



CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

1215 W 3rd St
Cleveland, OH 44113
(216) 443-6000

Officer Narrative
CCSO2024-000134

Case Number CCSO2024-000134
Subject FU - Follow up
Narrative Type Interview Report
Entered On 3/28/2024 12:00:00 AM
Entered By 191 - Divis, Randy

Narrative

On February 16, 2024 Det. Harvey and I, (Det. R. Divis #191) spoke with [REDACTED] who is employed with the Cleveland Division of Police in regard to an incident where deadly force was used. Officer Miller was accompanied by his legal counsel Henry Hilow and union representation.

Detectives began by reading [REDACTED] his Miranda Rights which he acknowledged, fully understood and agreed to speak with Detectives. [REDACTED] began his employment with the Cleveland Division of Police on 07/07/2024 and is currently a police officer assigned to the SWAT Unit. [REDACTED] has been on Swat since November of 2019. [REDACTED] 's schedule is Monday through Friday from 4:00PM until midnight (12:00AM) however on Tuesday he works from 08:00AM until 04:00PM for training. [REDACTED] was working from 04:00PM until midnight on January 17, 2024. [REDACTED] does not have a specific assignment on the Swat Unit but stated he routinely is assigned to rifle [REDACTED] recalls responding to 7702 Spafford on 01/17/2024 and states he was wearing the following at the time of his response: boots, "cold gear" pants, battle shirt, coat, a vest with plates, helmet, gloves, socks, which were all black in color with Swat patches on the front and back of the vest. The patches says Cleveland Police Swat Unit. [REDACTED] was not carrying any less-lethal weapons. [REDACTED] had a rifle which was in condition two, which means the firearm was loaded with the safety on [REDACTED] was carrying three magazines on his person with a fourth magazine in the rifle. The magazines have a capacity of thirty rounds but [REDACTED] had twenty-eight rounds in each magazine to avoid a double-feed. [REDACTED] was not operating a vehicle during the time of this incident.

[REDACTED] was driven to 7702 Spafford by another Swat operator in vehicle #9120. [REDACTED] was seated in the rear driver side of the vehicle which was driven by Ofc. Bartlebaugh. Fellow officers [REDACTED] and Crytzer were also in the vehicle en route to the scene of the incident. The Cleveland Swat unit had just finished a search warrant when they received this call. The vehicle was a white unmarked ford expedition that did not have a dashboard camera. [REDACTED] did not have a body worn camera at the time of this incident. [REDACTED] has received the following specialty training: percision rifle operator, sniper school, basic Swat school, and other internal trainings. [REDACTED] wrestled in college and was a professional fighter. [REDACTED] has no prior military experience. [REDACTED] states he received use of force training within the last year from the Cleveland Division of Police. [REDACTED] does not use glasses or hearing aids. [REDACTED] states he was not well rested during the time of the incident because his shift had started at 04:00PM and this incident occurred at 03:00AM. [REDACTED] is not on any prescription medication that would affect his duties and had not ingested alcohol within twenty-four hours of this incident. [REDACTED] has had no prior involvement in a shooting. [REDACTED] has received verbal counseling for a bodyworn camera policy violation and was disciplined for missing in service training but [REDACTED] ascertains he was actively teaching the in-service training. [REDACTED] received an officer complaint for arresting a mental pregnant female but the complaint never went anywhere.



