's where the officers had gathered if you choose.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: This one makes way more sense to me.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: And I believe the vehicle was here.

DONALD CLELAND: Uh huh. Okay, well initial you said you were back here and I was like...

ALAN ALMEIDA: Well...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...Okay...

DONALD CLELAND: ...this one makes sense...

DONALD CLELAND: ...it was a hike---much farther image then what your...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...It was a process of the other statements Serge that we all—that the investigator's settled on this one and there's another one with the cars position there (pointing at the picture).

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Maps are a little changeling for me sometimes.

DONALD CLELAND: And for the most part it is a matter of...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Perspective.

DONALD CLELAND: Well, and it is if you parked at a distance, I can't see...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Dist...

DONALD CLELAND: ...where you parked from this one....

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...A long---long time ago I spent three months in our aviation unit as a spotter and it took me a while to read---in streets that I drive everyday...

DONALD CLELAND: uh huh...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...in sixth district. Looked nothing the same, so, from up top, so.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Alright. Makes sense.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

DONALD CLELAND: And the incident was closed by the time you got...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Yes...

DONALD CLELAND: ...there so you fired no rounds?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I fired no rounds, no.

DONALD CLELAND: When you were approaching the scene did you hear gun fire?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I did not.

DONALD CLELAND: You did not. When you parked your vehicle did you call out at the scene?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Not until, no, I--I didn't know what was going on at the time. I'm not--I wasn't going to interfere with whatever may have needed to be said by someone who was actually up and dealing with this. After I got to this point (pointing to picture) I heard some cars say that they were there and the radio traffic died down and then I put myself there.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Give that airtime to someone who may have really needed it.

DONALD CLELAND: Understanding.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: (Coughs) Excuse me.

DONALD CLELAND: And that would have been the portable you had with you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I'm sorry.

DONALD CLELAND: Would have been the portable you had with you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: That I called when I said...

DONALD CLELAND: ...you (())...

ALAN ALMEIDA: I was there? Yeah. Uh huh.

DONALD CLELAND: And that was done on channel 2, still? Or did you change frequency?

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: I don't know. I'm going to say---I don't remember changing it. So, maybe 2, I don't know if I changed it to 3 or not.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: You did generate a tour of duty though?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yea--- a duty report?

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Duty report?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Okay. And you turned it in that same day...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Yes...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...just before you left?

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh huh...

JEFFREY FOLLMER: Is, uh, this the first one---that something you're interested in should I have the guys bring them, as they come to work? Are you interested in those?

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...The, uh,...

JEFFREY FOLLMER: ...The duty reports...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...yeah...

DONALD CLELAND: ...That would have been something that was turned in to shift command, correct?

JEFFREY FOLLMER: Correct, I'm not sure if you're getting everything from the city, so if it's easier if I had these guys bring them...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Yes...

JEFFREY FOLLMER: ...I would do it.

DONALD CLELAND: ...It would be easier...

JEFFREY FOLLMER: ...Okay...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...It would be easier, I'd appreciate that.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

JEFFREY FOLLMER: Sure.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Thanks

ALAN ALMEIDA: I can print my out if you don't need the official one with my signature on it, I can reprint it for you.

JEFFREY FOLLMER: That's up to these guys if that---that fine, we can?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I keep my digitally so if you need a printout. I turned my in...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Sure...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...you know it's got copy...

DONALD CLELAND: ...I'll double check with...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...don't know how you guys want it.

DONALD CLELAND: I double check with the BCI Agents in regards to whether or not they want signed version (trails off speaking)

PATRICK D'ANGELO: They didn't ask for it in the other statements, buy whatever...

DONALD CLELAND: ...I understand...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...(()) want.

DONALD CLELAND: After the shooting took place and you arrived, did you hear other officers talking about what had taken place?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Not really, ev--- majority of---where we were standing, uh, we were just kind of stun. Jus---they weren't even talking about what was going on. I wasn't about to try to interject there. I didn't feel it was safe for them. I don't know if it was traumatically, if I should ask them what was going on, so I just left it alone. They weren't talking. I didn't start it.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: It was kind of weird; no one was really talking about, what happened, that startled me.

DONALD CLELAND: Elaborate a little more on that start...

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...It was weird, you would think that you would hear them saying, you know, this happened, this happened, or I did that or hey Al, what did you see over that, none of that they were just kind of all in a daze. So, I kind of figured they all just came out of a seriously stressful situation and I was about to, you know. "Hey! What happened?"

DONALD CLELAND: (())

ALAN ALMEIDA: Right difference time.

DONALD CLELAND: Through the course of the pursuit was that followed based upon your normal training and?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Right, yes.

DONALD CLELAND: And you were not there for the shooting incident itself, so.

ALAN ALMEIDA: No, I was not.

