

Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report
Case/Report Number: 17-5763/41

Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of THOMAS J. SELJE

On Monday, August 21, 2017, at approximately 8:24 p.m., the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) received a request from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office (COSO) to respond to the scene of an officer-involved shooting at 416 Vince Street in the City of Pardeeville, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, at approximately 7:45 p.m., the Columbia County Communications Center requested that all county units respond to 416 Vince Street, in the Village of Pardeeville, for a male with a gun. Dispatch broadcast that the male had pointed the gun at the female reporting party. As deputies responded to the call, dispatch advised that the male stated he will kill any law enforcement that arrives at the location. The male suspect was later identified as Thomas J. Selje.

Deputy Haueter responded to the scene and took cover behind a truck parked on the north side of Vince Street, at the intersection of Gillette and Vince Street. As Deputy Haueter was behind the tailgate of the truck, he heard one loud shot being fired, which he believed came from Selje because the bullet was coming from the west heading eastbound. He could hear as the bullet "whizzed" by the left side of his head.

Deputy Haueter ran from behind the truck to the corner of the residence on Gillette and Vince Street (402 Vince Street). He saw the female who was later identified as the caller, on the south side of the road on Vince Street. Deputy Haueter moved to the southeast side of 404 Vince Street. He was not sure if it was before or after he moved to this location, but he heard a second shot coming from the west, but he did not see who had fired it. The female continued talking on the phone to the dispatcher. The dispatcher advised that the female was afraid to move because she was in Selje's line of sight. Deputy Haueter believed the female didn't want to move because she thought she was going to get shot by Selje.

The female began to walk slowly toward Deputy Haueter. The female was on the south side of Vince Street, on the east side of Gillette Street as Deputy Haueter was talking to her. The female remained on the south side of Vince Street, and Deputy Haueter estimated she was approximately 250 feet from Selje to the east facing him. Deputy Haueter got into the prone position with his rifle. Deputy Haueter saw something in Selje's right hand, which he held above his waist in front of him. Deputy Haueter perceived this to be a firearm. Deputy Haueter stated that Selje began to walk in his direction (eastbound). Deputy Haueter fired three consecutive shots, aiming center mass of Selje, in order to stop the threat. After firing the three shots, he looked to see if Selje had gone down, and he saw that he had not. Deputy Haueter yelled for the female to come to where

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he was. She slowly walked from Vince Street, northbound toward his location. As she did, she continued to look in the direction of Selje and he believed she still feared for her safety.

When the female was on Deputy Haueter's side of Vince Street, Deputy Haueter estimated the female was approximately 15 feet away from Deputy Haueter's location. At some point dispatch had advised that there were multiple firearms in the residence. Deputy Haueter again took a prone position with his rifle. He could see the gun, in the Seljes right hand. Selje had the gun pointed in an easterly direction, which was the direction of where Deputy Haueter and the female were located. Deputy Haueter took his fourth shot. Deputy Haueter estimated Selje was 300 feet from him when the shooting occurred.

Selje was struck by the gunfire. Pardeeville EMS (Emergency Medical Services), who were nearby, responded to the location. Divine Savior EMS also responded for a paramedic intercept. Selje was pronounced deceased at the scene.

DCI responded to the scene with six Special Agents – S/As Fernandez, De La Rosa, Holmes, Reimer, Heiser and Dilley and Special Agents in Charge Engels and Wilson. SA Fernandez was assigned as the lead investigator, and SA De La Rosa was assigned as the secondary investigator. The Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit (WSP TRU) assisted with the investigation and created a scene diagram. The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory' Crime Scene Response Team (CSRT) collected evidence from the scene.

Family members of Thomas J. Selje were identified and a death notification was made by DCI and the Mukwonago Police Department. Wisconsin Crime Victim Services forms were also provided to the family.

DCI SAs Fernandez and De La Rosa interviewed involved Deputy Haueter on August 24, 2017. DCI also conducted an interview on August 21, 2017, with Columbia County Sheriff Deputy Artymiuk.

A neighborhood canvass was conducted by DCI and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office; a total of approximately nineteen people were interviewed during the neighborhood canvass.

Squad video and audio from a total of two squads was obtained and reviewed by DCI. Body cameras are not issued by the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and as a result, were not worn by any of the responding officers, and no security cameras were located in the area.

Evidence from the investigation included one officer rifle, one revolver, four cartridge casings, two spent bullets, metal fragments, unfired bullets and magazines. All of the evidence was transmitted to the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory for examination.

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An autopsy of Thomas J. Selje was conducted at the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office on August 22, 2017 by deputy Chief Medical Examiner Agnieszka Rogalska, and was attended by DCI SA Pertzborn. As of this date the final autopsy report has not been received by DCI.

On Monday, September 18, 2017, the completed investigative file as of that date was turned over to District Attorney Jane E. Kohlwey from the Columbia County District Attorney's Office for review.