Other Speaker: ****

Anthony Turner: **** next one.

Other Speaker: Yeah.

Other Speaker: This one has a space heater, I mean –

Other Speaker: Oh.

Other Speaker: – you're gonna like it. It's nice.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay. Ah, it's a bit warmer in here, isn't it?

Other Speaker: Yeah.

Other Speaker: ****

Anthony Turner: Okay, let's see if – sorry. We got an audio recorder, um, so the interview is being recorded just audially, uh, audio, uh, ****. There's no video, uh, there's a video stream actually going into, uh, an observation room.

Jason Little: Uh huh.

Anthony Turner: Uh, but that's not being recorded, um, and, uh, there'd be no record kept of that video stream. Okay?

Jason Little: Good.

Anthony Turner: I just wanna make sure you got something to drink. You, you guys are set for, for, um, for an interview?

Other Speaker: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: Yep.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, the time now is 1516 hours, uh, it's the 30th of November, Saturday, um, um, we're here at the FJC in Santa Rosa. Uh, my name is Detective Anthony Turner. I'm a detective with, uh, Santa Rosa Police, uh, this is my partner, uh, Detective Ryan Cogbill and would you mind introducing yourself.

Jason Little: Uh, Deputy Jason Little, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Other Speaker: Nicole Pifari, attorney rep, representing the deputy.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, this is a criminal investigation, um, and, uh, Deputy Little is being interviewed as a victim, uh, or a witness in that incident. Uh, the interview, um, uh, is being sought, it's a voluntary interview, I'm sorry ****, um, you are free to leave at any time, um, you're not obliged to answer any questions, uh, of, by myself or my partner. Okay?

Jason Little: All right.

Anthony Turner: Uh, in the event, uh, yeah. Um, have you had ample time to, um, uh, prepare for the interview and collect your thoughts in relation to this interview?

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, were you provided with your body-worn camera footage from this incident?

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And did you have ample time to review that footage?

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, what else have you reviewed or watched in preparation for this interview?

Jason Little: That is it.

Other Speaker: That was it.

Anthony Turner: So it's just that, uh, the camera footage.

Jason Little: Correct.

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

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay, um, I actually work with the Santa Rosa Police as is my partner, um, uh, is there – I – there's no close relationship or close contact between myself and you or my partner, correct?

Jason Little: No. No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay, um, uh, at the moment, are you sick or injured?

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: All right. And were you sick or injured, um, on, uh, the day of the incident which would've been Wednesday morning?

Jason Little: I was not sick; I was injured during the incident but not, I mean, not significantly.

Anthony Turner: Okay. That leads us to the next question of did you receive any injuries as a result –

Jason Little: I –

Anthony Turner: – of the incident?

Jason Little: – I did.

Anthony Turner: And can I, can you describe those injuries ****.

Jason Little: I was bit on my left index finger twice, um, causing a small little cut to my knuckle.

Anthony Turner: Small cut to the knuckle. Okay. At the time of the incident, were you suffering from any medical condition or taking any medica, any medication that may have impaired your ability as a law enforcement officer?

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: When did you s, last sleep before this interview?

Jason Little: Last night.

Anthony Turner: Last night? Okay.

Other Speaker: Do you want that person here?

Anthony Turner: Um, how long did you sleep?

Jason Little: A good 8 or 9 hours.

Anthony Turner: ****. Okay, uh, when did you last eat?

Jason Little: Uh, probably about an hour ago.

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

Jason Little: Uh, turkey sandwich.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So the next question is in two parts. Um, and also, have you consumed any alcohol prior to the incident and whether you have, um, consumed any alcohol prior to this interview?

Jason Little: No to the first question and I had two beers at a family dinner last night.

Anthony Turner: Okay. What time was that?

Jason Little: 6:00, 6:30.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And at the time of the incident, did you feel the effects of any alcohol?

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Some questions about your, um, general background. Um, how long have you been with, um, uh, the sheriff's office?

Jason Little: I'm going into my 18th year.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And how long have you had in law enforcement in total?

Jason Little: Uh, almost 19.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so was there a prior agency before the sheriff's office?

Jason Little: There was, uh, Union County Sheriff's Office in Oregon. That was for about 11½ months. I was a reserve deputy there.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: Correctional deputy.

Anthony Turner: And that was just under a year?

Jason Little: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: Do you have any specialty, uh, training in firearms, SWAT, et cetera?

Jason Little: I'm on our, uh, tact team, which is our, uh, mobile field force. I'm a use of force instructor. I'm a POST certified baton impact weapons instructor and I'm a Taser instructor.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, any additional trainings, um, that are relevant to ****, um, obviously, the use of force, a **** and Taser, um, anything else, um, in the sheriff's office?

Jason Little: Um, I'm 11550, uh, uh, controlled substance. What else? Goodness. That's a lotta years to think about. That's probably it, I mean, other than our normal yearly updates and what – and outside trainings that I've been to.

Anthony Turner: Okay, so you wanna ****?

