



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: 09/19/2022
Activity Location: Sauter Law Office – 111 West First Street, Dayton, OH 45405,
Montgomery County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Monday, September 19, 2022, at 1541 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward, Kenneth Smith and Lauren Frazier met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Chad Stalder at John Sauter Law Offices, 111 West First Street, Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Stalder's representative/union Attorney, John Sauter. On July 24, 2022, Sergeant Stalder, Deputies Matthew Yates, Holly Risner and Detective Brian Melchi responded to 1132 Ashwood Court–shots fired call for service. During the call, deputies entered the trailer and Deputy Yates was shot and killed by the resident, Cole White.

Sergeant Stalder has been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office for 27 years and held the rank of sergeant since 2008, assigned as a road patrol supervisor 0600-1800. Stalder stated around 10ish on Sunday, July 24th, he was delivering paperwork in downtown Springfield when units were dispatched to a suicide, not related to this case. Stalder proceeded in that direction, but received information reference a "shots fired" call and had preempted on the attempted suicide. With only three units on duty, Stalder instructed the three units proceed to the shots fired call. According to Stalder, Detective Melchi was working an off-duty job in the city and also responded to the shots fired call. Agent Ward asked Stalder specific details related to the call and Stalder stated the female caller heard five shots inside of a trailer.

Sergeant Stalder stated Deputy Yates and he arrived and he observed a female [Kristen Mills] directing him to a location. Stalder was concerned about parking where he would have been in range of any gunfire and after the incident realized he parked directly in front of the incident location. Yates exited his patrol vehicle and donned his ballistic helmet and shotgun. Stalder stated Mills was panicking but was able to obtain limited details from her. Melchi had spoken with a neighbor and Stalder recalled, not sure from whom, that inside 1132 Ashwood would be a "Murder-Suicide." Later, Stalder learned Mills' wife [Jodi Arbuckle], entered the trailer through

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a window and Mills heard five shots. Additionally, Stalder heard Mills was on the phone with Arbuckle when she was shot.

Once Deputy Risner arrived, Sergeant Stalder stated Deputy Yates took the lead and announcements were made at the front door. Based upon the circumstances; specifically, the reported shots fired and a potential murder-suicide, Stalder made the decision to breach the front entrance with Yates as the breacher, which was his role on the Special Operations Team (SOT). Once Yates indicated the entrance door was locked, Stalder informed Yates, "Lets go" and Yates began to kick the door. Stalder indicated Yates had difficulty with the door and he believed the door was fortified/barricaded from within. Yates eventually "mule Kicked" the door and used his shoulder to push the remainder of the door open to enter the trailer. Stalder stated he was behind Yates when the two entered, noticed the living area was clear, looked right down a hallway and yelled, "clear...clear...clear...nothing to the right" and when he "swung" his head around, he heard a gunshot. Stalder looked down and observed Yates down near the doorway and he displayed no movement. Stalder exited the trailer and positioned himself behind a shed for cover. When he spoke with Risner and Melchi, both indicted they heard more than one shot fired.

Sergeant Stalder repositioned himself to a large Oak tree where Deputy Risner was positioned and neither observed any movement inside the trailer. Stalder remained on scene was present when the Clark County SOT attempted entry, but received gunfire and exited the trailer. According to Stalder, Springfield police SWAT arrived and eventually was able to retrieve Yates from the trailer. Stalder observed the trailer catch and consumed by fire.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Sergeant Stalder at 1538 hours. The audio recorded interview is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-09-19 / Audio Interview of Chad Stalder

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.