



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



12/20/2012 INTERVIEW OF SGT. MARK BICKERSTAFF

Summary

On Thursday, December 20, 2012, Special Agent Saraya and Special Agent Stranahan conducted an interview with Cleveland Police Sergeant Mark A. Bickerstaff regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Details

On Thursday, December 20, 2012, at approximately 1840 hours, Special Agent Saraya and Special Agent Stranahan were assigned to conduct an interview with Cleveland Police Sergeant Mark Bickerstaff 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 Sgt. Bickerstaff was conducted at the Richfield BCI offices and was audio/video recorded and added to the file as Exhibit #77.

At approximately 1846 hours, Special Agent Saraya and Special Agent Stranahan met with Sgt. Bickerstaff, his attorney Robert Phillips and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8 President Brian Betley and Vice President Jerry Zarlenga in the conference room at the Richfield BCI offices. After initial greetings, Special Agent Stranahan advised Sgt. Bickerstaff 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 Sgt. Bickerstaff during the interview.

Sgt. Bickerstaff indicated he has been a Cleveland Police Officer for approximately eighteen (18) years and prior to being hired by the Cleveland Police Department, he had no law enforcement experience. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised he has never served in the Military and he is currently assigned as a sergeant in basic patrol within the Cleveland Police Department Third District. Sgt. Bickerstaff stated his normal work hours are 2200 hours – 0800 hours and his supervisor is Lieutenant Friedel. According to Sgt. Bickerstaff, Lieutenant Friedel was off duty on November 29, 2012 and he [Bickerstaff] was working overtime in Lieutenant Friedel's place.

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>JS</i>
Date of Report: December 20, 2012	Exhibit #: 77
Investigative Activity: Interview of Mark Bickerstaff	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet <i>[Signature]</i> JAN 14 2013

The next topic discussed with Sgt. Bickerstaff was the type of training he has received. Sgt. Bickerstaff indicated he holds a current Peace Officer Certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). Sgt. Bickerstaff last attended in-service training with the Cleveland Police Department in 2012 which included a firearms requalification as well as training in the use of force. Although Sgt. Bickerstaff received this training, he is unable to recall the exact date. Sgt. Bickerstaff stated in his career as a Cleveland Police officer he has been involved in one previous shooting incident (the dispatching of an animal).

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Sgt. Bickerstaff several questions related to his health and substance abuse. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised he is in good health and is not taking any prescription medications. Sgt. Bickerstaff stated he does not wear glasses and has no problems with drug or alcohol abuse.

Special Agent Stranahan next asked Sgt. Bickerstaff questions regarding the type of uniform he was wearing and type of equipment he was carrying on November 29, 2012. According to Sgt. Bickerstaff, he was wearing his Cleveland Police Department issued class B uniform during his shift on November 29, 2012. Sgt. Bickerstaff described this uniform as consisting of navy blue pants, a navy blue shirt with Cleveland Police Department markings and a bullet resistant vest. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised he was also wearing his issued duty belt and carrying all of the department issued equipment which consisted of: (2) pairs of handcuffs, Glock pistol and (2) extra magazines. Sgt. Bickerstaff stated all of his magazines were at full capacity and he was not carrying a back-up weapon. Sgt. Bickerstaff 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 Sgt. Bickerstaff questions concerning his assigned vehicle and zone assignment on November 29, 2012. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised he was driving patrol unit 355 and he did not have a partner. Sgt. Bickerstaff indicated his radio call sign is 3S24 and he was monitoring Cleveland Police Department radio channel 3. According to Sgt. Bickerstaff, patrol unit 355 is equipped with working emergency lights, siren, spotlight, mobile radio and mobile data terminal (onboard computer system).

Special Agent Saraya then asked Sgt. Bickerstaff how he first heard about the pursuit and how he became involved. According to Sgt. Bickerstaff, nothing remarkable was taking place to this point in his shift and officers were responding to and handling routine radio calls for service. Sgt. Bickerstaff stated he then heard the dispatcher report, on channel 3, that an officer had been shot at and is now involved in a vehicle pursuit. According to Sgt. Bickerstaff, Sgt. Shepard attempted to make contact with the officers involved in the pursuit via radio channel 3. After receiving no response and being unable to contact the officers involved, Sgt. Shepard then terminated the pursuit via channel 3. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised that the pursuit continued in the second district area and he monitored radio broadcasts concerning the pursuit via channel 2 on his portable radio.

Sgt. Bickerstaff recalled he then departed the second district police station and entered patrol unit

355. Sgt. Bickerstaff monitored radio broadcasts pertaining to the pursuit and drove to the area of Addison Road and Superior Avenue where he blocked the intersection. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised he then engaged in the pursuit and while following the pursuit he observed an unidentified second district zone car become disabled on Euclid Avenue due to a tire failure. Sgt. Bickerstaff remained with the disabled second district zone car and requested that dispatch notify East Cleveland Police Department to inform them the pursuit was entering their city. A short time later, Sgt. Bickerstaff heard a radio broadcast which reported that shots had been fired and he is unable to identify the officer who made the aforementioned radio broadcast. Sgt. Bickerstaff indicated he then departed the area and drove toward the Heritage Middle School which is located at 14410 Terrace Road in East Cleveland.

Upon arrival in the area, Sgt. Bickerstaff recalled he was forced to park on Wymore Road due to the number of Cleveland Police vehicles blocking the roadway. Sgt. Bickerstaff exited his patrol unit and began walking toward the school parking lot. Sgt. Bickerstaff advised he did not hear any gun shots while walking to the scene.

Upon arrival on scene, Sgt. Bickerstaff observed the scene had been secured with crime scene tape. Sgt. Bickerstaff stated he observed numerous Cleveland Police Officers standing in the school parking lot. Sgt. Bickerstaff observed the suspect vehicle parked at the east end of the school driveway and the suspect vehicle appeared to have been involved in a collision with two zone cars. Sgt. Bickerstaff also observed the suspect vehicle as well as several zone cars had bullet holes on their exteriors. Sgt. Bickerstaff described the scene as being "quiet" at this time and appeared to him as "surreal." At this time Commander Drummond arrived on scene and Sgt. Bickerstaff was detailed to begin writing down zone car numbers and identifying the officers on scene. Sgt. Bickerstaff indicated he documented the aforementioned information and provided the list to Lieutenant Timm of the Cleveland Police Department Homicide Unit. Sgt. Bickerstaff then departed the scene and returned to the third district police station.

Sgt. Bickerstaff 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 Sgt. Bickerstaff was concluded and Sgt. Bickerstaff, his attorney and Union representatives departed area. The interview with Sgt. Bickerstaff was audio/video recorded and a copy of the interview was downloaded to a DVD added to this case file as Exhibit #77.

Subject Information

Name: Mark A. Bickerstaff

Address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44103

Telephone: [REDACTED] (personal cellular telephone)

Employment: Sergeant - Cleveland Police Department

DOB: 2-20-1969

Interview of Mark Bickerstaff

SI-18-12-82-1493

Page 4

SSN:



Sex: Male

Race: Black

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 240 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

S/V/W: W

CCH: No
