Other Speaker: Sure, **** into the ****.

Other Speaker: Uh.

Anthony Turner: So, um, it's department protocol that, um, uh, members of the sheriff's office, members of, um, Santa Rosa Police and the district attorney's office are ****.

Other Speaker: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Other Speaker: Do you have any questions about that or?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I guess not.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, so today is Monday, the 2nd of December, 2019. The time now is 11:01 –

Other Speaker: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: – according to my watch. Um, this interview is being audio recorded, uh, as we discussed just prior to me installing that recorder, okay. This interview relates to Santa Rosa, uh, Case No. 19-16259. This was an incident that occurred on Wednesday, the 27th of November, 2019. Our current location is inside an interview room in an office building on Skylane Boulevard in Windsor. I am Santa Rosa Police Detective Anthony Turner. I'm currently assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit at Santa Rosa Police. Can I have you each introduce yourself, please?

Other Speaker: Ryan Cogbill, Santa Rosa Police Department, um, VCI, as well, Violent Crimes.

Other Speaker: And I'm Harry Stern. I'm an attorney and I'm here representing Deputy Blount.

Anthony Turner: And Deputy Blount, could you just introduce yourself for the tape?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Deputy Charles Blount.

Anthony Turner: Okay. This is a criminal investigation and Deputy Blount is being interviewed as a victim and witness in this incident. Deputy Blount, the statement being sought is voluntary. I, therefore, need to advise you of the following. You are free to leave at any time. You are not obliged to answer any questions, um, asked by anybody in this room. Okay. The reason that the door is closed is just for privacy. That door is not locked. If you need or would want to leave at any point, it is your right to do so. Okay. At this time, are you prepared to provide a statement to us?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Have you had ample time to gather your thoughts and otherwise prepare for this interview?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: What have you done to prepare for the interview?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, I met once with my attorney.

Anthony Turner: ****, okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: And I reviewed the, um, video from my body-worn camera.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So you said that you have watched, um, that body, uh, the body-worn camera footage?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: Did you have ample time to review that footage?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Have you watched anybody else's footage in relation to this incident?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: And have you done, uh, anything else to prepare for this interview in regards to reviewing or watching footage, um, uh, or any of, any other, um, proactive steps to prepare?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Is there anything that would hinder you giving a statement at this time?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Deputy Blount, do you have a friendship or close relationship with myself or with Deputy Cogbill?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Are you sick or injured now?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Were you sick or injured prior to the incident?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Did you receive any injuries as a result of the incident?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Can you please describe those injuries?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I had, um, a laceration, a small laceration to my thumb and a bite mark, um, where I was bitten on my right forearm.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Which forearm was injured?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right.

Anthony Turner: And which thumb?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right thumb.

Anthony Turner: At the time of the incident, were you suffering from any medical condition or taking any medication that may have impaired your abilities as a, as a law enforcement officer?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: When did you last sleep?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right now or before the incident?

Anthony Turner: So for today's interview, when did you last sleep before today's interview?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Last night.

Anthony Turner: Last night. Okay. And how long did you sleep?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Hmm, 7 hours.

Anthony Turner: 7 hours. When did you last eat?

Deputy Charlie Blount: This morning, a couple hours ago.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And can you describe what you ate?

Deputy Charlie Blount: ****.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Have you consumed any alcoholic beverages in the last 24 hours?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: The incident occurred, um, on Wednesday of last week, had you consumed any alcoholic beverages in the prior 24 hours before that incident?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, I don't drink.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, my next question is did you feel any effects of alcohol at the time of the incident? I'm sure that you're gonna say no.

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Thank you. Um, uh, now, let's talk about your general experience. How long have you been a Sonoma County Sheriff Deputy?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Almost 20 years, February 7th or 8th will be 20 years.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And how many years of total law enforcement experience do you have?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, I had, uh, almost 2 years with the Santa Rosa prior.

Anthony Turner: So that's a total of almost 22 years.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Almost.

Anthony Turner: Yeah. Were there any other agencies prior to Santa Rosa?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well, I was in the Coast Guard, which is, technically, does federal law enforcement and I did some law enforcement in the Coast Guard.

Anthony Turner: Okay. How is – okay. How long were you with the Coast Guard?

Deputy Charlie Blount: 14 years.

Anthony Turner: So it's 14 years with the Coast Guard, about 2 years with Santa Rosa and almost 20 years with, uh, the sheriff's office?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right. Not all the Coast Guard time was law enforcement though.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, can you please describe your prior training as it relates to your duties?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Police academy and then, uh, field training programs in both agencies, um, and then in-service training, quarterly training, um, the block training we do annually or it's once every 2 years now, that's all.

Anthony Turner: So, okay. So do you have any specialty trainings?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, have you ever held a prior special assignment or collateral duty?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I was an FTO, um, on two different occasions, both for very short periods of time.

Anthony Turner: Um, is that with the sheriff's office?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: In regards to your current assignment, can you please describe the nature of those duties?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, I'm a patrol deputy out of the main office –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – working the graveyard shift.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So in relation to that, uh, at the graveyard shift, what are your normal hours?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, 2100 to 0700.

Anthony Turner: And what days do you work?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I work Monday night through Thursday night.

Anthony Turner: **** so that's Monday night 2100 hours so 9 p.m. –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: – through Thursday night, Friday morning finishing at 0700 on Friday morning?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, what time did you start work on the day of the incident?

Deputy Charlie Blount: 2100 hours –

Anthony Turner: Tuesday.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – Tuesday night.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And were you expecting to finish at 0700 hours on Wednesday morning?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: What was your call sign, uh, of the day of the incident?

Deputy Charlie Blount: George 39.

Anthony Turner: And is that your normal call sign?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Is this a uniformed or a non-uniformed assignment?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uniformed assigned with a marked vehicle.

Anthony Turner: Okay. How long have you been in this assignment, so how long have you been working, uh, graveyards?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, oh, I've always worked graveyards, except for the time that I was, uh, in the courts. I spent a total of my 20, almost 20 years I've been in courts about a year and a half, and all the rest was on graveyards.

Anthony Turner: Graveyards, okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Not always out of the main. I've worked, um, the Guerneville Substation for 2½ years and the, um, Valley Substation for a year or so and the rest was all out of main office.

Anthony Turner: Main office, okay. So at the moment, you're working a graveyard shift out of the main office?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: How long ago was it that you worked a different shift or out of a different office?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I spent 1 year in courts, roughly, uh, I don't know, 5, 6 years ago.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Then prior to that, I was graveyard shift out of main office.

Anthony Turner: Before that, okay. And have your days remained consistent in that last 5 or 6 years?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No. Um, prior to going back to four 10s, we were on 12s, I think, I think. Um, and prior to that, we were on 11s and, I think, um, days off were pretty consistent, except, uh, I think, it was off by 1 day. I think, I had Sunday, uh, as a workday –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – so and there was a time when it was every other Wednesday and, uh –

Anthony Turner: So a little bit of variation –

Deputy Charlie Blount: A little bit –

Anthony Turner: – but it's been –

Deputy Charlie Blount: – but close.

Anthony Turner: – consistently a graveyard shift –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: – um, for the last 5 or 6 years?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right.

Anthony Turner: Okay. What veh, what vehicle did you use on Wednesday?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, I just been assigned a brand, brand-new car, it's a, it's a Dodge Charger. The number of the vehicle was Adam 905.

Anthony Turner: Adam 905?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. My next question is, is this your normally assigned vehicle? It sounded like it was a new car.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, this is my second day with that car –

Anthony Turner: ****.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – assigned to me.

Anthony Turner: Okay. I'll give you a moment there, Charlie.

Deputy Charlie Blount: That's okay. Sorry, go ahead.

Anthony Turner: Uh, were there any noticeable mechanical defects with that vehicle?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, it was brand new, so in perfect condition.

Anthony Turner: Okay. You said that that's, um, that your patrol shift is a uniformed assignment?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: So can you please describe the uniform that you were wearing on Wednesday.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, the standard, um, patrol uniform. Um, the tan shirt with, uh, uh, a cloth badge, um, embroidered name, um, patches on each shoulder, long-sleeve shirt. Um, then I had a, I have a, I wear a standard duty belt. I don't, I don't wear that the, the, the vest.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, green pants, um, kind of more the utility type pants that we wear, um, side pockets, um, black boots. Yeah, that's pretty much it.

Anthony Turner: Just, okay, and then, uh, as far as the duty belt –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: – can you just describe what, um, pieces of equipment are actually on that duty belt?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Okay. Um, I have a keeper with my handcuff key, then I have my firearm, then I have two keepers and I have a pouch with my gloves, and I have a keeper in the, like the middle of my back that, um, actually is a, uh, flashlight holder, um, then I have a, uh, Leatherman type tool, um, a backup flashlight, um, a radio and then I put a keeper that is a baton holder, and another just regular keeper, and then I have my Taser, and then, um, my pepper spray and then a double handcuff case.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, were you carrying, uh, any backup guns or, um, any other items?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes, I carry a, um, backup gun. Um, I carry a pocketknife.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So your main firearm, uh, can you just describe the make, model and caliber of that firearm?

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's a Glock Model 35. It's a Gen 4 Glock and it's a 40-caliber gun.

Anthony Turner: 40 caliber, okay. And your backup gun, what's the make, model and caliber of that weapon?

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's a Glock Model 27, Generation 3 and it's a 40-caliber gun.

Anthony Turner: 40 caliber, okay. And you said you had a Leatherman on your belt and then –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: – you said you had a pocketknife.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I carry two pocketknives.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Whereabouts do you carry those pocketknives?

Deputy Charlie Blount: One on each pocket, one on the right, one on the left.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, do you have access to any other firearms?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I had a, I had my rifle in the trunk.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, were you wearing a body-worn camera –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: – on Wednesday? Whereabouts was that mounted?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, I have it mounted, um, like on the high center of my chest in the, in the buttons.

Anthony Turner: So that's on the buttons of your, uh –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: – your shirt.

