



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Investigative Activity: Meeting with Prosecutor

Involves: Wood County Sheriffs Office (O), Deputy Samuel M Miller (S), George Eric Taylor (S), Christopher Reynolds (W), Michael Shaffer (W)

Date of Activity: 08/05/2024

Activity Location: – 8401 south dixie highway, Rudolph, OH 43462

Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

To: Wood County Prosecutor Paul Dobson

CC: Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan

From: Special Agent Josh Rammel

Date: August 15, 2024

Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio 43462

Case Number: 2024-1814

Investigative Request:

On June 16, 2024, The Wood County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) requested assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) with conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI).

The OICI occurred on June 16, 2024, at the residence of deceased individual George Eric Taylor (Eric) located at 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio 43462. The OICI involved a single shot being fired by the WCSO Deputies which resulted in the death of Eric.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the June 16, 2024, OICI that

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took place in Wood County during the response to a Wellness Check by the WCSO. The report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted and body worn cameras (BWC) present, revealing further details of the statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of the officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team:

BCI Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) was assigned as the lead case agent from the BCI SIU. SA Rammel was assisted in the investigation from SA Jason Snyder (Snyder), SA Chris Hamberg (Hamberg), and Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Scott Stranahan (Stranahan) of SIU and SA Megan Roberts (Roberts) and Crime Scene Technician (CST) Emily Miller (Miller) of the BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU). Additionally, various personnel from BCI Crime Laboratory performed scientific analysis on submitted evidentiary items such as cell phones seized during the course of a search warrant.

Summary of Process:

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview with the one (1) WCSO Deputy who discharged his weapon.
- Recorded interviews with two (2) additional WCSO Deputies who were on-scene either during the course of the shot being fired or took part in the interactions leading up to the shot being fired.
- Interview with 911 complainant who reported the initial Wellness Check to WCSO.
- Interview with witness who was present during the entire course of the OICI.

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- Interview with wife and other family members of the deceased for information leading up to the OICI.
- Interview with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel who performed medical treatment after the OICI.
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement interaction involving Eric and the WCSO.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Reviewed all BWC footage involved in the incident.
- Reviewed all home surveillance cameras located at 8401 South Dixie Highway.
- Processed the related scene of the OICI for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting).
- Reviewed audio communications and the radio frequencies utilized during the incident.
- Reviewed Eric's phone communications related to the incident, obtained by the use of a search warrant.
- Reviewed dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident.
- Reviewed WCSO reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity information derived from any compelled statements.
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence.
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records.
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers.
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer who discharged his firearm.
- Obtained and reviewed the WCSO policies and procedures regarding the use-of-force for prosecutorial review.
- Obtained and reviewed information received from Getac, the company responsible for the manufacturing and maintenance of the BWC utilized by WCSO.

OICI Summary/Overview:

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On June 16, 2024, at 00:52:49 hours the WCSO was dispatched to 8401 South Dixie Highway for a Wellness Check on Eric. The call for service came from a friend of Eric's named Robert Van Norman (Van Norman). Van Norman informed WCSO that Eric was drinking heavily was making suicidal comments. Eric was reported as having [REDACTED] had suicidal tendencies, and had access to firearms. Van Norman initially called off the Wellness Check due to re-establishing communication with Eric, before contacting the WCSO for a second time and requesting the Wellness Check.

At approximately 0127 hours WCSO Deputy Samuel Miller (Miller) arrived at 8401 South Dixie to speak with Eric. A few minutes after arriving Miller made contact with Eric by the use of the Ring Camera positioned on Eric's front door. As Miller was identifying himself, Eric's friend Matt Patton (Patton) arrived at the residence as well. Patton used the garage code and entered the residence through the garage door with Miller closely following.

Upon entering the residence, Miller made contact with Eric who was sitting on his couch in the living room. Eric had in his possession a large Ka-bar knife and a glass jug of alcohol. Eric appeared to be highly intoxicated. Patton and Miller engaged Eric trying to convince him to put down the knife, not hurt himself, and seek medical attention. Miller was joined shortly thereafter by Deputy Michael Shaffer (Shaffer). Eric engaged with Shaffer in an aggressive manor for several minutes until Sergeant Chris Reynolds (Reynolds) took Shaffer's position in the residence.