Jason Little: ****?

Anthony Turner: Yeah, just **** –

Jason Little: Most of 'em –

Anthony Turner: – trainings.

Jason Little: Yeah, most of 'em either have to do with use of force or, um, uh, search and seizure, that kinda thing.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, and then any prior special assignments?

Jason Little: Uh –

Anthony Turner: Or other duties.

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, what is, um, uh, your current assignment?

Jason Little: Uh, I'm assigned to the main office Patrol Division with the sheriff's office.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And which, uh, shift you work?

Jason Little: I work graveyards. Um –

Anthony Turner: Which days do you work?

Jason Little: Monday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, on the night of Tuesday going into Wednesday, were you working a standard shift starting at 9 p.m. on Tuesday going into, uh, 7 a.m. on Wednesday?

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay, on that Tuesday night, Wednesday morning shift, what was your code sign?

Jason Little: George 48.

Anthony Turner: And is that your normal –

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: – code sign?

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Uh, is that uniformed or non-uninformed assignment?

Jason Little: Uniformed.

Anthony Turner: And how long have you been in this assignment?

Jason Little: Um, approximately 3 years.

Anthony Turner: Three years. Okay. Um, the vehicle you used, is that a vehicle that's assigned to you, um, on a regular basis?

Jason Little: No, that is, uh, my patrol car I normally drive was, uh, in the shop so that was a, uh, a fleet vehicle.

Anthony Turner: Fleet vehicle, okay. How many days had you been drivin' that vehicle?

Jason Little: Um, ch, ch, ch, 2 days.

Anthony Turner: Two days. Okay. Uh, were you aware of any mechanical defects with that vehicle?

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay, were you in uniform on, uh, that night, Tuesday going into Wednesday?

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And can you describe your uniform?

Jason Little: Um, green pants, tan shirt with Sonoma County Sheriff's patches on both arms.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: And then I was wearing a duty belt with my handgun and Taser and then, I wore an external vest carrier with handcuffs, radio, and the rest of my equipment.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So actually on the belt itself it's just your handgun and the Taser?

Jason Little: Handgun, Taser and glove pouch.

Anthony Turner: Glove pouch, okay. Okay, on the vest itself, um, what other items are on there. So there's a radio?

Jason Little: So a radio on the left side. I, uh, have my handcuffs on my right side, um, spare magazine pouch on the front left side which holds three magazines for my duty weapon.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: And then I have a flashlight holder –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: – for a small secondary flashlight.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, your firearm, what make and model the firearm?

Jason Little: It's a SIG Sauer P320.

Anthony Turner: And which c, uh, what caliber is that?

Jason Little: 9-millimeter.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, did you have any other firearms on your person or in the vehicle?

Jason Little: Uh, in the vehicle, yes. I carry my patrol rifle.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And you don't carry a second, um, or backup weapon?

Jason Little: Uh, not that night, no.

Anthony Turner: No? Okay. Um, you had a, a body-worn camera?

Jason Little: I did.

Anthony Turner: Okay, and whereabouts was that attached?

Jason Little: Uh, attached to my external vest carrier, right in the front.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And do you carry an audio recorder and, alongside your body-worn camera?

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay, um, what other less lethal, um, items did you have either in your vehicle or on your person?

Jason Little: Uh, I had my baton.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: And my Taser.

Anthony Turner: And the baton was on your vest.

Jason Little: No, my baton is in the vehicle.

Anthony Turner: In your vehicle.

Jason Little: And then I carry a f, a flashlight, SL20 which is – we can use it as an impact weapon but that too was left in my vehicle.

Anthony Turner: Your vehicle, okay. Okay, um, the nature of this investigation concerns a significant incident that you were involved in, uh, it occurred in the general area of Hillview Street and Sutton Road in Bloomfield. Okay? Please describe the event in as much detail as you can. Include the time of the event, the names of

witnesses and names of the officers as best as you can recall and include all the information you can remember relating to those circumstances.

