



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:** Cole Matthew White (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 08/18/2022  
**Activity Location:** Greene County Sheriff's Office – 105 East Market Street, Xenia, OH  
45385, Greene County  
**Author:** SA Richard Ward, #55

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 0733 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Xenia Police Detective Robert Swihart along with his union representative, Attorney Steve Lazarus, at the Greene County Sheriff's Office, 105 East Market Street, Xenia, Ohio for the purpose of an interview. Swihart responded to the aftermath as a member of the Greene County Regional SWAT team on July 24, 2022, in Clark County, Ohio, when Deputy Matthew Yates and Jodi Arbuckle were shot and killed by Cole White.

Detective Swihart has been employed with the Xenia Police Department since 2011 and has been a member of SWAT for eight years. Swihart is the Xenia Commander of the regional SWAT team and shares those duties with Greene County Deputy Chris Sticka, (county commander). On Sunday, July 24, 2022, at approximately 1204, Swihart received a page to assist Clark County with a critical incident. Swihart spoke with Clark County Major Chris Clark who provided details about Deputy Yates being shot and trapped inside a trailer. Swihart began deployment of his personnel to the incident location [1132 Ashwood Court, Clark County].

While on scene, Detective Swihart met with SPD Captains Michael Kranz and GCSO Major Clark at the command post while another attempt to retrieve Yates was developed. Swihart had knowledge of an attempt to retrieve Yates and deputies came under fire prior to his arrival. Swihart proceeded with another SWAT member, Chris Reed, to meet up with Clark County personnel on the "4" corner to deploy munitions during the rescue attempt. Swihart had in his possession two flameless tri-chambers, two flashbangs and two chemical expulsions. Once Springfield police begin to approach, Swihart deployed two flashbangs outside the trailer, in an attempt to draw the suspect to the front of the trailer, two expulsions and one tri-chamber on the '3' (southwest) side, one tri-chamber inside the "4" (northwest) side window. During this attempt, Swihart heard shots being fired and that Deputy Justin Nawman was down and

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believed to be shot. Swihart and Reed moved to the front of the BearCat to assist with the extract of Nawman.

Detective Swihart and Reed relocate to the command post and made contact with Deputy Chris Sticka where the decision was made to relieve Clark County personnel. Reed and Swihart redeploy forward and advised the Clark County personnel they would be replaced. Swihart stated an unmarked detective car was removed and the Greene County MRAP was moved up. Once the armor was in place, Greene County SWAT deployed gas utilizing the .40mm gun to deploy Ferret rounds to cover the Clark County deputies withdrawal.

On the final rescue attempt, additional SPD and Greene County armor is brought closer to cover the SPD SWAT to move to retrieve Deputy Yates. Swihart stated gas and flashbangs were deployed on the exterior to distract and cover SPD SWAT recovery of Yates. Swihart was aware that deployment of the same or similar munitions were deployed on the rear side of the trailer, but all deployment ceased once SPD SWAT made entry. Once Yates was extracted, Clark County Sheriff's Office BearCat was pulled up and Yates was placed inside then removed from the scene. During the rescue attempt, a fire was announced over the radio from team member that pulled Yates out and moments later, the fire became visual from the outside. Swihart believed the fire originated from the rear "2/3" side of the trailer. Swihart provided cover for the fire personnel who had provided fire suppression. Swihart stated Dayton police SWAT arrived and assumed positions to relieve their personnel.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Detective Swihart at 0802 hours. Attached below are the audio recorded interviews.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-18 / Det. Robert Swihart 1 audio interview

Attachment # 02: 2022-08-18 / Det. Robert Swihart 2 audio interview

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**

## **Exhibit 2**

**Included as a separate file.**