



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



12/13/2012 INTERVIEW OF CPD SGT. MATTHEW PUTNAM

Summary

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Special Agent Lehnhart and Special Agent Stranahan conducted an interview with Cleveland Police Sergeant Matthew D. Putnam regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred November 29, 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio and ended in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Details

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, at approximately 1500 hours, Special Agent Lehnhart and Special Agent Stranahan were assigned to conduct an interview with Cleveland Police Sergeant Matthew D. Putnam regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred on November 29, 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio and ended in East Cleveland, Ohio. The interview with Sergeant Putnam was conducted at the Richfield BCI&I offices and was audio/video recorded and submitted to the case file as Exhibit #26.

At approximately 1530 hours, Special Agent Lehnhart and Special Agent Stranahan met with Sergeant Putnam, his attorney Robert Phillips and Fraternal Order of Police Union President Brian Betley in the conference room at the Richfield BCI&I offices. After initial greetings, Special Agent Lehnhart advised Sergeant Putnam of his Miranda rights. Sergeant Putnam indicated he understood his rights and was willing to provide a statement regarding this investigation. The following information was provided by Sergeant Putnam during the interview.

Special Agent Lehnhart began the interview by asking Sergeant Putnam how he was holding up both mentally and emotionally following this incident. Sergeant Putnam responded by saying that he was "holding my own." Sergeant Putnam stated he is not having any difficulties sleeping and has no issues pertaining to drug and alcohol abuse subsequent to this incident.

Sergeant Putnam advised that he has worked for the Cleveland Police Department for the past

File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493	File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)
Case Agent: Mark Kollar	Authoring Agent: Stranahan, S. #98 <i>AS</i>
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Investigative Activity: Interview of Sgt. Putnam	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet <i>D Sweet</i> JAN 14 2013

fifteen (15) years. Prior to working for the Cleveland Police Department, Sergeant Putnam worked for the Cleveland Inspector General's Office for approximately eighteen (18) months. Sergeant Putnam is currently assigned to the Cleveland Police Department Third District Vice/Narcotics Unit and his immediate supervisor is Lieutenant Jerome Barrow. Sergeant Putnam indicated that his scheduled shift is 1730-0130 hours and his days off are Saturday and Sunday.

Special Agent Lehnhart then directed Sergeant Putnam's attention to November 29, 2012. Sergeant Putnam confirmed that he was working on the aforementioned date. According to Sergeant Putnam he and the detectives assigned to his unit were working a narcotics investigation where they made a controlled purchase. Sergeant Putnam stated that prior to his shift on November 29, 2012, he did not work and part-time pay/extra duty details. Sergeant Putnam indicated that he was well rested when he reported for duty on November 29, 2012 and that he was not under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal narcotics. Sergeant Putnam stated that he is good health and is not currently prescribed any medications. Sergeant Putnam stated he wears glasses to correct night blindness and his corrected vision is 20/50. According to Sergeant Putnam he was wearing his glasses during his shift on November 29, 2012.

Special Agent Lehnhart then asked Sergeant Putnam several questions concerning what type of clothing and duty equipment Sergeant Putnam used while on duty November 29, 2012. According to Sergeant Putnam he was wearing civilian clothes during his shift. During his involvement in the pursuit incident, Sergeant Putnam stated he was wearing a tactical outer vest with police markings. Sergeant Putnam advised his tactical vest has the capability to carry various police issued equipment. When asked what equipment he used on November 29, 2012, Sergeant Putnam stated he was carrying a Glock Model 19 pistol with two extra full magazines, handcuffs and a flash light. Sergeant Putnam also stated he employed the use of a Cleveland Police Department issued Colt AR-15 patrol rifle. According to Sergeant Putnam, he does not normally carry his patrol rifle while he is on duty. Sergeant Putnam stated his patrol rifle is kept in a locker at the Cleveland Police Department Third District Station. On November 29, 2012, after hearing the pursuit broadcast via the Cleveland Police radio, Sergeant Putnam obtained his patrol rifle from the locker. When deployed in the field, Sergeant Putnam carries two, twenty-eight round AR-15 magazines which he had with him on November 29, 2012. Sergeant Putnam also stated that he does not employ the use of personal audio/video recording devices while on duty (such as digital recorders or body worn cameras).

