

Q1= Detective Diane Nelson
Q2= Detective Christofer Nybeck
U= Unidentified Person
A= Sergeant Geoff Kusick.

Witness Interview

Q1: 'Kay, the time is 01:15 hours on Saturday on November 11th. We're at the Crystal Police Department. This is Detective Diane Nelson, and with me is my partner, Detective Chris Nybeck. And your name, sir?

A: Sergeant Geoff Kusick. G-E-O-F-F. K-U-S-I-C-K.

Q1: And what is your date of birth, sir?

A: [REDACTED]

Q1: 'Kay. And who are you currently employed by?

A: City of Crystal, police department.

Q1: And how long have you been employed?

A: Uh, 'bout little over eight years.

Q1: Okay. And what's your current position?

A: Uh, K9 handler sergeant.

Q1: Okay. What were your hours today?

A: 18:30 to 06:30.

Q1: Okay. And what, uh, was your call number?

A: Uh, 3306.

Q1: 'Kay. And are you the shift sergeant today?

A: Yes.

Q1: Or were you the shift sergeant-

A: For the night shift.

Q1: -during this incident?

A: Yes. I would of been comin' in to take over-

Q1: Okay.

A: -at, uh, 18:30.

Q1: What time did you show up for work today?

A: Um, the time was a little off because [clears throat] being the canine handler I have my own take home car, um, I was just getting my squad turned on and like driving out of my driveway and I started to hear the call, um, and getting logged in and stuff like that, so exactly what time I logged in I couldn't tell ya. Um, I started hearin' that and then basically I just did a code run from essentially my house to Crystal, so.

Q1: Okay. Do you know about what time you arrived?

A: Uh, I would say it was probably 6:00 p.m., maybe 5, 10 minutes before 6:00 p.m.

Q1: Okay.

A: Somethin' like that.

Q1: And what type of things were being relayed to you over the radio, and what were you learning about this call?

A: Um, preliminarily I just kinda heard, ya know, they were askin' for a bunker. Um, I could tell that they were coordinating people as a perimeter. Uh, I could tell it was Sergeant Dorr's voice he was, uh, coordinating things. And I was kinda gettin' logged into the computer at the same time, so I hit send, got logged in, and then I could review the call at that point, and could see what was goin' on.

Q1: Okay. Do you recall the address?

A: Um, 5128 Angeline, possibly. That s-, that sounds about right.

Q1: Is that an address—just off the top of your head, um, have you had any contacts with that, uh, address that you're aware of?

A: Not specifically the address. I recognized when I started to see the call, and the address, and the notes in there, I started to recognize it from information that had been passed on from Brooklyn Park, uh, I think it was last week sometime, um, but the person and, and such.

Q1: And what type of information was that that you had received?

A: They mentioned, uh, the party's brother had committed suicide. He was put on a hold for statements and stuff that he had made at that time. Um, it was something along the lines like, be aware, be ready for this address, it's likely when he gets released it's probably gonna be a suicide at that address. Um, so when I pulled up the call I, I was like oh, yep, that's exactly what they had said from the previous call.

Q1: And what types of things were they mentioning in the call history?

A: Uh, I didn't really read it too closely.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Um, to be honest with ya. I, I read enough to say this is what's goin' on, this is where I'm going, and then besides that, besides that I was doin' a code run from, from w-, from my house to there, and-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -I was kinda focused on driving. Um, I didn't read a lot into the call.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Basically I started to get close, and that's when I started relaying more information over the radio.

Q1: Okay. Um, when you arrived, where did ya stage?

A: Uh, Angeline and, uh, Quail.

Q1: Okay. And where is that in location to the target residence?

A: It's, uh, probably about two blocks away. That's where, I mean that's where I staged, that's where I parked my car, and then I moved up on foot closer.

Q1: Okay. Did you, um, where did you move up to?

A: Uh, I believe the exact address was 5122, uh, Angeline. That was kinda with the so to say response team. That's where I met Sergeant Dorr, Officer Kuyper, and, uh, Sergeant Brunner from New Hope.

Q1: Okay. And did you have your canine partner with you?

A: I did not, no.

Q1: Okay.

A: Uh, there was another canine already deployed on scene, uh, the Plymouth guy.

Q1: 'Kay. So once you, uh, got to the, uh, area of the residence, the target residence-

A: Yep.

