



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: Christopher Reynolds (W)
Date of Activity: 06/20/2024
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On July 1, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) reviewed the body camera footage (footage) belonging to Sergeant Chris Reynolds 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 "CReynolds_1756_061624063037_14" and began recording at 01:40:53 on June 16, 2024. The duration of the video footage is one (1) hour (60 minutes) long.

The footage begins with Reynolds walking towards the residence of George Eric Taylor (Eric).

At 01:41:18 Reynolds took position in the doorway from the garage into the house behind Deputies Samuel Miller (Miller) and Michael Shaffer (Shaffer).

At 01:41:23 Reynolds takes position where Shaffer previously was as Shaffer is observed walking past Reynolds into the garage. A white piece of paper is observed attached to the front of Eric's sweatshirt. Eric is also observed holding a large bottle of alcohol and drinking it throughout the interaction with WCSO. Also present is Matt Patton (Patton). Patton was identified as Eric's best friend and remained in company with Eric and WCSO during the entirety of the incident.

At 01:41:43 Reynolds identified himself, as Eric thanked Reynolds for holstering his weapon and helping to deescalate the situation. Eric expressed that Shaffer kept his weapon aimed at him the whole time and began to get angry.

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 01:44:09 Patton stated that the proximity to Father's Day, Eric's wife, and deep-down issues with the military were all playing a part in how Eric was acting.

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At 01:44:54 Patton commented that Eric promised to call him (Patton) 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 (Patton) to get to Eric because he needed help.

At 01:45:58 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 01:47:00 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 01:48:43 Eric described how there is no help for "south of 6'ers" like himself and expressed that he needed help.

At 01:49:28 as Patton is talking about driving Eric up to Toledo in order to get help, Eric puts the knife up to his throat. Patton continued to plea with Eric to put the knife down. Miller and Reynolds also keep talking with Eric trying to convince Eric to put the knife down.

At 01:53:33 Miller can be heard talking with Eric and asked 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 01:59:03 an alert is heard going off indicating someone was approaching the house by the garage. Reynolds was able to confirm for Eric that it was Shaffer who was still outside the residence near the garage.

At 02:00:02 Eric began to walk towards the back sliding door's curtains. Eric reached behind the curtain in order to check that the door was locked.

At 02:00:30 Eric talked about how Shaffer is going to get the WCSO "into a lawsuit". Reynolds expressed that it was Shaffer's lack of experience and not a malicious intent that cause the issues with Eric when WCSO first arrived.

At 02:02:31 Reynolds approached Shaffer outside of the garage and informed Shaffer that Eric wanted to talk with him. Shaffer expressed his reluctance before agreeing to go back inside.

At 02:02:58 Shaffer returned back to the living room and answered some questions Eric directed towards him. Eric asked Shaffer questions about why he (Shaffer) reacted the way he did when Shaffer first arrived at the scene. Shaffer explained his situation and why he had his gun pointed toward 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 02:09:30 Eric stated that Shaffer had his gloves on and asked "are you ready" as Eric held the knife to his throat. Multiple pleas were made by WCSO Deputies and Patton in order to try and get Eric to put the knife down.

At 02:10:00 Eric stated, "I'm ready".

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At 02:10:17 Reynolds had Shaffer leave the living room area again and head back through the garage.

At 02:11:10 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 02:12:17 Patton walked up to Eric and retrieved the instructions attached to the front of Eric's hooded sweatshirt. Patton acknowledged that the only reason he was doing that was because he trusted Eric. Once Patton retrieved them Eric told him to "go, go".

WCSO Deputies continued to plead with Eric as Eric commented that he wanted the WCSO "to call her (Jessica)" but continued to keep the knife at his throat.

At 02:13:22 Reynolds took possession of the instructions from Patton and read the instructions that were received from Eric.

At 02:13:59 Reynolds utilized his cell phone and attempted to contact Jessica as Reynolds left the living room area and headed out through the house door back into the garage next to Shaffer.

At 02:15:00 Reynolds made contact with Jessica's voicemail. Reynolds identified himself and then read the instructions to Jessica's voicemail.