Miller, Reynolds, Shaffer, and Patton engaged verbally with Eric until approximately 0254 hours when Miller fired 1 shot that resulted in the death Eric. During the approximate 1.5 hours that WCSO were verbally conversing with Eric, deputies provided several dozen commands and pleas for Eric to drop his weapons and/or leave with the WCSO in order to seek medical treatment. Reynolds and Miller both informed Eric that they were not going to charge him with anything as long as Eric left and sought medical attention immediately.

While conversing with Eric inside the residence, Eric began to give the impression that he was looking for a gun in the couch he was sitting on, and then eventually approached Miller and Reynolds with his knife in one hand and the other behind his back; in order to give the impression he had a gun; leading to Miller, Reynolds, and Patton retreating out of the residence. Miller exited through the garage and Reynolds through the front door. Miller continued to talk with Eric trying to convince Eric to put away his knife as Eric remained in the house near the entrance into the garage. After several minutes of speaking with Miller, who was outside the residence, Eric closed the entrance door from the garage and returned with a shotgun in his hands. Eric held the shotgun in a manner not directly towards any individual. Eric was eventually convinced to give the shotgun to Patton, who secured it away from Eric near Reynolds outside of the garage next to a vehicle in the driveway. A couple minutes later, Eric went back inside his residence and returned with a AR style rifle.

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During the final minute leading up to the single shot fire by Miller, Miller provided approximately 20 commands to Eric advising Eric to put the gun down or similar commands. Miller was positioned on the opposite side of the driveway with a diagonal view into the doorway where Eric was standing. After the single shot was fired, Miller and Reynolds attempted to provide medical attention to Eric on the floor inside the residence. The rifle was secured by Miller, and Reynolds performed CPR until EMS arrived on scene and took over providing medical attention to Eric.

Eric was pronounced dead at the scene. A single entry wound was observed in Eric's left armpit. Life Flight was called, but Eric was not transported due to having died prior to Life Flight landing at the scene. Eric's body was released to the Wood County Coroner's Office and then the Lucas County Coroner's Officer (LCCO) for an autopsy.

Search Warrant for 8401 South Dixie Highway:

On June 16, 2024, SA Roberts and CST Miller received a signed search warrant for the residence at 8401 South Dixie Highway. During the course of the search warrant photographs were taken of the scene and several firearms were seized from the residence. The rifle held by Eric was taken into the custody of BCI, while all other firearms located in the residence were placed into the custody of the WCSO.

A single shell casing was located where Miller discharged his firearm. A single entry hole was located in the garage wall corresponding to an exit hole inside the residence near the doorway into the garage. Additional items seized included Eric's cell phone, clothing items worn by Eric, ammo boxes, Eric's wallet, and the Ka-bar knife utilized by Eric.

A note written by Eric and attached to his hoodie when WCSO first responded to the scene was also taken into custody. The note contained information where Eric was apologizing to his close family members including his wife and kids. The note also mentioned that Eric would meet his family members again in the future. Eric also provided contact information for his wife Jessica Taylor (Jessica) and where she was currently at in order for someone to contact her.

No exit wounds were visible and no discharged round was recovered inside the residence.

Multiple trajectory diagrams were completed by BCI CSU identifying the location where Miller fired the single round and the entry and exit holes in the residence.

Additional photographs were taken of Eric's wounds and additional personal items were taken into custody by SA Roberts after the conclusion of Eric's autopsy at the LCCO.

Interviews:

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Robert Van Norman:

On June 16, 2024, Van Norman advised that he was contacted by Eric who appeared to be in despair and intoxicated. Van Norman identified himself as a friend of Eric's who served in the military with Eric. Van Norman clarified that he and Eric help each other through [REDACTED] episodes and that Eric called him late in the night on June 15, 2024. Van Norman stated that during the conversation and additional text messages sent between him and Eric, Van Norman came to the conclusion that Eric needed medical attention and contacted the WCSO for the Wellness Check. Van Norman mentioned that the WCSO was supposed to contact him back once the issues with Eric were over, but Van Norman had not been notified of the final outcome of the incident. SA Rammel informed Van Norman that Eric was deceased. Van Norman requested that he speak with SA Rammel at a later date and provide additional information at that time. SA Rammel agreed.