Q1: -what did you see and what did ya hear?

A: Um, so I met up with those officers, I, I basically got in position there. Um, I started to hear radio communication, uh, I don't exactly recall like when I got there, how much later it was, besides that, but i- everything was movin' pretty quick. Um, I believe it was Officer Landherr from Robbinsdale, he was startin' to mention that the party—they, they had a good visual on, uh, the front of the garage from, from their location. They had mentioned that he was comin' out, um, I couldn't see him visually, but I could start to hear that the party making, I don't know, boisterous state- ya know, yelling, screaming, um, things like that. Um, so I couldn't see him, but I could hear him, and then those guys were relayin' that he was walking out of the garage.

Q1: What types of things was he saying?

A: That I, I couldn't even tell you what he was saying, it was, it was screaming.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Uh, it was yelling, but, but I don't know. It, it was highly agitated, but I don't, I don't know what he was saying exactly.

Q1: Okay. Um, you were positioned at the residence at 5122, is that immediately to the east of the target house?

A: It is, yes.

Q1: Okay.

A: Yep, it's target house, and that's the house right to the east, right.

Q1: At any point as your target, or as your bunkered there-

A: Mm-hm.

Q1: -did you see him come out of the residence?

A: No, we, we didn't have visual on him. I didn't have visual on him that whole time, um, it, not that it matters for what I saw, but I learned later that he had come out further and retreated back in, but that was not at the point when I was there.

Q1: Mm-hm. Once you arrived, um, it was about, uh, 6 o'clock p.m., was it, uh, was it dark?

A: Yeah. Yeah, it was dark.

Q1: How was it as far as lighting in the area?

A: Um, I mean the street lights were on, but our place of cover, we were—it was pretty dark where we were. I, um, I was comfortable where we were at with bunker and the lighting that we weren't just standing out in the middle of nowhere, but yeah it was definitely dark.

Q1: As you were waiting, and you're hearing him yell-

A: Yep.

Q1: -and you're hearing the traffic and things like that, um, what type of things were coming across on the traffic? What were your partners telling you about what was being done, and said by the, the suspect?

A: Well I heard from dispatch, uh, dispatch was airing that they were on the phone with him. I know our negotiator had attempted multiple calls to him as well. Um, dispatch had mentioned that, something along the lines that he's planning on coming out, it's, this is the end, it's gonna be a shootout, uh, I don't know if it was something like okay corral or something along those lines kinda thing. Um, but [Inaudible] nonetheless, he was coming out and, and it was gonna be a shootout, that's how it was gonna end. Um, the officers that had visual, Officer Landherr was airing that he observed him come out, they could see a cigarette in one hand, and then it was a black object in the other. Then they updated with more information that that black, black object has a laser sight, or they could see a laser, a red dot on there. Um, after, ya know, when he was out that first time, when I was on scene and the first time he came out, they're airing this information, and then there was a very clear gunshot, uh, we obviously communicated with each other, and not—and it had been none of us, and then Officer Landherr, I believe it was Officer Landherr, updated that, uh, the suspect had fired a round, uh, that, and that was the—he had come in

and out of the garage, and back into the house, retreated back in the house, and came out, and that, that was like one of like three times or four times that that happened.

Q1: So how many rounds did you believe the suspect fired?

A: The first time he came out, it was just one round each time. So he came out, fired a round, I believe he retreated back in, and came out, fire- ya know, over the course of time fired another round, and then came back out, and I believe he fired a third round also.

Q1: So three total?

A: Yeah.

Q1: Okay. And in the communications that were being relayed to you he says he's gonna go out in a blaze of glory-

A: Yeah.

Q1: -or shooting and-

A: Right.

Q1: -things like that.

A: Yep.

Q1: Was he making specific threats?

A: Um, yeah, there was specific threats that, ya know, if, if officers approach the door, he was gonna shoot them. Uh, if he sees officers he's gonna shoot them. Um, he made a threat that I, I think, I think it was along the lines like he was just gonna start firing now into houses, uh, and that was after, ya know, one round that he had already blasted off. I, I believe it was in that time period between that and the next round that he fired off, uh, that his plan was now to go out and start engaging the public.

Q1: So after the three shots happened-

A: Yep.

Q1: -what happened next?

