



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Allison Elliott (W)
Date of Activity: 08/10/2022
Activity Location: Elliott, Allison – Business – 130 N Fountain Ave, Springfield, OH
45502, Clark County
Author: SA Kenneth J. Smith, #53

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Clark County. During the OICI, Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by subject, Cole White. The incident occurred after White had killed his mother, Jodie Arbuckle. Multiple agencies and SWAT teams responded and attempted multiple rescue efforts of Deputy Yates. During the standoff the mobile home caught fire and White was killed in the fire.

On August 10, 2022 at 1009 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Springfield Police Captain and SWAT team member Allison Elliott (Capt. Elliott) regarding her involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the off site SWAT training facility in Springfield. 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.

Captain Elliott has been with the Springfield PD for 16 years. She has been on the SWAT team for 14 years. Her role on the team is negotiator.

On July 24, 2022, she was off duty and at her residence. Capt. Elliott received a call from the Officer in Charge for the PD (Sgt. Cantrell) who advised that there was an incident in the county which road units were responding to. Capt. Elliott was also advised that it was probably going to be a SWAT callout. Capt. Elliott, in addition to being on the SWAT team was in charge of

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the Road Patrol functions of the police department. Capt. Elliott then called the Chief and then Captain Michael Kranz to notify them. Capt. Kranz then put out the alert to all SWAT members and Capt. Elliott then responded directly to the scene.

At the scene, Capt. Elliott followed a Springfield PD armored MRAP to the command center. She began speaking to county deputies to gather intelligence for negotiation purposes. She directed deputies and other officers to go around the trailer park and canvass for information regarding Cole White. Capt. Elliott received a cellular telephone number for White, which she attempted to call numerous times. The calls only rang to a message that 'the cellular customer you are trying to reach is unavailable', as if the phone was off or not in service. Capt. Elliott also attempted to call Dep. Yates' cell phone. Capt. Elliott asked to speak to Jodi Arbuckle's fiancée several times, but in all the confusion it did not happen. Capt. Elliott did receive a phone number which she tried to call but believes she was given the wrong number.

While Capt. Kranz was organizing rescue attempts for Springfield SWAT, Capt. Elliott asked about attempting contact with White over the loud speaker. Since Springfield didn't have a contact team in place, this plan was put on hold. Capt. Elliott then got in the passenger seat of the MRAP at the rear of the house. Capt. Elliot did make announcements over the loudspeaker after the extraction of Dep. Yates. She announced "Cole White exit the residence and meet officers at the front door," continuously repeating the announcement. There was no movement and she observed the fire and black smoke coming out the mid trailer area. The MRAP maintained perimeter until the trailer was engulfed and they had to pull back.

Capt. Elliott advised that during one of the rescue attempts, there was gunfire heard and glass breaking on the rear side of the trailer as well as smoke from a gun being fired at them. She was unsure as to whether or not the MRAP was hit.

The interview was concluded at 1024 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-10 / Interview of Capt. Allison Elliott SPD

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.