



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



2024-2620
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4206 Northridge Rd.,
Alexandria, OH 43001 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED]
Date of Activity: 08/30/2024
Activity Location: Johnstown Police Department – 599 South Main Street, Johnstown,
OH 43031
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On August 30, 2024, The Licking County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) at 4206 Northridge Road, Alexandria, Ohio, involving officers with the LCSO, the Johnstown Police Department (JPD), and Doug Plott (Plott). Plott was ultimately shot by responding officers and succumbed to his injuries.

There were three initial responding officers. [REDACTED] and JPD [REDACTED] were identified as officers discharging their firearms during the incident with LCSO Deputy Nicholas Dewitt (Deputy Dewitt) being witness to the incident.

On September 9, 2024, [REDACTED] accompanied by Attorney Mark Volcheck, met with BCI Special Agents Craig Call (SA Call) and Aja Chung (SA Chung) in order to provide BCI with a statement of his involvement in the above incident.

Prior to the interview beginning, SA Call provided [REDACTED] with BCI's Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) form and asked him to review the form and ask any clarification questions he may have. [REDACTED] acknowledged he understood the purpose of the CIN and signed the CIN at approximately 1252 hours.

Prior to the date of the interview, [REDACTED] prepared a written witness detailing his involvement in the above incident. The written statement is approximately one, single spaced page in length, which [REDACTED] signed and provided to SA Call for the case file. Quotes from the statement will used during this report, however the statement in its entirety has been attached for further reference.

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██████████ agreed to answer any follow up questions with Attorney Volcheck present.

The audio interview began at approximately 1256 hours.

██████████ badge number ██████ is a uniformed patrol officer with the JPD and has been in that position for approximately three (3) years. ██████████ currently works ██████████ and was working a regularly scheduled shift on the day of the incident. ██████████ previously worked for the Muskingum County Sheriff's Office for 17 years and the Columbus Regional Airport Police for approximately three (3) years. ██████████

In addition to his duties as ██████████ fills the following roles at JPD:

- ██████████
- ██████████
- ██████████
- ██████████

██████████ reported he was not under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any other substance that may have impacted his abilities.

██████████ was armed with a JPD issued Glock 45 9mm handgun with a weapon mounted light during the incident, which he is currently qualified with.

In reference to the shooting and events immediately surrounding, ██████████ wrote the following:

"Once inside the mud room, I could smell smoke and saw the suspect Plot through a thin glass window in the front room, throwing blankets onto a wood burner. The flames were spewing from the doors of the wood burner and growing out of control. I told DeWitt and ██████████ that I was going to kick the door. As I breached the door, Plot was standing off to the left and was seen holding two large silver colored knives. One knife I understood to be the butcher knife that had been identified by dispatch, while the other was long and narrower. At this time, numerous verbal commands were given for Plot to drop the knife and get on the ground. He did not comply. Plot made a comment to the effect of, 'I guess we are all going to fucking die!' Plot then ran further into the home away from our sight. As all three of us ran inside, the smoke and fire were overwhelming. Screaming could be heard from a bedroom down the hallway. ██████████ ran towards the screams and kicked open a bedroom door. As I entered the room, Plot was holding Diane from behind her back with an arm around her neck. I could see a large knife in Plot's hand and watched as he fought with Diane. ██████████ was screaming for him to drop the knife. He was not complying. Upon the belief that Diane's life was in imminent danger, I fired my weapon at Plot, after which he ceased moving and fell to the ground with Diane.

Thereafter ██████████ and DeWitt assisted Diane out of the house. With the house quickly filling up with smoke, Sergeant Scarborough and I grabbed Plot and pulled his body from the house and safe from the fire."

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The above quoted text can be found in paragraphs four (4) and five (5) of [REDACTED] written witness statement.

Follow up/Clarification:

[REDACTED] indicated he was working his [REDACTED] when he heard the LCSO dispatch a deputy, later identified as Deputy Dewitt, to a domestic violence call involving weapons at 4206 Northridge Road address. [REDACTED] did not recall the names of the involved subjects during the initial dispatch. [REDACTED] described observing Deputy Dewitt's location on the GPS in his vehicle and noticed no other deputies were close to assist him. [REDACTED] indicated he responded to the dispatch due to the nature of the call and the lack of backup available for Deputy Dewitt. [REDACTED] confirmed the above address to be outside of JPD jurisdiction, however he explained mutual aid to be a common practice on high priority calls. [REDACTED] arrived on scene second behind Deputy DeWitt and estimated his response time to be approximately 3–4 minutes. [REDACTED] estimated [REDACTED] to arrive on scene a few minutes later.

[REDACTED] explained his initial observations and actions upon his arrival on scene, which are consistent with his description in paragraph three (3) of his written statement.

[REDACTED] indicated the decision was made to enter the house due to dispatch's updated radio traffic indicating Bell to be still inside. Upon their initial entry, [REDACTED] explained entering a mud/utility room area which lead to a solid wood door with a long rectangular shaped pane of glass. [REDACTED] statement states, "*I told DeWitt and [REDACTED] that I was going to kick the door.*" [REDACTED] explained he made this decision based off of his observations of Plott setting the house on fire and the belief that Bell was still somewhere unaccounted for inside. [REDACTED] used the terminology of "exigent circumstances" as a description of the above situation.

[REDACTED] explanation of his interaction with Plott after initially breaching the door is consistent his description located in paragraph four (4) of his written statement.

