

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



2022–1564 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity:	Interview with Officer
Involves:	Cole Matthew White (S)
Date of Activity:	08/09/2022
Activity Location:	Clark County Sheriff's Office – 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, OH 45502, Clark County
Author:	SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1232 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Chad Eubanks at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Eubanks' representative/union Attorney, John Sauter. On July 24, 2022, Eubanks and other Clark County Sheriff's personnel responded to an "Officer Down" call at 1132 Ashwood Drive where Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by Cole White. Agent Ward read Eubanks the *Notice of Criminal Investigation Notification* (attached below) provided by the standard BCI form, which Eubanks acknowledged and signed.

Sergeant Eubanks had been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office since 1999 and promoted to sergeant in 2015. Eubanks has worked for Clark County Sheriff's Office for twenty-two years and currently assigned as a road patrol sergeant.

In late morning of July 24, 2022, Sergeant Eubanks stated he had worked the county fair when he responded the an officer down call at 1132 Ashwood Court. Eubanks responded in uniform of the day in a marked deputy sheriff's patrol vehicle. When Eubanks arrived, he drew his rifle and proceeded to a cluster of police vehicles. Eubanks took cover as more personnel filtered in and made moved the the BearCat once it arrived to the scene in front of 1132 Ashwood Court. Eubanks, through conversation, was briefed by officers as to the events. Eubanks "posted up" with Detective Snyder utilizing the BearCat as cover and he "creeped out", he heard a single loud gunshot followed by an exchange of gunfire. Eubanks stated the round struck the vehicle behind their position. Eubanks stated from his CCSO issued M4 rifle returned fire into the front windows of the trailer. Agent Ward asked Eubanks had the team moved up to recover Deputy Yates and stated he did not know and was unclear on the sequence, but was present when the team approached the trailer. Eubanks remained behind the BearCat until other police personnel

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arrived on scene. Agent Ward asked Eubanks how many rounds did he fire and could not recall; however, remembered his rifle had a malfunction, but was able to clear the jam. Agent Ward asked Eubanks if he observed any other officers fire their weapons and Eubank stated Snyder fired into the same area of the trailer as him.

Sergeant Eubanks observed the second attempt [Springfield Police SWAT] to recover Deputy Yates, the MRAP moved and collided with the trailer's awning, the team moved from the MRAP, heard gunshots and the team backed out. According to Eubanks, Detective Nawman fell and was believed to be shot, but later determined was a [mechanical] leg injury. Eubanks remained on the scene and was present when gas was deployed in the trailer, but was eventually relieved along with most Clark County Sheriff's personnel. Eubanks stated he had already withdrawn from the scene when Yates was recovered.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Sergeant Eubanks at 1245 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Eubanks.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-09 / Sgt. Chad Eubanks interview Attachment # 02: Notice of Crim. C Eubanks

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2





Bureau of Criminal Investigation Office 740-845-2181 Fax 740-845-2020

1560 SR 56, PO Box 365 London, OH 43140 www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

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).

had Eubanks

Printed Name of Interviewee

Signature of Interviewee

BCI Agent (Printed)

BCI Agent (Signature)

<u>8/9/22</u> 1235 Date/Time