



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), Major Chris Clark (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 09/01/2022  
**Activity Location:** Clark County Sheriff's Office – 3130 East Main Street, Springfield,  
OH 45502, Clark County  
**Author:** SA Richard Ward, #55

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, September 1, 2022 at 1010 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward, Kenneth Smith, and Lauren Frazier met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Major Chris Clark (Major Clark) at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. On July 24, 2022, Major Clark 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.

Major Clark has been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office for approximately 25 years. He stated that he was promoted to Sergeant in 2009, Lieutenant in 2013, and Major in 2016. Major Clark was the Operations Commander for the Communications Center and the founder and commander of the Clark County Special Operations Team (SOT).

On the date of the incident, Major Clark stated he was off duty. He received a call from dispatch and was told that there was an incident at Harmony Estates with an "officer down," who they believed was Deputy Matthew Yates. Major Clark stated that he called Clark County Sheriff Deborah Burchett and got permission to coordinate SOT towards the incident location.

Major Clark began towards the scene and used Active 911 to send the incident out to SOT members. He said that he was told that they believed the officer was down just inside the door. Major Clark asked dispatch to get an aerial view of trailer to attempt to coordinate the entry but records showed an empty lot.

He arrived on scene and was briefed by Clark County Sheriff Burchett and other officers. He was told that there was a 911 call which said that there was a lady screaming, and that she had broken into the house, and there were 5–6 shots fired. He said that multiple officers arrived, including, John Schneider, Denise Jones, Scott Cultice, Ryan Weaver, Diane Norris, and other

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members he could not recall.

Major Clark said the initial plan was to use a rapid entry and get the officer out of there. He described that the team was going to use shields, make entry to front door, and extract. He said that he wanted to get their armored BearCat vehicle right up on the front door, but limited space made it difficult. Major Clark said that he took a position at the 3-4 corner of the trailer. As soon as his team got to the front door, he heard several gunshots fired. He said that there was a red plaid material over the windows blocking his view inside the trailer. He said shots were being fired in all directions, so he backed behind his vehicle for cover. Major Clark stated that he could not see the subject and was concerned about the location of his team, so he did not fire his weapon. He said that after this attempt, they did not see any movement from Deputy Yates or the female inside and believed them both to be deceased.

Officers believed Deputy Jones may have been hit, but learned that she was alright. Officers held their position and waited on additional tactical units with hostage negotiators. Major Clark was told that several people had already attempted to make contact with the subject, with no success.

Major Clark requested additional tactical teams and once they arrived, they discussed making a second entry. The second plan was similar to the first, but included using level four, rifle rated shields. Major Clark does not believe that any distractions or munitions were deployed at this time. Officers used an armored MRAP to try and extract Deputy Yates. Major Clark stated that he believed the subject had moved because shots were now being fired from a different part of the trailer. This second attempt to extract Deputy Yates was unsuccessful.

At this time, Major Clark stated that his team was emotionally involved and physically exhausted. Additional tactical teams began arriving on scene and Major Clark turned the scene over to Captain Krantz with Springfield Police Department (SPD). Major Clark stated that he was still involved in the command structure and himself, Captain Krantz, and Robert Swihart (Greene County SWAT) discussed using distraction devices to get the subject to come out.

The third plan included using the MRAP to ram the 2-3 corner of the trailer to try to open it up, to use up approximately 30 seconds, in order to throw flash bangs and 40 mm gas to get the subject to go into hiding and allow them to extract Deputy Yates. An additional MRAP was positioned in the front of the trailer and was left in place because the awning collapsed on the truck and they did not want to close off their entry into the trailer. Major Clark stated that officers attempted to use a drone and robot to try to locate a thermal image of subject inside, but all were unsuccessful. Officers were able to make entry using the distractions and put Deputy Yates in the back of the armored BearCat and transported him to Miami Valley Hospital.

Shortly after, Major Clark said that there were reports that there was a fire in the kitchen and it started to consume the entire trailer. Officers were still not able to identify exactly where the subject was. Officers attempted to get fire engines in to put out the fire, but still provide safety from gunfire. They were able to post SWAT guys on fire hoses and eventually the fire was extinguished.

Major Clark stated that him and his team went to Northeastern High School where they met

with BCI. The interview concluded at 1038 hours. A copy of the audio recording is attached.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-09-01 / Major Chris Clark Audio Interview

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**