



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), Eric Wallace (W)
Date of Activity: 07/13/2022
Activity Location: Warren County Sheriff's Office – Business – 822 Memorial Drive ,
Lebanon, OH 45036, Warren County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 1435 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Steve Seitzman met with Mason Police Sergeant Eric Wallace at the Warren County Sheriff's Office, 822 Memorial Drive, Lebanon, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Wallace's union representative/attorney, Steve Lazarus. Wallace has been employed with the Mason Police Department for 7 years and was assigned to road patrol with shift hours of 2230–0700. Wallace has been a member of the Warren County Regional SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team for 3 ¹/₂ years and was designated as a sniper, along with making entries.

Wallace was present at a SWAT call-out on July 11th into July 12th reference Thomas Cromwell and Kelly Rose. Cromwell had escaped from Hamilton County Corrections the previous day [July 10, 2022]. During the standoff at the Baymont Inn (Mason, Ohio), the SWAT team breached the hotel room door. Once inside the room, Franklin Police Officer Chris Keene shot and killed Cromwell, who had a knife held to the throat of Rose.

Sergeant Wallace stated he received a message of a SWAT call-out of a wanted person with a hostage at the Baymont Inn. Wallace stated he responded and arrived on scene around 1600 hours and met with Assistant SWAT Team Commander Deputy Scott Williams. Wallace stated he met with Deputy Scott Williams and was told to set up with his "long gun." Wallace set up "a little off set" near the Tenji Restaurant about 46 yards away.

Sergeant Wallace stated initially he did not see Cromwell, but a short time later he observed Cromwell in the window waving and gesturing to people in the parking lot. Once a crowd began to congregate, Wallace requested and received another SWAT member to provide rear security. Wallace remained in that position until he was relieved at midnight by a Hamilton County SWAT team sniper. Through the time prior to being relieved, he observed Cromwell repeatedly make

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gestures in the hotel room window presumably to the people in the parking lot and had visible a cell phone and at times, a knife. Wallace stated he never observed a female, but did observe a dog repeatedly come to the window. Wallace stated Cromwell closed the curtains, which obstructed his view, which he relayed to other team members along with Cromwell being in possession of a knife. Agent Ward asked Wallace if Cromwell noticed him and he stated he did not know.

Sergeant Wallace stated when he returned from a nearby firehouse, he was informed to fall in the stack on the third floor, room 310 along the bathroom wall with Officer Antwan Scott (Springboro Police) and Garrett Rosell (Franklin Police). According to Wallace, Hamilton County SWAT offered to hold his sniper position so he could fall in on the stack. Wallace was tasked with providing lethal cover once the explosive breach was made. Once the breach was made, Wallace stated he heard a shot and the female was inside the hallway. When he exited the room into the hallway, Wallace observed the medic entering room 310 and he heard Cromwell was dead.

Agent Ward concluded the interview Sergeant Wallace at 1448 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Wallace.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13 / Sgt. Eric Wallace Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.