Jason Little: Okay. Um, I think at approximately 5:30 in the morning, on Wednesday morning, I was dispatched to a suspect vehicle that was, uh, I believe it started on Frei Road, um, it was being tracked. I originally thought it was being tracked by an off-duty Santa Rosa officer but it turned out it was a GPS tracker.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: Uh, I was getting live updates to position of the vehicle so, um, I started at Graton Fire Department where I was eating my lunch and I went to the location that it was last positioned at and I caught up to that and that was at, uh, Ragle Ranch Road and Covert Lane I believe in Santa Ro, uh, Sebastopol.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: Uh, I got behind the vehicle as it was starting to make a right-handed turn westbound onto Bodega Highway from Ragle Ranch Road. I was the only vehicle even close to patrol-wise so I didn't light the vehicle up. I followed it. I followed it approximately, hm, I wanna say about 1/2 mile where we turned southbound on Watertrough and I was still, hm, still following it, monitoring, uh, the direction it was going, advising dispatch, um, waiting for other units to arrive so we can make a stop on it. I knew that it was a, uh, a suspect vehicle that happened to be a carjacking where a weapon was used, a firearm I believe was a .38 caliber handgun, revolver. So I was pretty concerned that I shouldn't do this stop by myself, um, due to the fact that a handgun was used in the crime. So I continued following it, getting updates. I was told that I had units coming from different places and Sebastopol PD was probably my closest backup.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: So as we turned – we kept going eventually to where we turned westbound on Bloomfield from Watertrough and then I advised dispatch that I was gonna try and make a stop at Bloomfield Road and Kennedy Road, um, Sebastopol was r – I could see Sebastopol's lights comin' up behind me so I, uh, activated my overhead, lights and sirens and attempted the stop, um, the vehicle went – started swerving to the left and to the right, kind of – it slowed down but it kinda almost like a zigzag across both lanes of traffic and then started to yield so I put the vehicle in park, jumped out, unholstered my handgun and started a felony stop, um, as I brought my weapon out, he was, uh, moving his hands around a lot and I was concerned that he's comin' up with a gun, um, but by the time I was comin' up with my handgun and started to yell to him show me your hands, he took off again. So, I holstered my weapon and advised dispatch that I was in pursuit. Uh, the pursuit was pretty much all over, uh, uh, the roads are escaping me but, I mean, it started on Bloomfield, it went to Pleasant or we

were on Pleasant to Bloomfield, um, Sebastopol was behind me and speeds were anywhere from, anywhere from 20 to 70 miles an hour at times. Um, I was given authorization to PIT, um, but by that time, the roads were pretty narrow so I didn't wanna PIT until I had a little bit more room.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: Um, so we came to an opening. I don't – can't remember the street but I was close to Mallory or m, uh, something of that nature and he slowed way down and so I thought this was my opportunity to PIT him. Um, he kinda – he slowed way down and then turned his vehicle, um, kinda broadside to me so as if I were going straight, his driver side was parallel or horizontal to me.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Other Speaker: Perpendicular you mean?

Jason Little: Perpendicular. So, yeah, so he was turning this way and I was coming this way so my PIT turned into a ram, um, so I rammed the rear, uh, driver side quarter panel. I pushed him, jumped out with my fider, halfway out with my firearm, yelled at him to show me his hands, uh, he's not showing his, uh, showing me his hands, um, I'm still con, I, I was pretty concerned that he had a gun obviously, with all the information I had. Um, he's not listening to me. He's, uh, moving his hands up and down, uh, I had my gun on target and he goes to reach down again and he comes back up and at that point, I was about to use lethal force and then he – I hear the engine rev and he takes off. Um, at that point, I was pretty freakin' concerned because I thought he had a gun and he – just his movement down and then I never saw his hands but he, obviously, he took off. Sebastopol was behind me at that time. Uh, I holstered my gun, advised dispatch what I had seen, um, that he wasn't following commands. We're still in pursuit, uh, that he was reaching for something in his waistband in what it looked like to me. Uh, we continued the pursuit into the Town of Bloomfield where he took a right-hand turn, I don't know if, uh, west, uh, west or south or north onto Sutton.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: And it wasn't a, it wasn't a fast pursuit at that point. He was maybe 35, 45 miles an hour and as Sutton T's into, I don't recall the street, he slowed down so at that point, I was gonna PIT him again and so I went in for the PIT and he turns his vehicle perpendicular to me again and I rammed him again. Um, at that point, I put my vehicle in park, I –

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: – draw my firearm and I'm in the, uh, corner of my door in the vehicle yelling commands to show me his hands. He's yellin' something, um, I did hear him say

just shoot me, um, and then I didn't feel I was in a good position because I was still pretty, pretty afraid he had a gun and that this was gonna end up a shooting. So he kept movin' his hands and I'm yellin' at him show me your hands, show me your hands. I can hear Sebastopol yellin' the same thing. And at that point, I remember saying, I'm gonna move back to you, and I was talking to Sebastopol behind me.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: So I moved back to the rear, uh, driver side, uh, uh, c-pillar, whatever, to get some cover where I could still in, give commands and, but I was protected if he came out with a gun.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: Um, I sh – no, in the video I watched, I sa, I, uh, shut the door. I didn't remember shutting the door but, uh, I, obviously, I shut that door, my driver's door. Um, continued yelling commands, um, he didn't seem coherent. He wasn't following commands. He would do –

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: – a command and then he would do the exact opposite. He would put his hands back down in his lap or reach around in the car and then he would throw his hands back up behind him.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: Um, a few minutes later, uh, Deputy Blount arrived on scene. He came up on my left side. He said hey, I'm gonna approach the car. I said wait. I believe I said wait, um, 'cause I was still concerned about the g, a gun.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: And I didn't wanna, hm, for one, I didn't wanna get shot and I didn't want my partner to get shot. So, he starts movin' up so I move up with him. I can see into the car and I see his hands but I don't see a h, I don't see a gun and I believe I said something to the effect that I don't see a weapon, um, we're telling him to put his hands up. He ki, he does it but then he puts his hands down and we're tellin' him hey, stop movin' around, stop movin' your hands, um, he's ordered to unlock the door but he's, he didn't seem like he was all there because he, he would try to do something but then he either couldn't do it or didn't know how to do it, um, eventually, his window, driver side window came down and that's where were hands on. I holstered my gun, uh, Deputy Blount grabbed him and he was, tried to pull him outta the car. Um, he didn't wanna come out. He braced himself like, um, with his right leg, it looked like he braced himself between the steering wheel and the, uh, like on the, where the brake would be.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: So he stiffened his right leg out so we couldn't yank him out.