On July 1, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Van Norman again. Van Norman stated that he has known Eric since 1995 and had mostly been in contact with Eric ever since. Van Norman clarified that he was not certified for anything pertaining to counseling for [REDACTED] but Van Norman, Eric, and other individuals who they served with all help each other out during [REDACTED] episodes due to inadequacies at the Veterans Administration (VA).

Van Norman stated that around 11–11:30pm on June 15, 2024, Eric called him and was very upset due to relationship issues with Jessica. Eric told Van Norman that he and Jessica were over with and that he could not live without her. Van Norman mentioned that the phone call ended abruptly, and Eric would not respond to additional call attempts. This led to Van Norman contacting the WCSO and requesting the Wellness Check. Van Norman was eventually able to reach Eric by the use of text messages. Van Norman provided SA Rammel the text message thread between him and Eric. In the messages Eric sent multiple images of himself holding a knife to his neck, the large bottle of Tito's Vodka that Eric was drinking, and a picture of Jessica's wedding ring. Eric also made comments that he was going to fight the WCSO Deputies and that Eric was going to "fuck them up". Additional messages included Eric saying he was "done with his life", "im ready to kill myself", "maybe I (Eric) want them (WCSO) to kill me", there is "going to be a fight...better let them (WCSO) know" when talking about the WCSO response. Eric told Van Norman that he was not going to go quietly. Van Norman pled multiple times for Eric to leave with WCSO to get help and even invited Eric to come visit him in Pennsylvania.

Van Norman stated that he fell asleep during the timeframe when WCSO was at Eric's residence, and reaffirmed that he found out about Eric's death by speaking with SA Rammel on June 16, 2024.

Matt Patton:

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Patton was interviewed by SA Rammel while still at the scene of the OICI on June 16, 2024. Patton informed SA Rammel that Eric had a fight with Jessica the night of June 14, 2024, and that Eric was on his way back to 8401 South Dixie on June 15, 2024, when his motorcycle broke down. Eric contacted Patton for a ride and assistance with the motorcycle. Patton stated that he went to pick up Eric, but that they both had additional vehicle issues. Patton mentioned that he remained with Eric until around 9:30–10pm on June 15, 2024, at Eric's residence working on vehicles. When Patton left Eric told him that he was just going to go take a bath and go to sleep. Patton described Eric as being depressed due to issues with Jessica and "broke down" multiple times while they were together. Patton was eventually alerted by Christina Korb (Korb) of the Weston EMS that WCSO had been dispatched to Eric's residence for a Wellness Check. Patton responded at that time and was in the presence with Miller and Reynolds during the course of the interaction between Eric and WCSO.

Patton described Eric as "drunk" and "riding a major roller coaster, up and down between clarity and overwhelmed". Patton stated that Eric had a Ka-bar knife in his possession holding it up to his throat and taking it down multiple times as WCSO interacted with Eric. Patton advised that he thought Miller and Reynolds built a good rapport with Eric. The altercation eventually led to Miller and Reynolds being outside the residence as Eric continued to act like he had a weapon, and that Eric was "making it clear that he wanted the WCSO to shoot him (Eric)". Patton indicated that Eric first pulled out a shotgun, but never held it in a threatening manner before giving it to Patton. Eric eventually came to the doorway with a rifle. Patton described the incident and stated that Miller gave several commands for Eric to drop the rifle before firing a single shot.

Patton mentioned that Eric had a "suicide note" pinned to his hoodie during most of the interaction with WCSO, and that the note was in the garage.

Jessica Taylor:

On June 16, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Jessica and provided the initial death notification regarding Eric. Jessica confirmed that she was with Eric the night of June 14, 2024, but that Eric left the campsite that night. Jessica mentioned that Eric had texted her multiple times on June 15, 2024, but was unable to provide any specifics. Jessica requested to speak with SA Rammel at a later date.