At 02:16:20 Reynolds indicated that he (Reynolds) left Jessica a voicemail. Eric advised that he (Eric) 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 get "t-boned" recently as Eric was working for Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

At 02:23:12 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 (Miller) put his gun away and took out his taser, Eric would put his knife on the table. Eric and Miller both followed the agreement.

At 02:25:30 Miller informed Eric that he (Eric) had not done anything wrong and was not going to take Eric to jail. Eric responded by talking negatively about the WCSO administration and the Sheriff. Miller and Reynolds both promised Eric they were not going to take him to jail.

At 02:26:52 Eric picked the knife back up off the table and held it in a manner pointed towards the Deputies.

At 02:27:32 Eric stated that he "was done" until Jessica responded back to Reynold's voicemail. Reynolds confirmed to Eric that he (Reynolds) read the note to Jessica by the number provided on the instructions.

At 02:28:51 a voicemail recording can be heard near Reynolds due to Patton attempting to call Jessica again.

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At 02:29:07 Eric took a seat back on the couch but kept possession of the knife and alcohol bottle.

At 02:29:48 Eric commented that he wanted to "play a game" and kept asking for Miller and Reynolds to pull their tasers out as he kept the knife pointed at Reynolds or up against his own throat. Reynolds and Miller kept telling Eric that they care and wanted to get Eric help.

At 02:32:17 Eric told Reynolds that they "are done talking" after inquiring if Shaffer was still outside the residence. Patton inquired if Eric would go with EMS to the hospital. Eric advised that if Shaffer was still outside then he was not going anywhere and he was "done".

At 02:33:05 Eric told Reynolds to make Shaffer leave. Reynolds agreed to have Shaffer leave. Eric continued to speak negatively about Shaffer and agreed to "move on from there".

At 02:33:43 Shaffer can be seen walking away through the garage after being told to leave by Reynolds.

At 02:35:50 Eric kept asking Deputies why they were at his residence and wanted to know if suicide was against the law, and if not, how are the Deputies doing their job. Miller and Reynolds both continue to tell Eric that they care and do not want him to kill himself.

At 02:39:19 Eric stated "I'm not going anywhere until I am done with that" as Eric touched the alcohol bottle multiple times with his knife.

At 02:39:31 Patton asked Eric where his gun was. Eric responded that he was not going to tell them because Miller and Reynolds "are going to shoot me". Patton attempted to convince Eric otherwise and expressed the importance of making sure Eric's gun was secure.

At 02:40:26 Eric can be seen reaching into the compartment built into the couch as Patton informed Eric to leave the gun in there if it already is.

At 02:40:48 Eric asked Reynolds if he (Reynolds) was going to kill him (Eric), and again made the comment "are you ready". Reynolds stated in return "please don't".

The segment of footage ended at 02:40:52.

The second segment of the footage was identified as "CReynolds_1756_061624063039_15" and began recording at 02:40:52 on June 16, 2024. The duration of the video footage is 1 hour (60 minutes) long.

The footage begins immediately where the previous recording ended. Eric is sitting on the couch with the knife still in his hand conversing with Reynolds and Miller. Eric repeats the questions "you ready" as he reaches into the storage compartment built into the couch.

At 02:40:59 Miller tells Eric to stop reaching into the drawer as Eric asked the WCSO Deputies if they are going to kill him.

Reynolds informed Eric that they were not trying to trick Eric, they do not want to charge Eric, and that the WCSO are only there to help.

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At 02:42:01 Eric gets up off the couch quickly and closes the gap between himself, Miller and Reynolds by approximately half the distance.

At 02:42:30 Eric keeps possession of the knife in one hand and has his other hand behind his back giving the impression that he (Eric) has a gun as Eric makes comments about Reynolds not believing Eric has a gun.

At 02:42:31 Eric is seen moving out of Reynolds footage as Miller is heard saying "stop".

At 02:42:47 Eric is back in Reynolds footage and had closed the gap between himself, Miller and Reynolds. Eric still has the knife in one hand and the other hand behind his back. Miller and Reynolds continue to provide commands for Eric to stop and drop the knife. Eric keeps repeating "shoot me, shoot me".

At 02:43:00 Eric makes the comment about wanting to play "Russian roulette".

At 02:43:11 Reynolds backs into Eric's closed front door and then proceeds to unlock and opened it so he would have additional room to move.