A: Um, well, so yeah he, he came out, fired, retreated back in, kinda came back out again, and then that's where he was saying that I'm gonna engage the public or I'm gonna start shooting at houses, and stuff like that. Uh, it, it was, it was clearly escalating, um, ya know like I mentioned before he was, he was highly agitated, but it was even comin' to a point where it's like, this is like, this is boiling over now, he was comin' out, um, the screaming had intensified, the yelling, uh, it, it just sounded—you asked like if he, if I could make anything out, no, it was just like completely erratic, uh, I, I couldn't tell anything, what he was really saying, but, it had intensified to a point where I think we were even like this is, this is coming to a point here I would say. Um, but the, the sound got progressively louder, it, it almost was like he was getting further, and further, and further out of the garage. Uh, again, we didn't have visual, uh, from our spot, but it seemed like he was getting closer, and closer, and closer.

U: Do you guys know where Jacyln [Inaudible] is?

Q1: So you could hear, um, it sounded like he was getting closer to your area?

A: It-

Q1: To where you're at.

A: -it just, yeah, it just sounded like he was getting closer 'cause-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -he was definitely getting louder, and it was—it, it, it sounded as if he was getting closer.
Um-

Q1: Mm-kay.

A: -a-again I couldn't see him, but yeah, it, it definitely sounded like well this is nearing to him-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -getting to us kinda deal.

Q1: Was anybody trying to make contact with him, um, as far as officers out in the street?

A: Uh, none in the street. I know our negotiator was attempting multiple calls to him.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Um, I know dispatch had been on the phone with him. They had tried to transfer him over to negotiations quite a bit. Um, d-dispatch was also trying to call in there, but-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -not from our position. We weren't, we weren't in a position to, to yell to him.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Um, and honestly I don't, I don't think it would of been, personally I don't think it would'a been prudent if we would of been yelling to him. I think we would of given up our location, and that was his intent was to-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -to come out shooting at us, so-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -most of where we were we're cover and conceal, ya know.

Q1: Was there anybody giving him directions? Let me see your hands, let me see your hands.

A: Um, I- not that I can recall.

Q1: Okay. So after the three shots-

A: Yep.

Q1: -and after the sound is coming closer to you-

A: Yeah.

Q1: -or you, or it appears that way.

A: Yeah.

Q1: And he's getting more agitated, and things are amping up, you know it's coming to a head.

A: Yeah.

Q1: Uh, what happened then?

A: Um, we heard another shot from our position. It, it was unknown if it was another shot from him, um, we aired that that was not us who had fired that round. I guess we were kinda waiting for another response, ya know, from other teams to see, for them to air, um, no that was from the suspect or not. Uh, and then ultimately, ultimately we heard from, uh, I, I don't know if it was Officer Landherr or if it was Officer Harty who, who aired, uh—a-and I'm not familiar with the terminology, but something, uh, [REDACTED] or something along those lines, which i-is apparently, uh, a SWAT term for that they had fired, so-

Q1: Okay.

A: -so I had learned that they had fired. Um-

Q1: So after you learned they fired-

A: Yep.

Q1: -what happened next?

A: Um, we as the response team then moved up. We had two body bunkers, uh, we had a less-lethal person with us. Uh, and then me and Kuyper, Officer Kuyper, were, uh, were long guns, uh, so we moved up from our position, we could see him, we could that he was, he was down, we could clearly see that he was down. Uh, but not immediately could we tell that he was injured or anything like that, uh, not from our, from our spot. I could see firearms, I could see a firearm by his foot, I could see another one that was near his hand, um, I believe on his, his right side, on his, our left side. Um, but, but we, then we started givin' some verbal commands there, ya know, show us your hands, uh, give yourself up, or, or something along those lines. Whatever, whatever the commands were, I think it was Sergeant Dorr who was givin' commands, but, um, we didn't receive any response, uh, like I said, I couldn't see that he was obviously injured.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Um, and at that time we didn't approach till we wanted to make sure, uh, Officer Albers with, with less-lethal, then I fired, I think he fired one or two less-lethal shots at him. Uh, one or two, I can't recall if it was one, I, I think it was two, but, uh, he fired two less-lethal shots at him. Uh, there was no movement, we felt comfortable to, to move up and

then kind of engage at that point to, to, uh, ya know, clear him or whatever. Um, we went up, could tell that he was moving, not moving, excuse me. Um, I could then see the blood pooling by his head, and, uh, I think we kicked the g- I think I personally kicked the two guns, or one gun that was by his foot away, somebody else secured the other one, and then we handcuffed him, and, and secured him.

