

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



2024–1814 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio 43462

Investigative Activity:	Interview with Witness
Involves:	Jessica Taylor (O)
Date of Activity:	07/23/2024
Author:	SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On July 23, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) conducted an interview with Jessica Taylor (Jessica) regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving the Wood County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and deceased individual George Eric Taylor (Eric) that took place on June 16, 2024, at 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio.

Jessica was identified as Eric's wife during the timeframe when the OICI occurred. Eric and Jessica got married in October 2023.

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

SA Rammel contacted Jessica by the use of cell phone number

SA Rammel identified himself and confirmed with Jessica that she was willing to speak with SA Rammel. Jessica advised that she was good to proceed with the interview. Jessica provided basic identification information regarding her address (414 East Main Street, Greenville, Ohio), date of birth (June 19, 1990), and confirmed her cell phone number as a good number to reach her at.

Jessica advised that she last saw Eric the night of June 14, 2024, when Eric left the campground they were staying at (Kozy Campground) in Mercer County and went back to Jessica's home in Greenville after Jessica and Eric got into an argument. Jessica advised that they go to the campground for her birthday every year. Jessica advised that the following morning (June 15, 2024) Eric took several vehicles to get "fixed" and that Eric's friend Matt Patton (Patton) assisted Eric with the maintenance.

Jessica stated that they were texting throughout the day on June 15, 2024, and that Eric kept saying that they were done, and he was divorcing her; but that is what "Eric always does". Jessica advised that Eric is very dramatic, and they would fight and argue but then the

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following day everything would be back to normal. Jessica described Eric as "getting an attitude" and that she just stopped talking to him. Jessica indicated that she is "not an arguer" but Eric is and that the arguing would always pass over.

Jessica mentioned that she and Eric would stay at the house in Greenville but would regularly go to the house "in Bowling Green" (8401 South Dixie) on the weekends to "get things done" or to go out in Bowling Green.

Jessica said that Eric had "a lot of shit going on". SA Rammel asked what Jessica meant by that. Jessica stated that Eric's father recently died, and Eric was very close to him, so Father's Day weekend was rough, mixed with all the vehicles having issues at the same time contributed to Eric having a rough day.

Jessica advised that she only met Patton on one occasion and that Patton is a "slob". Jessica mentioned multiple items which belonged to Eric that Patton borrowed and ruined, and that Jessica only had a negative opinion of Patton. Jessica said that Eric would always ignore Patton's phone calls and thinks that the only reason Eric called Patton that day was because he needed assistance with the motorcycle. Jessica advised that she saw herself as Eric's best friend, and that Eric never really talked about friends near Bowling Green or Eric's former military friends.

Jessica mentioned that Eric never had any form of mental breakdowns or episodes that are comparable to what occurred on June 15–16. Jessica stated that Eric was never a heavy drinker, but that she and Eric would drink regularly. Jessica indicated that she only met Eric's daughters at Eric's funeral, and that they seemed surprised that Eric was drinking again. Jessica stated that Eric drank for as long as she knew him, and that Eric had not seen his daughters in over a year.

Jessica told SA Rammel that Eric talked about having but Eric never mentioned having medication for it except for migraines which Eric took medicine for. Jessica did not recall Eric having any negative mental affects from having

Jessica informed SA Rammel that she has been having issues with Eric's family due to multiple people wanting to take items from Eric's residence. Jessica mentioned that several members took items from his house when Jessica only thought it was going to be Eric's daughters.

SA Rammel explained to Jessica that the weapons seized by the WCSO would be held until all criminal investigations were completed, and when they are released, it would only be to her and no one else.

SA Rammel inquired if there were any moments when Eric was violent towards Jessica. Jessica described an incident in May 2024, when they were arguing and Eric tried to choke Jessica. Jessica stated that Eric realized "he fucked up" and the next day went back to Bowling Green. Jessica could not provide any other incidents where Eric was violent to anyone else and described Eric as a "big old teddy bear". Jessica advised that she was having good and bad days but was not sleeping.

Jessica informed SA Rammel that Eric worked part-time for the Ohio Department of

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Transportation (ODOT) and was retired from the military.

SA Rammel explained the remaining processes left in the investigation and that the Wood County Prosecutor was planning on presenting the facts of the investigation to the Grand Jury once it was completed. Jessica asked SA Rammel if the involved WCSO Deputies were working. SA Rammel stated that he does not know since that determination is made by the local agencies. Jessica inquired as to what the WCSO Deputies could be charged with, and SA Rammel explained that he does not know for sure but essentially everything from an Assault to Homicide could be charges depending on what the Wood County Prosecutor decides to present to the Grand Jury. Jessica also wanted to know why the Veterans Association (VA) Hospital was not called or why Eric was not placed on a 72-hour hold. SA Rammel explained that he could not provide any exact details as to why those options did not occur due to the investigation still being active.

At this time an individual identified as Jeff Mitrisin (Mitrisin) spoke on the phone. Mitrisin was identified as Jessica's boss and Jessica allowed him to ask SA Rammel a question. Mitrisin and Jessica inquired as to how many WCSO Deputies were involved. SA Rammel explained that three deputies were on scene at one time, but that only one deputy was involved with the shooting (information SA Rammel had observed as being previously released by the Toledo Blade). Mitrisin asked a few additional questions regarding where the WCSO Deputies were located during the incident. SA Rammel only provided basic details that were already released by WTOL and the Toledo Blade and advised Jessica that he could not provide any additional details.

Jessica stated that she believed all the firearms in the house would have been loaded because there was evidence that Eric was recently shooting at the targets in his back yard, and that "was what Eric always does".

Jessica advised that she does not believe Eric wanted to die because why would someone bring all their vehicles in for maintenance, and then kill yourself. Jessica mentioned that Eric had enjoyment with life, and they had plans for several weekends in advance. Jessica stated that Eric's family kept talking about all of Eric's demons, but Jessica told SA Rammel that Eric never had any of that stuff around her.

Jessica mentioned that a WCSO Deputy contacted her voicemail the night of the incident and that Jessica knew the deputy was reading from a note Eric wrote. Jessica stated that Eric sent her the note several hours prior and that she believed it was Eric only seeking attention. Jessica mentioned that Eric always pulls the "I can't live without you" type of stuff and asked her earlier in the day on June 15, 2024, "Do you (Jessica) want a dead husband". Jessica responded "no" but did not think anything else of it because Eric was the dramatic one in the relationship.

SA Rammel explained how the legal process would proceed if there are any indictments at Grand Jury. Mitrisin asked if the WCSO Deputies have personnel files. SA Rammel explained that all WCSO Deputies would, but SA Rammel does not know what would be considered public record. Mitrisin also asked if Wood County was rural. SA Rammel explained the basic makeup of Wood County.

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SA Rammel advised that he was not able to provide any opinions on how the investigation would play out.

SA Rammel thanked Jessica for speaking with him and informed Jessica that if she had any additional questions or concerns moving forward, she was free to contact SA Rammel.

Jessica thanked SA Rammel, and the interview was concluded.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: jessica taylor interview 2024-07-23

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