



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



2022-1472
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 2793 Waterpark Drive, Mason,
OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Thomas Henry Cromwell (S)
Date of Activity: 07/13/2022
Activity Location: Warren County Sheriff's Office – Business – 822 Memorial Drive ,
Lebanon, OH 45036, Warren County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On July 12, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at the Baymont Hotel, located at 2793 Waterpark Drive in the city of Mason. During the OICI, an operator with the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team mortally wounded a suspect and recent River City Correctional Center escapee, Thomas Cromwell (Cromwell), during a hostage rescue situation.

On July 13, 2022, at 1341 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team operator Daniel Fry (Officer Fry) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Fraternal Order of Police attorney Stephen Lazarus was present for Officer Fry. 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.

Officer Fry advised agents that he was a patrolman with the Lebanon Police Department and had been so employed since 2014. Prior to working for the Lebanon Police Department, he worked for the city of Mason Police Department. He became a Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team operator in 2016. He has specialized training in explosive breaching.

Regarding the OICI, Officer Fry advised agents of the following information:

Officer Fry received a S.W.A.T. call-out during the afternoon on Monday, July 11, 2022. Initially,

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

he was not able to respond, as he was off duty and out of the area. He received a call from S.W.A.T. team commander, Sergeant Gregory Nate Trout (Sergeant Trout), indicating he was needed to assist with breaching. Upon his arrival at approximately 1800 hours, he was briefed by Sergeant Trout. Sergeant Trout informed him that members of the S.W.A.T. team were on the third floor of the Baymont Hotel for a hostage situation in room 310. Sergeant Trout advised him that explosive breaching equipment would be needed should the emergency action team on the third floor need to make immediate entry into the room.

Officer Fry helped S.W.A.T. team member Officer Antwaun Scott (Springboro PD) with setting up the explosive breach equipment. He set up an IV bag wall charge by placing the explosive material inside the IV bag. The charge was wired with a detonation cord. He told agents that the purpose of the explosive charge was to create a hole in the wall to provide a view inside the room and also to create a gun port.

Officer Fry responded up to the third floor and placed the charge on the wall inside of room 308. Officer Antwaun Scott placed another charge in room 312. He said a plan was put in place should the decision be made to make entry into the room. He said the plan was to count down from "eight." At "five," the mechanical breach of the door to 310 would be initiated via a shotgun. At "three," the explosive breach charge would be detonated.

At some point, the Hamilton County S.W.A.T. team replaced the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team; however, Officer Fry and Officer Antwaun Scott remained, as they were the only qualified and trained operators relative to the use of explosive breaching equipment.

Officer Fry advised he could hear Cromwell yelling inside the room throughout the duration of the incident, especially after his cable access was terminated.

Officer Fry said the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team returned to the Baymont Hotel a few hours later, as the decision had been made to make entry into room 310. He said the decision to enter was made after Cromwell posted a Facebook live video containing threats, which escalated the situation.

Officer Fry said the team arrived and got into place. The countdown protocol was reviewed. Sergeant James Doddy (Warren County Sheriff's Office) began the countdown. At "five," Officer Fry heard the breaching shotgun rounds. At "three," he detonated his device. He described it as a "successful breach." He saw Deputy Phillip Green (Warren County Sheriff's Office) take a position at the breach point on the wall.

Officer Fry heard a "pop," which he thought was a flash bang; however, he later found out it was a gunshot. He responded to the door of 310 and heard, "Bingo. Subject down." He explained that "bingo" meant the hostage was successfully rescued. He then saw the female exit the room. He said he then saw the team medics enter the room. He did not have any further involvement. He said the team was relocated to the Warren County Drug Task Force officer to meet with BCI agents.

The interview was concluded at 1350 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13/ Officer Daniel Fry Interview

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.