



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Body-Worn Camera Videos Received
Involves: Brookfield Township Police Department (O)
Activity Date: 3/22/2023
Activity Location: Brookfield Township Police Department –
 6844 Strimbu Drive, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403
Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On March 22, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Tingley (Tingley) received a USB flash drive from Brookfield Township Police Department (BTPD) Chief Daniel Faustino. SA Tingley later provided the USB flash drive to SA Chuck Moran (Moran). The USB flash drive contained body-worn camera (BWC) video files related to the incident and officer-involved shooting that occurred on March 21, 2023 in Brookfield Township.

The USB flash drive contained the following body-worn camera (BWC) video files:

- 1_20230321-01075153_1130s5_2301B400466_██████████
- 1_20230321-01380359_1130s5_2301B400466_██████████
- 1_20230321-02080357_1130s5_2301B400466_██████████
- 1_20230321-01082201_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS
- 1_20230321-01380199_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS
- 1_20230321-02080206_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS
- 1_20230321-02380198_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS

SA Moran performed a cursory review of the video files and noted the following:

- 1_20230321-01075153_1130s5_2301B400466_██████████

This video file was 30 minutes and 12 seconds long (30:12). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to Brookfield Township Police Department (BTPD) Sergeant (Sgt.) ██████████ (██████). The video file began as officers walked along the driveway of the residence located at 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403.

Music was heard (likely coming from the truck or cabin) as the officers continued walking along the driveway toward the cabin (07:24).

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Officers began providing verbal commands and activated their weapon-mounted flashlights as the subject, Fred Wild III (Wild), exited the cabin window and entered the truck (08:11).

The video recorded the incident and the shooting incident. Sgt. [REDACTED] was positioned near the passenger side of the truck as Wild drove it forward. Sgt. [REDACTED] fired his rifle during the incident. A full video review of the incident and shooting incident will be documented in another BCI report.

Sgt. [REDACTED] radioed about shots being fired (08:37).

Sgt. [REDACTED] used his ASP baton to strike and break the passenger door window of the truck (08:50).

Sgt. [REDACTED] opened the passenger door (09:30).

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Sgt. Timothy Grimm (Grimm) approached and asked who [REDACTED] was. Sgt. [REDACTED] identified himself and said he ejected a magazine. It was believed that Sgt. Grimm handed Sgt. [REDACTED] his rifle magazine (10:06).

Sgt. [REDACTED] asked BTPD Officer (Ofc.) Joshua Ellwood-Bellas (Ellwood-Bellas) if he fired and he said he did not fire (11:15).

Sgt. [REDACTED] spoke with Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Deputy [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). Sgt. [REDACTED] said he activated his weapon light because Wild looked out of the cabin at officers. [REDACTED] said Wild did not hesitate to jump into the truck (11:36).

Sgt. [REDACTED] and other officers placed their rifles in the backseat of OSHP Trooper Kevin Brown's (Brown) cruiser (14:35).

Sgt. [REDACTED] approached Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas and Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas said he never took his rifle off of "safe." Sgt. [REDACTED] checked Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas' magazine (16:02).

Sgt. [REDACTED] made a phone call to BTPD Chief Faustino (16:57 through 18:42).

Sgt. [REDACTED] radioed the license plate number attached to the truck (19:33).

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Sgt. [REDACTED] met with the paramedics and asked them to confirm that Wild as deceased (20:14).

Sgt. [REDACTED] obtained scene tape from another officer (25:15).

Sgt. [REDACTED] began placing scene tape in the area where the ambulance parked in the driveway (26:40).

Sgt. [REDACTED] spoke with a paramedic and he said he spoke with a doctor and the time of the death was 0136 hours and all of the information was logged in the CAD report (28:42).

The video recording ended (30:12).

- 1_20230321-01380359_1130s5_2301B400466_[REDACTED]

This video file was 30 minutes long (30:00). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to BTPD Sgt. [REDACTED]. The video file began after the incident and shooting incident.

