



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-0556

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 23897 US Rt 23, Circleville
43113 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Corporal Jon Campbell (S)
Date of Activity: 03/08/2023
Activity Location: Campbell, Corporal Jon – Business – 600 Island Rd., Circleville, OH
43113, Pickaway County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Tuesday, March 8, 2023, at 1353 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Pickaway County Deputy Corporal Jon Campbell (Corporal Campbell). The interview took place at the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) at 600 Island Rd., Circleville, Ohio. Corporal Campbell was identified as being a police officer who responded to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving now deceased Pamela Croston (Croston). The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to beginning the interview, SA Poole provided Corporal Campbell with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" form. SA Poole advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that PCSO may be conducting. Corporal Campbell was told his interview was voluntary and he could stop answering questions at any time. Corporal Campbell verbally confirmed he understood the contents of the form and signed the document further acknowledging his understanding. A copy of the signed Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) is attached to this report. Attorney Jon Sauter was also present and provided SA Poole with a written statement from Corporal Campbell regarding the OICI. SA Poole reviewed the statement upon receipt. Corporal Campbell signed his statement provided to BCI, and verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI. Please refer to Corporal Campbell's statement for further details. A copy of the signed written statement was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

Corporal Campbell stated, "At approximately 1:30 A.M. on Saturday, February 25, 2023, I was

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

driving home in my personal vehicle following the conclusion of my shift at the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. I witnessed two Pickaway County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles pass me at a high rate of speed, one of which had its lights and sirens activated. In response, I turned on my portable radio and learned that the vehicles had been dispatched to the Roadway Inn located on U.S. 23 in reference to a possibly suicidal female with a gun. I then heard Sgt. Joseph Hugus state on the radio that it was believed that the female, who I would later learn was named Pamela, was inside a motel room and had possibly barricaded herself in the room with a gun."

"When I arrived at the Roadway Inn I exited my personal vehicle and heard other deputies and law enforcement officers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and City of Circleville Police Department giving commands and telling a female to "drop the gun!" I retrieved my ballistic shield and took cover behind OSHP Trooper Moore's vehicle. From the cover of Trooper Moore's vehicle I was able to see Pamela who was standing inside a hotel room, behind a window, with a gun to her head. She was looking in our general direction in the parking lot. Pamela then exited the room and stepping outside onto a walkway. She was approximately 15 yards from our location. She fumbled briefly with the gun before placing against her head with her finger on the trigger. Myself and multiple officers tried to engage Pamela in order to convince her to drop the gun or place the gun on the ground. We told her that we would be able to help her get through whatever trauma she was going through at the time. After a few moments Pamela looked directly at Deputy Magaña and yelled something at time. I could not hear exactly what was said because she yelled while looking at Deputy Magaña and I was located to Pamela's left. It was clear she was agitated. She raised the gun and pointed it directly at Deputy Magaña. I believed that she was in the act of shooting Deputy Magaña. In order to stop the threat to Deputy Magaña's life, I fired my duty weapon at Pamela. I did so believing that if I failed to act, she would have shot him. I fired approximately six rounds. She fell to the ground and, within seconds, myself and others rushed toward her. I assisted with first aid while an ambulance was called to the scene."

SA Poole asked him if he had any specialized training or experience. Corporal Campbell stated yes, he had S.W.A.T training through the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

SA Poole asked if he could describe Croston's demeanor. Corporal Campbell stated she looked very agitated, but did not know why.

SA Poole asked if he ever saw Pamela fire her weapon. Corporal Campbell said, "no."

SA Douglass asked him if there were any verbal commands given to Croston. Corporal Campbell stated yes, officers tried to negotiate with her to de-escalate the situation for around five minutes.

SA Douglass asked if Croston had the handgun in her hand the whole time. Corporal Campbell said, "yes."

SA Poole asked at the time of the incident did he see any other options other than deadly force. Corporal Campbell said, "No" and explained she had a gun and pointed it Deputy Alfredo Magaña.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

SA Poole asked if he believes his actions and the actions of the officers around him were within their policies and procedures. Corporal Campbell said, "yes."

The interview concluded at 1404.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Jon Campbell 2023-03-08

Attachment # 02: Corporal Jon Campbell Signed statement and CIN

**STATEMENT OF
PICKAWAY COUNTY CORPORAL JON CAMPBELL JR.
REGARDING INCIDENT OF FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

I began full-time employment with the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office in April, 2021 as a Deputy Sheriff. I attained the rank of Corporal in January, 2023. Prior to joining the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office I worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Fayette County Sheriff's Office. I started at Fayette County in October, 2018 and I left in order to obtain my current employment with the Sheriff's Office. I joined the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office because it has a larger K9 program, and I desire to become a K9 handler. I completed my basic peace officer training in 2017 at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio. I also received an Associate's Degree from Hocking College in 2017. I do not have prior military experience.