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's got a clip that goes in between the buttons.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Do you carry an audio recorder alongside your body-worn camera?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Uh, you cited that your Taser is on your belt?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Which side of your belt is that Taser on?

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's on my left side.

Anthony Turner: Left side.

Deputy Charlie Blount: So left hand drawn holster.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Did you have access to any other lethal or less lethal, uh, piece of equipment?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: And was there any other equipment, uh, that you were assigned during that shift?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't know what you mean, assigned.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So, uh, we've talked about the equipment that you were wearing –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh huh.

Anthony Turner: – we talked about the, uh, the main items that were in the car, uh, in terms of your rifle, and were there any other nonlethal items that you had access to?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, my baton. My baton was in the car. Um, flashlight.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And was the flashlight in the car or was that on your belt?

Deputy Charlie Blount: It was in my hand.

Anthony Turner: Hands. Can you describe the flashlight?

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's a, um, straight light SL20 rechargeable, metal.

Anthony Turner: Okay. The nature of this investigation concerns a significant incident that you were recently involved in. It occurred in the general area of Highview Street and Sutton Road in Bloomfield on the morning of Wednesday, November the 27th, 2019. Please describe the event in as much detail as you can. Include the time of the event, names of witnesses and names of officers as best you can recall. Include all the information you can remember relative to the circumstances.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, it was getting close to 5:30 in the morning, I think. Um, I was at the, uh, deputy sheriff's association hall up on, um, Industrial.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, I heard, um, dispatch, um, on Channel 1, dispatch George 48, which is Jason Little. Um, the dispatch was roughly, um, respond to a, um, 10851 that was being followed by an off-duty Santa Rosa officer and the 10851 was

from a, uh, a 215, a carjacking. Uh, they dis, the immediate, uh, the first dispatch was only for George 48 and, uh, at that time I, uh, at that time in the morning, get close to the end of the shift, I have a pretty good idea where everybody was, um, and I figured he was, um, pretty far away from any other deputies, um, so I picked up my stuff and headed to my car, because the, the nature of a, uh, of a, um, carjacking is, you know, some, so much of a higher-level crime, so much, uh, more violent than a, than just a standard 10851, you know. Um, I mean, whoever was the carjacker here was, um, violent and, obviously, willing to, uh, to assault someone, uh, to take their, their car. Um, as I was getting to my patrol car, um, the, they went ahead and dispatched me and, I believe, they dispatched both the south beat deputies, which would have been Jax, you know, Jax and, um, Kyle Smith. Um, I know, I know that they probably weren't close, um, either, that I was probably, probably, uh, the closest one, closest deputy, even though I was in, um, northern Santa Rosa. Um, I went over and got on 101 south. Uh, I did my, um, my lights and used my siren as I needed it. It was morning traffic. Uh, the roads were wet. I went southbound on 101. Um, while I'm driving, um, I'm listening to, to Santa Rosa, or, uh, our dispatch put a, put out updates from, from Santa Rosa and at some point in time, the, uh, they corrected it to say that, uh, the car had been, uh, GPS tagged and that there wasn't someone following it.

Other Speaker: Real quick, can I just **** went down, can we take a 2-second break?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Other Speaker: Sure.

Other Speaker: I hate to interrupt you right –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Sure.

Other Speaker: – in the second.

Other Speaker: ****.

Anthony Turner: Hey, Charlie. You need anything to drink? Yeah.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I'm okay right now. Thank you so –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – much. So is it some sort of a –

Anthony Turner: Hmm?

Other Speaker: We're still on the recording.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: You know, I can, I can pause that recording if you'd like.

Other Speaker: Does he have a, do you have a, do you want to talk to me or?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, I just have one question about the –

Anthony Turner: Yeah.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – proceedings but, I mean –

Anthony Turner: Let me pause this **** at 11:20.

Other Speaker: ****.

Anthony Turner: **** provides, um, Deputy Little, sorry, it's just due to a technical issue.

Other Speaker: I don't know if this is on or not.

Anthony Turner: Yeah, I'll check on that.

Other Speaker: He and I can just step out ****.

Anthony Turner: **** the, the room with the laptops, um, there's no audio recorder, there's no –

Other Speaker: Okay.

Anthony Turner: – live stream from there. Yeah.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Anthony Turner: You can head through there.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Anthony Turner: And I'll leave this recording so it's, um –

Other Speaker: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: – **** continue.

Other Speaker: Thank you.

Other Speaker: ****.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so my phone is still recording.

Other Speaker: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: I believe the techs caught most of ****.

Other Speaker: **** just –

Other Speaker: Yeah.

Other Speaker: – on speakerphone, so they can hear it ****.

Other Speaker: Okay, great.

Anthony Turner: Um, I'm sorry –

Other Speaker: You sure it's on speaker?

Anthony Turner: – are you okay with –

Other Speaker: Yes.

Anthony Turner: – me calling you Charlie?

Other Speaker: Uh –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah. Yes.

Other Speaker: – yeah, because they can hear.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Other Speaker: They can't hear them that way but they can hear us.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so for the sake of the tape, the time now is 11:26. We had a short technical interruption. Uh, during that interruption, uh, this audio recorder was left inside this interview room and, uh, at different times, um, all four persons that are in this room now left the interview room. Uh, Charlie, can I just confirm that at no time while we were outside of the room did we ask any further questions about this incident.

Deputy Charlie Blount: That's correct.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, and, um, at no time, uh, were, uh, you contacted or questioned by somebody else who's not currently in this interview room.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Correct.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So prior to our interruption, um, I had asked you to provide a narrative, I had asked you to provide, uh, an account of what happened during the incident. Um, uh, what, the exact wording was, um, uh, to include the time of the event, names of witnesses, names of officers as best as you can recall and, and to include all information that you could remember relative to the circumstances.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, maybe you just give a short summary of what you stated already and then continue with that, uh –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: – account.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, at the DSA hall, I heard a dispatch, um, it's, it's more, more than a standard 10851. It's a, it's a crime of violence, you know, against a person, so, um, it, it requires a need to a higher level of response and more deputies, so I started going to my car. Um, but dispatch went ahead and dispatched me and two more deputies anyway. Some I get on the freeway, Southbound 101. Um, I'm driving Code 3, um, 'cause I know Deputy Little is out there, um, without a, anybody to back him up close. I'm listening to the roads that, um, is being put out, um, and Deputy Little, um, is, is trying to catch up to where, uh, the vehicle is, 'cause it's being, it's being tracked and their, uh, radio is giving updates as to location of the vehicle and Deputy Lit, Little is trying to catch up. Um, I don't know the roads out there really, really well. I don't work that beat too often, uh, but I know that it's, um, as I remember, it's kind of west of Sebastopol and, and headed south. Um, so, uh, I go down Southbound 101, uh, and then I take Highway 12 to the west towards Sebastopol. Um, it's continuing and it's kind of a southerly direction, uh, and I, uh, and it's on, on the west side of, um, the City of Sebastopol, generally, from my memory of the streets.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Other Speaker: Um, a, I think, uh, Deputy Little asked for Sebastopol and, uh, or dispatch just announces that Sebastopol was being dispatched to help. Um, and I don't remember where I was, exactly, um, position wise, um, but at some point in time, uh, Deputy Little announces that Sebastopol PD is caught up with him, um, and he's gonna

go ahead and make the stop on the vehicle. Um, I remember him saying that, that he's activating his lights and attempting to stop, and then it goes into a pursuit. The vehicle doesn't, doesn't stop and, and in my mind, now, that's, um, adding more, more urgency to, to me getting there because, um, now, this, this person that's in a, you know, a, a vehicle that was carjacked, that's how it was stolen, is now, is now running from us so he's, obviously, um, not cooperating and he's not submitting to, to, uh, Deputy Little's authority, um, and it, uh, uh, I'm feeling a stronger sense that yeah, I really need to get out there. Um, and then, again, I don't remember where I, where my car was when I heard it on the radio, but and I think it's just 'cause of his voice, I think it was Deputy Jax, um, Deputy Jax came up on the radio and said that during the carjacking, a firearm was used. He, specifically, 'cause I remember it said a 38 revolver, um, and that just really adds a lot to, uh, to the sense of urgency and to the dangerousness of the call, and to the, uh, overall criminality of the, uh, of the, uh, the carjacker. Uh, I mean, there's, uh, just like we know in any crime, there is, there is, uh, you know, levels of force that criminals are willing to use and to use a gun in a carjacking is a, is a really, um, high-level crime and it's a crime of, of violence. Um, and he's, and he's running from Deputy Little now, um, and then as I'm going westbound on Sebast or on, uh, Highway 12, I'm coming into the city, um, listening to where they're at, I, I decide to go, uh, south on Highway 116. Um, so at some point in time, I hear Deputy Little say that, that he's, he's, pretty sure he says he's pitted the car. Um, and then the next thing that comes out is that, uh, the driver is not cooperative, so, so after a pit, typically, we would do some sort of, uh, felony car stop on a vehicle like that. Um, he's got the two Sebastopol cars with him, so it, in my mind, I'm, I'm picturing the, the end result of the pit and they're in the roadway and the car, you know, the cars are trying to set up and, uh, the patrol cars and they're, they're probably getting out of their cars and they probably have the suspect at gunpoint, and Deputy Little says that he's not cooperative, that he's not listening, uh, he, that they're gonna give commands to that driver, um, we have kind of a set way to, uh, very, I think, almost identical to what Santa Rosa does in a, um, felony stop. You know, we ask 'em to turn off the car, throw out the keys, keep their hands up, uh, and we go through the step-by-step procedure to safely get them out of the car. Deputy Little says he's not cooperating. Um, he says that, um, he's not getting out of the car. I'm pretty sure he says that, uh, I know for certain, he says that his hands keep reaching for his waist and, and to me, that, that was really alarming because that, that goes to reinforce that, um, he's not gonna cooperate. He's gonna do whatever it takes to, to, uh, avoid apprehension and that it's very likely that he's armed, 'cause that's why people reach for their waist, 'cause that's where people keep their weapons and, of course, when they're seated in a car, they keep weapons, firearms anywhere around them, between the seats, under the seats, in the door panel, um, so the fact that he's reaching down kind of tells me that he's delaying, he's, um, formulating a plan. He's trying to get some sort of plan in his mind, um, to do what he wants to do, which is, more than likely, um, escape and not be captured, not be taken. Um, and, and, and again, that, that adds to my urgency to, to get out there and assist, um, and it, it's, uh, it's just more and more concerning as to how violent this guy is and what he's willing to do. Uh, the next thing I hear on the radio is that, uh, that the guy has drove, driven off again and they're back in pursuit. Um, I'm now southbound on 116

somewhere, um, and I hear, uh, a road that, that one of the few roads out there I do know is Bloomfield Road, one of the major roads out there in west –

