



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



2022-1472
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 2793 Waterpark Drive, Mason,
OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Thomas Henry Cromwell (S)
Date of Activity: 07/13/2022
Activity Location: Warren County Sheriff's Office – Business – 822 Memorial Drive ,
Lebanon, OH 45036, Warren County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On July 12, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at the Baymont hotel, located at 2793 Waterpark Drive in the city of Mason. During the OICI, an operator with the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team mortally wounded a suspect and recent River City Correctional Center escapee, Thomas Cromwell (Cromwell), during a hostage rescue situation.

On July 13, 2022, at 1449 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. negotiator Officer Ryan Frasher (Officer Frasher) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Officer Frasher was represented by Fraternal Order of Police attorney Stephen Lazarus. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

Officer Frasher advised agents that he works for the city of Mason Police Department. He has been so employed for approximately three years. He is currently assigned as a temporary detective. Prior to working for the Mason Police Department, he worked for the Miami Township (Clermont County) Police Department for approximately ten years. He has been assigned as a negotiator on the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team for approximately fifteen months. He had approximately six years of prior S.W.A.T. experience in Clermont County.

Regarding the OICI, Officer Frasher advised BCI agents of the following information:

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.

On Monday, July 11, 2022, Officer Frasher received a S.W.A.T. call-out for an incident at the Baymont hotel located in the city of Mason. He arrived on the scene at approximately 1615 hours. He learned that the incident involved one of the recent Hamilton County escapees. He also learned that the suspect, later identified as Cromwell, had a female subject, later identified as Kelly Rose (Rose), who was likely a hostage.

Officer Frasher was tasked with speaking with Cromwell's family members, who were on scene. Mason Police Department Sergeant Brad Walker requested that he talk to the family members and obtain as much information as possible. Officer Frasher spoke to Cromwell's mother, who was with Hamilton County deputies. While speaking with her, Cromwell called her cell phone. He instructed her to hang up with Cromwell. He requested that she give her phone to him so contact could be established with Cromwell, because the negotiation equipment had not yet arrived. She cooperated and handed him the phone.

Cromwell called the phone once Officer Frasher returned to the command post. Officer Frasher identified himself to Cromwell. Cromwell said he wanted to "talk to his people" and hung up. Officer Frasher described the initial conversations as short. During one of the conversations, he asked if someone else was inside the room. Cromwell answered in the affirmative and handed the phone over to Rose. Rose told him that Cromwell was grabbing her by the hair and that she was not okay. Cromwell once again said he wanted to "see his people." He told Cromwell he had to check with his bosses, at which point Cromwell told him to check and terminated the call. During some of the phone calls, Cromwell said he would "hurt her [Rose] if he had to."

At some point, information was relayed by S.W.A.T. team sniper, Eric Wallace, that Cromwell could be seen in the window with a knife in his hand.

Time had elapsed since Officer Frasher heard from Rose. He asked Cromwell several times about Rose, and Cromwell hung up. He recalled accidentally referring to Rose as "Heather" a couple of times, which seemed to pique Cromwell's interest. He advised BCI agents that he spoke with someone named Heather earlier in the day. Heather was identified as an associate of Cromwell's. Officer Frasher believed that Cromwell assumed Heather told the police where he was hiding.

Warren County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sturgill took over the negotiations. Cromwell became more threatening as time passed. He said he was going to "die a glorious death" and was not going back to jail. He made several comments that he was going to "shoot it out" with officers.

The Hamilton County S.W.A.T. team was called to relieve the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team. At approximately 0145 hours on July 12, 2022, Officer Frasher left the scene for a brief period of time. Once he arrived back at the scene, he learned that Cromwell had posted a Facebook Live video. The S.W.A.T. team commanders felt that negotiations were failing.

The Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team was called back to the scene to make an emergency entry into Cromwell's room. The plan was for Deputy Sturgill to call Cromwell, and as a ruse, tell him they had items he had requested in an earlier call. Once contact was established, entry would be initiated. The call was made and contact was established with Cromwell. While listening in on the call, Officer Frasher could hear Cromwell saying, "Get back, get back. Get out of here." He could hear the S.W.A.T. entry team saying something to the effect of, "Get your

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.

hands up. Get on the ground." He estimated fifteen seconds had elapsed from the initiation of the breach until he could no longer hear Cromwell. He said he did not hear any gunshots over the phone.

Officer Frasher remembered hearing, "Bingo!" on the radio, which meant the hostage was safe. He met with other team members who were escorting Rose out of the building. He advised that he did not have any further involvement after that point.

The interview was concluded at 1505 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13/ Mason Police Officer Ryan Frasher Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.