



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: East District CCSO – Business – 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, OH 45502, Clark County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1130 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Detective Jon Snyder at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Snyder's representative/union Attorney, John Sauter. On July 24, 2022, Snyder 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 Detective Snyder the *Notice of Criminal Investigation Notification* (attached below) provided by the standard BCI form, which Snyder acknowledged and signed. Snyder had been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office for twenty-years. Snyder has been assigned to the detective section for five-years and a member of the SOT team.

Detective Snyder received an "Active 911" notification reference a shooting and figured it was a detective call out. While proceeded to the location, Sergeant Jones was to pick up the BearCat at the fairgrounds. Snyder realized the call out was reference an officer down. Because Jones's vehicle had broken down on her way to the fairgrounds, Snyder diverted, retrieved the BearCat and was able to pick up Jones and proceeded to the incident location.

Once on the scene, Detective Snyder was informed by Major Clark that the Special Operations Team (SOT) team was to attempt a rescue of Deputy Matt Yates from the trailer. Snyder pulled the BearCat in "directly" in front of the trailer to provide cover for road units that had no "hard cover" and were still on scene. As the road units retreated to the BearCat for cover, the SOT team members exited the rear of the BearCat, approached the trailer and Snyder exited the driver's seat to provide cover for the team from the front of the BearCat. The team members proceeded up the steps to the landing and began to "take live fire" from inside the trailer. As

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the team retreated, the front window of the trailer 'blew out' from "live fire" toward Snyder and other deputies in front of the trailer. Snyder described one round struck an unmarked detective's vehicle and another round struck the side of the BearCat. Snyder stated he was positioned next to Deputy Chad Eubanks and both returned fire. Snyder discharged his Rock River M4 rifle between seven and fifteen times/rounds from a thirty round magazine loaded to capacity. When he was able to do so, Snyder conducted an "administrative reload".

Detective Snyder stated the team remained on scene, in position while Springfield police and Greene County tactical units began to filter in. The team was pulled from their position to hydrate and regroup. According to Snyder, the team was to deploy to the area for a second attempt to recover Deputy Yates. During the second attempt, the Springfield police along with Clark County Detective Nawman, came under fire and the attempt was an unsuccessful recovery of Yates.

On the final attempt, Detective Snyder stated he was present in the BearCat when distraction devices. CS gas was used through the front and back of the trailer when Yates was eventually recovered and placed inside the BearCat. Snyder believed the Greene County Regional SWAT was able to extract Yates from the trailer. During the final attempt to recover Yates, Snyder stated it was apparent one of the distraction devices 'Flash Bang' was deployed inside the trailer because "the smoke was different" and believed it ignited something within the trailer.

Agent Ward asked Detective Snyder if the MRAPs struck the trailer on the final recovery attempt of Yates and he stated no. The trailer was hit prior to the recovery and believed the goal was to tear a hole for a view inside the trailer. According to Snyder, when the trailer was struck, it move off the blocks and there was a concern the gas line would rupture.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Detective Snyder at 1146 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Snyder.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Notice of Crim Invest. Det. Jon Snyder

Attachment # 02: 2022-08-09 / Det. Jon Snyder Audio Interview

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Exhibit 1



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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).

JONATHAN SANDER
Printed Name of Interviewee

8/9/2022 1130
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

S/A R WARD
BCI Agent (Printed)

S/A R WARD
BCI Agent (Signature)

Exhibit 2

Included as a separate file.