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POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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Investigative Synopsis of the Officer Involved Death (OID) of Randy S. Ashland M/W 12-11-61

On April 15, 2020, the Milwaukee Area Investigative Team (MAIT) was called out to investigate an officer involved shooting death that occurred in the parking lot of the Waukesha Memorial Hospital, 725 American Way in the City of Waukesha, pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 175.47. The request was made by the City of Waukesha Police Department. The deceased was subsequently identified as Randy S. Ashland.

The Wauwatosa Police Department was designated as the lead agency for the investigation. Additional agencies participating in the investigation were: Brown Deer Police, Franklin Police, Greendale Police, Milwaukee Police, Oak Creek Police, West Allis Police, West Milwaukee Police, and the Wisconsin State Crime Lab.

Sgt. Ian Dekarske stated that on April 14<sup>th</sup>, he was working a 12 hour shift from 6:00pm to 6:00am. Around 1:31am, he heard Police Dispatch send squads to a report of a subject with a gun to his head at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Sgt. Dekarske responded to the scene and upon his arrival, he observed a subject, later identified as Randy Ashland, in the hospital parking lot lying next to a vehicle. Ashland was on his back with a large silver revolver to the side of his head with his finger on the trigger. Sgt. Dekarske grabbed his rifle and took up a position between Ashland and the hospital entrance. Sgt. Dekarske's position provided him cover as well as allowing him to observe what Ashland was doing.

Sgt. Dekarske stated that PO Ryan Solberg was "pleading" with the subject to put the gun down. For a brief time, Ashland put the gun down in response to PO Solberg's commands. Sgt. Dekarske began to feel uneasy because Ashland was not listening to commands given by the officers. Ashland was instructed by PO Solberg to roll away from the gun, however Ashland instead picked the gun back up with his finger on the trigger and took a "slow and controlled aim" at Sgt. Dekarske and two other officers near him. Sgt. Dekarske "absolutely" feared for his life and the life of other officers. Sgt. Dekarske believed there were no other viable options to stop the threat to himself, other officers and the public. Sgt. Dekarske fired his rifle until Ashland was no longer pointing the gun at them. Sgt. Dekarske, along with other officers, approached Ashland and took him into custody. Officers then placed Ashland onto a hospital stretcher and took him into the hospital for treatment.

PO Ryan Solberg stated that on April 14<sup>th</sup>, he was working a 12 hour shift from 6:00pm to 6:00am. PO Solberg stated that during his shift, he heard dispatch put out an emergency call for a man with a gun to his head in the parking lot of the Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Upon his arrival, PO Solberg was informed that the suspect was located and "at gunpoint" by the front entrance to the hospital. PO Solberg observed Ashland lying on the ground in the parking lot next to a vehicle.

PO Solberg retrieved his squad rifle and took up a position of cover in front of a squad car. Information was relayed to him by other officers that the subject was in possession of a silver metal gun. PO Solberg's rifle has magnified optics attached, which allowed him to see that Ashland was holding a gun. PO Solberg began dialog with Ashland while other officers were commanding the subject to "drop the gun." Ashland was lying flat on his back with the gun pointed to his head or resting on his chest. PO Solberg attempted to negotiate with Ashland for his surrender. PO Solberg's goal was to resolve the incident without anyone getting hurt.

PO Solberg stated that Ashland continued to hold the gun in his hand. For a brief time, Ashland set the gun down and put his hands partially up and back down again on two occasions. PO Solberg gave Ashland commands to roll away from the gun, however Ashland picked the gun back up and rolled into a position where he was now facing officers while refusing officer's commands to drop the gun. Ashland extended his arm toward officers and was pointing the gun at them. PO Solberg was fearful that Ashland was going to shoot at and kill officers. PO Solberg fired his rifle two times and then reassessed the threat. When it was determined that Ashland was no longer a threat, Officers approached Ashland and took him into custody. Ashland was then taken into the hospital for medical treatment.

Wauwatosa Police Detective James Donovan interviewed a citizen witness, who is the individual that alerted Waukesha Memorial Hospital Staff that Ashland was in the parking lot and armed. The witness is a Pastor in the community and has known Ashland since July 2018. The witness indicated that Ashland had recently been in Waukesha Memorial Hospital for mixing medication with alcohol.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> at around 10:00pm, the witness received a text message from Ashland. The witness stated that the text messages showed Ashland was upset and the texts turned to the topic of suicide. Ashland did not say how he was going to commit suicide, but Ashland was "saying his goodbyes." Sometime around midnight, the witness was able to get Ashland's address and he drove over to his house.

The witness texted Ashland at 12:18am and told him that Fallahee was at his house. A short time later, the witness called Ashland on the phone and the two spoke for about 22 minutes. Ashland told the witness to go away and that he was going to kill himself. The witness was able to convince Ashland to come out of the house. Ashland came out of his house holding a large silver revolver to his head.

The witness was able to talk Ashland into getting into his car and drive to Waukesha Memorial Hospital. The witness was very concerned while driving because Ashland was holding the gun to his own head and the witness could see that the hammer was pulled back on the revolver. Once they arrived at Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Ashland refused to go into the hospital without his gun. The witness went inside the hospital to speak with the doctors and told a security officer about the situation with Ashland. The witness believes that at some point, the security officer handed him a phone and the witness was speaking with a police dispatcher. While speaking with the police dispatcher, the witness heard several gunshots. A short time later, he saw Ashland being brought into the hospital on a stretcher.

Mr. Ashland was in possession of a Taurus Model "The Judge" 45/410 revolver. An ATF firearms trace conducted showed the gun was purchased by Ashland on February 6, 2012.

The evidence from this investigation was processed by the Wisconsin State Crime Lab and turned over to the Wauwatosa Police Department.

Sgt. Dekarske and PO Solberg provided a formal statement as to their role in this incident.