Multiple commands are given for Eric to "stop" and "please stop" by Miller and Reynolds.

At 02:43:39 Eric is no longer seen on Reynolds camera footage due to having walked into the bedroom near the garage door entrance. A door being slammed shut is heard on Reynolds footage. Reynolds camera pans around the room as he (Reynolds) is moving, and the bedroom door is seen to clearly be shut.

At 02:44:27 Reynolds asked Eric "what are you doing" at the conclusion of that question, Patton can be heard saying "he (Eric) is trying to force you to shoot him".

Miller and Patton are heard off camera talking to Eric. Miller commented that "you (Eric) don't want to do that" and Patton commented "why are you (Eric) going to make me watch this?" Additional commands of "stop" are also heard.

At 02:45:11 Reynolds asked Eric if they could come back in to talk with him.

At 02:45:19 Eric is observed through the door that leads from the garage into the house. Reynolds asked Eric if they could talk to him and also pled for Eric to put the gun down. Miller also pleads for Eric to put the gun down multiple times. Eric commented back "this is my house". Eric also stressed his disbelief that Shaffer was actually gone from the residence. Patton attempted to reassure Eric that Shaffer was down the street.

At 02:45:50 Reynolds moved from the garage door entrance and took cover behind a truck that was parked in the driveway. Miller can be seen in the grass on the other side of the driveway and Patton in the middle of the driveway between the Deputies and the door that leads into the house from the garage. Reynolds advised that Eric closed the front door.

Multiple pleas are made to Eric to put the gun down. Miller can be seen in the grass with his gun drawn pointed towards the entrance from the garage into the house. Reynolds continued to hold cover over the front door and garage door along with Miller.

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At 02:47:42 Miller keeps telling Eric to put the gun down and informed Eric that they (Miller and Reynolds) were unable to talk to him as long as Eric continued to have a gun in his hand.

At 02:48:14 Miller asked Eric to lift his hoodie up in order for Miller to see that Eric did not have a handgun. Eric complied and lifted his hoodie up. Eric kept commenting "Sam (Miller) come talk to me". Miller advised that he was "right here".

At 02:48:57 Eric put his knife down in the garage and raised his hands above his head per Miller's command. Miller kept trying to get Eric to exit the garage and come out to talk with them outside of the residence.

At 02:49:21 Eric stated, "I want you to kill me".

At 02:49:30 Reynolds turned around and moved away from the garage opening as Miller is heard telling Eric to put the gun down.

At 02:49:45 Eric enters back into the house as Miller is seen taking a few steps back into the grass. Miller confirmed to Reynolds that Eric went back into the house.

Miller continued to ask Eric to come outside to talk with him without a gun.

At 02:50:31 Patton offered to take the gun from Eric so that Miller could continue to talk with Eric without Eric having a gun.

At 02:50:45 Miller told Patton that Eric needed to come outside and that he was not going back into the house.

At 02:51:15 Patton told Reynolds that the code for the front door was [REDACTED] as Patton requested that the WCSO use a taser. Reynolds indicated that Eric was putting them into a "lose-lose situation" and that Eric was going to make them shoot him.

At 02:52:00 Miller commented that Eric did not keep his word and put all the weapons down in order for Miller to talk with him. Eric asked, "who are you?" and Miller had to identify himself again. Miller advised again for Eric to put the gun down.

At 02:52:48 Patton took possession of a shotgun from Eric and brought it out of the garage to Reynold's location. As Patton arrived at Reynold's location, he informed Reynolds that Eric "had something in his waistband".

At 02:53:13 Eric told Miller "I love you brother" as Miller continued to request that Eric come outside to speak with him. Miller advised that he was putting his own gun away.

At 02:53:22 Eric moved from the doorway and went back into the residence.

At 02:53:48 Patton told Eric that Miller and Reynolds "know what you want" and that they were not going to do it when addressing Eric wanting the Deputies to shoot him. Eric told Miller "I want you to fuck me up" and "I want you to kill me".

At 02:54:03 Eric stated "are you ready" as he is seen moving towards something in Reynolds

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footage. Miller and Reynolds keep telling Eric to stop.

Miller made several commands for Eric to "put it down" and "I don't want to shoot you".

