



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 Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 1352 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Steve Seitzman met with Warren County Sergeant James Doddy at the Warren County Sheriff's Office, 822 Memorial Drive, Lebanon, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Doddy's union representative/attorney, Steve Lazarus. Doddy has been employed with the Warren County Sheriff's Office for 17-years and is assigned as the training sergeant. Doddy has been a member of the Warren County Regional SWAT team for 15-years and is designated a Team Leader. Doddy was present at a SWAT call-out on July 11th into July 12th reference Thomas Cromwell and Kelly Rose.

Cromwell had escaped from Hamilton County Corrections the previous day, [July 10, 2022]. During the standoff at the Baymont Inn (Mason, Ohio), the SWAT team breached the hotel room door. Once inside the room, Franklin Police Officer Chris Keene shot and killed Cromwell, who had a knife held to the throat of Rose.

In the afternoon of July 11, 2022, Sergeant Doddy stated he was contacted about a barricaded/hostage situation, which involved [Thomas Cromwell] at the Baymont Inn. When he arrived in the area, Doddy stated there were a few SWAT members on scene and they proceeded to the third floor to relieve the Mason police officers that had arrived initially. While mandating a position in the hallway in nearby room, Doddy stated he could hear Cromwell inside room 310. Doddy stated he had a brief conversation through the door with Cromwell, who requested his people "in front" where he could see them. Doddy asked Cromwell what he meant and Cromwell responded, "You know what the fuck I mean." Throughout the night, Doddy stated he could hear Cromwell pacing and talking inside the room. Agent Ward asked Doddy if he heard Kelly Rose's voice and he stated later in the evening, when they had the Wi-Fi and cable shut off. Doddy stated that Rose was yelling, but he did not know why.

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Once enough assets were in place, Doddy stated a plan was devised with a deliberate and emergency entry. Doddy stated the team was to place explosive charges in rooms 308 and 312; one deep inside the room (308) and the other on the bathroom side wall (312) to deny Cromwell access to the bathroom. In addition, Doddy stated "ballistic breaching" with shotgun rounds and ram would be utilized used at the hotel room door.

After several hours, Sergeant Doddy stated their team was relieved by the Hamilton County Police Association SWAT team. Doddy stated while the team rested at nearby firehouse, he was contacted by Nate [Trout] who requested them back to the Baymont Inn at around 0200 hours [July 12th]. According to Doddy, Hamilton County SWAT would only make an entry under exigent circumstances and would not conduct an explosive breach. Sergeant Trout informed Doddy that a Facebook Live video surfaced, which depicted Cromwell threatening Rose with a knife. Doddy stated the decision was made to make a "deliberate entry" into the room and a succession of breaching steps; utilizing an eight count. On the count of five, the mechanical breach; shotgun/ram [at the hotel room door], on three; the explosive charges initiated [from the adjoining rooms]. After the shotgun breach and several attempts from the ram on what appeared to be "some kind of barricade interior" at the door, Doddy stated the door was forced open. As the team entered the room, Chris Keene was first followed by Josh Emmel in the stack and Doddy heard "some kind of challenge between them and the suspect", but did not know what was said. Moments later, Doddy stated he heard one suppressed gunshot.

Sergeant Doddy stated when he entered the room, Stan Matuszak had placed flex handcuffs on Cromwell and he (Doddy) had called for a medic. According to Doddy, the SWAT medics arrived and declared Cromwell deceased. Kelly Rose, who had exited the room, was secured and he had all personnel move out of the scene.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Sergeant Doddy at 1405 hours. The audio recorded interview with Doddy is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13 / Sgt. James Doddy Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.