



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Phillip A Hetzel (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 12/21/2022  
**Author:** SA Christopher Hamberg, #69

**Narrative:**

On December 20, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident (OICI) that occurred on the railroad tracks near Section Street, in LaRue, in Marion County, OH. The OICI occurred when the Marion County SWAT Team (MCST) [which encompasses deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, along with police officers from the Marion, Ohio, Police Department] came in contact with Travis Hellinger (Hellinger), as the MCST was attempting to execute a search warrant at the Hellinger residence. Hellinger succumbed to his injuries.

On December 21, 2022, BCI Special Agent (SA) Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) interviewed Officer Phil Hetzel (Hetzel) of the Dublin Police Department. [It should be noted that Hetzel is part of the Delaware County Tactical Unit (DTU), and they assisted on the Marion County Operation that involved the OICI.] The interview took place at the Coliseum X laser tag, 100 Dillmont Dr., Columbus, OH, as the DTU had training. The interview was digitally recorded. The audio file is attached to the case file.

The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what Hetzel may have witnessed at the scene of the of the Marion OICI.

SA Hamberg asked Hetzel to describe how the events unfolded and what he witnessed in regard to the OICI. Hetzel stated he was assigned to the "Bearcat" team and their job was to take care of the pole barn on the Hellinger property. Hetzel stated that he only observed Hellinger walking on the railroad tracks briefly, until Hellinger was out of his viewing angle. Hetzel stated he did not observe or hear the shooting incident take place.

Hetzel had no additional information to share on the incident.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the audio recording. 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

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actual sequencing of questions or responses. It is suggested that the reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Interview Phil Hetzel Dublin PD

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