



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Date of Activity: 12/21/2022
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On December 21, 2022, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) assisted with multiple interviews conducted at 100 Dillmont Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43235, involving members of the Delaware County Special Response Team (SRT). The interviews were in regard to an officer-involved shooting (OIS) which occurred on December 20, 2022, in LaRue, Ohio, during the course of a search warrant. The Delaware County SRT was requested to assist the Marion County SRT during the search warrant, which directly led to the OIS.

It is important to note that no members of the Delaware County SRT were involved with the OIS, and the interviews were conducted due to the members of the Delaware County SRT being potential witnesses to the OIS.

The interview was recorded using a digital audio recorder. A copy of the recording was attached to this investigation.

SA Rammel interviewed Brian Gavaghan (Gavaghan). SA Rammel began the interview by introducing himself, clarifying that Gavaghan understood the reason for the interview and making sure Gavaghan was willing to continue without an attorney or union representative being present. Gavaghan agreed to continue with the interview. Gavaghan provided his date of birth as July 11, 1981, and that he is currently employed with the Westerville Police Department and is also assigned to the Delaware County SRT. Gavaghan indicated that he has been a police officer for 17 years.

Gavaghan stated that he was present during the search warrant conducted on December 20, 2022, in LaRue, Ohio, where the Delaware County SRT was requested to assist the Marion County SRT. Gavaghan further stated that he was assigned to the black equipment truck at the intersection of Swain Ave. and Price St. Gavaghan stated that due to there being multiple radio frequencies being directed through the command center, Gavaghan only received information that the alleged suspect was behind the pole barn along the railroad tracks, with the Marion County SRT following. Gavaghan mentioned that due to the alleged suspect being outside and on the move, the Delaware County SRT was tasked with securing the buildings.

Gavaghan advised that he could see lights from a drone tracking the alleged suspect along the railroad tracks. Gavaghan said he heard shots in the distance, and a Marion County medic left to render aid. During that time, the Delaware County SRT proceeded to secure the buildings.

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Gavaghan told SA Rammel that he estimates between 8 and 12 gunshots were fired over the course of 3–4 seconds.

Gavaghan described that the entire Delaware County SRT wears the same gear to every search warrant, and the uniform includes an outer carrier and patches that clearly identify them as police. Gavaghan mentioned that the only thing different would be the single patch identifying each officer with their local agency.

SA Rammel inquired if there was anything else that Gavaghan may know which could be beneficial. Gavaghan advised that he did not think so, and he did not have any questions for SA Rammel.

At that time, the interview was concluded.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. 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 recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Interview with Brian Gavaghan 2022-12-21