



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: Ronnie Terry (W)
Date of Activity: 08/25/2022
Activity Location: Terry, Ronnie – 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 the involved subject, Cole White. This 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 25, 2022 at 1317 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Springfield Police Detective and SWAT team member Ronnie Terry (Det. Terry) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the Springfield Police Department (SPD). 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.

Det. Terry has been with the Springfield Police Department for nine and a half years. He has previous time at North Hampton and Wittenberg University for about 18 years total. He has been a detective for five years and an arson investigator for four and a half years. He has been on the SPD SWAT team for six and a half years. His role is Less Lethal Munitions.

On July 24, 2022, he was off duty at home and saw an incident on Facebook in Harmony Township with an officer shot. He checked his phone and his alert app updated with

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information to respond to the Springfield SWAT facility. He responded to the police department to pick up equipment and his work vehicle. He received a text of the incident location and responded there and staged with the equipment truck at the top of the hill. He assisted with getting the robot ready to deploy. He was briefed by Capt. Michael Kranz that there was a deputy down inside the trailer and that there was a failed entry attempt by the county to extract the deputy. He was then assigned to the MRAP at the front of the trailer to use less lethal.

Prior to the first Springfield SWAT extraction attempt, the front MRAP bumped the awning and Det. Terry launched four to five rounds total of gas into the residence. He fired the gas into the three windows on the front side of the trailer. The gas was a mixture of OC and CS. The entry team then made an attempt to extract Dep. Yates. While the entry team was approaching, Det. Terry threw two distraction devices (flashbangs) outside the trailer on the rear side by the shed. While this was occurring, the rear MRAP was bumping the trailer. Det. Terry and the rest of the team stood by with the MRAP providing cover while a second plan was devised. During this time, Det. Terry deployed his remaining four to five rounds of gas into the trailer and two more distraction devices (flashbangs) outside near the shed.

Prior to the final attempt, the plan was to introduce more gas into the house and then attempt a second entry. On this entry, Det. Terry was assigned to be the second shield man with Ofc. Eric Fleming. Ofc. Fleming and Det. Terry made entry and set up with the shields. As soon as they went in, Det. Terry saw a small fire which he described as a puddle fire. He described a linoleum floor with a puddle of liquid on it spreading across the floor growing as it went. If the team wouldn't have gotten Dep. Yates out when they did, they wouldn't have been able to get to him.

Det. Terry remained on scene as perimeter until relieved by Dayton PD SWAT.

Det. Terry did not fire his weapon and only deployed the gas and distraction devices described above.

The interview was concluded at 1341 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-25 / Interview of Det. Ronnie Terry SPD

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.