Q1: How many handguns did you see?

A: I wanna say, ya know, now that I think about it, I'm pretty sure there was two by his foot, by his feet, and one by his hand, by his right hand. Um, initially I thought there was two, but now that I'm thinkin' about that I think there was three.

Q1: Okay. Could you tell if they were semi-auto or revolver?

A: Um, I could tell that the one was a semi-auto, the silver, it was like a silver semi-auto that was by his foot. Uh, the other ones I don't recall though. I don't remember that.

Q1: Did you notice if any of the handguns had a, a laser sight, or equipped with anything aftermarket like that?

A: I didn't look close enough for that.

Q1: When you approached was the suspect face-up or face-down?

A: Uh, face-up.

Q1: Okay. And then did you have to do anything to handcuff him?

A: Yeah, he was rolled over. Um, I don't recall who was doing the handcuffing specifically, might have been Officer Albers, um, but I know he secured, he secured, uh, his right hand first I believe, and then we rolled him, uh, ya know from right over onto his belly, and then finished handcuffing. I believe, it, it's not exactly probably [Inaudible] not sure.

Q1: Could you see where the less, less-lethal rounds impacted on the, uh, suspect?

A: No. I, I—no. I couldn't say for sure. I, I could see that they impacted because I could see, ya know, like clothes move kinda thing. I could see, uh, reverberation or whatever you would call that, uh, but no, I didn't see where they hit.

Q1: Okay. Um, could you see where the suspect was hit?

A: Uh, from-

Q1: With—from the, uh, rifle round.

A: The lethal shot?

Q1: Yeah.

A: Yeah. It was, well, I mean I could see that his, he had a shot through the head. Um, I could see that he was bleeding from the head I guess, I couldn't see entry or anything like that, but I mean it was, it was apparent that he had a gunshot wound to the head. Yeah.

Q1: Based on your trainings experience, um, was there anything that could be done in the realm of, of first aid?

A: No. Absolutely not, he was, he was dec- clearly deceased at that point.

Q1: And as soon as it was proven, uh, did EMS come in?

A: We had, we did ask them to come out, um, I wasn't there for that part, I had with another team gone in and cleared the residence, uh, but they were asked to come up. I didn't witness any of that part though.

Q1: Okay. Who did you, uh, go in the residence with to, uh, clear the, uh, residence?

A: Uh, it was a number of people. Sergeant Dorr was in there with me. Officer Kuyper was in there with me, uh, specifically Officer Heasley from Robbinsdale. I believe Officer Black from New Hope. Uh, those were the main ones that I interacted with in there.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: But besides that I'm not, [Inaudible], I kinda went in, and went to the basement. I know some others went in and cleared the main level, I'm not sure who that was specifically though.

Q1: Mm-hm. Anything remarkable inside the residence?

A: No.

Q1: Did ya find any other people?

A: No.

Q1: Any other weapons that you recall?

A: I didn't, no. I was mainly looking for people. I didn't really look too closely for weapons or anything like that. Yeah.

Q1: Okay. So what happened after you cleared the residence?

A: Um, came back out, uh, I remained on scene for a short period of time. Lieutenant Underthun, uh, eventually came to the scene too. Um, I assisted with kinda cordon off, uh, taping the, the area, the crime scene area. Um, I think that was the extent of most of my duties. After that it was mostly cordon off the area.

Q1: And then after the area was cordon off, what did you do?

A: Um, eventually after that I, uh, well, I returned here. Uh, I was somewhat given instructions to kinda coordinate between crime lab, uh, um, between Officer Harty's attorney, and stuff like that to set-up rooms and stuff like that.

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: Really just kinda assisted with stuff at the PD here.

Q1: Okay.

A: Yeah.

Q2: Okay.

Q1: Is there anything else you feel that you need to add?

A: No.

Q1: Anything else you can think of?

A: No, I think that's pretty thorough.

Q1: Okay.

A: Yeah.

Q1: Alright. This interview will be concluding at 1:34 hours. Thank you.

A: Yeah.