My current supervisor at the Sheriff's Office is Sgt. Stacey Eitel. My regularly assigned work hours are from 3:00 P.M. until 1:00 A.M. I work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. My current assignment is road patrol. I am a member of the Office's SRT Team.

I wear contacts. I do not take prescription medication. I was not under the influence of alcohol or any drug, prescription or otherwise, on the date of the incident.

I have received no discipline, nor have I been the subject of any internal investigation at the Sheriff's Office related to any use of force. I had never used lethal force prior to the incident of February 25, 2023. I have used a Taser during my career as a law enforcement officer. My Taser use has been documented and has been found to be within agency policy.

I am familiar with the Sheriff's Office use of force policies, as they are accessible to me electronically and I am trained on various Sheriff's Office policies on a monthly basis, which includes training on use of force. I last reviewed these policies in February, 2023.

I carry a Glock 19 as my primary duty weapon. The pistol is issued to me by the Sheriff's Office. I last qualified for the weapon in October, 2022. I carry two (2) magazines on an outer carrier (vest), with one (1) additional magazine loaded in the pistol. There are fifteen (15) rounds of ammunition in each magazine. I typically load one (1) additional round of ammunition in the chamber of my duty weapon.

I had access to an AR-15 rifle and a Remington 870 shotgun in my patrol vehicle at the time of the incident. I did not use either of those weapons during the incident.

At the time of the incident, I was carrying the following items in my outer carrier: two (2) pistol magazines, one (1) rifle magazine (containing twenty (20) rounds of ammunition), two (2) handcuffs, my Glock 19 duty weapon, and flashlight. Additionally, I was carrying the following items on my duty belt: radio, Taser, tourniquet, and o/c spray.

On the date of the incident, I was well-rested, though I had worked the entirety of my shift which began on the afternoon of Friday, February 24. I had not worked any overtime or special duty prior to the start of that shift. I was dressed in the standard Buckeye State Sheriff's Association prescribed uniform. I was wearing a body-worn-camera in accordance with the Sheriff's Office body-cam policy. Because the call that led to the incident occurred after my shift ended, at the time I responded, I was driving my personal vehicle instead of a Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle.

At approximately 1:30 A.M. on Saturday, February 25, 2023 I was driving home in my personal vehicle following the conclusion of my shift at the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. I witnessed two Pickaway County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles pass me at a high rate of speed, one of which had its lights and sirens activated. In response, I turned on my portable radio and

learned that the vehicles had been dispatched to the Roadway Inn located on U.S. 23 in reference to a possibly suicidal female with a gun. I then heard Sgt. Joseph Hugus state on the radio that it was believed that the female, who I would later learn was named Pamela, was inside a motel room and had possibly barricaded herself in the room with a gun.

Because I had a ballistic shield in my personal vehicle and because I am on the Officer's Special Response Team (SRT), I began to drive to the scene so that I could assist.

When I arrived at the Roadway Inn I exited my personal vehicle and heard other Deputies and law enforcement officers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and City of Circleville Police Department giving commands and telling a female to "drop the gun!" I retrieved my ballistic shield and took cover behind OSHP Trooper Moore's vehicle. From the cover of Trooper Moore's vehicle I was able to see Pamela who was standing inside a hotel room, behind a window, with a gun to her head. She was looking in our general direction in the parking lot.

Pamela then exited the room and stepping outside onto a walkway. She was approximately 15 yards from our location. She fumbled briefly with the gun before placing against her head with her finger on the trigger.

Myself and multiple officers tried to engage Pamela in order to convince her to drop the gun or place the gun on the ground. We told her that we would be able to help her get through whatever trauma she was going through at the time.

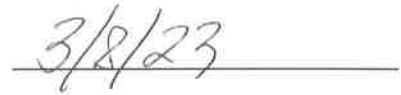
After a few moments Pamela looked directly at Deputy Magaña and yelled something at time. I could not hear exactly what was said because she yelled while looking at Deputy Magaña and I was located to Pamela's left. It was clear she was agitated. She raised the gun and pointed it directly at Deputy Magaña. I believed that she was in the act of shooting Deputy Magaña. In

order to stop the threat to Deputy Magaña's life, I fired my duty weapon at Pamela. I did so believing that if I failed to act, she would have shot him. I fired approximately six rounds. She fell to the ground and, within seconds, myself and others rushed toward her. I assisted with first aid while an ambulance was called to the scene.

I only learned her first name during the incident. I did not recognize Pamela and I do not believe that I had any prior interaction with her during my career as a law enforcement officer.



Corporal Jon Campbell Jr.



Date



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Jon Campbell
Printed Name of Interviewee

3/8/23 1:55PM
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

James Poole SA
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)