



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



12/20/2012 INTERVIEW OF SGT. MICHAEL DONEGAN

Summary

On Thursday, December 20, 2012, Special Agent Saraya and Special Agent Stranahan conducted an interview with Cleveland Police Sergeant Michael P. Donegan 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 1800 hours, Special Agent Saraya and Special Agent Stranahan were assigned to conduct an interview with Cleveland Police Sergeant Michael Donegan 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. Donegan was conducted at the Richfield BCI offices and was audio/video recorded and was added to this file as Exhibit #78.

At approximately 1805 hours, Special Agent Saraya and Special Agent Stranahan met with Sgt. Donegan, 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. Donegan 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. Donegan during the interview.

Sgt. Donegan indicated he has been a Cleveland Police Officer for approximately thirteen (13) years and prior to being hired by the Cleveland Police Department, he was a part-time police officer for the Springfield Township Police Department in Mahoning County. Sgt. Donegan advised he has never served in the Military and he is currently assigned as a sergeant in basic patrol for the "C" platoon within the Cleveland Police Department Second District. Sgt. Donegan stated his normal work hours are 2000 hours – 0600 hours and his supervisor is Lieutenant Socha.

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>SAE</i>
Date of Report: December 20, 2012	Exhibit #: 78
Investigative Activity: Interview of Sgt. Donegan	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet <i>[Signature]</i> JAN 14 2013

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The next topic discussed with Sgt. Donegan was the type of training he has received. Sgt. Donegan indicated he holds a current Peace Officer Certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) as well as an instructor certification. Sgt. Donegan 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. Donegan received this training, he is unable to recall the exact date. Sgt. Donegan stated in his career as a Cleveland Police Officer he has never been involved in an officer involved shooting incident.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Sgt. Donegan several questions related to his health and substance abuse. Sgt. Donegan advised he is in good health and is not taking any prescription medications. Sgt. Donegan stated he wears glasses or contacts every day and has no problems with drug or alcohol abuse. Sgt. Donegan recalled he was wearing glasses during this shift on November 29, 2012.

Special Agent Stranahan next asked Sgt. Donegan questions regarding the type of uniform he was wearing and type of equipment he was carrying on November 29, 2012. According to Sgt. Donegan, he was wearing his Cleveland Police Department issued class B uniform during his shift on November 29, 2012. Sgt. Donegan described this uniform as consisting of navy blue pants, a navy blue shirt with Cleveland Police Department markings and a bullet resistant vest. Sgt. Donegan 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, an ASP baton, pepper spray, flashlight, portable radio and (2) extra magazines. Sgt. Donegan stated all of his magazines were at full capacity and he was not carrying a back-up weapon. Sgt. Donegan 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. Donegan questions concerning his assigned vehicle and zone assignment on November 29, 2012. Sgt. Donegan advised he was driving patrol unit 253 and he did not have a partner. Sgt. Donegan indicated his radio call sign is 2Sam33 and he was monitoring Cleveland Police Department radio channel 2. According to Sgt. Donegan, patrol unit 253 is equipped with working emergency lights, siren, mobile radio and mobile data terminal (onboard computer system). Sgt. Donegan recalled that the spotlight in patrol unit 253 is inoperable.

Special Agent Saraya then asked Sgt. Donegan how he first heard about the pursuit and how he became involved. According to Sgt. Donegan, his shift started out fairly "quiet" and officers were responding to and handling routine radio calls for service. Sgt. Donegan recalled he was in his office at the Cleveland Police Department Second District Station when he overheard a radio broadcast from Officer Nan. According to Sgt. Donegan, Officer Nan had been at the Cleveland Police Department Mobile Services unit which is located near the Justice Center. Officer Nan reported he had been shot at in this area and he was in pursuit of the suspect vehicle. At the time of Officer Nan's radio broadcast, Sgt. Donegan described that Officer Nan sounded scared due to the inflection he heard in Officer Nan's voice. At this time, Sgt. Donegan remained at the Cleveland Police Department Second District Station and continued to monitor radio traffic

concerning the pursuit. Sgt. Donegan recalled an additional radio broadcast which reported the suspect vehicle had been lost in the area of Prospect Street. A short time later, Sgt. Donegan heard Officers Hummel and Siefer broadcast that they had located the suspect vehicle traveling on the Detroit-Superior Bridge in Cleveland. According to Sgt. Donegan, Officers Hummel and Siefer then engaged in a vehicle pursuit with the suspect vehicle at this time.