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – beat. Um, it intersects with Highway 116 and, and I'm watching the cars on the map, although the map doesn't update, um, exactly in real time. It's, it's close when it's working well, and I'm trying to figure out a, an intersect route. Um, I decide to take, uh, Bloomfield and they're going, um, Bloomfield, initially, goes west and then it kind of turns south, but they're heading west and south on Bloomfield, so I turn west on Bloomfield off of 116. Um, I'm driving pretty hard but the roads are wet and Bloomfield Road gets narrow, um, there had been a, a, a bit of a rainstorm so it's got a lot of debris on the road, you know, leaves and needles, and I'm not real, don't have many miles on that Charger, not real familiar with it. Um, it definitely handles and drives different than the, than the, um, uh, what is it, the Explorer that I was driving. So, uh, I'm doing the best I can, driving hard. Um, they're getting down now towards the town of Bloomfield and I'm getting closer. I am gaining on 'em. Um, I can see that I'm still the closest one. There's no other, other deputies that are closer than me, um, and 'cause I can see them on the map too. Um, I hear them turn onto, I can't remember the name, Sutton or Station or some, it starts with an S, um, at that point, Bloomfield is, is pretty so, a southbound road and, uh, the road they turn on is, is one of the first roads that you come to as you enter Bloomfield and it goes off to the west, um, Sutton or Station or, yeah, whatever it was. Um, as I get to that road, I kind of overshoot it just a little bit. I back up and, uh, from where I'm sitting on Bloomfield, you can look down this road and it's straight and then at the end of the road, it goes up a hill. Uh, at the rise, at the top of this little hill, I can see all the, all the lights and, um, well, before I get there, Deputy Little had put out that he had pitted the car again and, I think, he might have said rammed the car. So, um, I'm feeling, you know, that I really need to get there, um, they're gonna be dealing with this guy who's very likely armed, um, has already established that he's not willing to stop, he's not willing to, um, submit to an arrest. Um, he's committed a, a crime of violence while armed, so I go, I back up and I shoot down the road. Um, as I get up to it, um, I see that the suspect vehicle is, um, turned sideways. It's at, like, a, it's, it looks like a dead end but it's actually a 90-degree turn, uh, to the left. Um, and there's another street there I don't know the name of. Um, but right at that 90-degree turn, kind of off the road into the dirt a little bit is the suspect car and as I'm driving towards it, it's facing me broadside, it's perpendicular to me. The driver's side if facing me and I could see that the, there's two Sebastopol patrol cars, um, kind of, kind of off the side to the left, uh, and Deputy Little's patrol car is right up against the suspect car. The front bumper area, uh, on the driver's side, um, is up against the rear driver's quarter panel of the suspect car, so they're in contact with each other. Deputy Little is standing towards the back of his car. Um, the two Sebastopol guys, as I remember, are near their car somewhere like that. It's, I'm really concerned as I drive up for, at what I'm seeing because, um, I can see the suspect in the car, um, and it's not set up like a normal, um, uh, felony stop. Normally, you know, if there's room, you're gonna have two cars sitting beside each other. If there's room, you'll have

three cars setting beside each other and, and the, and the people involved are behind their doors and it, it's not like that. Um, Deputy Little is really, really close to the suspect's car and the suspect, and it, as it looked to me, he wasn't really behind, behind cover. He's not, like, peeking around the back of his car. He's kind of standing at the very back of his car but exposed to, um, you know, direct line to the suspect and there's kind of like a big open space there where, where there would normally be patrol cars. The, um, those two Sebastopol cars are kind of off to the side, not in, in a normal, um, felony stop line up, if you will. So that concerns me because, um, this guy is, is very likely armed. Um, and I know from my, from my training and time at the range and how fast someone can draw a gun and bring it up and fire, and I feel like Deputy Little is exposed to that. Um, as I get out of the car, I, I, I draw my gun. Um, I parked a little further down the hill. Um, I have to run up the hill. Um, as I'm running, I turn on my camera but let me, in, in hindsight now, obviously, when I, when I went and, and hit it, um, gave it the little double press, somehow, that didn't take. I, I don't, I don't know why, I don't know how. Um, I religiously use my camera but probably 'cause I was running, um, I thought it was on. I didn't, I didn't look down to see the light, but I thought it was on. Uh, obviously, having seeing my footage today, it wasn't. Um, I get up by Deputy Little and once I get to Deputy Little, we're really close. We are the length of the Ford Explorer away from the suspect and he has got his arms kind of up but he's moving around a lot and he, he'll drop his arms a little bit here and there. Um, it, it concerns me and I don't feel safe. Um, you know, the, the vehicle, I'm looking at the vehicle and it looks fully operable to me. Um, the, the tires are on it. They look inflated. Um, I don't see any damage to the car. It doesn't look like it's been wrecked or crashed. It, it looks like it's fully operable. Um, so, uh, in my mind, this guy has, has the car as a weapon and he could throw that into drive any moment and we're on foot, so I, I don't like that and we're very close. Um, and then because the, the, when the car was carjacked, it involved a 38 revolver. We were really close. He could reach out and bring that up any second. So I feel like, um, some assertive and decisive action needs to be taken now, um, to make, make myself and, and the other people there safe, and I, I walk right up to the window of the car. I'm ordering him, he's being ordered to keep his hands up. Uh, he's moving around a lot, but he's, generally, keeping his hands up. He does drop 'em, um, but not for long. Um, I get right up to the window and I'm ordering him to unlock the door, and he's not doing it. He, he, he is not cooperating. He is not following that. Uh, the door handle was locked, um, so we can't open it. Um, he, at one point, he reaches for where the unlock buttons would be, but he's, he's playing games. He doesn't unlock it. And, and in my mind, that, you know, that, that shows, again, that he's just, just like when Little pitted him before, he's not following commands and he's, he's stalling and he's delaying, and the more that goes on, in my mind, the more danger it is, it is for us, because he's formulating a plan. He's thinking of what he can do or he's getting up the courage to do what he's already thought of. Maybe he's, you know, getting up the will to, to reach for that gun, um, and I don't want to give him time to, to formulate that plan, whatever plan he has and I don't want to give him time to enact it, um, 'cause we're in a, we're in a dangerous situation with a dangerous felon. Um, he reaches down, I think it might be the third time, like, he's gonna unlock it and he rolls down the window. And, uh, when he does that, uh, the door is still locked but I feel like,

okay, well, I've got an opportunity now, um, a window of opportunity, if you will. Um, he sticks, you know, I stick my, I put my gun away because I'm gonna go hands on now. Uh, Deputy Little is beside me. His firearm is out. Um, so he's kind of got lethal coverage and at some point, the suspect's arm comes close to, uh, close enough to me where I grab it, um, and I, and I yank him towards the window. Um, during that process, I, I know I, I punched him in the face once, um, because I want him distracted. I don't want him to be able, most people are right handed and I've got his left hand. Um, I don't want him to be able to enact, you know, any act of violence that he's planning. I don't want him to be able to reach for that gun. I don't want him to be able to throw the car in drive. Um, so I, I punch him once and it has a pretty good effect. It kind of, um, I, I hear him say, make some noise or something over it and I'm, and then I'm, I'm, I'm pulling him more, um, as he's, he's really close to the window and starting to come out the window and I'm telling him to come out, um, at, at some point, uh, I don't know how long, uh, everything, uh, the time is a little off for me to, probably a second, you know, but Deputy Little holsters his gun and is now, also, going hands on, 'cause we've got, we've got his one arm all the way out, we've got his head out, his other arm comes out right away, um, and we are, the two of us are, um, just physically lifting and pulling him up out of that car through the window. Um, he says, okay, I'm coming out but he's not really doing anything, uh, that corresponds to what he's saying. Um, which is, again, another tactic that, that suspects use. You know, they, they say I'm cooperating or they say I'm doing it or they say I'm not resisting, when, in fact, they're, they're physically doing the opposite of what they say. It's just a common tactic with criminals to cause us to stop what we're doing or to ease up on what we're doing. It, it, it's, it's a tactic used for them to gain advantage and that's what he's doing. Um, he's not helping himself out of that car. He's not helping us get him out of that car. Um, so we're grabbing him, um, and yanking him, pulling him, assisting him out of the car through the window. Um, and we get him out, probably to his waist, so but maybe even a little further, um, than his actual waist, maybe like, uh, on his hip. Um, and it, and progress of him exiting the car kind of stops. Um, and at that point, we're holding his weight up, 'cause he's, um, more than half out of the car. Um, and he's, he, it just kind of, I, I thought he was gonna slide all the way out, we'd have him on the ground, but it, progress stopped and it appeared to me that he was holding on with his feet or his legs, that he had wedged 'em to where they were keeping him inside. Um, one of the, as we were yanking on him and we're not getting anywhere, we're pulling on his, in his torso. I've got him, he's like sideways to me, so he's, as I remember, his back is, generally, towards my chest and I've got both hands around him 'cause I'm holding his weight up while I'm pulling a little bit, if that makes sense. Um, and I remember, I think it was one of the Sebastopol guys say; oh, his leg is under the steering wheel or his leg is caught, um, and then it, right about then, I feel this just intense blinding pain in my forearm and, and my very first thought was he stabbed me through the forearm, that I had been, it felt, not that I've ever felt it before but it felt like what a knife going through my forearm would feel like. It was, it was a really intense pain. Um, it, you know, probably a, in an instance later, I realized that he's biting me. Um, I, and I'm jerking my forearm away from his mouth. Um, he had bit me pretty hard and, uh, I, it, it really did cause me a lot of pain. Um, I, I cried out loud that; oh, he bit me, um, to let my partner know that, um, he was now attempting to