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: Um, he's still tryin' to pull himself in the car. He really wanted to stay in that car. He, he kept like, pulling himself in, pulling his arm, trying to pulling his hands in, um, at one point I hear Deputy Blount say ow, he bit me and a, not simultaneously but about the same time, I'm reaching underneath to grab his jacket or a shirt or something so I can ju, wiggle him out and he chomps down on my index finger. I start to yank it out, he bites down again. Um, I deliver I believe three or four strikes with my elbow to the back of his head and shoulders, uh, it was the target that was presented to me and he wasn't coming willingly out of the vehicle so I felt that I needed to deliver some strikes to, uh, get him to loosen up his grip to get out. Uh, at that point, he's kinda sliding back into the car, um, and I, I was tryin' to make a choice whether to use my firearm or my Taser. I just felt Taser was probably the best opportunity at that point so I unholstered my Taser and, uh, I fired, uh, the Taser into his waist area. One probe looked like it hit him in the abdomen. I felt the other probe hit him in the leg but I was unsure because at first, it hadn't, it felt like it was a good connection but then he was still able to move around and whatnot. So I fired a second round, 5-second burst, um, with minimal – neither –

Other Speaker: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: – uh, Taser deployment was fully effected. I did not get the full –

Anthony Turner: Mm hmm.

Jason Little: – neuromuscular, uh, incapacitation.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: And then at that point, mis, uh, I could see Deputy Blount, I thought he had him by the head and I felt he was tryin' to get him out of the vehicle by the head, um, but I was more concerned with him and his hands than tryin' to get him outta the vehicle. Um, at that point, I told Sebastopol, one of the Sebastopol cops to break the window 'cause they made it to the opposite side of the r, uh, vehicle, the suspect's vehicle, uh, break the window so he could try to pull him out the opposite side and we moved him out onto the ground, um, I, uh, released my Taser cartridge, went around the front of the vehicle, um, put suspect in a Figure 4, um, at that time he was still moaning, still breathing, um, I put him in a Figure 4, uh, there was slight resistance with the Figure 4. He wasn't like, tryin' ta severely kick me off but there was – he was pushing against me, um, we got his arms behind his back, uh, I handcuffed him, uh, we

st, I started to search his person. We, uh, I don't know at what point, but at one, one point, somebody asked, is he breathing and I kinda, I gave him a little rub on the back to see and there wasn't a whole lotta movement so we put him on his left side in a recovery position to, um, and he seemed to get his breath back. So at that point, I disenga, I disengaged from the, uh, Figure 4. I'd straightened out his leg, um, his right leg was pretty rigid, um, but I disengaged from that scene, went in to check to see if I could find the firearm. Did a quick search; I didn't find anything and then went back around and it was determined that he wasn't, he, uh, was not conscious or, uh, was no longer, um, breathing so CPR was started and I stayed there for a mean, for a minute or 2 asking if Depu, Deputy Jax started CPR, um, he didn't want me to leave so I just kinda removed myself and backed away from the situation.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: And then I was sequestered.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So at that point, um, that was when you, you stepped away from the scene and had no further contact with, um, person on the ground.

Jason Little: Right.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, so you said initially that you advised there was a tracked vehicle.

Jason Little: Right.

Anthony Turner: Um, and you said that, uh, you knew it was the suspect vehicle with the carjacking, uh, and there's a 38-caliber revolver involved.

Jason Little: Right.

Anthony Turner: So how did you get that information?

Jason Little: Uh, I believe dispatch put it out over the air. Um, or it was either dispatch or somebody came over the air saying that the weapon involved with the carjacking was a 38 revolver, so, eh, when I heard that I, I was a little more amped up, concerned on that if he's going in the same general direction as the original crime, that something else more than likely was gonna happen.

Anthony Turner: So that sorry that’s my next question **** did you know anything about the original offense?

Jason Little: No.

Anthony Turner: The original crime?

Jason Little: Other than what I was told over the radio, no.

Anthony Turner: Okay. And given that it was a carjacking with a firearm, uh, you know, how did that change your approach to, uh, to catch me up with this vehicle?

Jason Little: Well, because I was by myself, I was concerned. I mean, I wanted to, I wanted to approach the vehicle and I wanted to follow the vehicle until I, I had an opportunity where I had backup, um. I didn't wanna get into a shooting by myself with a guy who's obviously used the weapon already –

Anthony Turner: 'Kay.