On July 23, 2024, Jessica spoke with SA Rammel about Eric leading up to the OICI on June 16, 2024. Jessica stated that she and Eric were married in October 2023, and that she and Eric would "break up" several times during that timeframe just to get back together the following day. Jessica described Eric as a "drama queen" and that Eric would acknowledge that he had [REDACTED] but according to Jessica it was never bad enough for Eric to take medication. Jessica advised that she did not believe that Eric was suicidal and described their relationship in positive light and explained to SA

Rammel that they had several weekends planned in advanced for activities as a family. Jessica had negative things to say about Patton and Van Norman and that they did not know the real Eric.

Alyson Taylor:

SA Rammel spoke with Eric's daughter Alyson Taylor (Alyson). Taylor provided SA Rammel with a message thread between her and Eric leading up to the OICI. The thread included Eric telling Alyson that he was divorcing Jessica and that he thought Alyson would be happy about it. Eric stated that he was "hurting" and that he would try not to do anything "dumb". Eric apologized to Alyson for being a bad dad, but at the end of the thread Eric told Alyson that he would consider therapy.

Additional Family Members:

SA Rammel spoke with Eric's sisters Sheila Long (Long) and Dawn Phillips (Phillips), Eric's ex-wife Christine Taylor (Christine), and Eric's other daughter Abigail Taylor (Abigail). No additional information was obtained that was deemed important to the investigation. The conversations were mainly the family members asking questions about the ongoing BCI investigation and how the court process works.

EMS:

On June 16, 2024, SA Rammel interviewed Korb, Kathleen Heyman (Heyman), and Thomas Bodnar (Bodnar). They all identified themselves as the first responders who attended to Eric prior to Eric's death. SA Rammel was informed about the medical attention provided to Eric, and that Life Flight was called, but Eric was pronounced dead by Korb prior to Life Flight being able to transport Eric. Korb also provided SA Rammel an EMS report describing the medical equipment used and medical attention provided.

Autopsy:

Doctor Dwayne Wolf (Wolf) with the LCCO performed an autopsy on Eric on June 17, 2024. [REDACTED]

Wood County Sheriff's Office:

SA Rammel obtained and reviewed all radio traffic and CAD reports provided by the WCSO involving the initial information provided to the responding deputies. SA Rammel also observed that the only previous interaction between Eric and the WCSO involved neighbor property disputes, that did not lead to any form of violent action.

Deputy Samuel Miller:

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SA Rammel obtained all personnel records regarding Miller's employment with the WCSO, and all training certifications Miller had obtained. SA Rammel also reviewed Miller's body worn camera (BWC) footage regarding the OICI, as well as conducted an interview with Miller on June 21, 2024.

Millers' interaction began when Miller first arrived at the residence to perform the Wellness Check on Eric until approximately 0227 hours. Miller's BWC malfunctions and new video is recoverable from 0227 hours until 0313 hours. The timeframe that is missing included the entire interaction with Eric while Miller and Reynolds were outside as well as when Miller fired the single shot at Eric. WCSO contacted Getac, the company who manufactures the BWC, and was provided an official document stating that the footage was lost due to an internal error associated with Miller's BWC. Getac confirmed that there was an extremely low possibility that the error could have been created by Miller or any other user of the BWC or the WCSO. Getac advised that the missing footage was caused by internal software issues, and the footage was not able to be recovered.

The footage from Miller's BWC that SA Rammel was able to observed identified Miller and Reynolds attempting to deescalate the situation with Eric. Miller and Reynolds engaged in conversation with Eric and attempted to convince Eric to allow EMS to take him to the hospital.