According to Sergeant Putnam, his assigned Cleveland Police Vehicle is a Ford Crown Victoria which is identified as unit number 388. Sergeant Putnam indicated his radio call sign/unit identification number is "3-Sam-80." Sergeant Putnam stated that unit number 388 is equipped with working emergency lights/siren, a mobile police radio and a mobile data terminal (on board computer system). Sergeant Putnam stated that unit number 388 is not equipped with a department issued or personally installed video camera system. According to Sergeant Putnam, on November 29, 2012, Detective Ereg was driving unit number 388 and Sergeant Putnam rode in the front passenger seat. There were no additional officers riding in unit 388 on the aforementioned date.

Special Agent Lehnhart then discussed with Sergeant Putnam the types of training he has received. According to Sergeant Putnam, he holds a certification as a "Patrol Rifle Operator." Sergeant Putnam advised he was in the United States Marine Corps from 1987 through 1988. Sergeant Putnam indicated he last qualified with his Glock 19 duty weapon in October of 2012 and he last qualified with his department issued AR-15 patrol rifle in September of 2012. According to Sergeant Putnam, he last received "Use of Force Training" from the Cleveland Police Department during in-service training on October 10, 2012. Sergeant Putnam indicated he also holds a current Ohio Police Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Peace Officer Certification and that he is an instructor of various basic training classes at OPOTA.

Sergeant Putnam was then asked to describe his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident on November 29, 2012. According to Sergeant Putnam, he and his detectives had been working a narcotics investigation in which they made a controlled narcotics purchase. Sergeant Putnam stated that he and several of his detectives were at the Cleveland Police Department Third District Police Station completing paperwork and processing evidence related to their narcotics investigation. Sergeant Putnam does not recall the exact time but stated he heard a radio broadcast on the Cleveland Police Department Third District radio channel concerning a vehicle pursuit which was entering the Third District from the Second District. According to Sergeant Putnam, the dispatcher provided very limited information regarding the pursuit and at this time he was only aware that a Cleveland Police Second District officer initiated the vehicle pursuit and that it had entered the Third District. At this time Sergeant Putnam switched over to the Cleveland Police Department Second District radio channel (channel 2) to monitor the pursuit while he and his detectives completed paperwork and evidence processing relative to the aforementioned narcotics investigation.

While monitoring the pursuit via the radio, Sergeant Putnam recalled hearing some specific radio traffic from the officers involved. According to Sergeant Putnam, he heard that the pursuit had entered the Steelyard Commons area and he heard a radio transmission which said something to the effect of "be careful they are pointing a gun." Sergeant Putnam does not recall which officer broadcast the information regarding the suspects pointing a gun or the exact words the officer used during the radio transmission. At this time, Sergeant Putnam went to the gun locker and retrieved his AR-15 patrol rifle. Once he retrieved his rifle, Sergeant Putnam met with Detective Ereg and requested that Detective Ereg drive him in unit 388 to the area of the pursuit. Detective Ereg and Sergeant Putnam then departed the Cleveland Police Department Third District Station and entered unit 388. Detective Ereg drove the vehicle and Sergeant Putnam was seated in the front passenger's seat. Sergeant Putnam and Detective Ereg continued to monitor the pursuit via radio as they departed the Cleveland Police Department Third District Station.

Sergeant Putnam recalled he and Detective Ereg drove to the area of 71 Street and Donald Road in Cleveland. Upon arriving in the aforementioned area, Sergeant Putnam observed an unknown number of marked Cleveland Police Department vehicles engaged in the pursuit. Sergeant Putnam did not see the suspect vehicle at this time. According to Sergeant Putnam, he and Detective Ereg entered the pursuit and remained behind all other police units involved. Sergeant Putnam recalled seeing additional marked Cleveland Police vehicles blocking intersections on various side streets along the pursuit route to deter uninvolved motorists from entering the

pursuit. Sergeant Putnam and Detective Ereg remained in the pursuit and continued to monitor radio traffic. According to Sergeant Putnam he heard a radio transmission indicating that a Cleveland Police zone car had been "rammed" by the suspect vehicle in the area of Wade Park.

