



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



2023-2008
Officer Involved Critical Incident – Terminal Road By Dayton
Airport, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Rodney D. Helman (S), Elaine M. Helman (S)
Date of Activity: 08/22/2023
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton and Lipperman –
Business – 4683 Winterset , Columbus, OH 43220, Franklin County
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On August 2, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI), which occurred on the morning of August 2, 2023. The incident between law enforcement and the involved subjects, Rodney and Elaine Helman, started in Madison County, Ohio. It ended on Airport Access Road in Montgomery County, Ohio, with the OSP's Special Response Team (SRT) shooting the involved individuals while rescuing a hostage.

On August 22, 2023, Special Agents Richard Ward and Perry Roeser interviewed OSP Trooper Hector Burgos (Burgos) at 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, Ohio. Burgos was assigned to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team (SRT) that ended the hostage situation on Airport Access Road, Vandalia, Ohio. Burgos played an active role and did not discharge his firearm at the involved subjects.

The details below summarized the pertinent portions of the recorded interview with Burgos and were not taken verbatim unless noted by quotations.

The interview with Burgos began at 1332 hours, and was audio recorded. Attorney Nathan Lipperman was also in attendance for the scheduled interview. Burgos explained he had been an Ohio State Highway Trooper since 2005 and was assigned to the SRT team in 2017 as a breacher and robot operator.

Burgos stated on August 2, 2023, he was working at the Ohio State Fairgrounds on a security detail when he was notified of the semi-truck hostage situation by Trooper [REDACTED]. Burgos started on his way westbound from Columbus toward Springfield; he turned on his radio for updates and directions. Burgos explained that when he arrived at the location, he grabbed the needed equipment and approached the SRT Bear for more specific details about the scene.

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Burgos was given information about the facts of the situation by OSP Lieutenant Bryan Mangin. Burgos said when the OSP SRT Bear was pulled up next to the semi-truck, he noticed the curtains were pulled across the truck's windows. During the initial communications between the involved subjects and Lt. Mangin, a note from the truck's window asked for cigarettes and Mountain Dew. Burgos stated that SRT Troopers ██████████ and Matt Robinson and himself were asked to deliver a pack of cigarettes and Mountain Dew to the passenger's sidestep of the truck, which they accomplished.

Burgos said while negotiations were ongoing, he assisted with placing commercial spike strips between the rear drive tires of the truck. Burgos said when SRT Trooper ██████████ arrived on the scene, a discussion occurred about turning off the truck's air brake system. Burgos stated the team cut the airlines within the frame rails toward the back of the truck. Once the lines were cut, the truck's rear sat down a couple of inches.

Burgos said as the negotiations were ongoing, the communications stopped. A decision was then made to assault the truck and rescue the hostage. Burgos explained eight SRT team members were at the scene with a plan for the assault. Burgos stated two teams were to simultaneously approach both sides of the truck from the rear, break out the windows, and remove the curtains. Burgos said he was assigned to the passenger's side and was to provide lethal cover for Troopers Mangin and Erik Lofland. Burgos said Lt. Mangin was to provide shield cover, and Lofland was to break out the windows and get the curtains removed. Once completed, Burgos was assigned to get onto the truck's steps, look inside the truck's cab for the hostage, and give commands.

Burgos said when the attack on the truck began, he was up on the step with his firearm; he looked inside the truck's cab and did not witness anyone in the front seats. Burgos said in the sleeper berth, he saw a male wearing an orange shirt with his hands raised in the air. Burgos knew from the briefing that the hostage wore an orange shirt. Burgos stated that as he continued to shout commands, he caught a glimpse of a white T-shirt and saw a gun with a hand extended forward. Burgos said that he jumped off the step and reported that a gun was pointed at his face. About the same time, Burgos said Trooper ██████████ came around the front of the truck and began firing his pistol.

Burgos was then shown the helicopter video of the assault on the truck. Burgos pointed out his location and the team members' location. While Burgos watched the video, he was asked if a round was fired in his direction. Burgos believed he heard a shot or a muffled sound when he jumped off the truck. Burgos described the gun as a black barrel and silver slide.

Burgos stated after the shooting stopped, a canister of "OC" was tossed into the truck's cab. Burgos said soon after the OC was thrown into the cab's truck, the hostage exited the truck's passenger side door and took cover to the rear. Once the hostage was out of the truck, Burgos said time was now on their side.

Burgos was asked if he helped with the extraction of the subjects involved. He said, "yes" and explained that Trooper ██████████ climbed up a ladder and looked into the sleeper berth window for a better vantage point. Burgos stated they began to give commands to the female, but she was not communicating well. Burgos said due to the female's orientation inside the truck, she was a challenge to get out. The male was also helped out of the truck with medics

on the scene to aid both.

After the operation, Burgos and the SRT team traveled to the Dayton, Ohio, OSP post for a debrief. Burgos said at the Dayton post, a BCI Crime Scene Agent photographed him in the attire he wore during the operation. Burgos also confirmed he did not fire his service weapon.

The interview between BCI agents and Burgos concluded at 1410 hours, and was audio recorded. See attachment number #1 for a copy of the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-08-22 / Trp. Hector Burgos OSHP interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.