During the interview with Miller, Miller advised that he kept his firearm at the "low ready" position during the majority of the interaction with Eric, including when Eric was near the couch holding the Ka-bar knife. Miller advised that he and Reynolds provided dozens of commands for Eric to either drop his weapons or allow them to take Eric to the hospital. Miller indicated that when Eric retrieved a shotgun during the interaction, Eric held the shotgun in a position where it was similar to how you would hold a gun while presenting it to someone. Miller described the moment Eric came back to the entrance into the house from garage with the rifle in his hand. Miller stated that Eric was in a combat stance in the doorway and started to raise the rifle from pointing it at the ground to pointing it towards Miller. Miller advised that he kept telling Eric to drop the gun and "not to do this", but Eric kept commenting about "playing a game" or "lets play a game". Miller advised that he felt extremely threatened at the moment he fired a single shot towards Eric because Eric was ex-military and consistently talked about his military experience during the incident. Miller informed SA Rammel that he felt that his life was in danger as Eric was raising the rifle towards him, and all he could think about was his wife and baby. Miller advised that he fired the single shot and once he realized that there was no additional danger to him, Patton, or Reynolds; he and Reynolds progressed to check on Eric and perform medical attention until EMS arrived.

Michael Shaffer:

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SA Rammel reviewed Shaffer's BWC footage and conducted an interview with Shaffer on June 21, 2024.

Shaffer's BWC footage covers several minutes of the interaction with Eric, including Eric becoming argumentative with Shaffer, and appearing to intentionally get Shaffer angry. Shaffer mentioned that he was making Eric angry and believed that Eric was trying to get a reaction from Shaffer. Due to that Shaffer left the residence and Reynolds took his position for the remainder of the incident. Reynolds eventually order Shaffer to go to the staging area with EMS away from the residence. Shaffer eventually was called out to other calls for services and was not present when the shot was fired.

Shaffer advised in his interview that Eric made multiple comments about being in the military, and even talked about Shaffer and Miller being within the "reactionary gap" when describing the dangers of a knife. Shaffer described Eric as "twice his size" and larger than Miller. Shaffer mentioned that there was a couch between him and Eric, but that Eric was clearly within the reactionary gap.

Chris Reynolds:

SA Rammel reviewed Reynolds BWC footage and conducted an interview with Reynolds on June 21, 2024.

Reynolds BWC footage begins at approximately 0141 hours on June 16, 2024, and runs uninterrupted until approximately 0354 hours. Reynolds is seen taking Shaffer's position inside the residence in order to help de-escalate the situation with Eric. Reynolds, Miller, and Patton are seen trying to calm Eric down and convince him to drop his knife and seek medical attention. Reynolds does not appear to ever pull his firearm from his holster and continued to use verbal de-escalation techniques during the confrontation. Reynolds leaves the residence for a few minutes in order to read Eric's note to Jessica's voicemail at Eric's request.

Prior to exiting the residence Eric is seen moving his hands through a storage compartment in his couch appearing to give the impression that he was looking for a gun. Eventually Eric stands up from the couch with one hand behind his back and the other hand on the knife. Eric walked towards Miller and Reynolds, causing them to exit the house as Eric remained inside.

Verbal de-escalation techniques continued to be used by Miller while Eric was in the doorway from the garage into the house. Eric eventually came out into the doorway with a shotgun in his hands. Eric is not seen pointing the shotgun at anyone and eventually provided the shotgun to Patton who places it out of Eric's reach near Reynolds. During the time when Miller fired the single shot towards Eric, Reynolds footage was blocked by a vehicle parked in the driveway. You can hear Miller

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providing commands to Eric trying to get him to put down his gun. Reynolds BWC does not pick up any of the motion that Eric was doing with the rifle towards Miller. Miller's single shot muzzle flash is seen on Reynolds BWC.

Reynolds BWC also shows the medical attention provided to Eric from Miller and Reynolds after the shooting occurred.

When speaking with Reynolds SA Rammel was informed that Reynolds did not pull his firearm due to the belief that he and Miller had a good rapport with Eric and did not want to escalate the situation. Reynolds also mentioned that the rapport building and Eric's behavior were also reasons why the Special Response Team (SRT) was not utilized. Reynolds and Miller both described that the location of Eric in the residence, the clothing that Eric was wearing, and the fact that a knife is a deadly weapon all played into the reasons that less-lethal options were not used. Reynolds advised that he was taking cover behind the vehicle once Eric brought out the rifle because Reynolds was scared that he was going to be shot.

Cell Phone Search Warrant:

Eric's cell phone was transported to the Richfield BCI Office for cyber analysis to be completed. SA Rammel provided a signed search warrant, along with the cell phone, to the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) for analysis in order to obtain additional information on the phone seized from Eric's residence including communication between Eric and all individuals he spoke to or texted leading up to the OICI.

