



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



12/18/2012 INTERVIEW OF OFFICER VINCENT SCHNEIDER

Summary

On Tuesday, December 18, 2012, Detective Jacobs of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office and Special Agent Stranahan conducted an interview with Cleveland Police Officer Vincent Schneider regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Details

On Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at approximately 1940 hours, Detective Jacobs of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office and Special Agent Stranahan were assigned to conduct an interview with Cleveland Police Officer Vincent Schneider regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred on November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The interview with Officer Schneider was conducted at the Richfield BCI&I offices and was audio/video recorded and added to the file as Exhibit #32.

At approximately 1945 hours, Detective Jacobs and Special Agent Stranahan met with Officer Schneider, his attorney Patrick D'Angelo and Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association Vice President Steve Kinas in the conference room at the Richfield BCI&I offices. After initial greetings, Special Agent Stranahan advised Officer Schneider of his Miranda rights which he indicated he understood and was willing to provide a statement regarding this investigation. The following information was provided by Officer Schneider during the interview.

Officer Schneider indicated he has been a Cleveland Police Officer for approximately four (4) years and that he had no previous law enforcement experience. Officer Schneider stated he is currently assigned to the Community Services Unit within the Cleveland Police Department Third District Police Station. Officer Schneider is currently working second shift and his work hours are 1800 hours – 0200 hours. Officer Schneider stated his supervisor on November 29, 2012 was Sergeant Hutchinson and he does not recall working any part-time jobs prior to the start of his shift.

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>SA Stranahan</i>
Date of Report: December 18, 2012	Exhibit #: 32
Investigative Activity: Interview of Vincent Schneider	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet <i>[Signature]</i> JAN 10 2013

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The next topic discussed with Officer Schneider was the type of training he has received. Officer Schneider indicated he holds a current Peace Officer Certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Officer Schneider indicated that he served in the United States Marine Corps from 2002 through 2008. Officer Schneider stated he has combat experience as the result of his service in the United States Marine Corps. Officer Schneider indicated he is also certified as a Patrol Rifle Operator with the Cleveland Police Department and he carries an AR-15 patrol rifle in his patrol car while on duty. Officer Schneider indicated he last attended in-service training with the Cleveland Police Department in August of 2012. According to Officer Schneider, the in-service training included a firearms requalification and training in use of force. Officer Schneider indicated that in 2010 he was involved in an officer involved shooting incident and he has never received any disciplinary action.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Officer Schneider several questions related to his health and substance abuse. Officer Schneider advised he is in good health: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Officer Schneider stated he does not wear glasses and has no problems with drug or alcohol abuse.

Special Agent Stranahan next asked Officer Schneider questions regarding the type of uniform he was wearing and type of equipment he was carrying on November 29, 2012. According to Officer Schneider, he was wearing his Cleveland Police Department issued class B uniform during his shift on November 29, 2012. Officer Schneider described this uniform as consisting of navy blue pants, a navy blue shirt with Cleveland Police Department markings and a bullet resistant vest which is in an external navy blue carrier. Officer Schneider advised he was also wearing his issued duty belt which consisted of the following police issued equipment: (2) pairs of handcuffs, Glock 17 pistol, (2) extra magazines, pepper spray and a Taser with three cartridges. Officer Schneider stated all of his magazines were at full capacity and he was carrying a loaded .38 caliber five (5) shot revolver in an ankle holster as a back-up weapon. Officer Schneider also indicated he does not employ the use of any personal audio/video recording devices on his person or in his assigned patrol vehicle while on duty.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Officer Schneider questions concerning his assigned vehicle and zone assignment on November 29, 2012. Officer Schneider and his partner Officer Alfred Johnson were assigned patrol unit number 316 and their call sign was 3F25. Officer Schneider stated he was riding in the front passenger seat of unit 316 and Officer Johnson was driving the vehicle. Officer Schneider stated that unit 316 is equipped with working emergency lights, siren, spotlight, mobile radio and mobile data terminal (onboard computer system). Officer Schneider stated he and Officer Johnson normally monitor radio channel 3 on both their car radio as well as their portable radios; however, they switched their portable radios to channel 2 during the pursuit. Officer Schneider indicated he monitored both channels to ensure he had the most accurate information regarding the pursuit.

Special Agent Stranahan next spoke with Officer Schneider regarding how he first became

involved in the pursuit on November 29, 2012. According to Officer Schneider, he and Officer Johnson were on patrol when they overheard a radio broadcast on channel 3 which stated that Cleveland Police Department Second District Officers had been shot at in the area of the Justice Center. Officer Schneider then switched his portable radio to channel 2 to monitor radio traffic pertaining to the pursuit of the suspect vehicle.

While monitoring radio traffic, Officer Schneider and Officer Johnson made their way to the area of East 79 Street and Wade Park. Once they arrived in the aforementioned area, Officers Johnson and Schneider assisted by blocking an intersection so the pursuit could pass through the area. Officer Schneider then observed the suspect vehicle pass through the area at a high rate of speed followed by seven (7) to eight (8) Cleveland Police vehicles. According to Officer Schneider, this was the first time he observed the suspect vehicle. Officer Schneider advised that he was unable to maintain visual contact of the suspect vehicle after it passed through the area. Officers Johnson and Schneider then joined the pursuit and followed behind the other Cleveland Police vehicles that were involved.

While engaged in the pursuit, Officer Schneider recalled hearing radio traffic from one of the units involved that the suspects appeared to be "reloading" a gun and the suspects were moving around inside of the suspect vehicle. Officer Schneider was unable to identify the officer who made the aforementioned radio broadcasts but thought the broadcast came from one of the officers in the "lead car."

Officer Schneider stated that the pursuit continued eastbound on Euclid Avenue and entered the City of East Cleveland. Officer Schneider indicated he and Officer Johnson turned onto a side street south of Euclid Avenue but he is unable to recall the name of the street. Officer Johnson parked their patrol vehicle on the side street and they both exited the vehicle.

Upon exiting the vehicle, Officer Schneider recalled he heard gun fire coming from an area just south of his location. Officer Schneider advised he and Officer Johnson then ran south up a hill and into the parking lot of the Heritage Middle School which is located at 14410 Terrace Road in East Cleveland. By the time he arrived in the school parking lot, Officer Schneider recalled that the gun fire had stopped. Officer Schneider observed numerous Cleveland Police Officers approaching the suspect vehicle. Officer Schneider stated he also approached the suspect vehicle and came within several feet of the vehicle. Officer Schneider indicated he re-holstered his weapon once he determined that a threat no longer existed. Officer Schneider advised he then spoke with other officers on scene to ensure no one was injured. According to Officer Schneider, he and Officer Johnson were on scene for approximately one (1) hour before returning to their district. Officer Schneider indicated that while he was on scene he did not take any photographs with his cellular telephone and he did not receive any photographs via his cellular telephone from any other officers.

Officer Schneider 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 Officer Schneider was concluded and Officer Schneider, his attorney and Union representative departed the area. The interview with Officer Schneider was audio/video recorded and a copy of

the interview was downloaded to a DVD which was added to this case file as Exhibit #32.

Subject Information

Name: Vincent A. Schneider
Address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44111
Telephone: [REDACTED] (personal cellular telephone)
Employment: Officer - Cleveland Police Department
DOB: 11/15/1984
SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 6'00"
Weight: 170 lbs.
Hair: Black
Eyes: Blue
S/V/W: W
CCH: No
