



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



2024-2096

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 555 Independence Dr.,
Medina, Ohio 44256

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Medina County Sheriff's Office Deputy Doug Clinage (W)
Activity Date: 07/23/2024
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Joseph Goudy #83

Narrative:

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 1130 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy (Goudy), along with SA John Tingley (Tingley) conducted an interview with Medina County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Deputy Douglas Clinage (Clinage). This interview was in reference to the officer involved critical incident that occurred on July 17, 2024, at the Medina County Sheriff's Office. Accompanying Deputy Clinage was his attorney from the Ohio Police Benevolent Association (OPBA) George Gerken (Gerken).

At the start of the interview, Deputy Clinage reviewed and signed the Criminal Investigation Notification form, in which he agreed to conduct the interview.

Deputy Clinage stated that he has been employed by the Medina County Sheriff's Office for approximately 25 years, with 27 years of overall law enforcement experience. Deputy Clinage's radio call sign was 163 at the time of the incident and was wearing the standard Buckeye State Sheriff's Association (BSSA) approved short sleeved sheriff's uniform with the appropriate sheriff markings to include sheriff patches on his sleeve and a sheriff's badge visible on the front. Deputy Clinage was also wearing a concealed inner vest. He considered himself to have been well represented as a deputy sheriff during the incident. At the time of the incident, Deputy Clinage was wearing his prescribed glasses. Deputy Clinage did not have any recording devices running, which included a body worn camera. Deputy Clinage was not under the influence of any substances during the incident and during the interview.

On the day of the incident, Deputy Clinage was working his assigned patrol shift, 6AM to 6PM. Deputy Clinage stated that at the time of the incident, he was inside MCSO Sheriff Terry Grice's (Grice) office speaking with him when he heard what sounded like an argument coming from the front of the building. At that point, Deputy Clinage stated that he and Sheriff Grice walked outside to the front of the building to investigate the matter. Deputy Clinage stated when they walked outside, they saw, "...a

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male walking back to the cars out in the parking lot and as I, as I walked around the corner of the building, I observed a female standing in front of the building holding a gun and a knife in her hands." (06:35 mark). Deputy Clinage was not able to understand what was being said during the argument.

After Deputy Clinage encountered the female, he began assessing her hands in which she was still holding the knife and gun. After several commands were given, the female refused to comply. At one point, she dropped the gun and was yelling at them. Deputy Clinage stated that they could not understand what she was saying due to the "gibberish and just a whole bunch of nonsense that she was saying." (09:09 mark) Deputy Clinage continued,

"...from there, I fixated on the fact that she still had a knife on her hand, in her right hand. Um, told her to drop the knife repeatedly. Um, she wouldn't comply with that. Um, at that point in time, she bent over, picked the gun up off the ground again and took some quick steps towards us. (09:18 mark)

At this point, Deputy Clinage stated that he continued to assess the situation, especially due to the fact that Sheriff Grice did not have any body armor on, nor did he have any other equipment available to utilize other than his duty weapon. Deputy Clinage stated that he attempted to take over the scene to avoid putting Sheriff Grice in harm's way. Deputy Clinage stated he then approached the female with his taser out to try and take control of the situation. Deputy Clinage further stated he had his taser out,

"...because there are weapons involved, I deployed my taser. Um, it didn't work. Um, the female growled at me, locked eyes with me and took a couple, took some steps towards me. I retreated cause I was in fear for my safety. And from there the Sheriff shot her." (10:11 mark)

When Deputy Clinage was asked if he had ever seen the female prior to the incident, he replied that he never did and that he did not know who she was. Deputy Clinage was then asked to elaborate what he meant by the taser not working. Deputy Clinage stated that he did not get the response that he expected. "Um, I expected her to lock up, get the NMI (Neuro Muscular Incapacitation), and fall down. Um, she just stood there and growled at me more." (12:05 mark) When he was asked if both taser barbs made contact with the female, Deputy Clinage stated that he was not sure. He further stated that he knew one of them did but was not sure about the second one. Deputy Clinage stated after the taser cycled, the female continued to move towards them. Deputy Clinage indicated it was at this point when Sheriff Grice fired his two rounds at the female. When Deputy Clinage was asked if he had his duty firearm out, he stated that

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he did have them both out. Deputy Clinage further stated that he had his duty weapon out at the same time he deployed his taser. Deputy Clinage stated that he did not fire his duty weapon during the incident.

After the shooting occurred, Deputy Clinage stated,

"Um, I made sure the Sheriff was okay. Um, and then, I approached the female, put her in an armbar, she was still holding the knife in her left hand at this point in time. Um, and I tried to secure her and while I was in the process of securing her and to start rendering aid, other deputies showed up and assisted me with that." (14:15 mark)

Deputy Clinage was then asked to describe the commands he and Sheriff Grice gave the female. Deputy Clinage stated that they both were telling the female to, "drop the weapon, drop the weapon, put the weapon on the ground, stop what you're doing, show us your hands." (14:50 mark) Deputy Clinage then stated that after the female put the gun down on the ground, they began giving her commands to, "...drop the knife, drop the knife, drop the knife, and she wouldn't do that." (15:09 mark) Shortly thereafter, with the use of an overhead google map, Deputy Clinage indicated where he was standing and where they exited the building from. Deputy Clinage stated that he was approximately 10 to 12 feet from the female at the time he deployed the taser.

For further information, please refer to reference item I, the video interview conducted with MCSO Deputy Douglas Clinage. The Criminal Investigation Notification form, along with an overhead map of the area is attached to this report.

References:

Ref Item I - DVD - Video interview - MCSO Deputy Doug Clinage

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification Form - MCSO Deputy Doug Clinage
2. Map of Incident from Deputy Clinage

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

DOUGLAS A. CLINAGE

Printed Name of Interviewee

7/23/24 1130

Date / Time

[Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

SA - KIM TINALEY

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

Medina County Sheriffs
Department

FEMALE
X
DOOR
X
TASER
DISPLAY
X
START

[Signature]
7/23/24