

Office Of Internal Oversight Review
KEY CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF A CATEGORICAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENT
Officer-Involved Shooting—5689 Maceta Avenue April 8, 2014

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to publish key conclusions, recommendations and outcomes of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's internal review of this incident. There are a variety of actions that can be taken administratively in response to the Department's review of a deadly force incident. The review may reveal that no action is required or determine that additional training is appropriate for all officers in the workforce, or only for the involved officer(s). The review may reveal the need for changes in departmental policies, procedures, or rules. Where departmental rules have been violated, formal discipline may be appropriate. The goal of the review is to improve both individual and the agency's performance.

Synopsis of Event:

On April 8, 2015 at approximately 3:21 a.m., LVMPD dispatch received a call from a concerned citizen who stated that his roommate, Travis Doering, was "freaking out" and armed with a rifle. The roommate further stated Doering was "acting psychotic" and on methamphetamine.

Several patrol units arrived and established a perimeter around the residence. Two officers positioned themselves to the northwest of the target residence, using cover and concealment. The roommate was able to exit safely and met with officers to give them an update on Doering's behavior and the weapon he was carrying.

After several minutes, officers observed Doering exit the residence and walk behind a wall. Two minutes later Doering came out from behind the wall and re-entered the residence. Officers were able to determine that he was in fact armed with a rifle. Throughout the incident, Doering was seen entering and exiting the residence. At times he appeared to be manipulating the slide or "racking" a round in the chamber.

SWAT was notified. SWAT Officer Wiggins arrived to assist the two officers located northwest of the target residence. Officer Wiggins began to observe Doering in the front yard. At officers advised that Doering was in the driveway and had placed the rifle on the ground along with what appeared to be a magazine.

At 5:32 a.m., officers observed Doering insert the magazine in the rifle and take a tactical stance near a car that was parked in the driveway. Doering aimed at the two officers located northwest from his residence; he then charged the rifle. Fearing for the two officers' lives, Officer Wiggins fired one round at Doering, and striking him. Doering died on scene.

Force Investigation Team (FIT), Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT), and Crime Scene Analysts (CSAs) responded to the scene. FIT conducted witness interviews and a countdown of the involved

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officers' weapons was conducted. CSAs processed the scene. At the conclusion of the investigation, FIT submitted this case to the District Attorney's office.

The Criminal Investigation:

LVMPD FIT conducted the criminal investigation of this incident. Their investigation was submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review. In their examination of the FIT case submission, the District Attorney's Office determined that, "Based on the review of the available materials and application of Nevada law to the known facts and circumstances, it has been determined that the actions of the officers were reasonable and legally justified."

LVMPD's Critical Incident Review Process and Internal Review:

1. The matter involving Officer Wiggins was heard by the Critical Incident Review Process/Use of Force Review Board on August 27, 2015. The Board's finding was, "Administrative Approval." The Use of Force Review Board determined the officer's actions were within policy. The Sheriff approved the Board's recommendation.
2. The internal Tactical Review Board concluded the officers' performance was in accordance with Department standardized tactics and training.

Below are the recommendations made after the Use of Force Review Board and the internal review were completed:

1) Communication

Two officers positioned themselves northwest from the target residence, utilizing cover and concealment. They were the only officers who had a visual on the front door and were able to broadcast real-time information on Doering's actions.

CIRT concluded the information provided by officers was vital information for all officers and supervisors on scene. This allowed for officers and supervisors to make tactically sound decisions in an attempt to contain and control Doering in the safest possible manner.

2) Officers' Approach

Based on the communication received from officers positioned in the northwest corner, Officer Wiggins took a spot near the northwest position where officers had already set up. This provided officers with lethal coverage while they provided supervisors with real-time updates.

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Upon other officers' arrival, several officers requested permission to deploy their rifles. CIRT recommends the Organizational Development Bureau (ODB) review training lesson plans and training standards in regards to rifle deployment. An emphasis on deployment requirements and tactical considerations from LVMPD Department Policy should be addressed in training.

3) Tactics and Use of Force

Officer's Wiggins took a tactical position that allowed him to observe and provide cover for his fellow officers. When Doering began to charge the rifle and aim towards officers, Officer Wiggins discharged one round.

CIRT concluded SWAT Officer Wiggins' backdrop, target identification, and isolation was within standardized LVMPD tactics, training, and policy.

4) Supervision (Command and Control)

In evaluating the supervision (command and control), of this incident, CIRT noted:

- A Sergeant set up an inner perimeter and established an arrest team;
- Upon Lieutenant's arrival a solid inner perimeter and an outer perimeter were established;
- Lieutenant and Sergeant recognized the incident as a Barricade Subject Incident because of Doering's actions;
- Lieutenant contacted SWAT Lieutenant on two occasions;
- After communicating with Dispatch, SWAT Lieutenant contacted Watch Commander Michael to confirm SWAT was needed;
- Lieutenant established as the Incident Commander;
- SWAT Lieutenant became the Incident Commander shortly after SWAT Officer Wiggins discharged his firearm;
- Shortly after SWAT Officer Wiggins discharged his firearm, Sergeant had medical move forward in an attempt to provide aid to Doering;