injure us and, um, that he was actively fighting us, um, with, with attempts to and actually had injured me, um, and, you know, in, in my mind, um, just biting is, is not a normal human thing. You know, we have a, kind of a normal inhibition of, of biting another person, most normal people do. Um, it's an act of violence that's, um, as far as, uh, without weapons, it's a, it's a higher level act of violence against another person when you, when you bite them. Um, it's just not normal human behavior. It's extremely violent. It shows, uh, a, a real disregard, um, for other people, um, and, and it shows, uh, desperation, I think, on their part, um, and a willingness to, to do anything and everything to keep from being taken into custody. Um, and he's got a bit bulky jacket on. He hasn't been searched, obviously. Um, he could still have knives on him. He could still have the firearm on him. Um, and once he bites me, um, then I do deliver some blows. Um, I, I think, I came up with a knee once or twice but I realized that was just totally ineffective. Um, and I remember punching him in the torso once or twice and I can remember, um, using my elbow in an elbow strike, again, on his side on his torso a couple of times, several times, um, and while this was going on, um, and at this point, those blows are being used as, um, pain compliance and for distractions to keep him from biting. His arms are loose. He's not restrained to keep him from reaching for weapons, to keep him from punching, um, it's being used to, to keep me safe, uh, while this is going on and Deputy Little cries out that “he bit me.” Um, and it's, it's me and Deputy Little and, I think, at one point in time, there was a Sebastopol officer next to me, at least, momentarily, um, but I just have a sense of that. I wasn't really focused on it. Uh, when Deputy Little cries out, “he bit me,” um, Jason steps back, so he lets go. Um, and now, I'm the only, as, as I remember it, I'm the only guy in physical contact with the suspect now. Um, and he's starting to go back in the car. Uh, he's, he's working hard. He's, he's squirming and twisting and trying to get back in the car and it's working. I'm losing my grip on him, 'cause he's got that, that great big jacket on. And at that point, I'm, I'm just feeling this, like, overwhelming sense of urgency and, and, um, real concern that, that he cannot be allowed to go back into that car, um, because that's where, um, he's gonna be able to really, um, be a great threat to us, because the vehicle is still in play. Uh, we're on foot. We're up on the vehicle. If he just drops it into drive, he's got a, you know, a huge weapon to use against us and because of the gun. Um, that, I, it's very likely that that 38 revolver that was used in the carjacking is, is in that car, um, and he's gonna be able to access it. And, and now, he's showing just how far he's willing to go to, to stay out of custody, to, to not cooperate. He, he's willing to injure us in a way that, that, you know, most, most people don't do. He's, he's willing to bite another person. Um, and he is just fighting hard. He's determined, very determined, um, and I can't let him back into the car for that reason, but I'm losing my grip on him. And I don't, the sequence next is, is a little, a little bit jumbled in my brain still to this day, um, but, um, as he's getting back, as he's, I'm losing my grip and he's sliding back through the window into the car, um, I hear the Taser go off. Um, and I know it's, I know it's Jason. Um, I don't know where the probes hit the suspect or even if they did. Um, I'm in physical contact with the suspect and he's, he's still slipping further into the car. He's getting in the car. Um, my next really clear memory, um, is he's almost in the car, I think, maybe one arm and his head are out of the car and I, I grab him by the hair and I remember his hair being pretty short and, and pretty hard to hold onto, but I grab him by

the hair and I, I punch him a couple of times in his head, face area. Um, I'm trying to throw him off his plan. I'm trying to, you know, interrupt his, his thinking process to, to assault us. I'm trying to interrupt his, his, his plan to assault us and escape from us. Um, I hit him a couple of times. While I'm holding, as I remember, I'm kind of holding him with one hand and hitting with the other hand and then I see, um, that his, his head is very near the door, um, window jamb, I guess you call it.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Not, it's not the doorjamb, it's like the window frame, window frame. Um, and you know, we teach environmental weapons. Um, I grab him by the hair and I, um, push his head and face into the doorframe probably twice. Um, and I still got him by the hair. I hear the Taser go off at some point in time, again, like a second cycle. Um, I don't hear the pop like I did the first time, like when the, when it, when you initially fire the darts, but what I hear is a second electrical cycle, the, the sound of that. But that doesn't have any effect, um, that I can see on the suspect, and I'm not, I'm not feeling it so I don't know where the probes are. Um, it's not affecting me. It doesn't appear to be affecting him and I'm the only one, now, engaged with the suspect and he is all but a hundred percent in the car, and I've got just, just a moment in time to try and prevent him from getting in that car and, and getting the car as a weapon or reaching for the, for the gun, and in my mind, right then, it's like this is the last ditch effort if he, if I lose my grip in any way, he gets into that car, I'm gonna draw my gun and I'm gonna shoot him. Um, I'm at that point in my mind. I'm at the point of, of using lethal force if he, if he gets all the way in the car. Um, at that, at that time after that Taser cycle and after I had, I had used the, uh, doorframe as, uh, an environmental weapon, um, he slips pretty much the rest of the way in the car, except for me having him by the hair. Um, and now, he's, his body position is such that he's kind of got his back to me a little, if not totally, and I see an opportunity, um, to apply a carotid restraint or at least attempt it, at that point, if I can. And I, I pull him towards me by his hair, um, conscious that, you know, if I lose my grip here, he's gonna be in the car and I've got to draw my gun, and, and I'm, I'm going to shoot him but I, I hold onto him. I keep his head kind of right at the doorframe. Um, his head doesn't go all the way inside, so at least, I know that he can't see, he can't, he can't acquire, visually, uh, where it, where his hands need to go to get the firearm or to put the car in gear. Um, as I, as I pull him over with my left hand, um, I remember shooting my right arm in and trying to go as deep as I could around him. Um, I, once my right arm goes in, um, I come around his, his neck, um, with my right arm. I'm trying to get it in as deep as I can but it's, you know, it's, it's a very unorthodox position. Um, it, it's not at all like, like the mat room, um, where you have a cooperative deputy as your training partner. Um, it's, it's, it's unorthodox and, and they tell us in DT, you know, you can apply this in other positions and unorthodox positions, you know, uh, so I, I, I feel like I can and, and I did. Um, I, I get his head, um, in far enough to where I can bend my elbow around and it looks to me like he's in the right position. I can remember adjusting a little bit, um, to make sure he's in the right position, and then so I, I've got my arm around him and I'm adjusting a little bit. I haven't put on pressure yet. Um, when I think I've got the position good, I apply pressure. Um, um, he goes, uh,

unconscious pretty quickly, I think. Um, not like instantly but, uh, uh, reasonably quick. Um, I would say, uh, I held pressure just a little bit longer, a couple seconds longer once I realize he's unconscious, um, to make sure, because in, in my training and my experience, um, if they're, uh, if the subject is under the influence of any type of, uh, stimulants, um, they will regain consciousness very, very quickly. Um, I've had times in the past where they regain conscious instantly. Um, so I held for a, just a couple extra seconds. I realize he's out. Um, it looks like he's staying out and I release pressure. Um, however, I do not move. My position stays exactly the same, because, um, in mat room training, once the guy, once our training partner is unconscious, we gently lower them face down to the mat and we sweep their arms behind their back and we cuff them, but that, again, this position is so unorthodox that I can't do that, and because this is, this is absolutely the, the last ditch effort, um, if, if he wakes up suddenly and is in the car, um, again, I'm going to shoot him. I'm, I'm going to employ deadly force, so I don't want to let my position go, in case he wakes up quickly, um, and I have to reapply it. Because we still have to come to some sort of solution to get him in custody. He's, he's not in custody. He is not handcuffed. He is not restrained. Uh, the doors are still locked. Um, I'm not crawling in the window. Um, that's just, he's got to come out of that car and so I'm holding my position until the other people there can work something out, um, to get him in cuffs and out of that car. I'm not gonna, I'm not gonna release my position. I feel I got a good position. It's advantageous to us and it's the last thing keeping me from going to deadly force. Um, what happens next is the Sebastopol guys, um, one or both of 'em move around to the passenger side of the car. Um, I can, I have a sense of that somehow. I don't know if I see them or what. Um, I hear Deputy Little, at some point in time, yell break the window, um, and that window just explodes and sends glass all the way across towards me. I can remember pieces hitting me. Um, at that time, I had already since released pressure on, on him but I was still in that position where I could reapply. Uh, at that point in time, um, because the glass came flying at me, my reaction was to lift up and I kind of released my position. Uh, I kept one hand on him, um, just in case I needed to go back down into the carotid again, but I was more of a, a, I, I stood up a little bit more, um, just having glass flying in my face made me do that. Um, and then I can remember, uh, the Sebastopol guys working on, on getting the guy's feet and legs, uh, uh, freed up. Um, I don't know what they had to do exactly, but I just kind of know that's what they were doing. Um, they get his legs, I can remember seeing his legs nice and straight pointed towards the passenger side of the car. Um, and he was making noises. He was making the, when he first went out, I should add, um, he was making that, the snoring kind of sleepy noises that people do when they've been rendered safely unconscious with the carotid. Um, he was making the, the snoring sounds. Um, and he still was when, when his legs straightened out. He was still making the snoring sounds and I still had this arm somewhere across his chest, at least, um, but I'm a little more upright and one of the Sebastopol guys, um, basically, asked which way is he coming out. In other words, it, are we gonna pull him out the window or do they want, me to pull him out the door, the passenger door that they opened, and, uh, I said pull him out your side. And they didn't hesitate. I, they, they grabbed him by his legs and pulled him right out. Um, I, I walked around to where they were and when I get around – excuse me – when I get around to that side of the car,

