

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Donovan P. Scheurich Sr.

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at approximately 10:45 p.m., the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from Jackson County Sheriff's Office to respond to the scene of an officer involved death/shooting at Stanton Creek Road and Cut Off Road in the Township of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin.

At approximately 8:41 p.m., the Jackson County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a subject who had called 911 and received the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office transferred the call to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office because it was determined the subject calling, who was later identified as Donovan P. Scheurich Sr. was in a vehicle in Jackson County. A geographical location of Scheurich's cell phone was obtained, which indicated he was in the area of Stanton Creek Road in the Township of Millston. This area is a rural area in Jackson County, where there are no houses visible in this location.

Deputies located Scheurich and he was confronted by six (6) Jackson County Sheriff's Office deputies in the area of Stanton Creek Road and Cut Off Road. Deputies activated their emergency lights; Scheurich was initially inside of his vehicle but then exited the vehicle armed with a rifle. Scheurich continued to walk outside of his vehicle with the rifle. Deputies identified themselves numerous times to Scheurich on the squad car public address system. Deputies negotiated with Scheurich to drop the rifle and put his hands in the air. Scheurich refused to follow the commands of the responding deputies. Scheurich continued to hold the rifle and fired at least one round in an unknown direction. Negotiations continued between the deputies and Scheurich. Scheurich continued to not comply with the commands of deputies; Scheurich then pointed the rifle at deputies. Three of the deputies fired their rifles at Scheurich and Scheurich was struck by gunfire. One deputy was positioned in an area of cover near a wood line at an angle to the right from Scheurich, the second deputy was in an area of cover in front of Scheurich and the third deputy was in an area of cover at an angle to Scheurich on his left side.

The investigation revealed deputies fired a total of eleven (11) rounds. Immediately after firing the rounds, Scheurich fell to the ground; deputies continued to give Scheurich verbal commands. Deputies approached Scheurich, they called for an ambulance and helicopter and immediately began to administer first aid. A .22 caliber rifle was located directly next to Scheurich.

DCI responded to the scene with six (6) Special Agents (S/A): S/A Welsch, Ruff, Ince, Kleinhans, Meyer and Van Schoyck and one (1) Special Agent in Charge (SAC): SAC Powell. S/A Welsch was assigned as the lead investigator and S/A Kleinhans was assigned as the secondary investigator. DCI collected evidence from the scene and the Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit (WSP TRU) assisted with the investigation/created a scene diagram.

Family members of Donovan P. Scheurich Sr. were identified and a death notification was made by the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were also provided to the family.

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DCI Agents interviewed involved deputies Sgt. Evan Mazur, Deputy Aaron Johnson and Deputy Mike Bartlett on January 30, 2017. An additional three (3) deputies from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded and were interviewed by DCI agents.

Due to the rural area of this incident, there were no non-law enforcement witnesses.

Five (5) body cameras were worn by each of five (5) deputies responding to the incident. The sixth deputy didn't have a body camera. All body camera footage was reviewed. The audio of the incident was captured but due to the low-light conditions and the distance from the deputies to Donovan Scheurich Sr., no video of the shooting was captured. Video of the deputies providing first aid to Scheurich was captured.

Evidence from this investigation included firearms, spent cartridge casings, spent bullets and cellular telephone. The evidence was transmitted to the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory (WSCL) and DCI for forensic examination

An autopsy of Donovan P. Scheurich Sr. was conducted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on January 26, 2017 by Dr. Michael Stier and was attended by DCI agents S/A Fernandez and Thiessen. The autopsy revealed multiple gunshot wounds and Donovan Scheurich Sr. died from firearm injury sustained during an engagement with law enforcement.

S/A Welsch has a meeting scheduled on February 20, 2017 with the Jackson County District Attorney Gerald Fox. S/A Welsch will be turning over the completed investigative file as of that date to District Fox for review.