Sergeant Putnam indicated that a short time later, the pursuit entered the parking lot of Heritage Middle School in East Cleveland. According to Sergeant Putnam, Detective Ereg parked unit 388 on a side street which runs parallel to the parking lot of Heritage Middle School in East Cleveland. Sergeant Putnam stated he heard gun shots upon arriving in the area of Heritage Middle School and he recalled telling Detective Ereg to "get low" upon hearing the gun shots. At this time Sergeant Putnam also recalled hearing an additional radio broadcast which stated "shots fired...officers shot at." Sergeant Putnam was unable to recall the exact wording of the radio transmission or the identity of the officer who made the broadcast. Sergeant Putnam stated he then exited unit 388 and walked approximately fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) feet down a hill and into the parking lot of Heritage Middle School in East Cleveland. Sergeant Putnam indicated he then made his way to the rear of Cleveland Police unit 238 which he used as cover. While using unit 238 as cover, Sergeant Putnam looked around the vehicle several times in an attempt to determine what was taking place. Sergeant Putnam recalled that the parking lot was dimly lit and he saw multiple officers firing their weapons in the direction of the suspect vehicle. Sergeant Putnam advised that the officers were in front of him and he is unable to recall the names of the individual officers. Sergeant Putnam recalled yelling to the other officers "watch your cross fire." According to Sergeant Putnam, the shooting stopped a short time after he warned officers about their cross fire. Sergeant Putnam indicated he remained at the rear of unit 238 during the incident and that he did not discharge either of his weapons (pistol or patrol rifle).

Once the shooting stopped, Sergeant Putnam used his portable radio and requested Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to respond to the scene. Sergeant Putnam stated he was unaware if his radio transmission was actually received by dispatch due to the large amount of radio traffic at the time. Sergeant Putnam also stated at the time he requested EMS he was unaware if anyone (suspects or officers) was injured. Sergeant Putnam advised he requested EMS to respond to the scene based on the number of gun shots he heard being fired. A short time later, an East Cleveland EMS unit arrived on scene. Sergeant Putnam stated he took no further actions while at the Heritage Middle School.

After the shooting stopped, Sergeant Putnam recalled seeing numerous Cleveland Police Officers standing in the playground area. Sergeant Putnam stated it appeared as though the officers were checking themselves to see if anyone was injured as the result of gun fire. Sergeant Putnam stated to his knowledge, no Cleveland Police Officers were injured as the result of this incident, including himself.

According to Sergeant Putnam he was in a state of shock after the shooting stopped. Sergeant Putnam indicated he does not recall any of the conversations he had with other officers and he does not recall overhearing conversations between other officers. Sergeant Putnam stated that two other detectives from his unit were involved in this incident and discharged their firearms. Sergeant Putnam indicated he has spoken with his detectives since this incident to determine their mental/physical status and offer assistance if needed. Apart from checking on the general

well-being of the detective in his unit, Sergeant Putnam stated he has not engaged in conversations regarding this incident with any other officers.

Sergeant Putnam indicated that based on his observations, he and the other officers involved in the pursuit on November 29, 2012 took actions which were consistent with their training. Sergeant Putnam advised that the information he provided was truthful and he is unable to provide any additional details regarding this investigation. At this time the interview with Sergeant Putnam was concluded. Sergeant Putnam, his attorney and Union representative then departed area.