Sgt. [REDACTED] spoke with Deputy [REDACTED] about having to activate his flashlight because Wild heard an officer step on a stick in the woods and broke it. Deputy [REDACTED] mentioned that he tried breaking the window and was fearful that Wild was going to run someone over. Sgt. [REDACTED] said another group of officers was "right there" (03:43).

Sgt. [REDACTED] spoke with another group of officers including Deputy [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] about having to activate his flashlight because Wild was alerted by someone breaking a stick. He spoke about how the truck was set up near the cabin and how he tried to go in front of the plow to grab Wild but he could not get around the truck (04:55).

BTPD Detective Sgt. Aaron Kasiewicz (Kasiewicz) arrived and Sgt. [REDACTED] provided him with a brief overview of the incident (06:38).

Sgt. [REDACTED] spoke with Deputy [REDACTED] and Trooper Brown near the cabin and mentioned how Wild looked out the window (08:34).

Sgt. [REDACTED] was heard saying that Wild made the decision to drive forward and did not care who or what was in front of him (15:51). Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] spoke with Sgt. [REDACTED] about when Wild was alerted to the presence of the officers.

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Trooper Brown (20:03) and TCSO Sgt. Carr moved their cruisers backward along the driveway and outside the scene tape (21:15).

The video recording ended (30:00).

- 1_20230321-02080357_1130s5_2301B400466_██████████

This video file was 18 minutes and 18 seconds long (18:18). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to BTPD Sgt. ██████████. The video file began after the incident and shooting incident.

Sgt. ██████████ said “admin” and turned off the sound to his BWC (09:59).

The video recording ended (18:18).

- 1_20230321-01082201_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS

This video file was 29 minutes and 40 seconds long (29:40). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to BTPD Ofc. Joshua Ellwood-Bellas (Ellwood-Bellas). The video file began as officers walked along the driveway of the residence located at 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403.

Officers began providing verbal commands and activated their weapon-mounted flashlights as the subject, Fred Wild III (Wild), exited the cabin window and entered the truck (07:39).

The video recorded the incident and the shooting incident. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was located in the wooded area to the east of the cabin and some distance from the front and driver's side of the truck as Wild drove it forward. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas did not fire his rifle during the incident. A full video review of the incident and shooting incident will be documented in another BCI report.

Officers approached the truck and VTPD Ofc. ██████████ said Wild was not moving and opened the driver's side front door (08:16).

Deputy ██████████ walked in view of Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas' BWC and appeared that his rifle did not have a magazine in it (08:57).

Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas said that he did not fire (09:24).

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Ofc. ██████ said Wild almost hit an officer with the snowplow (11:38).

Ofc. ██████ said another officer on the passenger side of the truck fired and then he fired (12:53).

Sgt. ██████ checked Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas' rifle magazine (15:32).

The paramedics approached the area near the truck (19:50).

Sgt. ██████ said he was not certain when his BWC fell to the ground (20:57).

Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas walked back to the roadway in front of the residence (25:58).

The video recording ended (29:40).

- 1_20230321-01380199_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS

This video file was 30 minutes long (30:00). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to BTPD Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas. The video file began after the incident and shooting incident. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was near the roadway in front of the residence.

BTPD Chief Faustino arrived and checked Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas rifle (29:11).

The video recording ended (30:00).

- 1_20230321-02080206_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS

This video file was 30 minutes long (30:00). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to BTPD Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas. The video file began after the incident and shooting incident. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was in his cruiser in the roadway in front of the residence.

Other law enforcement officers arrived at the scene throughout the video.

The video recording ended (30:00).

- 1_20230321-02380198_1130s5_2301B400464_ELLWOOD-BELLAS

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This video file was 17 minutes and 8 seconds long (17:08). The video file was from a BWC that was attached to BTPD Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas. The video file began after the incident and shooting incident. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was in the roadway in front of the residence.

Other law enforcement officers arrived at the scene throughout the video.

Trooper Boyle spoke about how he was in front of the snowplow when Wild started to drive the truck forward (08:17).

The video recording ended (17:08).

Reference Item:

The USB flash drive provided by the BTPD was submitted to the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item B.