



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer [REDACTED]
Activity Date: December 12, 2023
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 1017 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Joseph Goudy (Goudy) interviewed Youngstown Police Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]), who was accompanied by his attorney, Dan Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at Youngstown Police Department. The interview was audio recorded.

Officer [REDACTED] was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the August 23, 2023 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of [REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484. Reportedly, Officer [REDACTED] did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer [REDACTED] stated his radio call sign on August 23, 2023, was [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] has been a police officer for over 10 years, all with the Youngstown Police Department. During the incident, Officer [REDACTED] wore his standard SWAT uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] how he became involved in the incident and what actions he took.

Officer [REDACTED] stated that around 2130 hours, he received an alert on his phone that advised the SWAT team was being activated. The alert provided the address and a brief synopsis which Officer [REDACTED] described as "Guy with a gun, possible hostages." Officer [REDACTED] also advised that the synopsis possibly said that the hostages were family members, but Officer [REDACTED] could not exactly recall.

Officer [REDACTED] stated he changed his clothes and began heading towards the scene. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he is assigned to the Sniper Team, so his initial mission was to find a location where he could "be useful" as an observer. Officer [REDACTED] stated that due to the foliage that surrounded the residence "There really wasn't a sniper

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

mission that I could be in that wouldn't put like my own guys in the line of fire. So, at that point, we kind of transitioned just into like a rear perimeter, we were in the rear yard. Like behind cover, just watching the rear of the house."

Officer [REDACTED] advised that their primary focus was the rear door of the residence because that appeared to be the only exit in the rear of the house. Officer [REDACTED] stated he remained to the rear of the house until "4, 4:30, maybe 5." Officer [REDACTED] stated that he began feeling tired and requested a break. Officer [REDACTED] took his break in the rear of the armored vehicle. As Officer [REDACTED] was taking his break, he stated, "And that is when they came up with the entry plan."

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "They asked for a shield guy, and I looked around and there wasn't really many guys in there, so I said, 'I'll take the shield.' We kind of did a quick rehearsal, um, Ohio State Highway Patrol had their breachers there because they are capable with, I forget what they call it...high energy breaching, which I guess in layman's terms, they use an explosive, generally."

Officer [REDACTED] advised that the troopers gave a brief overview of what they needed, advising that once the explosive is placed on the door, they will need to run a wire and that they need to "Stay with that charge, until it is either dead or removed." It was then decided that the team would breach the house using the explosives.

Officer [REDACTED] stated that the team went around the block and approached the rear of the residence by going in between neighboring houses. The team then approached the house and set the charge. Once the charge was placed, the team then staged on the side of the house. Command staff then provided a countdown and Officer [REDACTED] relayed the countdown to the troopers. Once the charge was detonated, team members then began to approach the rear door.

Officer [REDACTED] stated, "I think before we made it up to the door, one of the guys was yelling 'shotgun, shotgun, shotgun' and I, we might have paused, kind of started moving fast at this point, like in my brain and ah, I think he went around the corner again. Like, he went out of sight for a moment, and we made it all the way to the back door and the outer door was kind of mangled and would have made it kind of hard for us to navigate through the backdoor to complete the mission. Like, the hostage rescue is what we kind of under the impression now that we seen him with the gun. So, we were trying to pull that door out and he re-presented himself with the shotgun. So, I was standing there with the shield, looking through the window, [REDACTED] was yelling, 'shotgun, shotgun, shotgun.' [REDACTED] was, I believe yelling, 'drop the gun, drop the gun, drop the gun' and at that point, he started to raise up the gun, and I saw

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

the muzzle flash and I felt the burn in my leg, and I figured that I've been hit. I announced, I've been, hit."

Officer [REDACTED] stated he looked down for blood but did not see any. Officer [REDACTED] stated he then tried to "continue with the team." Officer [REDACTED] further stated, "And I guess because I said I was hit, one of my partners, one of the breachers I think, Daily, grabbed me on my shoulder and pulled me out."

Officer [REDACTED] stated he was not bleeding that bad and ripped his pants open to show other responders because they were trying to place a tourniquet on him. Officer [REDACTED] was then placed onto a gurney by medics and transported to the hospital.

SA Momchilov stated, "So, I believe you said when you initially got the page, it was a barricaded individual, possibly some hostages. Were you provided any further information when you arrived on scene?"

Officer [REDACTED] stated, "We got some updates, we knew there was two people that had barricaded themselves in a room downstairs and I think that they were said to have a pistol for their own protection in there. And the other intel that we got was that there was a girl upstairs hiding underneath a bed and I know the last communication we had from her was I can't breathe and either the phone went dead, or we couldn't reach her. I don't know how that ended up going. And I think at some point we stopped getting any sort of communication from the other two and they said they weren't, they wouldn't self-extract."

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "I think before we went to go execute the mission, we were told that the last communication from the individual was, 'There is nothing you can do for me.'"

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he knew why the two individuals would not self-extract. Officer [REDACTED] stated that his understanding that the "mother and the son" were in a barricaded bedroom and the "boy's girlfriend" was upstairs. The boy said that he wasn't going to leave without his girlfriend and the mom wasn't going to leave without her son. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he was unsure if he was told that information before or after the shooting.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] how he was positioned in the "stack." Officer [REDACTED] stated, "So, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I think were first. It's a rifle and shield cover team and then myself and [REDACTED] were next, shield and rifle team."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could immediately tell that he was struck by a bullet after feeling the burning in his leg. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Yes," SA Momchilov

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

asked, "Do officers start firing at that point?" Officer [REDACTED] replied, "I think its immediately after I got shot, they opened up."

SA Momchilov then asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could tell who was firing. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "The only one that I know for sure would've been [REDACTED] because I think he was, he had a rifle and my partner, [REDACTED] did not have an angle on him. I don't think." Officer [REDACTED] advised that he also knows that [REDACTED] had fired, but was unsure if it was at that point, or if it was when the team moved forward into the residence.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he was wearing a body-worn camera at the time of the shooting. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he was not. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he had viewed any other officers' body-worn camera footage. Officer [REDACTED] stated he was shown body-worn camera footage from the incident when his department conducted their internal interview a week or a week and a half prior to this interview.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he observed anything on the body-worn camera footage that he did not remember happening. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "The two different times that we saw him, I thought it was all one continuous thing, at first. Like, when [REDACTED] was, started yelling shotgun at first, before we made, before I made it all the way to the backdoor, I thought that all happened while I was already at the door, when he was saying that."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he was basing his statement today from memory or what he observed on the body-worn camera footage. Officer [REDACTED] stated that 90 percent was based on his memory.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he had any conversations with any of the involved officers. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "No."

At the end of the interview, SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he would sign a release allowing agents to obtain his medical records. SA Momchilov explained that the purpose of obtaining the records is to document the injuries he received from the shooting. Attorney Leffler interjected stating, "We will need to discuss this." Attorney Leffler advised that he would take the release and discuss it further with Officer [REDACTED]

SA Momchilov sent Attorney Leffler a follow-up email on January 5, 2023. On Monday, January 8, SA Momchilov received a return email from Attorney Leffler stating, "Sorry,

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

I'll work on it. I'll let you know by Friday." SA Momchilov failed to receive any further emails from Attorney Leffler.

The interview with Officer [REDACTED] was recorded via audio. That audio recording is attached to this investigative report.

Attachments

- Audio interview of Officer [REDACTED]

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.