he, uh, the suspect is face down, um, parallel to the car. Um, he, he's got a Sebastopol guy on each side of him up by his head and they, my impression was they're each one working on an arm to try and get his arms behind his back. Um, it appears to me that there's some resistance there because they're not just moving the arms of a totally unconscious person. They're, there is some sort of, a little bit of, uh, I don't know if you want to call it a struggle, but there's some sort of effort that they have to put in to, to get his arms behind his back. Um, I can remember thinking that his, that there's movement there with his legs. I see Jason coming up. I know Jason is gonna go to the Figure 4 to, uh, get his legs under control. I can remember kicking him once in like the upper thigh, um, as a distraction so that Jason can safely get down on his legs and not get kicked in the face or something. Um, Jason gets down on his, on his knees and goes into the Figure 4, um, and it, it appears to be that, that the guy is offering, at least, a little bit of resistance to that but Jason, um, gets the Figure 4 on and has his legs secured, and by that time, the Sebastopol fellows have his hands behind his back and I asked Jason, um, I'm kind of leaning over and those three guys are kind of all kneeling, um, I kind of ask, uh, I ask Jason can you cuff him and Jason says yes. Uh, so Jason proceeds to handcuff him. Um, as soon as he's handcuffed, um, he gets put up on his, on his side in kind of a recovery position.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, I don't know if somebody else asked also, if Jason asked but I asked, is, uh, 'cause Sebastopol, Sebastopol guys were still towards his head, is he conscious? I remember being told no and I can remember asking is he breathing. Um, I remember being told yes, he's breathing. Um, and then more people start arriving. Um, I know Deputy Jax arrives. Um, he's the one I remember the most. Um, and then some little amount of time passes by, not very long, another minute maybe, and either somebody says it or I asked 'em check him again or somebody just says he's, he's not conscious or, but then somebody says he's not breathing, um, and I can remember saying start CPR. Um, and, um, they rolled him onto his back and it was Deputy Jax, as far as I can remember, who started CPR first. Um, and he, uh, continued CPR, uh, for a pretty long time. Um, he would, um, appeared to be doing it correctly to me. Um, he would, he would, uh, assess, um, check for a pulse, um, and then continue CPR. And then, um, I guess, he's a fireman, um, or an EMT, an ambulance guy, I don't know, um, never seen him before, uh, a fellow arrives. Um, I didn't see a vehicle drive up, so I think he arrived on foot. He just kind of appeared. There he was. Um, he's carrying medical-looking stuff. I know one of the things he's carrying is a AED.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah. Um, and he starts, uh, he, he, he's down there by the, by the suspect and by Deputy Jax and he, he kind of starts doing the EMT thing, um, like, it looks like he knows what he's doing, it looks like that's his job, um, and, uh, he's

telling Jax to continue CPR. He puts in one, I don't know the name of it, um, one of those plastic airways that goes down the throat.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, he inserts one of those. Um, uh, I'm not a medical guy but he sure looks like he knows what he's doing. Um, he then cuts the guy's shirt and puts the, um, the two big pads, uh, from the AED on him. Um, then he, uh, he, he uses the AED. It analyzes and, um, it says out loud, um, shock not recommended, start CPR, um, so CPR was continued and that went like that for a while. Um, I don't know how many times they stopped CPR to let the AED analyze, but at least one more time, and it said the same thing, um, shock not recommended, continue CPR, and Jax, um continued. I remember asking him once if he was tired, if he needed a relief, and he said no. Um, he continued, um, doing the CPR. Um, at one point in time, somebody arrived. It, it might have been the sergeant and said oh, un-cuff him, un-cuff him and, um, Deputy Little un-cuffed him. Um, and then, uh, a fire truck arrived, uh, it's, not a fire truck, actual, uh, like a pickup truck, utility looking but it's painted red and I actually thought it was the ambulance. Uh, two fire guys jump out but they don't have any gear, so it's not the ambulance. Uh, they look like just regular firefighter guys. Um, they come over, um, and then pretty quickly after they are over, they, they take over CPR, so now you've got the, the firefighters handling all of the, the medical efforts at that point and, uh, they don't have anything else other than what they already had there, and we're still just kind of been a holding waiting pattern for the ambulance. Um, it seemed to take a long time for the ambulance to get there. Um, ambulance arrives. Um, the, uh, ambulance folks come over and they got a lot more gear, um, and they start with their analyzer and whatever they're doing. I, I, um, about that time, I walked away, pretty, pretty quickly after they arrived and, um, medical efforts seemed to be well in hand. Um, and what was curious was when Jax up off of CPR, when he was relieved by the firemen, Jax came over, um, and said out loud, said that's the owner of the car. And I was just, I was just dumbfounded by that. How could that be? Um, he, Jax said hey, I, I went a couple of hours ago to do a check the welfare on that guy. He's the owner of the car. Um, his physical injury to his face, he had a big black eye. Um, it was, um, from being pistol whipped during the carjacking. Um –

Other Speaker: Excuse me.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – so, uh, we were all kind of, yeah, dumbfounded, I guess, as, as to, as to that being the case. Um, Jax, I remember asking Jax if, if the guy had had the car back when, when Jax went to his house to check on him and he said not as far as he knew. Um, so it was just really, really, um, kind of a bizarre turn of events there. Um, and, uh, Jax also said that, um, since he had gone to check the welfare on the guy, I guess, they had talked a little bit and Jax was aware that the guy had a heart problem, that one side of his heart was enlarged and he, he wasn't a healthy man. Um, so that was, that was kind of an item of discussion for a, a minute and, and then, uh,

that's pretty much the end. Um, the sarge arrived, um, assigned me a, uh, sequestering deputy –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: – and that was Deputy Falberg for me, and we turned our recorders off and then, uh, left the scene.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay. Charlie, just trying, gonna clarify some points.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Sure.

Anthony Turner: Um, so you initially said the, um, G48, okay, uh, George 48 had been dispatched to a 10-85 phone call, and you knew that to be Deputy Little.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: All right, so where was he when that call came out?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, I don't, I wasn't lookin' at my map right then. I was in the, I was in the DSA hall. The maps out in the car. But I assumed that he would probably be at Graton Fire.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Other Speaker: What was that one?

Anthony Turner: Graton Fire?

Other Speaker: Department?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Or, yeah. We have a office in there with a computer, uh, an SO computer. A little report writing room. Uh, it's right in the, in the heart of west beat, his beat.

Anthony Turner: And then you said, you knew that he was isolated?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: So, uh, can you just describe what you knew about the different deputies being in the different locations and the different deputies being close to, uh, Deputy Little?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well, um, I was listening to the radio of course, and I knew that there really weren't any, uh, active calls right now and, and local beat, west beat, or

south beat. Um, north beat had somethin' goin' on but, um, I knew that the south beat guys would be probably down in the Petaluma area. Um, that hour of the morning I just know that that's typically where they're at.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, when, when they're not on a call or report writing, um, quite often, um, Deputy Little's beat partner, um, has a collateral duty in EOD. Um, and he goes up to the EOD offices and, and does work up there. EOD work, um, so I, I didn't know for sure. I was figuring that normally that's the way things are, and I figured that's probably the ways things are and when I went out to my car indeed that's what I saw. So just, just based on normal operations. That's what I assume to be the case.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, the most **** to the map.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh huh.

Anthony Turner: Um, map. I'm assuming that's a map on the MDC?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay, can you describe that map and what you can see on that map?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, it's, uh, I don't know a standard-size laptop that runs a program for us. Um, same one Santa Rosa uses. It's a county, county consortium that uses this program on these computers and the map function has, um, uh, it's a full-screen map. It has a map of Sonoma County, has all the roads on it and it shows units. Um, you can, um, customize it to show the units you want. Um, I set mine up so that I'm only seen on the map, um, Sonoma County units. Sonoma County, um, deputy sheriff's on the map. Um, I don't, I don't see other agencies. And you can also see calls for service on the map. They pop up as little flags. The deputies are actually little cars with their call sign. Um, I setup to see only, um, Sonoma County deputies and only Sonoma County calls, but I include Windsor PD and, and, uh, Sonoma PD in there.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so, uh, that map that you can see on the MDC –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - just so we're clear. So you can see where calls for service, and you can see where other units are on that map?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes, as long as everything's functionin' including each individual deputy's patrol car, MDC is functioning, and then I can see in just about real time where everybody's at. And you can, you can watch the cars move.

Anthony Turner: And you said it moves going to the updates automatically?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah, I don't that. I, I don't that how the interval for that. But it's pretty quick. Um, when it's workin' well, it's close to real time. It's not exactly, but close.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, so you heard Deputy Little being dispatched to that call?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay, what did you know about that call prior to Deputy Little being dispatched?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Nothing. I was unaware that there had been a carjacking, um, over—I, I'm still, kinda, unaware as to, 'cause, uh, exactly where it happened or when it happened. But my assumption is that it happened on the weekend. That it was fairly fresh. It happened on the weekend when I wasn't working. And, uh, so I'd been to briefing Monday night and Tuesday night, and I do not remember any, um, you know, BOL or any info given in briefing on that, on that carjacking or that case. So I can't say 100% that is wasn't passed in briefing, but I don't remember it. Um, briefings were short and there wasn't really anything passed, so I don't remember a BOL for that car or that crime. I had no knowledge of it prior to hearing the dispatch.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and, and just so we're clear, BOL is a?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Be on the lookout. Just, um, yeah it used to be a teletype. Now it's an MDC message, and they print those out and read 'em off in briefing frequently. But they don't, they don't read off all of them ultimately.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so, um, you knew that Deputy Little was being dispatched to this call. Originally, you said it was at 10851.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well as I remem—I don't know if it was, like, all in one sentence or two quick sentences, but dispatch dispatched, dispatch dispatched G48 to, um, a 10851 that a Santa Rosa PD officer was following and, uh, and then I'm pretty sure they said it was taken in a, in a 215.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: And then so at 10851 –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - what would you know that to be?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, that's the, uh, California vehicle code for a stolen vehicle.

