



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness Officer
Involves: Officer Ted Drewek (W), BCI (O)
Activity Date: 3/21/2023
Activity Location: Brookfield Township Police Department –
6844 Strimbu Drive, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403
Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at about 0533 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) interviewed Lordstown Police Department (LPD) Officer (Ofc.) Ted Drewek (Drewek). The interview took place at the Brookfield Township Police Department (BTPD). The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Drewek was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved shooting that occurred at about 0116 hours on March 21, 2023, in the area of 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Drewek did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident observed by this officer.

Ofc. Drewek has been employed by the LPD since 1993. Ofc. Drewek wore his standard police uniform and jacket (Ofc. Drewek's uniform was documented in BCI report, "2023-03-21: Documentation of Involved Officers."

SA Moran asked Ofc. Drewek to provide details of the incident that occurred. Ofc. Drewek said he was in dispatch at the LPD when they received a call from Trumbull County dispatch requesting assistance for a call in Brookfield Township. Ofc. Drewek said the LPD was contacted due to being involved in a vehicle pursuit earlier that day with the subject. Ofc. Drewek also had access to a thermal monocular.

Ofc. Drewek went to an area near the scene and met with other law enforcement officers from different agencies. A briefing occurred and an overhead map was shown of the property and of a cabin in the woods where the subject was likely located. They discussed how they would walk down the "gas well driveway" and who would "flank" the structure. There was information that the cabin was "12 by 12", had only had one door, but multiple windows.

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Ofc. Drewek said about "six or eight" officers began walking down the driveway. Police cruisers were parked on the road (in front of the property along State Route 7). Ofc. Drewek believed another officer possibly had a thermal monocular. Ofc. Drewek led the group of officers down the driveway.

Ofc. Drewek saw light and "heat" coming from a cabin in the woods through the lens of the monocular. Ofc. Drewek heard "loud music playing" and was not certain if the subject had other people with him. Ofc. Drewek explained that he learned that someone called "anonymously" and reported that the subject was in the cabin and also had a stolen truck with him.

Ofc. Drewek said as they approached the cabin, he saw a truck parked very close to the cabin. The truck was facing east. Ofc. Drewek believed that other officers in the woods stepped on some branches causing them to break and it possibly alerted the subject to the presence of the officers. Other officers said the subject was facing north, but Ofc. Drewek could not see him through the thermal monocular. Ofc. Drewek said he was on the south side and was using the thermal monocular to look into the truck and attempting to look into the cabin.

Ofc. Drewek began to walk around the southwest to west side of the cabin when he heard other officers begin to yell, "Police!" Ofc. Drewek was not using his thermal monocular at this time. He said the subject jumped through the cabin window directly into the driver's side front seat of the truck. The snow plow on the front of the truck was up and Ofc. Drewek wondered if the subject planned his actions and escape.

Ofc. Drewek said the subject started the truck and "plowed through some trees" and a "couple" of officers moved out of the way of the truck "and then shots were fired." Ofc. Drewek did not know how many gunshots were fired. Ofc. Drewek estimated the truck moved forward about "30 feet" with a "full gas pedal." Ofc. Drewek saw tire tracks on the ground that showed the sudden acceleration of the truck. Ofc. Drewek could hear the "engine revving" and the music was still playing. Ofc. Drewek said he was not certain how the subject knew the officers were there. He added that "it happened so quick" and was glad that no officers were struck in a potential crossfire situation.

Ofc. Drewek confirmed that he did not fire his weapon during the incident because he was holding his flashlight and the thermal monocular. He did not have the opportunity to even draw his pistol from the holster. Ofc. Drewek reiterated that the incident happened "quick" and estimated about 15-20 seconds elapsed from the time the subject entered the truck to when it came to a stop.

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SA Moran asked Ofc. Drewek about the moments when the truck hit the trees and the officers who were moving out of the way. Ofc. Drewek said he knew that officers were around the cabin, but he was not exactly certain where all the officers were located. He did not know if any officers were in front of the truck. Ofc. Drewek said he was positioned near the rear passenger side of the truck when it started moving. After the truck stopped, Ofc. Drewek said the cabin needed to be cleared and other officers checked the cabin.

SA Moran asked Ofc. Drewek if anyone checked on the subject after the incident. Ofc. Drewek recalled that a Trumbull County Sheriff's (TCSO) deputy checked on the subject. Ofc. Drewek recalled that the TCSO deputy was trying to break with passenger side window of the truck with the muzzle of his rifle during the incident. Ofc. Drewek believed that an officer eventually used an ASP baton to break the window after the incident because the passenger door was locked. Ofc. Drewek recalled that it was apparent the subject was deceased and the subject had a hole in his head.

SA Moran asked Ofc. Drewek if he would have fired if he had not had his flashlight and thermal monocular in his hands. Ofc. Drewek said it was his task to get all of the officers back to the cabin by using the thermal monocular and that he had sufficient "cover" from the other officers. Ofc. Drewek said he did not think that the subject had a weapon and the subject did not drive the truck at him. Ofc. Drewek did not remember seeing any officers directly in front of the truck.

Ofc. Drewek said the truck was less than "a foot away from the cabin" and believed that it was set up that way. As soon the subject heard the police announcing themselves, he immediately jumped through the window and into the truck.

Ofc. Drewek said he had not prior law enforcement contact with the subject, Fred Wild (Wild). Ofc. Drewek said he was not equipped with a body-worn camera (BWC) during the incident (the LPD does not issue BWCs). His marked cruiser had an in-car camera (ICC), but it was parked on State Route 7 and was not near the incident scene.

SA Moran asked Ofc. Drewek what he felt and about his position near the truck. Ofc. Drewek said the truck was driving away from him, but he could not remember if any of the officers were in front of the truck. Ofc. Drewek could not tell if any officers fired near him. He said the gunshots occurred in a "quick" manner. He heard the gunshots, but could not see the gunshots. He did not know which officers fired nor the positions they were located when they fired.

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Ofc. Drewek said he believed his actions were consistent with his training and experience. He did not perform any actions (collecting evidence, taking photographs, etc.) after the incident. He did not speak with the involved officers after the incident. He was not certain who fired during the incident. He recalled an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) trooper telling the involved officers that he was going to collect the weapons that were fired and place them in the trunk of his cruiser.

Ofc. Drewek reiterated that the incident happened "fast." Ofc. Drewek said he was in the military and had been deployed during wartime. He said he scanned the area with his thermal because he was initially worried about being ambushed. He said he did not record or capture any images with his thermal monocular. He had it on the "white" setting. He could see light and heat near the cabin window. He explained that the thermal monocular cannot see through windows. He did not see the subject until he jumped through the cabin window into the truck.

SA Moran asked Ofc. Drewek about his military experience. Ofc. Drewek said he was in the U.S. Army for 12 years and was in a combat Military Police Unit. He served in the Persian Gulf War.

The interview ended at 0559 hours.

Attachments:

1. 2023-03-21 - Audio - LPD Officer Ted Drewek Interview - 803_0751