DONALD CLELAND: (Giving paper to Clifford Pinckney) (()) pertinent here (pointing to the paper)

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: (Shook head no)

DONALD CLELAND: I didn't think it would be, okay, can you think of anything else that (()).

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Is there anything that we didn't ask you that you want to offer us--- that you think could---that you think would help in this investigation that we didn't ask?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No, I think that's---we cover everything. The shot as it went---as the (())---as the vehicle went by me, shot went off, but I know it was heard by other people, other than myself. The security guard in the---in the, uh, you know, that raises our gate at the top of our garage. As I was running down, even she said "Hey they're shooting" so, and I know there were other units that heard it. I'm not exactly sure what units they were. I heard some of the folks on scene say "We were in the Justice Center and we heard it." So, it was quite distinct.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Do you know the security officer's name?

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: I don't know who was working, but our central processing unit could probably give you that information.

DONALD CLELAND: That will be fine. Uh, you heard multiple weapons fired at different ranges, correct?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes.

DONALD CLELAND: Would you say it would be a small caliber or a larger caliber?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Kind of difficult to tell because, you know, everything downtown the sound bounces, even our bounce off those building, but just based solely on sound and my estimate, larger than a nine milliliter but not larger than a forty or forty-five. Thirty-eightish maybe (waving hands) thirty-eight, three eighty maybe, I don't. (Trails off)

DONALD CLELAND: Okay, can you think of anything else?

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: No, sir.

DONALD CLELAND: I think that should about cover...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Does it...

DONALD CLELAND: ...it...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Thanks for coming down...

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, no problem...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...appreciate it...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...hopefully that helps.

(Everyone stands up and start shaking hands thanking each other.)

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Hey Sergeant, I don't want to take over here, but in the other statements we were allowed to ask just a couple of things and ask...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...Sure...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...a question or two if you don't mind?

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Yeah.

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

DONALD CLELAND: Alright

ALAN ALMEIDA: You need me?

DONALD CLELAND: Yes, just to clarify something.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: When you were talking about the new training you had in, uh, recently September about shooting from the vehicle...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Okay...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...Did that include shooting through the windshield?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes it---it specifically for that---both from inside your vehicle, so you're windshield and as well as the potential suspect's vehicle.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: And then just going back to when you heard the call, shots fired, I think you indicated that you were just at the bottom of that big hill in East Cleveland...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...No I was approaching that---on, uh, Euclid---Euclid Avenue.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Okay, so from the time that you heard the shots fired call...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh huh...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...to the time that you got to the top of the hill and saw the, uh, patrol officer checking the vest to see if he had been hit...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Okay...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...what's your best estimate as to the time...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Timeframe...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...Yeah.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Two minutes, er, two to three minutes. Cause, you know, two minutes to get to the bottom---where I had to get out of the vehicle, then another minute, minute and a half, to get to the top of the hill so, another blockage.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: And what would be your best estimate to that distance, when you first heard the shots fired call, come on radio...

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh huh...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...to the point where you got to the top on foot when you saw the officer checking his, uh, vest?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Of distance?

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Yeah, distance, from that point on the hill to when you got to the top on foot.

ALAN ALMEIDA: So, from Euclid to where the top of the hill?

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Well to the point where you observed...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Yeah top...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...the patrol officer

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...top of the hill. I saw him---I was at the top of the hill. Uh, man what is that, let's call it f---f---four blocks, so, say four city blocks.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: And you did not hear like from that point and time of the call of shots fired, I think from your statement you said at no time did you hear any...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Yeah, I didn't hear the actual shots...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...gunshots...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...no.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: That's all I have.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

JEFFREY FOLLMER: Just who gives the training at the range in case they need a contact.

ALAN ALMEIDA: The range is---that portion of the training was given through our ordinance unit I believe Sergeant Keith Campbell is the O I C of the range. Uh, Mike Urbania (Spelling) was one of the instructor. Our ordinance unit handles that.

DONALD CLELAND: Can you spell the Urbania?

ALAN ALMEIDA: U R B A N I A?

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

JEFFREY FOLLMER: (shakes head yes)

ALAN ALMEIDA: Let's go with I A.

(Laughter)

ALAN ALMEIDA: Michael, Michael. Sergeant Keith Campbell can give you all of their names and how they (()) out there, he's the O I C of the range.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: If I may, one other thing. You were listening to a radio, as you describe in your statement, the radio broadcast...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh, huh...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...Uh, in your experience how---how did you take the transmissions coming across, as terms of the officers as they were calling the information about a weapon and uh, what the occupants were doing. How did that come across to you?

