

South Dakota Highway Patrol Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place on September 30, 2013

On 9-30-13, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was called by the South Dakota Highway Patrol to conduct an investigation into an officer involved shooting that occurred in the parking lot of Butler Machinery located at 3601 Deadwood Avenue North, Rapid City, SD. The suspect's actions resulted in the suspect, William Chandler (DOB 07-01-1986), being shot one time. Chandler was transported to Rapid City Regional Hospital where he was treated for his injuries and survived. The Trooper involved in the shooting was South Dakota Highway Patrol Trooper Mike Bock. Also in the immediate vicinity was Trooper Chris Regan. The following information is a synopsis of the events that occurred on 9-30-13 and the investigation that was conducted by the DCI.

Synopsis

On 9-30-2013 at approximately 2:59 p.m., Trooper Mike Bock called State Radio Dispatch advising that he was in pursuit of a vehicle traveling down Boulder Canyon toward Sturgis, SD. The pursuit ensued after the suspect's vehicle passed Trooper Bock's stationary vehicle at a speed in excess of 80 mph. Trooper Bock was located at US Highway 14 mile post 45 (Boulder Canyon) while running stationary radar. The suspect vehicle was a silver passenger car license # 2RZ 235. The investigation determined that the suspect vehicle was being driven by William Chandler.

At approximately 3:01 pm the suspect's vehicle turned Eastbound on I-90 at exit 30. At that time other Troopers, Meade County Deputies and Sturgis Police Officers became involved in the pursuit. Shortly afterwards Officers reported to dispatch that beer bottles were being thrown from the suspect vehicle.

At approximately 3:09 pm, Officers backed off of the pursuit by turning off their emergency lights and slowed down in an effort to get the suspect's vehicle to slow down.

At approximately 3:10 pm, the suspect vehicle took the off ramp at Exit 44 and then immediately took the on ramp at exit 44 and continued Eastbound on I-90. The suspect vehicle continued at a high rate of speed running over construction barrels and causing damage to the front of the vehicle.

Pursuing officers then reported the suspect's vehicle was traveling 104 mph. At mile post 54, spike strips were deployed in an effort to slow or end pursuit. The suspect vehicle avoided the spike strips by driving into the median and then into I-90 westbound oncoming traffic. A trooper vehicle was able to divert the suspect vehicle into the north ditch, at which time the trooper vehicle intentionally collided with the suspect vehicle in an attempt to terminate the pursuit and to prevent the suspect vehicle from going back into oncoming traffic. After the collision, both vehicles came to rest and ended up side-by-side in the north ditch of the westbound lane.

At approximately 3:18 pm, the vehicle pursuit ended and a foot pursuit began. Both the driver, William Chandler and the passenger, Joseph Andrews exited the suspect vehicle on the driver's side and began to run. Andrews was immediately taken into custody by officers on scene and Chandler ran north

towards Butler Machinery. Troopers located Chandler hiding under a semi-trailer parked in the parking lot.

At approximately 3:19 pm, an in-car camera video depicts Troopers handcuffing Chandler behind his back and placing him in the back seat of a patrol vehicle.

At approximately 3:20 pm, an in-car camera video shows the Troopers who were on scene and standing next to the patrol vehicle. As this is occurring Chandler can be seen moving in the back seat of the patrol car, escaping his restraints, then sliding feet first into the driver's seat. Troopers observed Chandler in the driver's seat and open the driver door and attempt to remove Chandler. The Troopers are seen falling out of the vehicle as Chandler accelerates forward fast enough that the rear tires of the patrol car break loose and cause the tires to squeal.

Chandler quickly drives north through the parking lot, while Trooper Bock and Trooper Regan were commanding him to stop. Both Trooper Bock and Regan pursued the vehicle on foot until it came to a stop at a dead-end. The patrol vehicle driven by Chandler goes out of sight of the only camera video showing the incident.

Troopers and civilian witnesses observe Chandler putting the vehicle in reverse and backing up toward Trooper Bock. Trooper Bock was behind the vehicle and observed the vehicle's reverse lights come on. The patrol car driven by Chandler then begins to drive backwards towards Trooper Bock. Trooper Bock stated that he was in fear for his life as well as Trooper Regan's because he believed that Chandler was going to run over one or both of them. Trooper Bock fired his duty issued handgun one time at Chandler through the rear window of the patrol vehicle, striking Chandler in the right side of the face and neck. The distance between Trooper Bock and the patrol vehicle was estimated at approximately 20 feet. This distance had to be estimated because the vehicle continued to roll backward after the shot was fired.

Trooper Regan was able to open the passenger door and give commands for Chandler to get out of the patrol car as the patrol car continued to move backwards. Chandler was observed to have only one hand in the handcuff at this time. Because Chandler failed to respond to Trooper Regan's commands, Regan deployed his Taser. Chandler immediately rolled out of the driver's side door and on to the ground. Chandler was secured with handcuffs by the officers who were on scene and given first aid until EMS arrived.

Trooper Mike Bock and Trooper Chris Regan were contacted by DCI investigators. Both troopers were wearing their issued State Trooper uniforms. Their duty weapons and magazines were secured, documented and inventoried. The inventory showed the following:

- Trooper Mike Bock .40 cal. Sig Sauer handgun contained 11 rounds in the magazine and 1 round in the chamber.
- Trooper Chris Regan .40 cal. Sig Sauer handgun contained 12 rounds in the magazine and 1 round in the chamber.

On 10-1-13, Trooper Mike Bock and Trooper Chris Regan were interviewed individually by DCI. Trooper Bock told investigators that he feared that Chandler was going to run him or Trooper Regan over and

therefore fired his weapon. Trooper Regan told investigators that he was concerned for the life of Trooper Bock and for the lives of others present. A drug screen and blood alcohol test was conducted on both Troopers with negative results.

The information provided by these officers was consistent with the in-car video cameras, eye witness statements, as well as the shooting investigation scene.

Shooting Scene Investigation and Witness Interviews

The shooting scene investigation conducted by DCI produced items of evidence that confirmed the in-car camera video footage. Specifically, there was 1 spent .40 caliber shell casing found on scene. The location and caliber of the shell casing found is consistent with the video, interviews, and statements from the Troopers present. There were no expended bullets recovered at the shooting scene. There was a fragmented bullet recovered from Chandler's person by investigators. The back window of the Highway Patrol vehicle was shattered and partially intact. The shooting scene investigation confirms that prior to striking Chandler, the bullet fragmented as it traveled through the back window of the patrol car, which accounted for the two separate wounds to Chandler's face and neck.

There were 4 civilian witnesses that were interviewed in reference to the shooting incident. The witness interviews were all consistent and corroborated the in-car camera footage and the shooting scene investigation.

Toxicology results showed that William Chandler had THC, amphetamine, and methamphetamine in his system.

His blood alcohol content was .036.

DCI conducted a criminal history check on William Chandler. The criminal history reveals convictions for Aggravated Eluding, DUI, Simple Assault, Obstruction of a Police Officer, Petty Theft, and Impersonation to Deceive Law Enforcement.

Investigation Results

It is the conclusion of this report and the Attorney General that Trooper Mike Bock was justified in firing his weapon and using lethal force.

The crime scene investigation conducted by DCI is consistent with statements received from the Troopers who were on scene, witness statements and the in-car video. After being arrested, William Chandler escaped, stole a Highway Patrol vehicle and while eluding law enforcement, put Trooper Bock in a life threatening position.

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory confirmed in firearms testing that the spent casing found at the scene came from Trooper Bock's handgun.

DCI attempted to interview Chandler, but he refused to talk. He is facing several charges in Pennington County.