Anthony Turner: Stolen vehicle, okay. And then the 215?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Is the California penal code for a carjacking.

Anthony Turner: Carjacking. And, uh, can you describe what, when you hear the term 215 or carjacking, what do you understand that to mean?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well to me it, it's a, it's a robbery of a person. I mean, um, it's essentially, um, a robbery like you'd take somebody's wallet on the street at gunpoint, or at knifepoint, or just by physical threat or fear. But it's instead they're takin' a car. Um, person doesn't have to be in the car. He just has to be in possession and control of the car. Um, but, um, it's, it's a crime of violence. It's not like somebody walkin' down the street and tryin' door handles and finding a car with the keys in it in the middle of the night and quietly drivin' away. This is, uh, a violent crime. Um, where people may get hurt or at least they're intimidated and fearful so that they give up their property, which is the car. It's a higher-level crime than a standard 10851.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and, and there's a difference a 10851 and then you heard, uh, initially maybe it came out as a 10851 and then you heard it was a carjacking.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: And that elevated your concern about this vehicle.

Deputy Charlie Blount: absolutely.

Anthony Turner: Um, can you go over again the, the information you had about the, uh, firearm that made have been used?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I'm pretty sure I didn't hear the call sign, but I'm pretty sure by the voice it was Deputy Jax who said somethin' to the effect that, hey, be advised that that car was taken in a carjacking or when, when the carjacking occurred, the suspect was armed, and I remember him specially saying a 38 Revolver. And that's—I, I didn't hear that from dispatch, I, I heard it from I'm pretty certain Deputy Jax.

Anthony Turner: Was, was there other information relayed to you about that original offense or the circumstances of the carjacking, um, or any other information about the vehicle?

Deputy Charlie Blount: There was a vehicle description in the call. Um, I don't know, um, I was drivin' and unable to, to look at the updates on the MDC. So it's possible I was getting' updates, um, that had information that I didn't read 'cause when I'm drivin' that hard and the roads are wet, I, I'm not readin' my screen. Um, so only what I heard on the radio. Um, I don't remember anything specifically.

Anthony Turner:: Okay, and once you heard once you knew that it was a, uh, a carjacking vehicle –

Deputy Charlie Blount Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - there, there was a, a gun somewhere involved in that incident –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - you, you can describe you want to get there as quickly as possible?

Deputy Charlie Blount Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay, again can you just explain why you wanted to, to get there, why you wanted to be with Deputy Little as quickly as you could.

Deputy Charlie Blount: To help him. To help get a peaceful resolution. Um, and to protect him and the other deputies, um, I, I think that, um, rationale people, um, if he's faced, the suspect has a gun, and he's faced with one deputy, he might decide, uh, I'll give this a try. I'll see if I can win this gunfight. But if he's faced with three, or four, or five deputies then he, then he might, hopefully, peacefully surrender and submit to arrest. Um, I think more people, um, makes it safer. Makes it safer for us and, and I hope ultimately safer for them. I hope they can reach the right decision, the suspects that is.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, does he—you heard Little make that initial PIT?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: Uh, then he stated that the driver was not cooperative it means, uh, so that normally felony stop would occur ****.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: So can you just explain, uh, kind of, what a felony stop is and why it would be used in these circumstances or why you'd expect it to be used in these circumstances?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right. We use, uh, it's called a felony stop but it doesn't always mean a felony. It means someone that's dangerous. Someone that might be armed. Someone that might have a propensity for violence or, um, it's just a higher level of risk for officers. Um, so what we do is typically, um, when you're behind the car like that, if you can you wait 'til you get another couple of cars behind you and then you turn on your lights and—I mean if everything goes well, they pull over to the side and then, uh, two or three cars, hopefully three, um, get, um, parallel to each other, um, with some spacing so that the doors can open on the cars, and deputies, um, draw their weapons, typically, point them at the vehicle, um, or shining a lot of light at the vehicle working at night. Um, and then when we're, when we're set, um, we start givin' the driver commands. And, and the whole point of it is to, to get them outta the car, um, and, and back to us in, in a safe manner so that they can be, you know, safely taken into custody without any, any issues. Um, and the reason we want 'em outta the car is because, uh, just like in this case the, the car itself is, is a very very lethal weapon and also that's where people secrete high guns and other weapons. So we want them to get out of the car, um, and walk back towards us, and they don't always go, um, as the textbook. Sometimes you do it with two cars. Sometimes in the county, you know, the roads are narrow, and you can't predict where it's gonna stop and sometimes you can only get one car up there. But we still, kinda, we still, kinda, do the same procedure, um, and the whole point is just safety of everybody, um.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: **** that.

Anthony Turner: So, um, as you, as, as you became aware that the car in front of you stopped in Bloomfield –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - um, were you aware of any connection between Bloomfield and the carjacking?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I wasn't, because I didn't, I didn't know where had, it had occurred. Um, I didn't, I, I had heard Deputy Jax get sent to a check the welfare, but I didn't know it was connected to this call, so I didn't know, I didn't have any knowledge at all, uh, that it was nearby or I still don't know –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: - where it happened.

Anthony Turner: Okay, then as you came into Bloomfield, um, you said you made that turn to Sutton Road?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Sutton, yes.

Anthony Turner: Yeah. And I've been out there and seeing that it's a long straight road with that, uh, steep incline –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - at the end as it goes up towards the cemetery.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and, and you started, you said that you could see the car lights at the top of Sutton Road?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Now were those the car lights from Deputy Little or were those the car lights from the suspect?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, I'm talkin' about overhead emergency lights? Um, I was so far away I don't know—I see in a combination of all patrol cars. When I first saw from Bloomfield Road I could see all the way to where they were stopped. It's a, it's a bit of a, uh, a little more of a drive, but I, I couldn't differentiate which car I was lookin' at. I was just lookin' at lights.

Anthony Turner: Emergency lights?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Red and blue lights, yeah.

Anthony Turner: Okay, how far when you made that turn onto Sutton Road, how far do you think those, um, those overhead lights were?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Oh, I don't know. Um, took me a little, a little time to get there. I mean, I could see it but, um, it's in the distance. Um, I don't know, I'm not good at that.

Anthony Turner: **** I'm just tryin' to get a **** was it several block, was it a couple blocks or was it, kind of, longer than that?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well, yeah, it's not like city blocks but, um, I don't know. It's a quarter mile.

Anthony Turner: Quarter mile.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Make that, that, that's a wild guess. I, I'm, I really don't know.

Anthony Turner: Okay, can you describe what you saw as you were driving along Sutton Road towards those overhead lights?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I didn't, I didn't see anything on Sutton Road. One car I think was movin' as I remember, um, wasn't in my way. I was the only car on Sutton Road. Um, it's kind of a small side street. Seems like it's got residences on it. Um, closer to Bloomfield it there might be some sort of, uh, commercial buildings there I think maybe.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, it's dark, reasonably dark. Um, it's, kind of, a rough road I'd say.

Anthony Turner: Can you remember anything about, uh, the overhead lights and the police cars at the end of Sutton Road?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I just know they were on at, at some, at some level they were on. I'm lookin' at the back of the car, so I'm seein' a little bit of red, little bit of blue, and, and the orange, you know, rear lights.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and then as you were driving towards those did you see them move from that position on Sutton Road?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't remember them moving. I, no.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I thought they were not moving. But I'm not a hundred percent sure.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and what were you thinkin' as you were drivin', uh, along Sutton Road towards those overhead lights?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, well I was waitin' for, for any kind of an update on the radio, but the radio was quiet. Um, sometimes people will give directions, you know, next unit comin' from this way or comin' from that way. It dependin' on which way the felony car stop is pointed. You don't wanna drive the wrong way into one of those. Um, I was waitin' for any kind of an update, but I didn't get one. Um, I think the very last thing I heard was, um, the, the, the PIT and or the ramming or something like that. Um, so that just added to my uncertainty as to how things were goin' and the, the urgency to get there quickly.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, can you describe again what you saw when you arrived at that stop.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Okay, um, so I'm driving west on Sutton. Um, as I remember it the road is, is pretty open right up to the car. Um, I stop way short of that. Um, I'm still, I'm still downhill from them. I can remember two Sebastopol cars and as I remember it they're a little off to the left. Um, the suspect's car, um, is broadside to me.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, perpendicular with the front of my car pointed at the driver's side of that car. That make sense? And, and Deputy Little's pat, Little's patrol car is right up against the rear-driver's side quarter panel, um, and the, the front bumper more towards the driver's side of Deputy Little's patrol car is in contact or with that suspect car.

Anthony Turner: With the suspect car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah, I can remember the Santa, uh, the Sebastopol officers bein'—as I went by, as I went up the road there to the left, and Deputy Little was towards the back of his patrol car.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and so you described somethin' really bein' very dark?

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's dark, it's yeah I, I don't know if that it's a 100% dark. I think there's some lights there.

Anthony Turner: So then as you approached Deputy Little and the suspect car, what was the lighting like at that point?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Bright. It wasn't, wasn't that dark there. I don't know, it was from all the, well obviously the, the patrol cars all had lights on, um, then I, I guess there must have a street there, but I don't specifically remember lookin' at it or anything. But my overall impression is it's pretty well lit right there. I can see the, everything pretty clearly.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and then when you, um, got to position with Deputy Little, were you able to see inside the suspect car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes, the window is, kinda, dirty. But I can see in.

Anthony Turner: Okay, when you arrived and you stood next Deputy Little, did you see any weapons in that suspect car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I couldn't see in the car like down into the car, you know what I mean? Uh, I can't see, I'm seein' from, like, the suspect's shoulders and above.

Anthony Turner: Sure, and I am assuming that there was nothing, there was nothing special about this car that –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: - you know, you couldn't see through the doors.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: You couldn't see, see through **** through sheet metal.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yep.

Anthony Turner: But through the window of the driver's, on the driver's side –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right.

