

INTERVIEW WITH OFC. MAURICIO CALDERON

Q=Det. Daniel Kohli

Q1=Det. Ruben Esparza

A=Ofc. Mauricio Calderon

A1=Mr. (Salia)

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14 Q: So we're back with - back to the interview. It is, uh, 1:36 and we're still here
15 with Officer Calderon. Detective Esparza, myself, and your attorney.

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17 Q1: (Unintelligible). How do you say your last name?

18
19 A1: (Selyem).

20
21 Q1: (Selyem). Gotcha.

22
23 Q: Officer Calderon, I have a few more follow-up questions. Um, I wanted to
24 know about the - your rifle. Is that a personally owned or a department issued?
25

26 A: Department issued.

27
28 Q: Okay. And, did you load that rifle, the magazines, the day of the incident?
29

30 A: No. Like I said, it was, uh - every shift, we have to check 'em out, um, to
31 make sure that the shift before you didn't use it in any critical incident
32 beforehand. Um, and like I said, is - I normally do that. In this incident, I did
33 not do that and, uh, only because what I explained is the officer was leaving,
34 um, nothing was mentioned on - in the watch, um, that they would've used
35 that rifle...

36
37 Q1: Mm-hm.

38
39 A: ...for any significant, um, incident. Um, and even if it had been used, the
40 officer before me which would've been Officer (Molina) 'cause we share cars,
41 uh, would've unloaded the, uh - or he should've unloaded the, uh - the rifle.
42 'Cause that's normal - normal practice. Whenever you use a weapon, and
43 you're done with that incident, you automatically render the, um - the weapon
44 safe. But to answer your question is that, uh, no I did not check it because
45 that's what I mentioned. I hadn't - I didn't have time because the officer was

46 leaving. I would've, that was my intent, but on this case no.

47
48 Q1: Can - can - like, I'm not familiar with your department's, uh, policies and,
49 like, procedure in, like, how you do it. I mean, every agency has their own
50 way of - like, when you check out, like, do you go to the armory to - to get the
51 firearm?

52
53 A: No. Uh, again these - these, uh, weapons are already in the vehicle. So what
54 happens is when you leave briefing, uh, you walk downstairs, you go to the
55 watch commander's office. There's a board, uh, in the watch commander's
56 office. you sign out, uh - you sign your name to the vehicle that's, uh - that
57 you're gonna be using that night. Uh, the unit I always get is Unit 22 which is
58 one of the newer cars. Again, I usually share that one with the day shift person
59 which is Officer (Molina). I also get a, uh, mike, uh, that we use for our
60 watchguard, which I also checked out on that day. Um, when I went out there
61 I grabbed a - again I grabbed the, uh, sanitizing wipes, and I put on some
62 gloves. I put my gear in the car, I, uh, started wiping it down. The call came
63 out, and by the time I was wipin' it down, uh, I think I was - by the time I was,
64 um, either checking out my car or whatever I think Officer (Carrillo) had
65 already beat me down and - 'cause I know that he was already - or I'm
66 assuming he was already done wipin' down his car 'cause I remember seein'
67 him already, uh, checking out his rifle. He had already check it out 'cause I
68 remember him puttin' it back already in the, uh - in his vehicle.

69
70 Q: Okay.

71
72 A: And then when he closed his door, that's when I remember hearing the call
73 but then I looked and I didn't see any other cars going with him out the gate.
74 So then that's when I'm thinkin' well, I obviously haven't turned on my
75 computer system. I haven't synced my mic into the computer system either,
76 nor have I checked my rifle. But then again, here I have an officer that's
77 leaving the station, with the man with a gun call.

78
79 Q: Mm-hm.

80
81 A: So, I - I - again I - I've been in this business long enough that I don't think
82 that's safe for an officer to do that. And again, I don't know why Officer
83 (Carrillo) even did that but he did and what's done is done. So, I wasn't
84 comfortable allowing him to leave - uh, go out in the field to handle a call by
85 himself so I did leave without checking my rifle, yes.

86
87 Q1: Um, so - so you - do you know how many - how many rounds were - were in
88 the magazine? What - do you - would you have a way to know how many
89 rounds were in the magazine when you left your - your, uh - the back parking
90 lot?

