



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



2024-1814  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8401 South Dixie Highway,  
Rudolph, Ohio 43462

**Investigative Activity:** Body Camera Review  
**Involves:** Deputy Samuel M Miller (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 06/20/2024  
**Author:** SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

**Narrative:**

On June 20, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) reviewed the body camera footage (footage) belonging to Deputy Samuel Miller (Miller) of the Wood County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) pertaining to the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that resulted in the death of George Eric Taylor (Eric).

The first segment of the footage was identified as "SMiller\_1756\_061624064836\_90" and began recording at 01:27:07 on June 16, 2024. The duration of the video footage is 59 minutes 59 seconds long.

The footage begins with officers walking up towards the front door of a residence. The residence is not identified at this time on the recording, but the address was identified as 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio.

Multiple attempts were made by Miller at Eric's front door until 01:28:55 when Eric responds through his ring camera speaker and identified himself as "George". Miller identified himself and requested to speak with Eric. Eric refused to come out.

At 01:29:20 an individual next to Miller, later seen to be Matt Patton (Patton) requests Eric to come out to talk as well. Patton identified himself to Miller and attempted the key code to the front door unsuccessfully at 01:29:47. Eric also refused to allow Patton into the residence as well. Patton was identified as Eric's best friend and remained present at the scene in company with WCSO and Eric during the entirety of the body camera footage.

At 01:30:06 Eric informed Miller that his name "aint George mother fucker", Miller apologized and voice off camera can be heard telling Miller to call him Eric.

At approximately 01:30:33 Miller walks around the front of Eric's residence and into the garage area. Patton is seen walking into the house from the garage. Patton is heard saying "dont you do this to me" and "dont you dare" as Miller moves quickly to the open door. Eric is

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on  
07/03/2024

heard crying in the back ground.

At 01:30:46 Miller walks into the living room of the residence and Eric can be seen on the couch with a knife out, pointed towards Miller. Miller alerted the radio that Eric had a knife. Eric is heard telling Miller to "put your taser away", and getting defensive that Miller is in his residence.

Patton continued to talk to Eric making comments such as "she aint worth it" and continuing to tell Eric to "look at me (Patton)". Miller tells Eric to put the knife down as Eric asked him "do you wanna fight".

At 01:31:30 Eric gets up from his seated position on the couch and appeared to move toward the house door by the garage where Miller and other Deputies with WCSO were located. A piece of paper is seen attached to the front of the hooded sweatshirt that Eric is wearing.

A WCSO Deputy, unidentified at this time but revealed later to be Deputy Michael Shaffer (Shaffer), moved in front of Miller with his gun drawn and aimed toward Eric.

At 01:31:44 Eric is seen drinking something and standing with the knife as the WCSO Deputies continue to command Eric to put the knife down.

Additional conversation took place between the WCSO and Eric. Including multiple insults from Eric toward the WCSO Deputies. Patton continued to try and get Eric to focus on him, expressing to Eric "dont fucking do this to me", and telling Eric to put the knife down.

The conversations continue with the WCSO Deputies attempting to get Eric to put the knife down as they discuss reasons as to why Eric does not need to "do this". Eric and Shaffer argue over the size of a "reactionary gap" due to Eric being upset at the WCSO for having their weapons drawn and pointed towards him. Multiple comments are made by WCSO indicating that they do not want to shoot Eric and that he needed to put the knife down. Eric argued that the WCSO needed to leave his house.

At 01:34:57 Eric appeared to get angry specifically at Shaffer for having his firearm pointed directly at him (Eric). This created an argument with Eric expressing that Shaffer did not need to have his weapon pointed towards him "point blank". Shaffer told Eric multiple times that he would put his weapon away if Eric put in knife down.

At 01:35:41 Shaffer is seen putting his weapon up against his chest and no longer had it directly pointed at Eric.

At 01:35:50 Eric is heard telling the other officers that Shaffer is not "understandable". At this time Miller is heard telling Shaffer to "take a step back". Shaffer raises his weapon again as Eric tells him "I will fuck you up" if Shaffer pointed his weapon at him again.

At 01:36:04 Shaffer moved his weapon back into the "low ready" position and continued to back away as Eric continued to insult him.

Eric agreed to continue speaking with Miller. Miller and Eric proceed to have a calmer discussion.

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At 01:37:51 Patton began to explain that Eric and his wife, Jessica Taylor (Jessica), separated today and that Jessica kicked Eric out of her house and Eric moved back to 8401 South Dixie Highway. Patton described that Eric had a rough day, and that Shaffer did not help the situation.

Miller kept trying to get Eric and Patton to speak with him and not to direct the conversation to Shaffer.

At 01:38:50 Eric and Patton began talking about Eric's mental situation and how Eric's mother accused him of being like his father, and that was one of the reasons that Eric was upset.

At 01:40:48 Shaffer advised that once another officer arrives, he will leave the scene due to Eric having negative reactions towards him. Shaffer apologized for how Eric perceived him.

At 01:41:53 Sergeant Chris Reynolds (Reynolds) arrived on-scene and took Shaffer's position. Eric described to Reynolds why he had an issue with Shaffer and how Shaffer was pointing his gun directly towards him.

At 01:42:40 Eric commented that he would cut his own throat with a knife if he wanted to in his own house. Eric then talked about his time in the military to Miller and Reynolds.

At 01:44:54 Patton commented that Eric promised to call him if he became "overwhelmed" and Patton asked Eric why he did not do that.

At 01:45:00 Patton told Eric he received a call from his ex-wife telling him to get to Eric because he needed help.

