



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



2024-1658

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2212 Tryon Rd.,
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Investigative Activity: Interview with Nathan Lukkarila
Involves: Nathan Lukkarila (W)
Activity Date: 06/03/2024
Activity Location: BCI-Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On June 3, 2024, at approximately 1100 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) spoke with Nathan Lukkarila (Lukkarila) via phone.

Lukkarila is the nephew of John Perry (Perry). On June 1, 2024, Lukkarila was requested to come to the scene by Ashtabula County Deputies and speak with Perry after Perry pointed his gun at neighbors. It was reported that during Lukkarila encounter with Perry, Perry pointed a firearm at Lukkarila and deputies.

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila, "What exactly happened, I guess, from my understanding like, you got a call from the sheriff's office, is that how it started?"

Lukkarila explained that he had received a call and was requested to respond to Perry's residence. Lukkarila stated that he was told that "they" had received a call that Perry "had been pointing a firearm on the porch, around the neighborhood." Lukkarila continued, "At that point, they're like, 'it needs to be addressed, there's no leaving, we need to try and get him help' or you know, 'we need to make contact with him.'"

Lukkarila stated when he arrived, two sheriff's deputies walked over with him to Perry's residence. Lukkarila knocked on the door while the deputies stayed by the garage area of the house.

Lukkarila advised that he attempted to speak with Perry through the door and that he could hear Perry "talking a little bit" but could not make out what Perry was saying. Lukkarila explained after a couple minutes, Perry stated something about, "getting off of the porch," Lukkarila advised at that point, he stepped off the porch and began to approach the deputies who were standing near the garage area. Lukkarila stated that Perry then exited his house onto the porch with the gun, "and kind of pointed it in the direction of the two police officers that were there." According to Lukkarila the two deputies "threw me back in between the two houses and told him to put the gun down

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and he wasn't doing that." Lukkarila stated that Perry then went back inside his residence.

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila how the sheriff's deputies knew to give him a call. Lukkarila stated he used to work for Perry, he and his mother got groceries for Perry and he mowed Perry's lawn. While performing actions, Lukkarila stated he got to know Perry's neighbors and the neighbors had his contact information.

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila what Perry use to do for work. Lukkarila explained that Perry had a "cable business" that contracted for Time Warner and installed cable lines.

SA Momchilov told Lukkarila that it was his understanding that Perry suffered from some mental disorders. Lukkarila explained that "the details of that are a little murky." Lukkarila advised that Perry had a drinking problem "a long time ago" and received treatment from a facility and became sober. Lukkarila stated that Perry had a few relapses and may have reentered the treatment facility and at some point he was put on medication. Lukkarila advised that the medication made Perry "feel like he was in a fog" and as Perry became older, he became paranoid. Lukkarila advised that Perry thought he heard people yelling at him or if he was in a store "people would say stuff to him that maybe, you know, wasn't necessarily happening."

Lukkarila stated that Perry was on medication for approximately 8 years and then went off the medication 6 to 8 months ago. Perry explained that once Perry quit taking his medication it "wasn't bad" but his behavior progressively got worse and described Perry's behavior as upset and angry.

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila, "Does this seem a little out of character for your uncle, pointing a gun at the deputies and pointing a gun in your direction as well?" Lukkarila replied, "absolutely."

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila if he thought that Perry recognized him when he was speaking with him. Lukkarila replied, "Yeah." Lukkarila explained that he and Perry were close, and nothing happened between them that would cause Perry to act that way toward him.

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila how he knew Perry went off his medication. Lukkarila stated that he "told us."

At this point in the interview Lukkarila stated, "Like what we're talking about, how far does this go? They're not going to be putting this out, like on the news, like, you know what I mean, like the stuff I'm telling you."

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SA Momchilov responded, "I'm just trying to get some background. Like I said, we're investigating the whole incident and I'm just trying to get some background of why he would point a gun at a neighbor or why he would point a gun at the deputies. He ultimately fired at that SWAT vehicle; I'm just trying to put all the pieces together to be honest with you."

SA Momchilov later stated, "You know, it's strange for this to happen, you know what I'm saying, I don't think John's been in any trouble or anything and then..."

Lukkarila interjected and stated, "Never and he wouldn't hurt anybody that the, I could not ever imagine him, I'm like he would, there's no way he would, you know what I mean, point the gun at kids intentionally thinking he's gonna, I think it's scaring em' or, like, you know, in his mind he's coming out because he thinks there's somebody outside gonna do something or that somebody's out there gonna harm him in his mind even though they're not there and it's not a real legitimate threat but in his mind it was, at that time."

SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila if he knew if Perry was seeing a doctor or if he knew who prescribed Lukkarila his medication. Lukkarila stated that he did not know.

Lukkarila was asked if he was on scene during the entire incident. Lukkarila advised that he was. SA Momchilov asked Lukkarila if he witnessed any portion of the shooting. Lukkarila stated, "I, more or less, I heard what I believe was him, that two separate occasions there was a different distinct sound that I figured was him discharging the firearm. The one time, it was, they had put the boom through the front window, ripped out the front window, put the boom back in and were like, I think they were holding the blinds open, I don't know if it was for the drone to go in or what but somewhere in that time I heard what sounded like his firearm discharge and then, I don't know, it could have been an hour later, I believe they were firing tear gas or something through the bedroom window and that was when I thought I heard the second firearm discharge in his house, and then shortly after that, and like I said, it could have been 5 minutes, it could have been a half hour because at that time, my, you know, there was just so much, I was standing there watching but my, you know what I mean, my time may not be super correct. I believe he went into the living room, and they just, you know, at that point in time, after he discharged the second time and I couldn't see where he was, you know, pointing the gun or anything but I could hear the gun coming from the house, that's when I heard them, you know what I mean, like however, 20, 30 rounds or whatever go off. I couldn't see where they were because they were on the other side of the SWAT vehicle from where I was, but I could definitely hear the, you know, the rounds and then obviously they went in, within, you know, they sent do drone in again and went in within 10 minutes or 15 minutes of that."

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The interview with Lukkarila was recorded via audio. The audio recording is attached to this investigative report.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Audio interview of Nathan Lukkarila

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