Upon hearing the aforementioned radio broadcast, Sgt. Donegan departed the Cleveland Police Department Second District Station and entered patrol unit 253. Sgt. Donegan recalled hearing radio broadcasts which reported the suspect vehicle was traveling eastbound on Clark Road. Sgt. Donegan proceeded to the area of Fulton Road and Clark Road where he assisted by blocking the aforementioned intersection. As the pursuit passed, Sgt. Donegan observed the suspect vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed followed by approximately six (6) to eight (8) zone cars. Sgt. Donegan continued to monitor radio broadcasts concerning the pursuit and recalled hearing that the pursuit was in the area of Steelyard Commons and West 14 Street. Sgt. Donegan then began driving toward the area of West 14 Street. While traveling southbound on West 14 Street toward the area of the pursuit, the suspect vehicle passed Sgt. Donegan traveling northbound at a high rate of speed. Sgt. Donegan was unable to determine the number of suspects inside the suspect vehicle due to the speed in which the suspect vehicle was traveling. Sgt. Donegan then heard a radio broadcast which reported the suspect vehicle entered Interstate 90 and was traveling eastbound. Sgt. Donegan indicated he was in the area of Lincoln Park when he heard this broadcast and he decided to disengage from the pursuit.

Sgt. Donegan advised he then entered Interstate 90 and traveled eastbound. Sgt. Donegan exited Interstate 90 at Chester Street when he heard additional radio broadcasts reporting the suspect vehicle was traveling eastbound on Euclid Avenue. Sgt. Donegan then began traveling eastbound on Euclid Avenue through the University Circle area when he heard a radio broadcast reporting that shots had been fired. Sgt. Donegan continued eastbound on Euclid Avenue toward Heritage Middle School which is located at 14410 Terrace Road in East Cleveland.

Sgt. Donegan arrived in the area of the school and stated he parked his patrol unit on Wymore Road. According to Sgt. Donegan, he was unable to drive to the scene due to the number of Cleveland Police vehicles in the area and was forced to park on Wymore Road. Sgt. Donegan then exited his patrol unit and walked south on Wymore Road toward the parking lot of the school. Sgt. Donegan advised he did not hear any gun shots while walking to the scene.

Upon arrival on scene, Sgt. Donegan observed numerous Cleveland Police officers standing in the school parking lot. Sgt. Donegan stated the officers appeared to be checking each other for injury and described that the officers appeared to be in a state of shock. Sgt. Donegan recalled the emergency lights on the zone cars parked in the school parking lot were turned off and the scene appeared to have sufficient lighting due to street lights in the area. Sgt. Donegan advised he spoke briefly with Lieutenant Wilson and Sgt. Coleman but does not recall the exact nature of their conversation. Sgt. Donegan also observed officers deploying crime scene tape to secure the scene. Sgt. Donegan stated he then contacted Sgt. Dailey via cellular telephone to advise him of the situation. At this time, Sgt. Dailey told Sgt. Donegan that he [Dailey] was enroute to the scene. Sgt. Donegan then provided Sgt. Dailey with directions to the scene and recalled he

departed the scene and walked to the area of Wymore Road and Euclid Avenue to await Sgt. Dailey's arrival. Sgt. Donegan estimated he was on scene for approximately five (5) to ten (10) minutes before returning to the Cleveland Police Department Second District station. While on scene Sgt. Donegan did not take any photographs with his cellular telephone and stated he did not receive any photographs of the scene via his cellular telephone from any of the officers involved.

Sgt. Donegan indicated that throughout the pursuit he monitored the radio broadcasts of the officers involved. Sgt. Donegan recalled hearing several radio broadcasts which reported the suspects were pointing a gun out the back window of the vehicle. Sgt. Donegan also recalled hearing a radio broadcast which reported one of the suspects was pointing a gun over their shoulder and out the back window of the vehicle. Sgt. Donegan heard a radio broadcast which reported the suspects appeared to be loading a gun and at one point an officer reported the suspect(s) appeared to be reaching under the seat of the suspect vehicle. Sgt. Donegan was unable to identify the officers who made the aforementioned radio broadcasts and felt that the officers involved sounded as if they were "under control." According to Sgt. Donegan, Sgt. Dailey actively monitored the pursuit via the radio. Sgt. Donegan heard Sgt. Dailey ask the officers involved for the suspect vehicle's speed and at one point he heard Sgt. Dailey request the aviation unit.

Sgt. Donegan 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. Donegan was concluded and Sgt. Donegan, his attorney and Union representative departed area. The interview with Sgt. Donegan was audio/video recorded and a copy of the interview was downloaded to a DVD which was added to this case file as Exhibit #78.

Subject Information

Name: Michael P. Donegan
Address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44111
Telephone: [REDACTED] (personal cellular telephone)
Employment: Sergeant - Cleveland Police Department
DOB: 1-9-1971
SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 200 lbs.

Interview of Sgt. Michael Donegan

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Hair: Red

Eyes: Blue

S/V/W: W

CCH: No
