



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

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 0707 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Xenia Police Officer Chad Roelker 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. Roelker 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.

Officer Roelker has been employed at Xenia Police Department since 2014, assigned to road patrol and a member of the regional SWAT team since 2016. Roelker was contacted via the SWAT paging system of an "active shooter" situation in Clark County. Roelker proceeded to the scene with other personnel and arrived later than other SWAT members. Once on scene, Roelker was told to prep the gas munitions. Roelker prepped the munitions and was informed to proceed on the MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle) to the scene. Roelker had limited details, but eventually was told an officer was down inside the trailer for an hour with no signs of life.

Officer Roelker had to borrow a launcher from a Greene County member and began to prepare CS gas Ferret rounds. Once the order was given, Roelker began to deploy from outside the MRAP (drivers' side) into the trailer through a larger window on the "4" side of the trailer. Roelker had an officer with a shield, officer with lethal cover, and believed Officer Jordan Lovely was behind him. During the first volley, Roelker only fired four rounds. From the passenger side of the MRAP, Officer Luke Craft deployed Ferret rounds into the trailer. Roelker observed a OSHP Trooper deploy a robot.

Officer Roelker stated a plan was developed to retrieve Deputy Yates and part of the plan was to saturate the trailer with CS gas. Once a cease fire was declared, the entry would be made to retrieve Yates. Roelker fired five to six rounds, was told to stop and Yates was extracted. A

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fire was observed at the other end of the trailer and once the fire got closer, they pulled back. Roelker transitioned to a less lethal impact round if the suspect were to exit. Roelker did not deploy any less lethal rounds nor flashbangs. Agent Ward asked Roelker if he observed anyone deploy flashbangs. On the second volley, Roelker stated he had knowledge Detective Swihart had deployed flashbangs from the other side of the MRAP and from his position, Detective Mike Terrell deployed flameless tri-chambers and he deployed Ferret rounds into the window.

Agent Ward concluded the interview at 0722 hours with Officer Roelker. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Roelker.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-18 / Officer Chad Roelker audio interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.