Anthony Turner: - you could see into the car –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: - and you couldn't see any weapons at that point when you arrived and you stood next to Deputy Little?

Deputy Charlie Blount: My limited view didn't show me any weapons, you know.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, can you describe, uh, what happened when you stood next to Deputy Little?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't remember anything happenin' other than I only stood by him for a really little, short amount of time. I might of said something, but I don't remember what.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and, and was there, I was gonna ask if there was any, kinda of, conversation or if he relayed anything to you, if he said anything to you about the suspect vehicle. Can you recall anything?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, I don't recall, I don't recall any conversation. Um, no nothing. Not, uh.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, so Little was at the back of the car.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Back of his car. Yeah, towards the back of his car, yeah.

Anthony Turner: Okay, did, what, I mean, was there any explanations to why he was at the back of the car, why he was positioned where he was?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't know why he was there. I guess he, he thought that was the best place for him to be at the moment.

Anthony Turner: **** okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: And then and –

Deputy Charlie Blount: In his mind, I, I don't know.

Anthony Turner: - and you said that you saw where the Sebastopol PD guys were. Was there any conversation between yourself and them as you approached?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, none.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay. You said this, uh, this didn't appear to be a normal felony stop.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Positioning wise, yeah.

Anthony Turner: Okay, look, what did, what did you think or, um, what were your concerns about that?

Deputy Charlie Blount: We're too close. Deputy Little was too close. Um, within, within normal, a normal, you know, textbook felony stop you, you stop your patrol cars at a distance behind the suspect vehicle. Um, it gives you, it give you space to react and it gives you a little bit of cover and concealment, 'cause you're standing behind, uh, the opened doors of your car or sometimes you sit in your car and, um, kinda, point your weapon out the, the space between the door jam and the, and the car, kinda, keepin' yourself behind the pillar, the A Pillar. But, um, in this case, um, Deputy Little was just—I don't remember. I think his driver's door was closed, as far as I remember. I think. And I think he was just and as I remember it he was just standing not even completely behind the patrol car. He was, kinda, standing, um, right at, at the edge of the patrol car but not really concealing himself behind it.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and then so you said it was about the, uh, the distance of the, of the length of the Ford Explorer?

Deputy Charlie Blount: That's it.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, can you recall anything about the suspect vehicle, where you stood with Deputy Little?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, it, it didn't, it didn't look like it was, uh, inoperable. It looked fine. Um, I could see that the wheels were on. I mean, the two I could see. Um, they, they, they looked inflated.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, it didn't look like it was crashed. Um, it didn't look like it was damaged. Um, I mean, obviously Deputy Little, Little's car was in contact with it but even that didn't seem to be, you know, uh, have caused very much damage. Um, so it looked fully operational –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: - and functional to me.

Anthony Turner: Okay, do you remember if that engine if the suspect vehicle's engine was running?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't know.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I assumed it was, but I don't know.

Anthony Turner: Was there anything noticeable about the engine? Did you hear the engine revving or did you hear, like, gassing?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so anything about the vehicle or about the engine that you can remember while you were there with Deputy Little at the back of his patrol car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay, you described seeing the suspect moving his arms a lot?

Deputy Charlie Blount: He was, he was not sitting still. His arms were up. Kind of his hands up near his head, you know, his elbows were about chest high or whatever. Um, but he would drop 'em down a little bit periodically. He was movin' around. He wasn't just frozen in place.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and you described that that, that didn't make you feel safe?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Correct.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so you, can you just explain what you were thinking at that point, as you saw his hands moving?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well I'm thinkin' that whole action versus reaction thing. Um, we train that and, um, it's pretty well established that, that that a fellow can reach down, grab a gun, and get off a shot before an officer that's pointin' a gun at him can get off a shot or at least right about the same time. So, um, I know that even though his hands are up somewhat that he, he's still dangerous. He's still extremely dangerous. He, he's an armed carjacker. Um, he was armed when he took the vehicle. Um, I believe that there is a very very good possibility that he's got that gun on him right now. Um, and it would—by the time he reached down, grabbed it, and snapped off a shot, um, we would be a little bit behind the reactionary curve on that. Um, and it could easily kill one of us.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, you then described it that, that you needed to be assertive and decisive and that action needed to be taken when you and Deputy Little were at the back of the car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: That's what I felt.

Anthony Turner: Okay, can you, can you just des, describe that a little bit more to me?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I guess it's, um, I guess it's my philosophy on how I stay safe. I find that swift decisive action, um, throws them off of their game plan and, um, gives me an advantage. Um, the longer you let 'em, a suspect sit and work out what he's gonna do, the longer you let him get up his courage to do it, the more dangerous it is for ya. Um, if you've got, if you've got a plan of action and act it quickly, um, put it into the situation and make yourself safe. Um, and you, and you don't wanna be, I don't wanna be in that middle ground. I don't wanna be, um, so close without good cover that the guy can shoot me at any moment. Um, if I'm that close, I'll go ahead and close the distance and be much closer. Um, 'cause I feel that makes me safe. Um, you know, the only other way to be safe to be much further away and behind cover. Like you would on a normal felony stop. But that's not the way this one ended up. So I felt a strong urgency to act quickly and decisively to keep him from acting first.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, so then that one evolved into the next question was as you were approaching that sea of cause and that sea of light on Sutton Road, you went immediately to Deputy Little?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and then you saw that there were other cars there and there were other officers there. You talked about Sebastopol officers being, uh, off to the side?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so what, what, can you describe why you went to Deputy Little as opposed to going to one of those other officers or maintaining that distance between yourself and the suspect car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: 'Cause Deputy Little was already up there. And I'm not gonna leave him by himself.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, and like I said before I, I think if that guy, the suspect is faced with two deputies pointing guns at him at close range, maybe it's gonna make him hesitate a little longer. Maybe it's gonna throw off his game plan. And I'm just not gonna leave Deputy Little up there by himself while I stand behind him. Plus, um, if it came to actually havin' to fire, I, I don't wanna have to shoot around Deputy Little. I don't wanna take a chance on shooting him in the back or him making a movement that I'm not expecting, and him getting' shot in the back. Um, I wanna be up online with him should it come to that. That make sense?

Anthony Turner: Uh, it does, uh –

Deputy Charlie Blount: And I don't want, I don't want him to be between me and the suspect.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so then explain what happened as you approached the car.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, nothing happened. I, I, oh, um, wait. I'm at, you—sorry.

Anthony Turner: **** yeah.

Deputy Charlie Blount: I'm goin' from Deputy Little's position to the car. Is that what you're asking?

Anthony Turner: That's right. I asked, uh, I asked why you approached Deputy Little –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - and didn't go to one of the other officers.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right.

Anthony Turner: And you explained that you wanted to be alongside Deputy Little. You saw that he was up there already.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Right.

Anthony Turner: You then said that you didn't want to, um, uh, if a shot was needed, you didn't wanna be in the way or you didn't wanna make a motion that Deputy Little wasn't expecting.

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, I didn't want, well –

Anthony Turner: You didn't want him to be doing that to you?

Deputy Charlie Blount: - yeah. If he moved, uh, if the suspect had come up with a gun at that point, Deputy Little was between me and the suspect. So it would hinder my ability to fire. Um, and there's always a possibility Deputy Little could make an unexpected movement. If I did fire he could get shot in the back. It's not a good position to be in.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: It's not tactically sound.

Anthony Turner: So then when you approached the car –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - was Deputy Little expecting you to make that move?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't know. I can't say what was in his mind. Um, we've worked together a pretty long time. Um, I think, I think he knows me pretty well. So I would think that he was expecting I would. Um, but I don't know what, what, what he's thinking.

Anthony Turner: Okay, as you stood next to Deputy Little, were you on his right or his left side?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I would have been on his, he was on my right side. I would have been on his left side.

Anthony Turner: His left side, okay. And as you walked towards the car did you go to the left side of the driver's door or right side of the driver's door? So as you were facing out did you go towards the front of the car or towards the rear of the car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I went to the, um, I would have been standing, initially, towards the, the, uh, back of the front door. Does that make sense?

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Uh, the, the part of the front door closer to the back of the car.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes, yeah. And then Deputy Little came up—we kinda, we, we would have crisscrossed a bit. Um, as I walked, um, I walked to that position, and he walked up more to where, like, the rearview mirror would be, you know. Okay, so now he's on my left, and I'm on his right once we're at the door. Right?

Anthony Turner: Yeah.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Okay.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, okay when you got to the driver's door –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Mm hmm.

Anthony Turner: - um, can you describe what you saw inside the car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't remember seein' anything. I was focused on the suspect and his hands.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and again was there sufficient light for you to see inside the car?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I was usin' my flashlight, and I, I felt I could see his hands pretty good.

Anthony Turner: Okay, did you see any weapons inside the car when you were at the door?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and did you see a firearm at that point?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: All right. Um, did you—you said that he wasn't following orders to open the door?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Correct.

Anthony Turner: Okay, uh, can you just describe what orders you gave him and what kind of commands they were?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I can remember tellin' him to keep his hands up, and I can remember tellin' him to open the door with one hand. Just one hand. Um, and he, he wouldn't do it. He pretended like he was doin' it. He delayed. He was playin' games. He was delaying and in my mind that's, that's dangerous. That's him givin' himself time to think. Getting' up his courage. He's comin' up with a plan and getting' ready to enact it, 'cause he's not willing to do what I tell him to do.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, and then the window opens.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah, he reaches down as if he's gonna unlock the door 'cause that's what I asked him to do. But instead –

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Deputy Charlie Blount: - he rolls down the window.

Anthony Turner: Okay, okay, um, was there communication between you and the driver as the window came down?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I don't know. Not in that specific instant I don't know if I was speakin' or not.

Anthony Turner: Can you remember him saying anything to you?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I remember him sayin' one, one thing, um, somethin' to the effect of, "Why are you guys always harassing me," I think is what he said. Um, if not, somethin' close to that. That's all I remember him sayin'.