At 02:54:41 as Miller continued to give Eric multiple commands to "put it down" a gunshot is heard. Through Reynolds footage, Miller's gun is seen recoiling, and a muzzle flash is seen coming from the barrel of the gun. Due to the location of Reynolds behind a truck in the driveway, Eric was not in view of Reynold's body camera during the shot.

At 02:54:49 Reynolds is heard announcing "shots fired" over the radio. Patton had become extremely emotional and asked Miller "who fired, you or him". Miller responded that "he (Eric) pointed (the gun) at me".

At 02:54:59 Reynolds inquired if Eric was moving, and Miller responded that he did not know and could not see him.

At 02:55:14 Miller advised that Eric was on the floor and that the gun was not with him.

At 02:55:39 Miller and Reynolds attempt to gain entry back through the front door. Miller advised that the door was locked and that he could not see any blood.

Reynolds followed Miller around the garage opening and entered the house through the open door from the garage.

At 02:55:55 Miller and Reynolds attempt to make contact with Eric. Eric is seen lying on the floor on his back not responding.

At 02:56:08 Reynolds made contact with Eric's body. As Reynolds approached a sound like a struggle to breathe was heard.

At 02:56:19 Reynolds stated that Eric did not have any weapons on him and radioed for the squad.

At 02:56:21 Reynolds lifted Eric's left shoulder and blood is seen in Eric's armpit.

At 02:56:30 Reynolds requested on the radio that "70" respond and bring a med kit. Reynolds and Miller then attempt to roll Eric over.

At 02:56:42 Reynolds began to perform chest compressions on Eric. Multiple rattles are heard coming from Eric. Reynolds tells Eric to "stay awake" as Miller tried to get Eric to look at him.

At 02:57:42 EMS arrived to take the lead with Eric's medical attention.

At 02:57:50 EMS members are heard asking Miller and Reynolds "who shot him" and "why did you shoot him?"

At 02:58:36 EMS made the observation that the bullet is still in Eric's chest.

At 02:58:59 the decision was made to contact Life Flight.

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Miller and Reynolds assisted EMS with attending to Eric. A sound similar to gasping for breath is heard coming from Eric multiple times. Miller is seen in Reynold's footage assisting EMS attending to Eric for several minutes.

At 03:01:07 Reynolds informed dispatch to contact administration due to "an officer involved shooting".

At 03:01:36 the audio on Reynolds body camera stops working as Reynolds exits the residence to answer a phone call.

The audio remained off as Reynolds proceeded to his cruiser before returning back to the residence where EMS was performing aid to Eric at 03:04:13.

At 03:05:35 Reynolds camera alerted "mute off". As Reynolds began to retrieve items from the ambulance on scene in order to assist EMS.

At 03:12:30 Reynolds advised Miller that he did not know what Miller needed to be doing at this time when Miller inquired as to what he should be doing. Reynolds had Miller move his vehicle in order for EMS to have additional room.

At 03:15:37 an unknown female approached Reynolds. Patton is heard and seen on the footage calling the female over to him.

Reynolds and Miller continued to stage away from the house near the ambulance as EMS were awaiting Life Flight.

At 03:18:35 Reynolds is heard saying that he was putting his body camera on mute and is seen talking to additional staff of the WCSO who just arrived on scene. Miller is visible in Reynolds footage standing alone near a tree in the front yard of the residence.

At 03:22:19 Reynolds and the other WCSO Deputy walk and begin speaking with Miller. Reynold's body camera was still on mute.

For the next several minutes Reynolds continued to walk back and forth near his cruiser and accessed his mobile data terminal (MDT) located within his cruiser in order to gather information. The footage remained muted.

At 03:38:08 Reynolds is approached by an individual, identified by SA Rammel as Tom Patton (Tom), and a conversation took place. The footage remained muted. After a brief conversation Reynolds returned back to his cruiser.

The segment of footage ended at 03:40:52.

The third segment of the footage was identified as "CReynolds_1756_061624063041_16" and began recording at 03:40:55 on June 16, 2024. The duration of the video footage is 12 minutes 53 seconds long.

There is no audio during the entirety of the footage. No additional information deemed important to the OICI was observed during the course of the footage.

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The footage ended at 03:53:45.

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

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