



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



2022-1472  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 2793 Waterpark Drive, Mason,  
OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Chris Evans (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/13/2022  
**Activity Location:** Warren County Sheriff's Office – Business – 822 Memorial Drive ,  
Lebanon, OH 45036, Warren County  
**Author:** SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

**Narrative:**

On July 13, 2022, BCI Special Agents (SA) Doug Eveslage and Perry Roeser interviewed Warren County Tactical Response Team member Chris Evans (Evans) regarding his involvement with an Officer Involved Critical incident under BCI investigation. Evans, a fulltime City of Springboro police officer, was alerted to the SWAT callout during the afternoon of July 11, 2022.

In the early morning of July 12, 2022, the OICI occurred at the Baymont Inn at 2793 Water Park Rd., Mason, Ohio. The Tactical Response Team was contacted by the Mason Police Department when an escaped inmate from an area detention facility took a female hostage in room #310. A Tactical Response Team member shot and killed the involved individual, Thomas Cromwell, after they breached the hotel door. The details below summarized the pertinent portions of the recorded interview with Evans and were not taken verbatim unless noted by quotations.

The interview began at 1415 hours. Attorney Joe Hegedus represented Evans for the interview. Evans stated that he has been a police officer for 19 years and has been on the Warren County Tactical Response Team for 14 years. Evans said that his role during the hostage rescue was a back-up hostage negotiator. At one point Evans said that he spoke to the hostage's mother on the phone because one of the concerns of Kelly Rose, as she was a hostage, was informing her mother of the situation.

When the Tactical Response Team learned about the Facebook live video of Cromwell threatening Rose's life with a knife, Evans called the female back that brought the video to the Tactical Response Team's attention; however, they were already aware of the video. Evans further explained that there were four negotiators from the Warren County Tactical Response Team present for the OICI and that all four negotiators stayed involved in the negotiations throughout the entire incident.

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SA Eveslage asked Evans to explain if the negotiations were recorded, and Evans confirmed that negotiations were recorded. Evans described multiple negotiators being able to listen to the conversations between Cromwell and the primary negotiator. Evans stated that negotiations were focused around attempting to get hostage, Kelly Rose, released from hotel room #310; however, Thomas Cromwell was "not having any of it." Evans stated that "towards the end he kept saying we are going to turn it up, I'm going to turn this. I believe a couple times he kept saying somebody is going to die."

SA Eveslage asked Evans if he heard Cromwell mention any weapons during negotiations, and Evans stated that "he made mention of shooting it out but we were never able to confirm if he had a gun in there. He had a knife, we know he had a knife because that was confirmed from the Facebook post."

Evans stated that negotiators were able to talk to Kelly Rose and she advised them that she did not want to be in the room with Cromwell and that she wanted to leave. Evans said that when Hamilton County's SWAT team was monitoring the situation, they advised negotiators that Thomas Cromwell was making verbal contact with SWAT members on the third floor by yelling through the closed entry door of room #310. Evans and another negotiator, Officer Ryan Frasher (Frasher), went into the building to try and establish contact with Cromwell since Cromwell refused to keep in contact via Rose's cell phone any further. Frasher was able to make verbal contact with Cromwell; however, Cromwell refused to come out of room #310 and also refused to allow Kelly Rose out of the room.

Evans stated that negotiators brought Kelly Rose back to the command area and discussed the details that occurred from her perspective during the hostage negotiations. Evans stated that while they were interviewing Kelly Rose, she denied having known Thomas Cromwell and stated she just met him earlier that evening at the hotel. Evans stated that he did not interrogate Kelly Rose, but just tried to keep her talking in the hopes of calming her down. Evans advised that Kelly Rose was not physically injured and that medics also verified that she was physically healthy and not needing further medical attention.

SA Roeser asked Evans who was the primary negotiator, and Evans stated that Frasher was the primary negotiator for a while but Cromwell did not seem to like Frasher, so they switched the primary to Officer Adam Sturgill.

SA Roeser asked Evans if he has had any training in negotiations, and Evans stated that he is OPOTA certified in the basic negotiations course and advanced negotiations course and also been certified through the FBI's negotiation course.

This interview was concluded at approximately 1431 hours. This interview was audio recorded. See attachment #01 for further details.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13 / Ofc. Chris Evans Interview

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**