Anthony Turner: Perfect, okay. Um, and then you said that you knew that you were gonna go hands-on?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well once the window opened, that was my plan, yeah. So I holstered my gun, and I put my flashlight in my flashlight ring in preparation for that.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so, um, was there a conversation between you and Deputy Little as that window was comin' down?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: And was there a plan in place when you were at the driver's door between yourself and Deputy Little?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and, uh, you described, uh, you went, uh, went hands-on, um, and he had his head and his arms out. Um, you said that, uh, you used the term, um, destruction blows.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well the first thing I did was, um, I grabbed his left arm, pulled it towards me. Um, and then—I don't know if I grabbed him another time or if I grabbed him differently, but I do remember hittin' him once right then.

Anthony Turner: Okay, okay. And, and you said at that point that the most important thing was to keep you, you and Deputy Little safe?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes, yeah.

Anthony Turner: Can you just explain on that a little bit more. Can you just talk, talk a little bit more about that?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well, um, at that point mainly when I first grabbed him physically, right?

Anthony Turner: Yeah.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah, um, well he's not outta the car yet. He's not searched. Um, we need to separate him from the car quickly. Um, 'cause the car is a weapon. And if he's got the gun, um, hidden in the car, uh, where we can't see it between the seats, or under the seats, or in the little door pocket, um, he's got access to that. So I wanna act quickly to get him out of the car. Uh, and that's, to me that's what's gonna keep us safe. That's what's gonna keep him from doing something to us.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, you described kind of a process of trying to get him out of the car. Uh, you described that you didn't wanna get him back inside the car. Um, and that was your primary focus was not letting him allow, uh, not allowing him to get back in the car. Um, you then, uh, applied the carotid, uh, and then you said that you

held that position for a few seconds after he went unconscious. Um, you said that, uh, you know that people under the influence of stimulants, um, can, you know, can act, uh, in an unexpected way when they regain consciousness or, or words to that effect. Do you remember saying that?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I, kinda, remember saying that it's my training and experience that people under the influence of stimulants can regain consciousness very very quickly, almost instantaneously after the carotids applied, and they appear to be unconscious.

Anthony Turner: Okay, was there anything else about your contact with the driver or about the circumstance, um, that gave you the impression that drugs might be an issue or that he was acting in a, in an erratic manner?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Just the fact that, uh, the hour of the morning. Um, the, the fact that, um, he's not acting rationally. Um, use of stimulants can, uh, contribute to that. Um, I mean, I, I work at night. Most of the people I deal with that are criminals are under the influence. And that is a, is a huge problem. Um, it's, it's very very common among, um, criminal people, um, and especially when they don't act rationally and make rational decisions. Um, meth is frequently involved. That's just from my experience of, you know, 20 some years.

Anthony Turner: So was that your impression with this driver or was that just your impression generally?

Deputy Charlie Blount: That's just my impression generally. Um, I never had a chance to actually, you know, evaluate him, um, you know, so I couldn't say for certain that he was under the influence. But, um, everything I saw led me to believe that he certainly could be.

Anthony Turner: Okay, um, okay, Detective Cleveland.

Other Speaker: Just one thing really briefly. In some of the other interviews there was a mention at some point—we know now there was not two people in the car. But at some point it was mentioned that maybe there was somebody in the car beside the driver. Do you remember any of that at all?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I, kinda, remember that the back of the car I couldn't see in clearly. Yeah other than that, um, I think maybe when we, we were, when me and Little were at the car door I might have asked, do you see movement in the back or somethin' to the effect. 'Cause I, I know the driver's door was not tinted. It was just—I don't believe it was tinted. It was just pure dirty. I know when it rolled down I could see more clearly. Um, and I could remember tryin' to look in the back a little bit, 'cause I wasn't a 100% sure somebody wasn't there. Um, it was, kinda, 'cause I remember darkly tinted, dark enough I couldn't get a clear view.

Other Speaker: Right, that's all I have.

Anthony Turner **** you got to ask?

Other Speaker: Let me check my notes. Appreciate it.

Other Speaker: Y'all wanna take a break real quick?

Other Speaker: Uh, we'll get ****.

Other Speaker: **** no? Oh we gonna do this first?

Antyhony Turner: The normal process is we will were, um, in a hurry to, um, uh, kinda, kinda, crossing points –

Deputy Charlie Blount: Okay.

Anthony Turner: - or, uh, **** some topics and then we'll take a break.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Okay.

Anthony Turner Um, if you'd like to take a break now, we can. Um, but I might take Harry's lead if that's, if that's okay?

Other Speaker: Oh yeah.

Other Speaker: Yeah, I don't wanna interrupt the flow.

Other Speaker: Probably best.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Other Speaker: Um, did you have, uh, I know you said you were in the Coast Guard or even –

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Other Speaker: - another prior to that?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I was in the Marine Corp.

Other Speaker: Okay, how long were you in the Marine Corp.?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Six years.

Other Speaker: And did you have any law enforcement in there or, uh, use of force, firearms training in the Marine Corp.?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No law enforcement training, no.

Other Speaker: Okay, and what –

Deputy Charlie Blount: I had firearms training and, um, I can remember at one duty station havin', um, crowd control training but not law enforcement.

Other Speaker: Okay, what was your, uh, specialty in the Marine Corp and then the Coast Guard?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Um, in the Coast Guard I was an electronics technician. In the Marine Corp., uh, I was, uh, logistics field.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yeah.

Other Speaker: Was it your understanding that Deputy Little was in a car chase or a vehicle pursuit with the suspect?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Yes, that's what he said on the radio.

Other Speaker: How many times, uh, did the suspect appear to pull over or pull over and then take off again?

Deputy Charlie Blount: I think it was just once prior to the end.

Other Speaker: Okay, do you remember monitoring any other traffic about that topic, radio traffic?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Deputy Little, uh, either said he rammed him or pitted him and then the next thing on the radio that I remember was Deputy Little stating that the driver wasn't cooperative. I think he said he wasn't gettin' out of the car. And then he said that he was movin' hands down towards his waistband.

Other Speaker: Okay, did the fact that the suspect stopped once and then started fleeing again have any impact on how you handled the situation once you arrived?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well it makes me, it makes me very concerned that he's going to, um, throw the car in drive and take off again and now we're on foot. Um, the

car is a, is a very effective weapon against people on foot. And as I approached I didn't see anything wrong with that car that would make me think it wasn't drivable.

Other Speaker: How about the issue of feigning cooperation?

Deputy Charlie Blount: That's, that's what he was doing. Um, apparently he had done that. From the radio traffic he had done that, um, with Deputy Little. Um, he, he ended up not being cooperative and speeding off again and then when I got there, um, that's exactly what he was doing. Um, he's reaching for the door and fiddling and puttin' his hand back up but the door wasn't unlocked. Um, and I, I think said in, in my mind that's, that's a delay and stall tactic, um, that suspects do when, when they want to throw the law enforcement, you know, a little off their game. You, you—they pretend to be cooperative, um, verbally or they pretend to be cooperative physically when in fact they're not cooperating. Um, he was reachin' for the area where the unlock button was, but he wasn't unlockin' it. Um, so he's buyin' himself time. He's givin' himself time to think. He's maybe givin' himself time to build up his courage to do it. Um, he's buyin' time and time—for him to buy time is an advantage for him, um, and a disadvantage for us.

Other Speaker: What do you make of the fact that he opened the window rather than opening the door. I mean, in some ways isn't that partial cooperation or partial compliance?

Deputy Charlie Blount: No, I, I, I again see it as just delaying. I'm tellin' him to open the door, um, he opens the window, um –

Other Speaker: What's the difference?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well he can't, he can't—most people would think that he could readily and easily come out the window. 'Cause I'm, I'm tellin' him to come out of the car. I'm tellin' him to open the door, unlock the door. Um, he knows that he's going to be arrested, that he's—when the door opens that he's going to be handcuffed, um, and he's avoiding that. He's delaying that. Um, he is giving, um, a little something so that he buys himself more time to think. More time to employ whatever plan or tactic that he's coming up with.

Other Speaker: What—and, and I know you described, kinda of, a level of the crime but is there anything particular about the crime of carjacking or armed robbery of a car, um, that tends to be, uh, a component of it?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Absolutely, um, but it's, it's, kinda, like there's a swing up of burglary when people aren't home and a home invasion when you kick down the door, and you, you know, actually put your hands on people and maybe harm them to take their stuff. It's a whole different level of crime. Um, it's a, it's a matter of stealing a car, that's actually a robbery of a car. It frequently involves force, has to involve force or fear

or weapons. Um, it, it shows a willingness to, to confront people, to take people on. Um, it shows a disregard for other people. Um, it's a crime of violence.

Other Speaker: Uh, I mean, are they usually just in your experience, uh, or in your training, or combination, is the object of the crime to steal the car or is it some other issue or some combination?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Well I think there's different motivations. Sometimes they just want that particular car. But I think most frequently, it's more of a frantic, um, effort on the suspect's part a lot of times to escape a crime they've, another crime they've just committed. Um, and somehow they're separated from their escape route and now they need one, so they do a carjacking. Uh, sometimes, um, suspects, uh, steal cars and carjack people, because they are planning crimes in the future, um, and, and they wanna car that's, um, you know, not registered to them, not connected to them, um, so that they can go immediately and do something else. Um, it's, it's a crime that, that you find only more hardened more experienced criminals partaking in. It's, uh, it's, it's a higher-level crime, um, and, and it shows that willingness to confront people directly to take people on.

Other Speaker: Uh, I don't have any other questions. Thank you.

Anthony Turner Good time for a break?

Deputy Charlie Blount: Sure.

Other Speaker: Yeah, that's good.

Anthony Turner Um, we gonna keep the tape on or **** turn it off?

Other Speaker: No, we'll just turn this off now.

Other Speaker: All right.

Anthony Turner So the time is 12, it's actually, uh, 1:00 p.m.

Other Speaker: Oh, oh.

Anthony Turner Stop this tape.

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