In addition to the information in paragraph four (4) of the written statement, SA Call asked [REDACTED] to further describe, if possible, the events immediately surrounding the shooting. [REDACTED] described entering a bedroom behind [REDACTED] and observed Plott and Bell behind a table or desk of some kind. [REDACTED] indicated the two were engaged in a struggle with Plott, still armed with the knife, positioned behind Bell. [REDACTED] described Plott and Bell's positioning to be similar to something observed in a movie with an assailant holding a hostage from behind. [REDACTED] recalled hearing [REDACTED] yelling verbal commands at Plott as [REDACTED] began to aim his pistol at Plott. [REDACTED] indicated Plott's head was the only target area available due to their positioning and recalled thinking his shot had to be well placed to avoid hitting Bell. [REDACTED] confirmed he recalls using his sights in order to make an accurate shot. [REDACTED] said after he fired Plott slumped down to the ground area. [REDACTED] is confident his round impacted Plott's forehead area and reported seeing blood begin pouring out of his head afterwards. [REDACTED] now knows he and [REDACTED] both fired during the incident and reported remembering hearing two shots fired during the whole incident.

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SA Call asked [REDACTED] why he ultimately chose to fire his weapon during the incident. [REDACTED] responded "He was going to kill her." [REDACTED] confirmed he believes a butcher knife is capable of inflicting serious physical injury or death. [REDACTED] confirmed that Plott at no point in time during the incident appeared to be compliant with commands or ceasing his behavior.

[REDACTED] said Plott made no statements or actions after the shooting.

SA Call asked [REDACTED] in reference to any previous contacts with Plott or Bell. [REDACTED] said he was informed after the shooting that he had issued Plott a speeding citation some time in past couple months. [REDACTED] did not recall anything particularly strange about the stop other than Plott volunteering the information that he had previously been in prison. [REDACTED] reported Plott to be cordial during the stop.

[REDACTED] confirmed he has not been pressured by anyone to give BCI a statement or cooperate with the investigation. [REDACTED] confirmed he has not been pressured by anyone to obstruct BCI's investigation. [REDACTED] confirmed his statement to be true and accurate to the best of his recollections.

The interview concluded at approximately 1326 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: [REDACTED] CIN
- Attachment # 02: [REDACTED] Signed Statement
- Attachment # 03: JPD [REDACTED] Interview

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Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation



Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).



9.9.24 1252

Date / Time

SA. T. Craig Call
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA T. Call
BCI Agent (Signature)

On Friday, August 30, 2024 at approximately 9:29 AM, I responded to 4206 Northridge Road, in Licking County Ohio, to provide assistance for the Licking County Sheriff's Office on an active domestic violence call. At the time of the call, only one officer was available to respond, and the scene appeared very active based on in-coming radio transmissions. I understood that the call involved a subject trying to stab a female with a knife.

Upon my arrival, I pulled into the north most gravel driveway and parked to the right of Deputy Nicholas DeWitt's marked unit. As I exited, I could see DeWitt actively searching the back side of the residence with his duty weapon drawn. Once we met, I took cover along an aluminum detached garage north of the home, while DeWitt recovered his patrol rifle from his vehicle.

From there, DeWitt and I started moving along the gravel drive toward the front of the home. There was some confusion on the radio as to whether the suspect, Douglas Plott, was seen outside and/or whether he had a gun. It was unknown at the time if Plot had a gun or if the caller, Diane, saw DeWitt in the back yard. Proceeding south, I started to move with my weapon drawn up to clear two vehicles parked directly in front of the home. While using these vehicles for cover, I yelled out, "Police Department, come out with your hands up!" After receiving no response, I continued moving around the south side of the home. I took a covered position along what appeared to be an air conditioning unit on the west side of the home and communicated with DeWitt. With no suspect in sight, Diane was asked to open the window inside her room by the dispatcher. It was understood she could not open her window because of an air conditioning unit. Suddenly, DeWitt asked me if I could hear a smoke alarm going off. I could not. Next, I made my way back towards the front of the home where I was joined by [REDACTED]. I peered into a small mud room secured by an aluminum door. I could see what appeared to be the main door into the house. The mud room door was locked when I first pulled on the handle. I used my Leatherman Raptor to pry the door's lock while [REDACTED] pulled the door open.

Once inside the mud room, I could smell smoke and saw the suspect Plot through a thin glass window in the front room, throwing blankets onto a wood burner. The flames were spewing from the doors of the wood burner and growing out of control. I told DeWitt and [REDACTED] that I was going to kick the door. As I breached the door, Plot was standing off to the left and was seen holding two large silver-colored knives. One knife I understood to be the butcher knife that had been identified by dispatch, while the other was long and narrower. At this time, numerous verbal commands were given for Plot to drop the knife and get on the ground. He did not comply. Plot made a comment to the effect of, 'I guess we are all going to fucking die!' Plot then ran further into the home away from our sight. As all three of us ran inside, the smoke and fire were overwhelming. Screaming could be heard from a bedroom down the hallway. [REDACTED] ran towards the scream and kicked open a bedroom door. As I entered the room, Plot was holding Diane from behind her back with an arm around her neck. I could see a large knife in Plot's hand and watched as he fought with Diane. [REDACTED] was screaming for him to drop the knife. He was not complying. Upon the belief that Diane's life was in imminent danger, I fired my weapon at Plot, after which he ceased moving and fell to the ground with Diane.

Thereafter [REDACTED] and DeWitt assisted Diane out of the house. With the house quickly filling up with smoke, Sergeant Scarborough and I grabbed Plot and pulled his body from the house and safe from the fire. [REDACTED]

X

Witness: S.A.T. [Signature]
Craig Call
9/9/24 1255hrs