



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 1506 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. operator Stanley Matuszak (Deputy Matuszak) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Matuszak 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.

Deputy Matuszak stated that he is a deputy with the Warren County Sheriff's Office. He has been so employed for five years. He was assigned to the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team in April 2022.

Regarding the OICI, Deputy Matuszak advised BCI agents of the following information:

On July 11, 2022, at approximately 1611 hours, Deputy Matuszak was off duty when he received a S.W.A.T. call-out. He advised the call-out was for a potential hostage situation

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involving an escaped inmate out of Hamilton County.

Deputy Matuszak responded to the S.W.A.T. house, where equipment for the team is kept. He assisted in loading a truck and drove the truck to the incident location in Mason. He was assigned to the immediate action team and went up to the third floor, where the incident was occurring. He set up outside of room 310. He advised that the team developed a plan should emergency entry need to be made into the room.

Deputy Matuszak said that he stood by while negotiators attempted to make contact. He believed Warren County Sheriff's Office Sergeant James Doddy spoke with the suspect, later identified as Thomas Cromwell (Cromwell), but he was uncertain of the nature of the contact.

Deputy Matuszak advised that between 2330 and 2345 hours, the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team was relieved by the Hamilton County S.W.A.T. team. He drove one of the S.W.A.T. vehicles to a nearby fire station. The team rested for a period of time; however, the team was called back to the scene on July 12, 2022, sometime between 0130 and 0200 hours.

Deputy Matuszak said that a plan was developed in which a countdown from "eight" would begin the breaching protocol. On "five," the mechanical breach of the door with a shotgun would be initiated, and the ram would be used to make entry. At "three," the explosive wall charges would be detonated. Entry would then be made into the room.

Deputy Matuszak advised the entry went as planned. He stated that he rammed the door approximately five or six times. He said the door was barricaded, as the door did not completely open. He said he was on the opposite side of the stack, so after he rammed the door, Franklin Police Officer Keene (Officer Keene) and Springboro Police Officer Emmel (Officer Emmel) entered the room. He set the ram down and turned around to enter the room. Prior to entering the room, he heard one suppressed round fired. He did not see who fired the round. He also did not see Cromwell. He said he heard yelling from law enforcement and Cromwell, but he did not know what exactly was said. He estimated that approximately five seconds elapsed from the time the door was breached and the shot was taken.

Deputy Matuszak stated that he heard a female, later identified as Kelly Rose, screaming after the shot was fired. He helped guide Rose to the hallway as she passed him at the door. He then proceeded to clear the room with Officer Keene and Officer Emmel. He observed Cromwell down on the ground. He also saw a knife under Cromwell's arm. He removed the knife and tossed it out of the way. He placed flex cuffs on Cromwell and called for team medics. The team medics responded to the room to check Cromwell for signs of life. The medics determined that Cromwell was deceased.

Deputy Matuszak advised that the team ultimately left and went to the Warren County Drug Task Force to debrief and await the arrival of BCI agents.

The interview was concluded at 1513 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13/ Warren County Sheriff's Office Deputy Stanley Matuszak

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.