



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: Cole Matthew White (S), Capt. Michael Kranz (W)
Date of Activity: 08/10/2022
Activity Location: Springfield Police Department SWAT Training – 130 North Fountain
Ave, Springfield, OH 45502, Clark County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 0810 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agent Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Springfield Police (SPD) Captain Michael Kranz/SWAT team commander at an undisclosed training facility, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Kranz had responded to 1132 Ashwood Court on July 24, 2022 on an Officer-Involved Critical Incident where Matthew Yates and Jodi Arbuckle were shot and killed by Cole White.

Captain Kranz has been employed with SPD for 24-years and has held the rank of captain for 5-years. Kranz is the SWAT team commander and the investigative captain. Kranz stated he was contacted by Clark County Sheriff's Major Chris Clark and informed a deputy was "down". Kranz arrived on scene at Harmony Estates trailer park fairly quickly and was present during the first unsuccessful rescue attempt by the sheriff's office personnel. Agent Ward asked Kranz if he witnessed the first attempt and he stated he was present, but did not witness the attempt. Agent Ward asked if he was briefed as to the details and Kranz stated there was a lack of information. Kranz took an armored Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle to view the trailer, which also allowed for troopers and other officers in the area of the trailer to fall back with cover.

Captain Kranz stated he received information from Major Clark there was a caregiver/mother possibly involved, but had no other information reference the location of this person. Additionally, Kranz was told Deputy Yates was down just inside the trailer's front door threshold and the officers/deputies came under fire when they attempted to rescue him. Kranz learned the involved subject [Cole White] was in possession of a .308, AK 47 or .30 caliber repeating rifle, because of the frequency of fire. Kranz activated his [SWAT] team, but it took some time for personnel and equipment to arrive. According to Kranz, one of the MRAP's arrived rather quick, but the other MRAP vehicle had been serviced and equipment removed,

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which caused some the delay.

Captain Kranz stated his team staged on the second street over on Teakwood for command and equipment placement. At this location, Kranz met with Ohio State Highway Patrol SOT Commander Lt. Bryan Mangin and eventually Greene County Regional SWAT Commander Robert Swihart. Kranz stated a plan was devised to extract Deputy Yates from the trailer. Kranz remained unclear if the female discussed earlier was inside the trailer and attempted to "filter that out" through the information obtained. According to Kranz, the plan was for MRAP to bump the rear of the trailer and at the same time chemical munitions deployed inside the trailer. The purpose was to encourage White to exit the trailer or drive him deep inside to lessen the threat. Kranz stated the other MRAP was deployed at the front door of the trailer and struck the awning. Once the SPD SWAT team, along with Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Nawman, attempted the rescue, the team came under fire and withdrew. Deputy Nawman was injured during the attempt and was extracted by team members.

Captain Kranz stated Greene County SWAT arrived and utilized their armored vehicle toward the front of the trailer. The MRAP was able to peel the the rear corner of the trailer for a line of sight inside and another point of entry if needed. On the attempt Deputy Yates was extracted, the decision was made to deploy gas and flash bangs outside the trailer for thirty seconds and make entry by the SPD SWAT. CS gas and flash bangs were deployed by Greene County, SPD, and possibly OSHP. The SWAT members known by Kranz who extracted Yates were Detective Terri, Officer Eric Fleming, and Detective Kevin Miller. SPD extracted Yates from the trailer and was placed into Clark County Sheriff's Office Bearcat. Agent Ward asked Kranz when the fire of the trailer began and he stated he did not know. Agent Ward asked if negotiations were attempted and Kranz stated attempts were made over the loud speaker/via the PA system, but was unsuccessful.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Captain Kranz at 0834 hours. The audio recorded interview is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-10 / Capt. Michael Kranz audio interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.