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

2022-1726
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 15266 Gilchrist Rd., Mt.
Vernon (L)

Investigative Activity:	Interview with Officer
Involves:	Officer Joseph Gladden (W)
Date of Activity:	08/20/2022
Author:	SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On August 20, 2022, at approximately 1344 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and Ryan Scheiderer (SA Scheiderer) interviewed Mansfield Police Department (MPD) Patrol Officer Joseph Gladden (Officer Gladden) in reference to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred August 20, 2022, between the MPD/Richland County Allied Special Operation Response Team (ASORT), Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU), Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), and Randy Wilhelm and Brad Wilhelm. Officer Gladden's interview was conducted in a meeting room at the KCSO office in Mount Vernon, OH.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

On August 20, 2022, Officer Gladden and ASORT members were dispatched to the area near 15266 Gilchrist Road in Mount Vernon, OH. It was reported that Randy Wilhelm (Randy) had a warrant for his arrest after failing to comply with the terms of his bail. A bail bondsman located Randy and was reportedly shot at by Randy. Multiple SWAT teams responded to the Wilhelm property where it was reported that Randy and his brother Brad were firing weapons at law enforcement. SWAT operators from DTU discharged their firearms during an interaction with both Brad and Randy. Brad and Randy were shot and pronounced deceased at the scene.

Prior to beginning the interview, Officer Gladden was advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that MPD may be conducting. Officer Gladden was informed his statement was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time, which Officer Gladden verbally confirmed he understood.

Officer Gladden reported MPD/ASORT receiving a callout at approximately 0120 hours for SWAT response to a barricaded gunman situation in Knox County. Officer Gladden responded to the MPD station to prepare, then to the KCSO office for briefing. Officer Gladden was told the involved individuals were well-armed, and wanted for domestic violence and threats to a

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county sheriff and prosecutor. ASORT was also told shots had been fired at a bail bondsman, and at a responding Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) helicopter. Following the briefing, Officer Gladden and the ASORT team reported to the incident location on Gilchrist Road.

Officer Gladden was tasked with providing perimeter security in the ASORT armored vehicle (BearCat). The involved individuals came to the house where the ASORT BearCat was posted. ASORT's plan was to contain the involved individuals and prevent their escape. The ASORT BearCat drove through the driveway gate towards the home where the involved individuals were located, and attempted to block a Chevrolet Trailblazer on the property which the involved individuals had used to get to the house. Officer Gladden said another ASORT operator had observed an individual in the window on the front side of the home. As the BearCat is positioned against the Trailblazer, another individual came to the back door of the house, pointing a scoped long gun at the BearCat.

One of the involved individuals, who Officer Gladden believed to be Brad, exited the residence and attempted to enter the Trailblazer. Once Brad had entered the vehicle, the ASORT BearCat begins to "drive into" the Trailblazer to disable it. The other involved individual who was still inside the house, identified by Officer Gladden as Randy, fired rifle shots at the BearCat which struck the tires and the turret. The BearCat turret was then closed. Officer Gladden believed he had also heard shots strike the sides and the back of the BearCat. Officer Gladden estimated about 12 shots were fired at the BearCat. The involved individual who had entered the Trailblazer fled back to the house. Officer Gladden did not see the involved individuals again until after the incident was over.

Officer Gladden reported ████████████████████████from MPD was driving the ASORT BearCat. Lt. ███████rammed the Trailblazer and positioned the BearCat to disable the Trailblazer. Lt. ████████fired rifle shots at the Trailblazer tires to disable it. Officer Gladden recalled Lt. ███████had used the rifle issued to MPD Sergeant Michael Haines (Sergeant Haines). Sergeant Haines was sitting directly behind Lt. ███████ and passed his rifle to Lt. ████████ The shots fired by the involved individuals at the BearCat flattened its tires, and the ASORT team was forced to abandon the vehicle.

Officer Gladden observed the Marysville Police Department's armored vehicle also on the scene, which he believed had also taken fire from the involved individuals.

Officer Gladden heard callouts that the involved individuals had fled the house from the garage on the front side of the residence in a side-by-side ATV vehicle, but he did not see them flee directly. Officer Gladden did not witness any other shooting from law enforcement. Officer Gladden was armed with a Sig Sauer rifle and a Sig Sauer pistol during the incident. Officer Gladden did not discharge either of his weapons during the incident.

Interview concluded at approximately 1401 hours.

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