Jason Little: – to steal a vehicle. Um, so, I slow claim the, you know, I followed him. Uh, didn't go over the speed limit. I stayed at least 1 to 2 car lengths behind him until the opportunity presented itself where I could attempt the stop.

Anthony Turner: So do you work often with Sebastopol PD?

Jason Little: Uh, yeah. I mean, not often, but I back them up. They've backed me up before.

Anthony Turner: Okay and, uh, with them responding to this call, was there a reason that they were responding to you as you were trying to, trying to catch up with this vehicle.

Jason Little: Say that again.

Anthony Turner: So was it because, eh, of this vehicle or was it because of the type of crime that they were trying to catch up to you?

Other Speaker: Kinda calls for speculation. I don't know if he has knowl, I mean if you have knowledge –

Anthony Turner: Yeah.

Other Speaker: – of why there were coming you ****.

Jason Little: I can assume why they're, I mean I, they monitor our radios so I'm sure they; I did hear that they were waiting for approval to back me up, um, from their supervisor 'cause they're not supervised at night. I know that, so, and it was I hadn't called out a Code 30 or anything like that yet. I was following the vehicle. Um, so I can only believe that if it had been a Code 30, they're on their way.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: But I, I trust them, so.

Anthony Turner: But, eh, ye, you mentioned a given type of offense that that vehicle had been involved in.

Jason Little: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: You were waiting for another vehicle.

Jason Little: Absolutely.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, so, what did you think as, um, you described the driving, um, as it was driving in an erratic manner –

Jason Little: Yes.

Anthony Turner: – before that first stop. Uh, did you have any thoughts about the driving and about the reason for that erratic driving?

Jason Little: I believe that he was trying to figure out where I was behind him, exactly. Um, the second time he stopped, he put his vehicle in a position that would have given him a great opportunity to shoot me, so that caused me some serious, uh, concern. Um, and when he did that, I was afraid that I was going to be in a shooting at that point. I had literally taken the slack out of my trigger when he was, when he took off. So I had already, I had already made the decision to shoot. Um, just by his behavior and putting his vehicle; so it made me afraid enough to where I'm not gonna let this go any further–

Anthony Turner: ****.

Jason Little: – and we took off again.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay. What were you thinking during that second part of the, of the pursuit? Um, what were you thinking the suspect was trying to do?

Jason Little: I felt, I felt that he was tryin' to get away, but I was, at the same time I was like he's going back to the scene of the original, I – that I knew of. He was going back to the area of the original crime, so I had no idea whether he was trying to go back to finish something off. I don't know if he was, it was just overly concerning that he wasn't stopping. He had ample time to stop.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay.

Jason Little: He, everything he was showing me was that he was pretty motivated to get away from me, um, so that, eh, that was concerning not only for myself, my partners, but for the general public because now we were in a residential area.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay.

Jason Little: So.

Anthony Turner: And then, um, you described that second stop, and the position that you were in, um, and you said that you then stepped back, uh, towards the back of your car.

Jason Little: Correct.

Anthony Turner: Okay. So, can you just describe, um, eh, what specifically you were doing and what you were thinking at that point?

Jason Little: So, when after I had rammed him, I had opened my door. I, uh, put my fire on 'em, fire, firearm pointed it at him. Um, as in the crux of the door behind the A pillar.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay.

Jason Little: Um, I felt I was too close, especially if he came out with a firearm, so I was afraid that I was gonna get shot, um. I didn't know how close Sebastopol; I knew they were there, but I didn't know where they were at. So, I, I was afraid that; I didn't wanna get shot by them just the positioning of us, so I felt that I needed to get back and take cover where I could see a bigger picture of him.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay. And at, at that point, given your training and experience, uh, what were you thinking in terms of re, resolving that situation?

Jason Little: Um, well, I wanted to resolve peacefully, um, and safely, but he's, he would start to follow directions, he wouldn't follow directions. He would start to follow directions, he wouldn't start; so, something obviously was wrong with him. Uh, I don't know if he was on, under the influence or what, but it didn't seem like he had that ability to fully understand what was, I was yelling at him, what the other officers were, and deputies were yellin' at him. Um, and once we made contact with him, it remained that way, and he, he did not wanna come outa the car. He, he continually tried to stay in the car and get back to where he was at in the vehicle, and I said that earlier. I mean that really concerned me because there was an outstanding weapon, an outstanding gun, and if we let him back in that car, um, there, I mean, obviously I don't know what would have happened, but my thought process was that we needed to end it. We needed to end it safely, if we could. Um, but I was already, in my mind, I had already made up my

mind that I was, if I had to use deadly force, I was gonna use deadly force just by his and, his, his behavior and the outstanding firearm.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, so you described, uh, you and Officer Blount were at the driver's door, um, as you were trying to get – you had already given the commands, um, and then, um, you tried to get him out of the car, and that's when you first used, uh, your Taser.

