



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: Justin Nawman (W)
Date of Activity: 08/16/2022
Activity Location: East District CCSO – Business – 3130 East Main Street, 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 subject, Cole White. The incident 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 16, 2022 at 1234 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Clark County deputy and SWAT team member Justin Nawman (Det. Nawman) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) East District Office. FOP OLC Attorney John Sauter was present. 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. Nawman has been a deputy with the Clark County Sheriff's Office for the last 15 years. He has been a detective for the last 7 years and on the CCSO SWAT team since 2015.

On the morning of July 24, 2022, he was off duty and received a call from Sgt. Evans-Fisher advising that Deputy Yates had been shot and was not responding. He made it to the scene within about forty-five minutes.

Det. Nawman grabbed his gear and met Dep. Johnson who advised that Deputy Yates was down

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inside the trailer and that the Special Operations Team was meeting up near the trailer. Dep. Shaw and Det. Nawman then made their way to the back side of the trailer. Dep. Shaw and Det. Nawman then made it up to the Clark County Armored vehicle and joined Det. Scott Cultice and Det. John Snyder. Det. Nawman was then ordered by Major Chris Clark to respond to the Command Post and meet with him. Maj. Clark advised Det. Nawman that he would be joining several Springfield PD SWAT members in an attempt to rescue Dep. Yates.

The plan was to use a Springfield PD Armored MRAP and distraction devices to cover their entry into the trailer while Ofc. Kevin Miller and Det. Eric Fleming from Springfield PD would make entry with shields. Det. Nawman and Det. William Sanders would get Dep. Yates and pull him out of the trailer.

Once they were given approval for the rescue mission, the plan was initiated. One of the Springfield MRAP's began ramming the trailer from the rear, while other tactical team members threw and launched tear gas and flashbangs. The other MRAP containing the entry team members, including Det. Nawman, hit the front of the trailer and the team unloaded from the back and approached the trailer. Det. Fleming and Ofc. Miller made entry with the shields and Det. Fleming called for Det. Nawman and Det. Sanders to extract Dep. Yates. As Det. Nawman made entry he could see Det. Fleming and Det. Miller set with the shields. As Det. Nawman slung his rifle and prepared to reach for Dep. Yates, they began taking fire through the walls of the trailer. Det. Fleming yelled to bail out. As the four of them were quickly exiting the trailer, Det. Nawman went down believing he had been shot. He fell off the porch, face first and was dragged back to the cover of the MRAP by Springfield PD tactical team members. Det. Nawman nor any of the other entry team members had fired. Det. Nawman had torn a tendon in his leg and did not have any further interaction in the event.

The Interview was concluded at 1248 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-16 / Interview of CCSO Dep. Justin Nawman CCSO

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.