



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



2022-1115
Officer Involved Critical Incident – SR 339 near mile marker 3,
Belpre (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Lt. Eric Hunter (W)
Date of Activity: 05/27/2022
Activity Location: Hunter, Lt. Eric – Business – 309 4h Street , Marietta, OH 45750,
Washington County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On May 27, 2022, at approximately 1000 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Lieutenant Eric Hunter (Lt. Hunter) at 309 4th St., Marietta, OH. The interview was conducted to gain more knowledge regarding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at SR 339 near mile marker 3, Belpre, OH. Washington County Sherriff's Office (WCSO) deputy was involved in a vehicle pursuit with an unknown subject. The involved vehicle crashed into a civilian truck then ultimately spun-out and crashed into a ditch. As the deputy approached the vehicle, shots were fired. The involved party, later identified as Devon Taylor (Taylor) died from unknown injuries.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

SA Poole identified himself and advised Lt. Hunter that their conversation was voluntary, and he could end the interview at any time. Lt. Hunter voluntarily agreed to talk with SA Poole.

Lt. Hunter explained he has worked 10 years at the Washington County Sherriff's Office and is currently a Lieutenant for the uniformed patrol division. Lt. Hunter clarified he was off duty when Deputy Davis advised him that that Deputy ██████ was involved in a critical incident with a suspect still barricaded in the vehicle. Lt. Hunter said he grabbed his tactical vest, issued rifle, and left in his unmarked issued cruiser to the scene.

Lt. Hunter stated he arrived a little after 0500 hours. Captain Lockhart, Lieutenant Gherke, and Sergeant Johnson were already in a tactical "V Formation" approaching Taylor's vehicle when he arrived. Lt. Hunter said he relieved Sergeant McConnel's security position, due to the fact Lt. Hunter had a rifle. Once the tactical "V formation" was moving around the vehicle Lt. Hunter

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stated he was moving towards the front of Taylor's vehicle to provide security.

Lt. Hunter explained due to it being dark and the air bags being deployed, it was hard to see inside the vehicle, but once he was towards the front, he could see a shadowy figure slumped over in the driver's seat. Lt. Hunter clarified that there was no movement or signs of life coming from Taylor.

After Deputy Aultman checked Taylor's pulse, Lt. Hunter explained he called for a squad to enter the scene where Little Hocking 428 responded to pronounce Taylor.

Lt. Hunter stated he then helped with scene security during the investigation and escorted Taylor's vehicle to the impound lot.

SA Poole asked if there were any commands given to Taylor during the incident. Lt. Hunter stated he showed up after the fact.

SA Poole asked if Taylor had said anything or was responsive. Lt. stated, "No and no."

SA Poole asked Lt. Hunter what kind of weapon did he carry. Lt. Hunter stated he was carrying his issued Colt AR-15 duty rifle with 5.56mm duty rounds.

SA Poole asked Lt. Hunter if he ever discharged his weapon during the incident or had seen any other deputies discharge their weapon. Lt. Hunter stated, "No and no."

SA Poole asked if Lt. Hunter had a body warn camera on at the time. Lt. Hunter stated, "No," due to the fact he came from his home before his working shift. Lt. Hunter also explained that Captain Lockhart, Lieutenant Gherke, and Sergeant Johnson would not have body warm cameras due to responding from home and wearing tactical vests.

Interview concluded at 1013 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-05-27 LT Eric Hunter Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.