Jason Little: Right.

Anthony Turner: So, uh, can you just describe, I, I, I think you've already kinda gone, gone over part of that. What were your concerns about him staying in the car?

Jason Little: The weapon. Um, the fact that the gun was outstanding. Um, he was continuing to fight. He'd already bit me. He'd bit my partner. Um, he was trying not to allow us to maintain control of his hands. Uh, I used the Taser. It's a less lethal, um, im, implement; so I figured I'd, you know, it's a, it coulda been a safer way to resolve it, and so I used my Taser. I mean.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, and then you said that you saw Officer Blount at the door.

Jason Little: Yeah, he was right next to me.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, can you recall what, what he was doing, um, with, um, with the driver inside the car?

Jason Little: I wasn't focused on Charlie, to be honest. Um, I know he was grabbing him. I know he was fighting with his arm. Um, I, my main concern was me deploying the Taser and seeing where the guys' right hand was.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay.

Jason Little: Um, I know Charlie had grabbed him by the head, but I wasn't concerned with him. I know I was concerned with what I was doing and, and what I was seeing, focus, or focusing on so.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Um, what was your, I mean, what was the, what was your intention with the Taser? With that, that first Tasering?

Jason Little: To render him incapacitated so we could handcuff him and get him out of the car safely.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay. Um, you said you thought you, you heard him say just shoot me. Uh, **** –

Jason Little: He did say that.

Anthony Turner: Did?

Jason Little: Yeah.

Anthony Turner: Okay. What, what did you, I mean, what did you think he meant by that?

Jason Little: I had no idea what he meant by that other than, I mean, it's not something someone usually states, so, I, I didn't know if that meant that he wanted to engage us in like a suicide by cop-type thing or if he wanted to, was having some type of mental breakdown. I, I didn't know. I, I wasn't overly concerned with that statement at that time.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay and then, um, you said the, when you were giving him instructions and he was moving his hands up and down, uh, you described him as, as being not there? Um, can you just, eh, kinda give me a bit more detail about that, what you mean by that?

Jason Little: He just, we would give him an order. We'd yell out an order. It, it seemed like it took him a lot of time to process that. Um, I know he stated some things. I don't know exactly what he was saying, but it just seemed that it took him an overly long time to process our instructions and our orders that needed to be done now, like somebody who was either of right mind or not under the influence of something. I've been in situations where that somebody's not under the influence, you tell 'em to put their hands up and you're pointing your fire, your firearm at them, they do it immediately.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay.

Jason Little: Uh, he did nothing immediately until we went hands on with him, and then he fought, and seemed he was very determined to stay in the car.

Anthony Turner: 'Kay. Um, eh, you describe, um, prior to the Taser that you used this three to four strikes.

Jason Little: Correct.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Well, please talk to me through that and that process.

Jason Little: Um, I reached under. He bit me, um, twice on my index finger, and about the same I just, I had an opportunity to give some strikes to gain control of 'em, so I delivered, I think, 4 strikes, um, to the back of his head and neck area; shoulder, top of

his shoulder, um, to try and get him to loosen up his grasp inside, and maybe loosen up his legs so we could him extricated out of that vehicle.

Anthony Turner: Okay. Okay. Other questions?

Other Speaker: Yeah, just a couple of quick ones. Um, the lighting, the lighting out there. Do you remember when it, when the final, when it came to an end.

Jason Little: Mm hm.

Other Speaker: What was the lighting like?

Jason Little: It was okay I thought. I, I don't know if it was my lights, everyone else's lights; I don't, I can't remember if there were overhead lights, but, uh, I could see, I could see the vehicle, I could see him, the, you know, his upper half pretty well.

Other Speaker: Mm hm. And you had a chance to watch your body-worn camera. right?

Jason Little: I did.

Other Speaker: Was it consistent with what you remember, as far as the lighting or?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: Um, and then you mentioned that you were a Taser instructor.

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: And you also mentioned that you thought maybe it had a good connection, but then it didn't.

Jason Little: Right.

Other Speaker: Can you describe that a little bit more?

Jason Little: So, when, when Taser, when Taser probes go off, and they have the connection.

Other Speaker: Mm hm.

Jason Little: So you, you need both probes to, to get the NMI.

Other Speaker: Mm hm.

Jason Little: **** muscular, uh, incapacitation. It makes a very sharp, you know, like a rapid fire, tch, tch, tch, tch, tch, um. This did not. It started that way, and then you could hear it separate where it was longer; the, uh, the pulses were longer, so it was, that rapid fire then it was tch, tch, tch, tch, and then, so to me that makes as I didn't have a perfect connection.

Other Speaker: Mm hm and then that in combination with what his body was doing, does **** that told you that maybe this wasn't as effective as it should have been?

Jason Little: Yeah, he, he, he was, he still was talking and he was still movin' around, and he was actually; you could see his left arm, he could grab the, uh, the door frame with his, I think it was his left hand. I don't remember.