At 01:46:00 Patton acknowledged that someone else called 911 in order to get Eric help. Patton used that as an example of someone caring enough to get Eric help.

At 01:47:15 Eric described how Wood County and the nearby area does not have good enough resources to deal with veterans, and there is no where he can go for the help needed.

At 01:49:37 Patton says "Eric dont do that dammit" and walks out of view of Miller's footage. Miller acknowledged that Eric did something and expressed that they were there to help him. Multiple additional pleas from Miller and Patton directed to Eric are made in order to get Eric to drop the knife.

At 01:53:31 Eric agreed to "keep on talking" with Miller and Reynolds. No statement or action was made regarding Eric agreeing to put the knife down.

At 01:53:44 Miller continued to talk with Eric and inquired as to why Eric's flag out front was upside down. Eric and Miller continued with a peaceful discussion regarding the flag and other questions Eric had regarding Millers job, the WCSO command staff, and multiple locations in Wood County where people have their flags hanging upside down.

At 02:00:11 the question "hey what are you doing?" is directed towards Eric. No response came from this comment, but Eric continued to talk about Shaffer and how Eric perceived him as a bad cop.

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At 02:02:17 Eric stated that "this is a learning tool" and told Miller and Reynolds to bring Shaffer back in, and "see what he has to say". Eric mentioned that he "likes you Sam" when talking to Miller.

At 02:02:58 Shaffer returned back to the living room and answered some questions Eric directed towards him. Eric asked Shaffer questions as to why he reacted the way he did when Shaffer first arrived at the scene. Shaffer explained his situation and why he had his gun pointed towards Eric during the initial contact. Shaffer apologized multiple times for his reaction and attempted to leave the room again but continued to engage verbally with Eric.

At 02:03:37 Eric asked, "are you ready" as all WCSO Deputies comment back to Eric not to "do it". None of this is in view of Miller's body camera, and there was no indication as to what Deputies were telling Eric not to do.

At 02:10:08 Eric advised "im ready" before asking Shaffer again if he was ready. Multiple pleas are made from Deputies and Patton for Eric not to do this.

At 02:11:15 Eric asked Patton "can you follow the instructions on my chest", before repeating the same question multiple times shortly afterward. Patton yelled that he would but continued to plea with Eric to put down the knife. WCSO Deputies also continued to request that Eric put down the knife.

At 02:12:22 Patton proceeds to walk up to Eric and retrieve the instructions attached to the front of Eric's hooded sweatshirt. Patton acknowledges that the only reason he was doing that was because he trusted Eric. Once Patton retrieved them Eric told him to "go".

WCSO Deputies continued to plead with Eric as Eric commented that he wanted the WCSO "to call her (Jessica)". Reynolds took possession of the instructions and read them out of view of Miller's footage.

At 02:15:32 Eric stated, "as soon as you get ahold of her (Jessica), I'll put it (the knife) down".

At 02:15:40 Patton can be heard telling Eric that Reynolds was either speaking with Jessica or leaving a voicemail at that moment. Miller continued to plea with Eric to put the knife down. Eric kept the knife held to his throat and said he was going to cut his throat.

At 02:16:37 Reynolds indicated that he left Jessica a voicemail. Eric advised that he was going to keep the knife to his throat until Jessica returned the call. Eric continued to talk about watching people die and killing people in the military. Eric also discussed an individual that was "t-boned" recently as Eric was working for Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

At 02:23:20 Eric asked Miller if he could put his gun away. Miller asked in return if Eric could put the knife down. Eric told Miller that if he put his gun away and took out Miller's taser, Eric would put his knife on the table. Eric and Miller both followed the agreement.

At 02:26:38 Eric asked if he was going to be charged for "something", Miller responded "no". Miller also promised Eric that he was not going to be charged.

At 02:27:01 Miller is heard telling Eric not to pick up the knife and reminding Eric that he

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promised he would not pick up the knife.

The footage for this segment ends at 02:27:07.

The first segment of the footage was identified as "SMiller\_1756\_061624064839\_91". According to the time stamp on the body camera the footage begins at 00:00:19 on January 1, 2016. The duration of the video footage is 35 minutes and 14 seconds long. According to a separate time stamp observed if the footage is viewed directly from "Getac" the recording begins at 03:13:00 on June 16, 2024. When viewing the other footage from Miller's body camera directly from "Getac" the time stamp is approximately three (3) seconds off of the time stamp on the body camera, which was utilized in the previously reviewed footage.

The footage from this segment took place after the OICI concluded and Emergency Medical Staff (EMS) were already attending to Eric. SA Rammel ceased viewing this footage due to Miller being approached by WCSO administration on-scene and the OICI having already concluded.

On June 20, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Lieutenant Jeremy Holland (Holland) with the WCSO regarding the gap in time associated with Miller's footage. Holland informed SA Rammel that the body camera utilized by Miller had an unknown malfunction that caused the camera to not work and then reset itself improperly during the time when no footage was being recorded. Holland indicated that the company who made the camera, GETAC, had been in contact with the WCSO and advised that there was no known reason for the malfunction, nor was there any way for the missing footage to be recovered. GETAC agreed to provide written documentation that the malfunction was not caused by the WCSO, but by an unknown reason through GETAC. SA Rammel requested a copy of the documentation in order to add it to the investigation. Holland agreed.

The body camera footage described in this report is only the events deemed important to the investigation. The footage provided by the WCSO regarding Miller was placed on an external USB drive attached to this investigation. The footage was labeled Attachment A. See the attachment for the complete body camera footage.

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