



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: ██████████ (S)
Date of Activity: 01/03/2023
Activity Location: Marion County Sheriff's Office – Business – 100 Executive Drive, Marion, OH 43302, Marion County
Author: SA Jason A. Snyder, #176

Narrative:

On 1/03/22, Special Agent (SA) Jason Snyder (Snyder) and Special Agent James Chandler (Chandler) with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), conducted a taped interview of Patrolman (Ptl) ██████████ (██████████) with the Marion Police Department (Marion PD). The interview was conducted at the Marion County Sheriff's Office (Marion SO) located at 100 Executive Dr., Marion, Oh. 43302.

Both SA Snyder and Ptl. ██████████ agreed to meet at this date and location. Ptl. ██████████ voluntarily agreed to speak to SA Snyder. Ptl. ██████████ also had in attendance Attorney Robert W. Sauter (Sauter), with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

Before taping began, SA Snyder introduced himself and briefly explained who he was and why he was there. SA Snyder advised Ptl. ██████████ that he was conducting a criminal investigation. SA Snyder advised Ptl. ██████████ that he was not conducting a "Garrity" investigation. Ptl. ██████████ was given a Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) form which he read. Sauter requested that the reading of the CIN be waived. SA Snyder granted the request. Ptl. ██████████ was asked if he understood the document and if he had any questions. Ptl. ██████████ stated that he understood the CIN and had no questions. Ptl. ██████████ signed the CIN acknowledging he understood what the form was notifying him of.

Ptl. ██████████ read a prepared statement to both agents (see statement of ██████████ for all details). In the statement, it stated he has been employed by the Marion PD for eight (8) years. During the incident, Ptl. ██████████ was wearing a sniper's uniform (camouflage gear). The uniform had a police patch on the front. He considered himself to be well rested before the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

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Ptl. ██████ attended Ridgedale High School, graduating in 1999. He also attended Ohio State University. He has no prior military service.

Ptl. ██████ carries a 9 mm Carbine as his primary duty weapon which was issued to him by the Marion PD. He last qualified with this weapon in the summer of 2022. That day, he carried two (2) magazines; one (1) which held thirty (30) rounds of ammunition and one (1) which was loaded into the weapon with twenty (20) rounds. The total amount of ammunition carried by Ptl. ██████ was fifty (50) rounds. He did carry a backup weapon which was a Glock 19. The Glock 19 was not used during the incident.

Ptl. ██████ had a Remington 700 rifle with him, but did not use this weapon during the incident.

On 12/20/22, Ptl. ██████ did not attend the morning briefing for the officers who were going to execute the search warrant that morning. He was briefed on the search warrant days earlier. He was advised that they were going to execute a search warrant at 256 N. Swain Avenue, La Rue. The search warrant was a narcotics search warrant from MARMET Drug Task Force. The name of the suspect was Travis Hellinger (Hellinger). He was advised that MARMET had narcotic buys on Hellinger up to that date. Also, Hellinger was a convicted felon and "armed to the teeth."

Ptl. ██████ positioned himself east of the search warrant location, near an abandoned car, near the railroad tracks. This was about one street east from the search warrant location. He was notified by Ptl. ██████ (█████) that Hellinger was walking east toward them. When Hellinger came close to Ptl. ██████ and Ptl. ██████ they made contact with him. Ptl. ██████ could see that Hellinger had a weapon on his side.

They told Hellinger that they were police. They notified Hellinger that there was a search warrant for the house and that he was not free to go. Hellinger refused to comply with their demands.

Hellinger started walking west on the railroad track and was flashing the officers with a bright light. Several members of the Marion SRT joined Ptl. ██████ and Ptl. ██████. Several of the officers told Hellinger that he was in custody, to stop walking and put his hand up. Hellinger refused to comply with officers' demands.

Additional commands were given to Hellinger to put down his weapons. Ptl. ██████ believed Hellinger was going to be arrested due to him being a felon with a firearm which is an arrestable offense.

While Hellinger was walking west on the railroad tracks, officers continued to walk in the same direction and continued to give him demands to stop. Hellinger did not comply. Officers advised Hellinger that a K-9 would be released if he did not stop and give up. Hellinger said that if they released the K-9, he would shoot it. One officer stated, "If you pull your gun, we will shoot you."

It was decided that the K-9 would be used in apprehending Hellinger. While the K-9 was approaching Hellinger, he pulled out a weapon and fired in the direction of the K-9 and

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officers. Ptl. ██████ could see Hellinger while he was pulling out the weapon and the direction Hellinger was pointing. Ptl. ██████ feared for the officers in the area and himself due to Hellinger pointing the weapon in their direction.

Ptl. ██████ heard shots from Hellinger. Due to this and the direction Hellinger was pointing his firearm, Ptl. ██████ fired his 9mm Carbine three (3) times at Hellinger. Hellinger fell to the ground.

Ptl. ██████ watch as several officers secured Hellinger and provided medical attention to him. Ptl. ██████ secured Hellinger's left arm and removed a pistol from under that arm. After the incident, Ptl. ██████ secured his weapon and was taken to Marion PD.

Ptl. ██████ showed agents a Google map of the area of the incident. He described the locations of people and items seen at the scene during the incident. This document was collected from Ptl. ██████ and added to the casefile.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions.

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