Other Speaker: Okay. That was it. That's all I have.

Jason Little: Okay. Um, yeah, I think I'm, we're good now.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Jason Little: You can step outside for now.

Other Speaker: Can I ask a few follow ups?

Anthony Turner: Yep, ****.

Other Speaker: Um, I wanna, I wanna talk a little bit more about the Taser, 'cause I know, I think all of us in here probably know more about Taser than, you know, then other people may end up listening to this interview. So, whether or not the probes are touching the person, when the Taser goes off you hear the sounds, the sort of rhythmic ra-ta-tat sound, –

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: – and the Taser going off; but in order for the, the subject, um, that you're directing the Taser at or trying to shoot with the Taser to actually feel, uh, the shock, you need both probes to make good contact. Correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Um, and if one of those probes loses contact, um, you're still gonna hear the sound of it or, the ta, ta, ta, ta, of the Taser, but the person's not actually necessarily feeling that at that moment.

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: And is one of the things that could contribute to a Taser losing contact, in your training and experience, is it, can clothing cause that?

Jason Little: Clothing, just a pure myth, um, baggy clothing can do it if somebody's wearing a heavy jacket, and he was wearing a heavy jacket. Um, if you don't have a good contact with skin, with both probes, you're not gonna get any effect. You, you might have pain of the impact of the probe hitting you, but if, eh, unless both probes are – you have to make, you have to make the electrical connection for it to work.

Other Speaker: And they need two-probe connections for that.

Jason Little: And you have to have two probes or one probe and a ****.

Other Speaker: And if you have good probe connection is that, eh, and so the cycle is completed, is the person able to speak through that, um, I mean they might be able to make a noise, like, ugh, or agh, but you don't hear them actually articulating words to that. Right?

Jason Little: **** mean, I'm sure in history, yes, I'm sure you could. Yes, but on the most it's, it's grunting and like one-syllable words coming out.

Other Speaker: Okay and the, the typical response that you'll see from someone with a good connection, is their, their limbs will stiffen almost like you'd see with someone in a seizure, but you don't see articulated hand movements or bein' able to reach out and grab and hold on if somebody's, if there's a good connection. Right?

Jason Little: With most, with most people, um, it's, eh, if you have full NMI, which is the neuromuscular, uh, incapacitation, no, they're down. They can't move.

Other Speaker: Okay. And a, and a Taser cycle is approximately 5 seconds. Right?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Um, and in this, um, scenario, you attempted to use your Taser twice. Correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: So we have, um, probably, when you watched the body-worn camera, a, a, full 10 seconds of Taser sounds.

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: But, um, when, but based on what you're telling us and not having a good connection the suspect, suspect did not experience 10 seconds of continuous tasing due to lack of connection. Right?

Jason Little: No.

Other Speaker: And, um, when you and I reviewed the body-worn camera, we were able to hear a change in the, in the tone of the Taser either sounding sharper or more muffled and, and we're able to tell from the change in sound when the connection was lost. Correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: And it was your assessment as a Taser trainer and instructor that it sounded like the only time you may have probably had a good connection was in the first moments of the first cycle. Correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Okay. So, um, few other questions. Um, have you – I'm tryin' to; I don't wanna get you mixed up with other people. You said 18 years as a deputy. Correct? 18, or 19, 19?

Jason Little: I did well, I'm going –

Other Speaker: Goin' on 19?

Jason Little: – 17 and like ¾.

Other Speaker: A long time.

Jason Little: Yeah, a long time ****.

Other Speaker: So in, in those years, um, as a law enforcement officer, have you had occasion to kinda grab onto and pull, uh, a person or a body, whether because they're unconscious or because they're going along with the program that was nonresistant and kinda pulled 'em to or from somewhere, moved them, pull 'em out on area; have you –

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: – moved compliant or non-resistant subjects?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: So, eh, when you said he did not wanna come outa that car, you said that, I heard you say that multiple times, like it, it struck you. Is it your, um, sense and impression that this guy was not going with the program in, in what, in terms of what you felt, as you grabbed him or trying to pull him out?

Jason Little: Uh, yeah and–

Other Speaker: And, and you also described seeing his leg stiffen and braced, I think you said –

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: – in the brake pedal area.

Jason Little: Yep.

Other Speaker: Okay so both what you felt and you saw him resisting and not coming out of the car and not going with the program. Correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Um, and the, the, you, you delivered the elbow strikes to try to get him to loosen his grip, um, to his head and/or shoulder and neck area. With, did you have any other available target –

Jason Little: No.

Other Speaker: – at the time? That was the only available target you had?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Um, I wanna talk a little bit about, um, let's see, first of all, I think you were asked about the second time he stopped, um, and, and the interviewer used the word second but what, he was, you were referring to the last stop. There were actually three times that, that he stopped, correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: I just wanted to clarify.

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: One, he kinda looked like he was gonna pull over and then took off, correct?

Jason Little: Right.

