



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



2024-1814
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8401 South Dixie Highway,
Rudolph, Ohio 43462

Investigative Activity: Information Provided/Obtained
Involves: George Eric Taylor (S), Robert Van Norman (O)
Date of Activity: 07/03/2024
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On July 3, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) reviewed a text message thread between deceased individual George Eric Taylor (Taylor) and Robert Van Norman (Robert) that took place on June 15–June 16, 2024, including messages sent during the timeframe of the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which took place on June 16, 2024, between Taylor and the Wood County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) at Taylor's residence of 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio.

The messages were provided to SA Rammel from Robert on July 1, 2024, at the conclusion of a phone interview between SA Rammel and Robert. The information contained in this report is just the details deemed important to the OICI investigation. The complete message thread was attached to this investigation. See the attachment for the complete details.

The message thread began on May 11, 2024, and included information that provided insight into Taylor's mind set on June 16, 2024. The thread ended on June 16, 2024, at 0931 hours with Taylor's last message being received by Robert at 0128 hours.

On May 11, 2024, Taylor told Robert that he was "not living the best life right now" which led to Robert offering to come out and visit Taylor, and how life was easier for both of them in the military.

On May 17, 2024, Robert sent a message checking in on Taylor to which Taylor advised he was "good".

On June 15, 2024, at 11:54 p.m. Taylor sent Robert an image of a female's wedding ring on his finger with no other statement.

On June 16, 2024, at 12:14 a.m. Taylor sent another image, this time of a black Ka-bar knife and a large bottle of alcohol almost completely empty.

Robert informed SA Rammel that he was on the phone with Taylor when the second image was

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
07/08/2024

sent to him from Taylor. Robert also advised that during their conversation the phone line eventually went silent as if Taylor hung up on him. It was at this time when Robert stated he contacted 911 for a welfare check on Taylor. This information was obtained from Robert during the course of an interview with SA Rammel. See Investigative Report (IR) 27 for the details of the interview between SA Rammel and Robert.

Between 12:42 a.m. and 12:55 a.m. Robert told Taylor that he "had help coming bro just hang in there". Taylor responded with "what" and Robert explained that he went into panic mode thinking something had happened to Taylor.

Between 12:55 a.m. and 12:59 a.m. Robert informed Taylor that he knew Taylor was in Wood County and that he would call off the welfare check and that Taylor's issues with his wife Jessica Taylor (Jessica) was not worth it. Taylor told Robert that he was "done with life", he will "have to fight them" referring to the WCSO, and "I'll kill myself in front of them".

Between 12:59 a.m. and 1:07 a.m. Robert continued to try and talk Taylor down from hurting himself and to put his knife away. Taylor stated "fuck that. I'm ready to kill myself".

Between 1:07 a.m. and 1:13 a.m. Robert told Taylor to contact 911 and get an ambulance to take him to a hospital. Taylor told Robert to call and stated that he could not promise Robert he would hold off until help arrived. Robert advised Taylor to "keep talking to me".

At 1:14 a.m. Taylor sent an image of himself with the Ka-bar knife held to his throat.

Between 1:14 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. Taylor told Robert it was "going to be a fight" and that Robert "better let them (WCSO) know".

Between 1:16 a.m. and 1:23 a.m. Taylor indicated "maybe I want them to kill me" and "its on when they show up" talking about the WCSO Deputies responding. Robert continued to plead with Taylor to get the help he needed and that the system is there to help him out. Robert confirmed that he was seven hours away and that this was the "only way I can help you from here". Taylor advised "We shall see when them puss us arrive". Robert tried to convince Taylor to put his knife away and get help because it was what Robert had to do in the past.

Between 1:24 a.m. and 1:28 a.m. Taylor commented that there are only "four deputies on duty at night" in Wood County and that Taylor was going to "fuck them up". Robert continued to try and convince Taylor to "go quietly" to which Taylor responded back "nope". The comment "nope" at 1:28 a.m. was the last message sent from Taylor to Robert. Robert messaged Taylor back to do it "for me (Robert)", "for your brother", and "for a batch of perogi" pertaining to Taylor going to get help instead of confronting the responding deputies.

Robert ceased messaging Taylor until 9:31 a.m. when Robert asked, "are ok".