91
92 A: No, because I haven't checked it.
93
94 Q1: Okay.
95
96 A: No.
97
98 Q1: And, um, you - you touched on that there - that you had a briefing topic that -
99 that - that evening, um, before you guys went on this call about a person with
100 an edged weapon and who - how to handle that call?
101
102 A: Yeah - well, uh, yeah. It was just - well one of 'em was because we watched
103 different videos. But one of 'em was on - on edged weapons yes. And it
104 wasn't so much - it was when to fire and when not to fire. Um, for example is
105 - if the person is charging at you, when - when do you wait to make the - the
106 choice to fire or not fire, um, state of mind. Uh - um, fear. We talked about all
107 that. Uh, the imminent danger. Uh, what is it - what - we talk about all that
108 stuff in briefing.
109
110 Q1: Okay. So it's like, a - like, a video briefing that you guys were doin'? Like...
111
112 A: Yeah. There's different, uh - that we - that we use. I forget which one, uh - uh,
113 that, uh, Corporal (White) was using. Usually it depends on the watch
114 commander which ones they use. Um, they usually will use, like, since they
115 come on Policeone. I think the other one is, uh - let me - Police Leak? Is
116 another one that they use. So it just depends. Sometimes they find 'em even
117 on YouTube I guess. Um - uh, and they just kind of, uh, will go through it and
118 then you just kinda critique, and then we'll go over different, uh, tactics that
119 either - I mean, we don't - we don't criticize the officers per se - what they
120 did, but we try to, um, learn from it. Um, I guess learn from their mistakes.
121 And then, we say well on this thing here, this is somethin' that they might
122 have reconsidered, uh, doing differently and it might have avoided doing this.
123 Sometimes some of these incidents that are, uh, captured on video, are things
124 that officers could've prevented, and that's something that we look forward to
125 in our briefings/trainings, uh, to prevent ourselves from doing when we're
126 actually in the field.
127
128 Q1: So - so this day, one of those videos was on how to deal with a subject with a -
129 with an edged weapon?
130
131 A: Yes.
132
133 Q1: Okay. And, as that - during that briefing, uh, did you guys talk about how you
134 guys would handle a - a situation like that?
135

136 A: Well, we always talk - yes. On that one, yes. Specifically yes. Is, uh - on one
137 of those, it was, um - they did have where they actually had a subject that had
138 been shot, but the officers are standin' around, did not render any - any aid to
139 the person which didn't make any sense.

141 Q1: Mm-hm.

143 A: Um, and - and - and they were actually not doing anything - not - just - not
144 just rendering aid but they were not doin' anything to make sure that, uh, the
145 subject was still not armed with any other weapons.

147 Q1: Mm-hm.

149 A: And they were just kind of assuming the subject's done or down, and now
150 everything's safe. Well not really. I mean, you still have to go through the
151 motions. Somebody - somebody should cover the subject, they still need to do
152 a pat-down search. Ya know, to secure whatever weapon he might've had,
153 that he's not able to reach it. I mean, if - if he's got one weapon and then
154 weapons within close proximity what's to say he doesn't have a second
155 weapon on him. So, well that's just things that we still need to go through and
156 - and that's why it - when - when we were out there on this incident, it kinda
157 took us a while, um, to do everything because we were kinda going through,
158 uh, the scenario that we actually, uh, had talked about previously. We were
159 lining people up, we were discussing who needs to do what. Uh, we were
160 covering - keeping, uh, cover on the subject. We were having AMR stage. We
161 were doing everything by the numbers. We weren't just kind of, um, shootin'
162 in the dark I guess. I mean, everything was going based on what we had
163 discussed previously.

165 Q1: Okay. Thank you. Do you have anything?

167 A1: I don't - I don't have anything more.

169 Q: Okay. Uh, that's - that's all the...

171 A: Okay.

173 Q: ...questions we have for you.

175 Q1: Is there anything you guys need to clarify...

177 A: No.

179 Q1: ...or anything you need to...

180

181 A: No, I think that's all.

182

183 Q1: Okay.

184

185 Q: Anything you wanna add?

186

187 A: No. No, sir.

188

189 Q: Okay. (Unintelligible). We'll be, uh - uh, terminating the interview at this
190 point. Thank you.

191

192

193 The transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
194 transcription.

195 Signed  # 3933
