



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



2022-2608
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 28 North Paint St., Chillicothe
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Dep. Kristin Adair (W), Dep. Melissa Baldrige (W)
Date of Activity: 11/17/2022
Activity Location: Grant Medical Center – 111 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215, Franklin County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On November 17, 2022, at approximately 2012 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) responded to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO). SA Poole interviewed Deputies Melissa Baldrige #598 (Deputy Baldrige) and Kristin Adair #467 (Deputy Adair) in a closed room at Grant Medical Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred during the OICI.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to beginning the interview SA Poole advised both Deputy Baldrige and Deputy Adair that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation, the interview was voluntary, and that both deputies could stop answering at any time. Deputy Baldrige and Adair verbally acknowledge and agreed to be interviewed.

Deputy Adair stated she was off duty in downtown Chillicothe when she saw multiple cruisers running lights and sirens to the sheriff's office across the street. Deputy Adair thought there was something wrong so she walked behind the sheriff's office to see. As Deputy Adair walked through the parking lot she stated she saw a deputy giving aid to an unknown male White, later identified as Nicholas Mitchell (Mitchell), who had blood coming from his head.

Deputy Adair said she then saw Sergeant Eric Kocheran (Sgt. Kocheran) laying in the doorway of the substation bleeding from an unknown area. She stated she quickly started rendering aid to figure out where he was shot. Deputy Adair stated deputies placed Sgt. Kocheran's duty weapon that was laying on the ground in a lock box next to the entrance door. Deputy Adair also stated

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deputies took Sgt. Kocheran's duty belt off and secured it in another deputies locker. As she looked around Deputy Adair stated she saw around four shell casings in the doorway where Sgt. Kocheran was laying.

After the medics arrived Deputy Adair stated she then went home to get dressed and get her cruiser. Deputy Adair stated she then came back and helped with scene security and was asked to travel to Grant Hospital to be with Sgt. Kocheran.

Deputy Baldrige stated she was on her way home from work when she heard on the radio that there was a deputy down at the substation. By the time Deputy Baldrige arrived the medics were there rendering aid. Deputy Baldrige stated she then left with Deputy Adair to travel to Grant Medical Hospital in Columbus to be with Sgt. Kocheran.

SA Poole asked if Sgt. Kocheran was responsive or said anything after the incident. Deputy Adair stated, Sgt. Kocheran was in and out of consciousness, but did not say anything.

SA Poole asked if Mitchell said anything or was responsive. Deputy Adair said, "No," he was not responsive.

SA Poole asked if either deputy saw anyone shoot their weapons or if they discharged their own weapons. Both Deputies stated, "No," and "No."

SA Poole asked if either Deputy knew who Mitchell was or had prior dealings with him. Deputy Adair stated, "No," but she thought she saw him at the local speedway begging for money yesterday or a couple days prior.

The interview concluded at 2022 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022.11.17 Deputy Kristin Adair and Mellissa Baldrige Interview