Subject Information

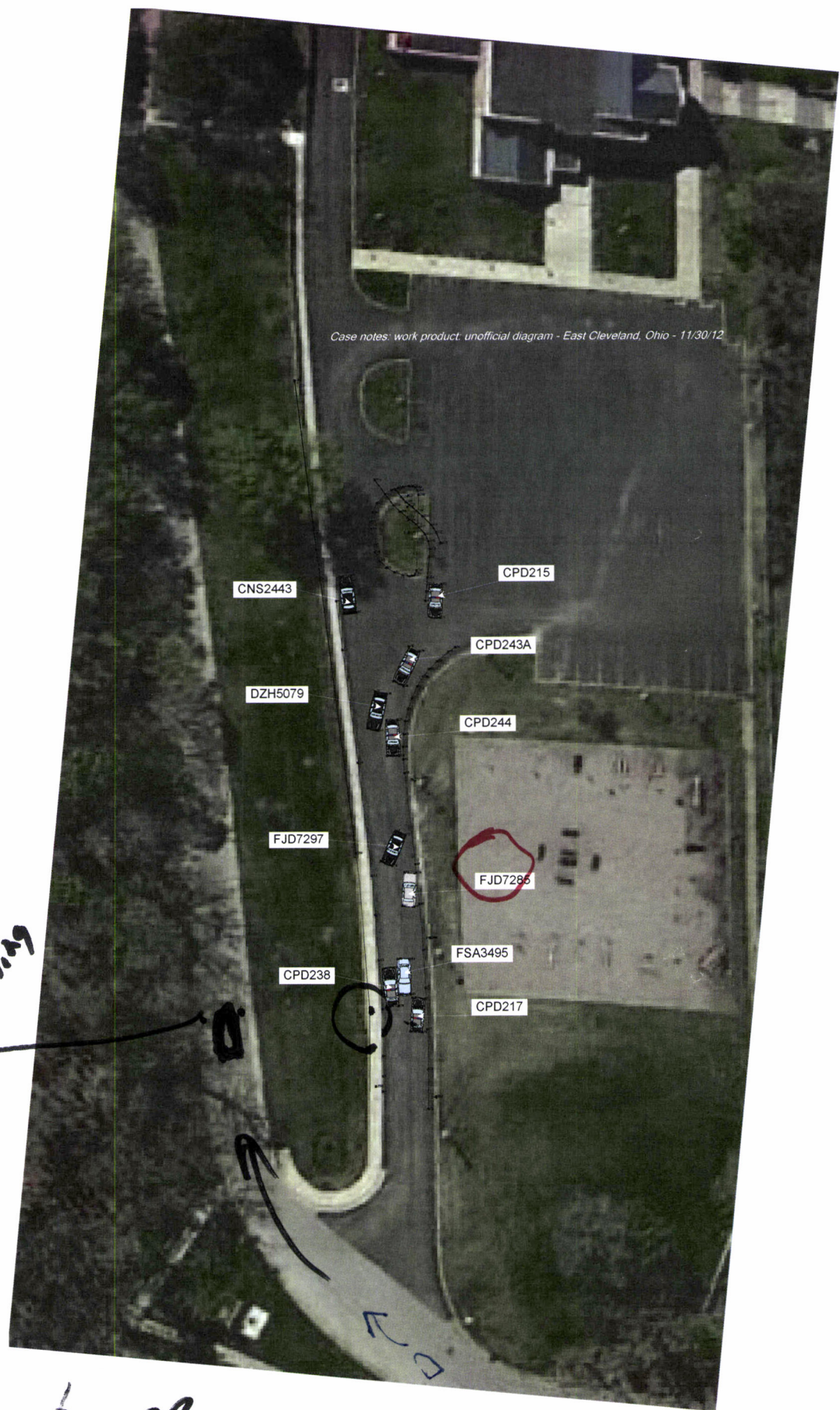
Name: Matthew D. Putnam
Address: [REDACTED] North Royalton, Ohio 44133
Telephone: [REDACTED] (personal cellular telephone)
Employment: Sergeant - Cleveland Police Department
DOB: 9-1-1969
SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 190 lbs.
Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Blue
S/V/W: W
CCH: No

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Interview w/ Sgt. Putnam

Case notes: work product: unofficial diagram - East Cleveland, Ohio - 11/30/12

Final Resting



L MPP
12 Dec 2012