(Knock at the door Jeffery Follmer got up to answer the door)

ALAN ALMEIDA: Well, it was definitely progressing, their---you can tell they were getting---it was becoming more and more stressing as time went on, it wasn't a standard, you know, I'm arriving on scene, it was getting more stressful, "they're pointing a gun at us", then a few minutes later, "it looks like they are reloading", then a few minutes later, "shots fired", you know little progressively going up in stress and...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...so...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...(())...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...yes. As an officer involved in, uh, a response to that location, how did hearing that impact you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, that will---that will get the adrenaline starts flowing. But you definitely have to---to escalate your---your tri---mind set. You have to be ready to whatever making these officers excited. (Jeffery Follmer walked back in room and sat down.) So, you have to be ready for whatever you find up there so your adrenaline and expectation of what's going on definitely increasing it as you hear that stuff.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Was that actually happening with you?

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh Yes. It had to be happening to---I'm not going to speak for everybody but it had to have of. It absolutely was to me. I'm getting closer, I'm getting closer, now we're hearing shots, you know, there pointing a vehicle---

DONALD CLELAND: ...What was your...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...now we hear of reloading a vehicle---uh, er, uh, I'm sorry, pointing a weapon, reloading a weapon. So your stress level is starting to go up.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: So, what was your state of mind after you heard the shots fired call and everything else you just describe as you were running up the hill?

ALAN ALMEIDA: As I was running up the hill I expected to walk into a gun fight. I expected shots to be still being fired and potentially being fired at. We don't have any suspects. I didn't know where the vehicle or the shooters were, where the officers were as I was going up the hill.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: How many---did you s---were there other officers running up the hill?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah, there were a number of us.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: What's your best estimate as to the number?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Five or six, officers going up the hill with me.

DONALD CLELAND: Did the officers draw their weapons as they were going up the hill?

ALAN ALMEIDA: I did. I---I don't---I didn't notice anyone else. I know I did.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: And would that be consisted with what you just described what your state of mind was listening to...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Oh, absolutely...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...broadcast...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...absolutely...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: (())

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...don't know where the potential suspects are. So you don't know where, uh, shots fired might be come from---coming from. So yeah absolutely my gun was out.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: And that is consistent with your training?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Oh, yes.

DONALD CLELAND: What was the lighting like on the street in your progression from your car to the?

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Uh, minimal street lights, you know standard, every so many feet. Just the standard street lights, it was lit, you know, by street lights.

DONALD CLELAND: And that was Waymore?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Waymore—Winmore, whatever that street is.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: And there's been a description in other statements of as the cars was going down this road there was dirt kicking up or dust...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Oh yeah...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...was this that road you were running up?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yes, at the base of that, that happened. Right as you got on that street, that happening pretty badly actually. All those streets on Euclid Avenue all the way into Cleveland, that actually know for that if you accelerate fast you will kick up a cloud of dust and just the dirt at the bottom of the hill speeding tire, ((revving)) tire does it all the time. That use to be my when I was on the road, six...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...(Coughed) Excuse me...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...on the further end on Eucl---Euclid Avenue they're all still big hills like that.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah, you really got to watch or you'll potentially hit the car in front of you.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay. When you park and left to go to the scene, approximately how many vehicles would you say were right around you?

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

ALAN ALMEIDA: Where you had to get out and go up and say...

DONALD CLELAND: ...How...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...you couldn't drive any more...

DONALD CLELAND: ...How many police vehicles?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Eight---seven.

DONALD CLELAND: Seven or...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...Eight...

DONALD CLELAND: ...eight. In front of you?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: I wasn't privy to the other interviews. The streets that had the cloud of dust, do you remember what street they were? How close they were to...

ALAN ALMEIDA: ...The...

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...(()).

ALAN ALMEIDA: The one for sure that I absolutely saw it on was that street itself.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: What street was that?

ALAN ALMEIDA: Waymore.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Waymore.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Yeah, Euclid that happens, anytime that hill---that go---anything from Euclid that goes up a steep hill. You will do that with, for sure.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: (coughs) excuse me.

DONALD CLELAND: Okay.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Uh, Sergeant, uh, I think you wanted him, uh, I think you got distracted, I think you may have wanted him to initial and sign those two...

Interview of Officer Alan Almeida

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: ...(())...

DONALD CLELAND: ...(()). Yes. (Handing pictures over to AA)

ALAN ALMEIDA: Anywhere?

DONALD CLELAND: (())...

PATRICK D'ANGELO: ...At the bottom some place...

DONALD CLELAND: ...bottom where there space.

ALAN ALMEIDA: Just sign it.

PATRICK D'ANGELO: Is there another one too?

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Yeah.

DONALD CLELAND: There is, I guess we have this one as well

(Handed another picture to Allan Almeida)

DONALD CLELAND: Very good, well once again is there anything else you want to add to what you talk to us about?

ALAN ALMEIDA: No, I think that is pretty much it.

CLIFFORD PINKNEY: Good deal.