



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness Officer
Involves: Trooper Kevin Brown (W)
Activity Date: 4/11/2023
Activity Location: Ohio State Highway Patrol – Southington Post –
3424 U.S. 422, Southington, Ohio 44470
Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 0600 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (SA Moran) and SA Joe Goudy (SA Goudy) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper Kevin Brown (Brown), who was accompanied by his staff representative, Jeff Skinner, from the Ohio State Troopers Association. The interview took place at the OSHP Post in Southington, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Trooper Brown was not provided with the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form because he was not at the immediate scene when the incident and officer-involved shooting occurred. Trooper Brown was informed that his statement to BCI was voluntary.

Trooper Brown was identified as being a law enforcement officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the March 21, 2023, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio. Reportedly, Trooper Brown did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this trooper.

Trooper Brown stated his radio call sign on March 21, 2023 was 306. He has been employed by the OSHP for about 23 years. He has been a law enforcement officer for a total of 23 years. During the incident, Trooper Brown wore his standard OSHP trooper uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore a concealed ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove OSHP unit #3087, a marked unit with OSHP emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a law enforcement officer during the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

Trooper Brown confirmed that he did not fire a weapon during the incident. SA Moran asked Trooper Brown if he watched any of the available body-worn camera (BWC) videos after the incident. Trooper Brown said he watched OSHP Sergeant (Sgt.) [REDACTED]'s BWC video one or two

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times. Trooper Brown said he watched the BWC video that was released to the media, possibly from the Brookfield Township Police Department (BTPD), one or two times.

SA Moran asked Trooper Brown to provide details of the incident that occurred on March 21, 2023. Trooper Brown said dispatch radioed to troopers that the BTPD requested assistance from the OSHP due to learning of the location of a male subject (Fred Wild III) in a shed on private property in Brookfield Township. Trooper Brown said he did not know much about the activities and incidents involving the subject before this incident.

Trooper Brown met with other law enforcement officers from different jurisdictions at a location on the roadway near the driveway of the residence where the shed was located. Trooper Brown recommended that some officers stay with their cruisers while the perimeter team surrounded the shed. The officer in their cruiser(s) could then drive along the driveway in a marked unit and turn the emergency lights on and use the "PA system" to call the subject out in case there was a barricade situation. Trooper Brown was assigned to stay with his cruiser near the driveway on State Route 7.

Trooper Brown said that OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED] was designated to be the only OSHP trooper to use the radio and when they were in position, OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED] would radio for Trooper Brown to drive his cruiser along the driveway toward the shed.

SA Moran asked Trooper Brown if he heard anything or heard any radio traffic. Trooper Brown said he did not recall hearing any radio traffic before the incident. He said he was inside his cruiser with the window down and "heard multiple shots." Trooper Brown drove his cruiser quickly to the cabin. He did not hear anyone say anything before he heard the gunshots. He believed he was too far away on the road to hear anyone.

SA Moran asked Trooper Brown what he saw when he drove his cruiser to the area near the cabin and incident. Trooper Brown saw the truck in the driveway and the officers were walking around with "a deer in the headlight look" and they were not "really saying anything." Trooper Brown asked what happened and did not receive a definitive response. He checked on the officers for any injuries and none appeared to be injured. He observed the deceased subject in the truck. Trooper Brown instructed the involved officers to place their weapons that were fired into his cruiser to secure them.

SA Moran asked Trooper Brown if he had any prior law enforcement contact with the subject, Fred Wild III (Wild). Trooper Brown said he did not have any contact or knowledge of Wild.

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The interview ended at 0608 hours.

Reference Item:

The video recorded interview of Trooper Brown was copied to a DVD+R and was submitted to the BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) case file as Reference Item L.

Attachments:

1. 2023-04-11 - Audio - Interview of OSHP Trp. Kevin Brown - 803_0762