Other Speaker: And then there were the two pit/ram maneuvers, –

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: – correct?

Jason Little: Mm hmm.

Other Speaker: And so when you look back at those three incidents, is there any doubt in your mind he knew you were a law enforcement officer?

Jason Little: No, he knew.

Other Speaker: He knew you were a law enforcement –

Jason Little: One hundred percent.

Other Speaker: – officer. And did he have an opportunity, at that point, to just end it, uh, peaceably, 'cause at some point, you said you, you wanted it to resolve safely and peacefully. Could he, could the situation have been resolved peacefully and safely at any of those three stops, in your opinion?

Jason Little: Uh, the first one for sure and or, actually, every single one, uh, yes.

Other Speaker: He had opportunities –

Jason Little: He had an opportunity to go with, go with our, eh, uh, instructions and our, and our orders.

Other Speaker: And you made, um, a comment that he was motivated to get away from you. When you look back at the three different stops – I think you also used the term desperate – did you use that word? I'm not putting that in your mouth, am I?

Jason Little: ****.

Other Speaker: You said he was motivated to get away from me and I wrote down here desperate. Is that feeling reinforced by the, by three different times not giving up

and then also the just shoot me statement. Did that all help kinda feed into that feeling that this guy was motivated and desperate?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: Um, and then, the 38 revolver, is this a weapon that you're, have any kind of familiarity with, have you ever seen –

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: So there's, there can be big 38 revolvers and there can be some that are quite small, is that right?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: 38 revolver can even be small enough to fit in a pocket, isn't that right?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Um, you said a couple of times that it didn't seem like he was able to understand. This guy, he seemed like an English speaker, right?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: And it seemed like he knew you wanted him to get his hands up, right? 'Cause he complied with that.

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: And it seemed like he knew you wanted him to get out of the car, right?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: 'Cause he was resisting that so when you said it seemed like he didn't, he wasn't able to understand, he, he really was able to understand you, he just was acting in an atypical way, is that what you meant? Or I don't wanna put words in your mouth, I, but I wanna clarify your statement that he didn't seem like he was able to understand because, to me, a lot of what you explained that he, he was, he did raise up his hands when you told him to, he knew you wanted to get out of the car. He could understand –

Other Speaker: ****.

Other Speaker: – it seemed to me but.

Jason Little: I think he understood what we were saying, I just, I don't know if he fully –

Other Speaker: He was slow to react?

Jason Little: Slow to re, yeah, his, everything was slow, like just a slow reaction to everything –

Other Speaker: Okay.

Jason Little: – ****.

Other Speaker: But he was reacting in a way that made it clear he, he understood those –

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: – commands.

Jason Little: Yeah.

Other Speaker: Um, the other things I wanna clarify is you said that you made the decision to use deadly force and, and when you said that, you were talking about, I think, the first pit/ram maneuver, where he was reaching down and you, uh, described that you knew he, this, or believed this guy probably had a gun, correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: And he was reaching down. When you said you made the decision to use deadly force, um, did you mean, like that if, in that reaching down, if he came up with a deadly weapon, you were, you were ready for that moment, –

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: – right? Um, like you weren't gonna shoot him just because he reached down, correct?

Jason Little: Correct.

Other Speaker: Um, and, um, I was wondering 'cause I don't think we covered this – at the last, the second pit/ram, like where the, the car was kind of in what ended up being his final resting place, was it like the first one in, in that there was, you hit him perpendicularly, like kind of in the side of the car?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: Was the car incapacitated?

Jason Little: I don't, –

Other Speaker: In your opinion?

Jason Little: – I do not believe so.

Other Speaker: The engine block appeared to be intact.

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: So, um, there was one question of like well, why not just leave 'em in the car or was leaving him in the car an option, in your mind, was it an option to, like, let this guy drive off again?

Jason Little: No, he coulda used the vehicle as a weapon. He coulda –

Other Speaker: And –

Jason Little: – and the vehicle was still operable.

Other Speaker: Okay.

Jason Little: The, the engine was on and I don't know what point it was turned off but he was, it was still capable of driving.

Other Speaker: And at that point, you hadn't located the gun yet, either, –

Jason Little: No.

Other Speaker: – right? So, um, did that play into the, you know, insistence on removing that, getting that guy out of the car, getting him away from both the vehicle and potential weapons?

Jason Little: Yes.

Other Speaker: Um, sorry. Can I just review –

Jason Little: Mm hmm.

Other Speaker: – my notes really quick? That's all I have, thank you.

Anthony Turner: Okay.

Other Speaker: Appreciate it.

Anthony Turner: We'll, we'll be back in ****.

Other Speaker: Okay, thanks.

Anthony Turner: Yeah.

Jason Little: May I use the restroom?

Anthony Turner: Yeah, yeah, certainly. I'll walk you out.

SpeakWrite
www.speakwrite.com
Job Number: 19339-002
Custom Filename: Deputy Jason Little Second Interview
Date: 12/05/2019
Billed Words: 8731