The message thread was thus concluded.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 3

Attachment # 02: 9

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Attachment # 03: 8
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Attachment # 05: 6
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Eric Taylor



MMS 11:54 PM

Sunday, June 16



MMS 12:14 AM

12:42 AM

Call me bro

12:49 AM

I have help coming bro just hang in there

What

12:53 AM

12:55 AM

Dude you hung up I went into panic mode thought something happened dude



You don't even know





E

Eric Taylor



1:23 AM

It seriously was the best thing to happen to me when I did it

1:24 AM

We shall see when they get here. Remember it's Rule, Ohio

1:25 AM

7th largest county with only 4 deputies on duty at night

1:26 AM

Well put that shit aside and look at it as getting much needed help

1:26 AM

I'm going to fuck them up

1:26 AM

Dude if I drive out we gonna throw down and this broken pa boy gonna fuck you up

1:27 AM

Lol

They here now

1:27 AM

I'm begging you to just go quietly

1:28 AM

Nope

1:28 AM

For





E

Eric Taylor



U better let them know 1:15 AM

But at least I will still be able to talk to you

1:16 AM

Why fight them they are there to help you

Maybe I want them to kill me 1:17 AM

It's on when they show up 1:18 AM

Knock this shit off bro. Let them help you. Get the help you need

1:19 AM

The system is there to help us let it do that

1:21 AM

I'm 7 hours away and this is the only way I can help you from here

We shall see when they puss us arrive 1:22 AM

1:22 AM

Put the knife away, now goddamit

1:23 AM

Take the help brother please I'm begging you

It seriously was the best thing to





E

Eric Taylor



1:13 AM

Stay talking to me



MMS 1:14 AM

1:14 AM

I have your back

1:15 AM

Don't bro. Just don't. It is not worth it

It's going to be a fight

1:15 AM

1:15 AM

So be it

U better let them know

1:15 AM



But at least I will still be able to

talk to you

Why fight them they are here to



E

Eric Taylor



1:07 AM

That ain't you

1:08 AM

Call 911 have the ambulance get you to the VA hospital and check in

1:09 AM

I've been there done that

Fuck it you call. I don't want to live

1:09 AM

Promise me your going to hold off until help arrives

1:10 AM

Your my brother. Promise me

I can't

1:10 AM

The fuck you can't

1:11 AM

I'm calling now

Help is Oscar Mike brother hold fast

1:13 AM

Stay talking to me





Eric Taylor



12:59 AM

You a better man than that

1:01 AM

I know it seems like everything is crashing bro but you will get through it. And I will help you in every way I can

1:02 AM

What do u need from me. Just name it

1:03 AM

But put that fucking bar away

Lol you got the wrong police department

1:05 AM

1:05 AM

Wood county sheriff

1:06 AM

Idk man I called 4 different ones until they had a record of you

But I told them to cancel that we were talking again

1:07 AM

I wanted to get you help you just hung up

Fuck that. I'm ready to kill my self

1:07 AM

Fuck that that's pussy

1:07 AM

That ain't





Eric Taylor



12:55 AM

You don't even know wher I am 12:55 AM

I'm scared shitless worried about you and was going to have a well Ness check.

Your in wood county

12:56 AM

I know where you are

Don't do this to me. I'll have to fight them 12:56 AM

12:57 AM

I'll call them off

I'll kill myself in front of them 12:57 AM

I'll called it off

You can't do this brother

12:58 AM

Stop this line of thinking man. Your stronger than this

I'm done with life 12:58 AM

Why because of of some woman?

12:59 AM

Your a better man than





Eric Taylor



Saturday, May 11

Not livin the best life right now 5:26 PM

Me neither brother just takin 1 day at a time

5:27 PM Need me to drive out?

5:31 PM I swear life was so much easier when we we in, now it's just bullshit around every corner

5:32 PM I'm on divorce number 2. Caught her cheating twice so I said fuck it

5:38 PM If you need me say the word brother I'll be on the road within a half hour

Talk to be bro

5:54 PM Me

Friday, May 17

8:49 PM Hey brother checking in on ya how you holding up



Good 9:06 PM





Eric Taylor



5:54 PM Me

Friday, May 17

8:49 PM

Hey brother checking in on ya how you holding up

Good

9:06 PM

9:09 PM

Ya I've said that many times too

9:25 PM

Love ya brother I'm always here if you need

Saturday, June 15



MMS 11:54 PM





E

Eric Taylor



1:26 AM

Well put that shit aside and look at it as getting much needed help

I'm going to fuck them up

1:26 AM

Dude if I drive out we gonna throw down and this broken pa boy gonna fuck you up

1:27 AM

Lol

They here now

1:27 AM

1:28 AM

I'm begging you to just go quietly

Nope

1:28 AM

For me

1:28 AM

For your brother

1:29 AM

For a batch of perogi

Yo

9:31 AM

Are ok