On August 13, 2024, SA Rammel reviewed the analysis of Eric's cell phone conducted by SA Robert Surgenor (Surgenor) of the CCU. SA Rammel observed that Eric had multiple conversations with other individuals previously unknown to SA Rammel or BCI. Included in these conversations was a text message where Eric advised "I'm killing myself" to Donna Armstrong (Armstrong) approximately two hours prior to the shot being fired by Miller. Eric also conducted a Google search regarding "What a .380 does to your face".

SA Rammel identified Jamar Harris (Harris), Edward Meyer (Meyer), Armstrong, and Areli Olivares (Olivares) as previously unidentified individuals whom Eric either texted or spoke with on the phone leading up to the OICI. SA Rammel contacted each individual.

Meyer and Harris both advised that they were friends with Eric and that their conversations did not include any indication that Eric had any suicidal or homicidal tendencies. Both advised that Eric was talking about moving back up to Rudolph full time, and that he was getting a divorce. Both mentioned that Eric seemed stressed out, but even with hindsight neither of them believed Eric would harm himself or others.

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Olivares stated that she only texted Eric and that it was a discussion about them both being in bad relationships. Olivares advised that she had never met Eric in person, and that he got her number from Harris earlier in the day on June 15, 2024. Olivares mentioned that she could tell Eric was having a tough time, but did not have any indication that Eric was going to harm himself or anyone else.

Armstrong mentioned that she previously dated Eric and that she had not heard from him for a few months prior to Eric calling her on June 15, 2024. Armstrong advised that she missed Eric's phone call and that he left a voicemail requesting that she call him back. Armstrong stated that Eric did not answer when she called. Armstrong indicated that she then fell asleep and woke up to the message where Eric said "I'm killing myself". Armstrong sent multiple messages back advising Eric that he was loved and not to do anything, but Armstrong found out later that Eric had already been shot. Armstrong mentioned that Eric would never have committed suicide because Eric would have seen it as disappointing his father. Armstrong stated that the WCSO responding to Eric's house may have given Eric an opening for a way to die.

Conclusion:

On June 16, 2024, WCSO Deputies Reynolds, Shaffer, and Miller responded to a Wellness Check at 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio. Prior to arriving all deputies were alerted that Eric, the resident whom the Wellness Check was called for, had a history of suicidal thoughts, had [REDACTED] and was likely armed. Deputies and a friend of Eric's, Patton, engaged in verbal de-escalation with Eric for approximately one and a-half hours. During this time Eric was commanded to drop a knife, a shotgun, and rifle on multiple occasions in order for the WCSO and EMS to take Eric to a hospital for medical treatment. Eric appeared to be highly intoxicated and threatened violence to himself multiple times with the knife in his hands, and even attempted to fool the WCSO Deputies into believing that Eric had a gun behind his back as he approached Reynolds and Miller. While deputies were outside Eric came to the doorway in view of Miller and Reynolds with a shotgun and then a rifle. Eric surrendered the shotgun to Patton without incident. While utilizing the rifle, Miller advised that Eric took an offensive combat stance, for a right handed shooter, and started to raise the rifle in Miller's direction while making comments to Miller about being ready to play a game. As Eric allegedly raised his rifle towards Miller, Miller continued to give commands for Eric to drop the gun. Miller gave approximately 20 commands in the final minute leading up to the shot being fired. Miller advised that due to his knowledge about Eric, the fact that Eric was raising a rifle in his direction, and the fear of his own life; Miller fired a single shot towards Eric. The round went through the garage wall into the house and struck Eric in the armpit under his left arm. Eric died from his injuries and the autopsy listed the gunshot as the cause of death. Medical attention was provided by Miller and Reynolds until EMS arrived at the scene.

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No WCSO Deputies were injured during the course of the OICI, neither was Patton who was present during the entire altercation.

Contact Information:

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the Officer Involved Critical Incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Josh Rammel. SA Rammel can be reached via email at joshua.rammel@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 740-506-3386.