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[REDACTED] was advised by his sergeant they would be responding to an incident. [REDACTED] listened to his radio and heard 4th district police officers say they were taking cover because someone was shooting. [REDACTED] responded to the scene at approximately 08:00PM. Upon arrival, Swat was set up towards the left side of the house (7702 Spafford). [REDACTED] and Ofc. Onofrei were in the backyard and could see the suspect (Perkins) in the window sometime before 09:00PM. Perkins was holding a rifle and had set it down so he could eat. Perkins closed the blinds and turned the lights off. Officers were waiting for the bearcat which was staged two houses to the left of 7702 Spafford. Members of CDP Swat came up with a plan to have the bearcat approach the house with the following members inside: [REDACTED] Onofrei, Sgt. Blaine, Gelske and Medic Saunders. Swat's plan was to try to make call-outs to Perkins. [REDACTED] had a shotgun, [REDACTED] had a rifle, Onofrei was the "hands" guy, Sgt. Blaine was less-lethal with taser and pepperball. Originally the plan was to have [REDACTED] go to a house across the street with a sniper. Ofc. Readinger was on scene with a sniper however it was determined it was too dangerous to set up a sniper based off of Perkins actions and his ability to shoot. [REDACTED] stated Perkins was trained and was a very good shot. Swat members went out front and tried making call-outs to Perkins. [REDACTED] recalls watching Perkins walking around with the rifle. [REDACTED] stated he was originally advised by his lieutenant the suspect was a 56 year old male who had shot at people, caused officers to take cover and shot at a vehicle. [REDACTED] was able to determine Perkins was in his 30s. [REDACTED] watched Perkins picking things up which he believed to be ammunition. [REDACTED] was nervous about what Perkins had in the house compared to what the bearcat could handle. [REDACTED] stated Perkins set up music and lights and was dancing and pacing for hours. Swat members tried communicating with Perkins through a long range acoustic device. [REDACTED] could see two windows of the house from his position behind the bearcat. [REDACTED] states early on the bearcat was parked in the intersection of Canton and Spafford. [REDACTED] was observing Perkins shooting off pyrotechnic fireballs within the home from 09:00PM until whenever County Swat arrived on scene. [REDACTED] observed Perkins dancing and doing pull-ups. [REDACTED] observed Perkins standing in the window loading magazines and [REDACTED] interpreted it that Perkins wanted them to know he was loading magazines. [REDACTED] observed what believed was an assault rifle with an optic on it. [REDACTED] stated Perkins had worked himself up and stripped down to his underwear and was acting manic. [REDACTED] broadcasted to his team that it appeared Perkins was tiring. County Swat arrived on scene and CDP Swat took a break while waiting for a search warrant to be signed.

CDP Swat planned to use the bearcat ram to breach the front door. The bearcat repositioned by driving down Spafford to E. 78th St., up to Broadview Rd. and back down Canton Rd. to be facing 7702 Spafford head on. The bearcat breached the front door and members of CDP Swat observed Perkins inside of the door holding a rifle. Perkins responded to the bearcat breaching his front door by getting a dust pan and apron and began sweeping up the debris. Perkins started talking on a karaoke machine but [REDACTED] could not understand him. [REDACTED] heard Perkins say his goal in life was to help good people and kill bad people. Sgt. Blaine attempted to tell Perkins the CDP are good people and to come out and speak with them. Perkins stated "I think its time for me to go shoot some more" which was relayed by [REDACTED]. Several seconds later [REDACTED] heard rapid gunfire. After breaching the front door a second time Perkins began firing at the bearcat and [REDACTED] observed round after round striking the windshield of the bearcat. [REDACTED] got out to the left side of the bearcat and [REDACTED] got out to the right side but [REDACTED] could not see the windows of the house from his position so he got in the bearcat and went through the turret in the top of the bearcat. [REDACTED] had difficulty seeing the windows due to the railings on the bearcat. [REDACTED] observed Perkins fire his weapon at the County Swat bearcat however [REDACTED] could not see it from his location, he only heard gunfire. [REDACTED] was advised Perkins was in the center window. [REDACTED] saw Perkins in the window with the rifle, as Perkins started turning, ([REDACTED] made a leftward movement) [REDACTED] fired three (3) rounds at Perkins then took cover behind the bearcat. The bearcat repositioned to avoid receiving more shots in the same location from Perkins because they were unsure how many rounds the bearcat could withstand. [REDACTED] assumed his position again behind the bearcat in case he needed to continue firing at Perkins.



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The CDP drone operator was able to fly the drone into the house and confirm Perkins was down on the floor and no longer had the rifle in his hand. [REDACTED] and other members of the CDP Swat team made entry to the home and cleared the first floor. The second floor was then secured and the Swat medic went in. Once the house was secured [REDACTED] cleared the house [REDACTED] is unclear who shot first but he believes [REDACTED] shot first. [REDACTED] believes [REDACTED] fired one round to get Perkins to stop firing, then [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both fired three (3) rounds. [REDACTED] stated he fired his weapon at Perkins to get him to stop shooting his weapon because he was in fear for everybody's safety and was afraid that Perkins was going to kill someone. Please refer to video recorded interview for further details.