

1 CE Ah, days.

2 DI Days.

3 CE Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

4 DI Five.

5 CE And you remember approximate dates?

6 DI Ah, September 3rd, 4th, ah, Labor Day weekend. Sunday and Monday 'cause it

7 was raining Saturday so heavily... Ah, and the following weekend. I guess it

8 would be the 7th and 8th, both days.

9 CE Okay.

10 DI And occasionally during the week, time you know twenty minutes here, twenty

11 minutes there that kind of thing.

12 CE And you're a dog handler?

13 DI Yes.

14 CE And it's a cadaver dog?

15 DI Yes.

16 CE Okay. And you're... you've received training in that and you're...

17 DI Yes the dog is a Nasser ah, HRD.. well they're human remains detection certified

18 dog.

19 CE Okay. Let's go through the, the incident or the search on you said Labor Day?

20 DI Yes sir.

21 CE Okay. Tell me about that. Who's your.. who was your team leader that day?

22 DI Ah, I was one of the. I was called ah, Joe Jordan was another one. Ah, I was

23 called to the area of Suburban Drive to investigate a cooler that was found by...

24 CE Who.. who...

25 DI ...Mr. Jordan.

1 CE Mr. Jordan called?

2 DI Yes.

3 CE Okay.

4 DI And ah, to investigate it. Um, I was back at Command and got a phone call and
5 was told to go out there and check it so I did. And um, upon seeing the cooler
6 going down, crack the cooler, quickly concluded the cooler had one oyster shell
7 in it.

8 SA (Cough)

9 CE Did your dog deploy at that time?

10 DI No the dog was sleeping in the back of the car. He was rehabilitating.

11 CE Okay. And describe that area to me.

12 DI Ah, very marshy ah, wet it was definitely flooded, it was ankle deep where I
13 flood.. where I stepped into the ah, even look at the cooler. And that was ten,
14 fifteen feet in the woods. Ah...

15 CE Now this when ... where was this in regards to that, that wooden privacy fence?
16 You said, you stated when I first was talking to you, that it was near a concrete
17 telephone pole.

18 DI There's a concrete utility light pole there.

19 CE Okay.

20 DI It's probably guessing the approximate area just guessing probably thirty years.
21 But it was flooded.

22 CE Okay. And you went in there on foot?

23 DI Yes.

24 CE And you were standing in water?

25 DI Yes.

1 SA Were you closer to the school or were you closer to the ah, to Suburban and
2 Hope Spring?
3 DI Suburban, Hope Spring.
4 SA Okay.
5 DI Yes.
6 CE So, more towards the fence?
7 DI Yes.
8 CE The privacy fence?
9 DI Yes.
10 CE Okay. So, the... just so we, we're kind of familiar now with the area. Ah, the
11 concrete telephone pole or service pole that you're describing.
12 DI Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
13 CE Is that, there was a much larger one down towards the school. And then there
14 was one that was kind of close to that privacy fence. Is that the pole that you're
15 talking about?
16 DI No it was the next one down.
17 CE Okay.
18 DI There was a cooler and there was also a baby blanket.
19 CE Baby blanket?
20 DI Yeah it was.. aged had been there for a long, long, long time. Like it, it looked
21 like a boy's blanket and it was um.. it had been there in my estimation several
22 years.
23 CE Okay.
24 DI It was decayed to the point of there was nothing left.
25 CE Can you describe it?

1 DI Ah, top of my head it maybe in that 214 that was filed.
2 CE Okay.
3 DI Ah...
4 CE Joe Jordan's 214?
5 DI Joe Jordan's 214.
6 CE Okay so, if you're acting team leader went over there that day you wouldn't even
7 know about Joe Jordan?
8 DI I was brought in as a verification to check this 'cause he didn't know what to do
9 with it.
10 CE Okay. Now, when you arrived there and you were asked to look at that cooler
11 can you remember any other individuals there other then Joe Jordan?
12 DI At that time, no.
13 CE Just Joe?
14 DI Me and Joe.
15 CE Okay. And was he, did you observe any kind of coordinated effort, people on line
16 search that area or down in that water searching? Was there, was there masses
17 of people or even a few people for that matter. Searching in that area?
18 DI When we first checked the cooler no, but then on the way back out was stopped
19 they were standing around. Um, standing around (Inaudible)...
20 CE On the roadway?
21 DI On the roadway.
22 CE Okay.
23 DI I did not see anyone searching that area, no.
24 CE Okay. Would it have practical to make such an attempt?
25 DI No.

1 CE And you.. okay now you said you were... is that the only time that you, knowing
2 that that's where the recovery was or somewhere in that...
3 DI Right.
4 CE ... general vicinity. How many times did you yourself search that area?
5 DI That one. That one time.
6 CE Just that one time?
7 DI Yeah.
8 CE And have you ever deployed a K-9 dog there in that area?
9 DI No.
10 CE Okay. Now being a team leader.
11 DI Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
12 CE Can you describe the forms that you were responsible for filling out for Texas
13 EquuSearch?
14 DI Sure. Um, Tim Miller was using Texas EquuSearch, was using a standard ISC
15 214, which is the team leader form. Lists of who was searching ah, names,
16 phone numbers, contact, what radio channel you're on, weather hazards
17 conditions. Um, what you saw where you searched. Your attached map of the
18 area you're suppose to search. And upon concluding the search of the area the
19 team leader's to fill out the form based on what he talk.. talks to the team. Or
20 what you POD your probability of detection is in that area. They assign a
21 number based on if it's heavily wooded, based on vegetation heat. There's ten
22 different factors actually. Um, the layman hasn't had any training wouldn't know
23 what to do with that, so they're guessing. That's just a fact it would just be
24 common sense of okay I think the ability to detect is ten percent of this area.
25

1 'Cause it's a solid wall of weeds or trees we can't get in there. If it's
2 unsearchable your POD is zero. Can't search.

3 CE What was the POD at that location where the cooler was? Out of curiosity what
4 would you say looking at ...

5 DI Walking right.. if we deployed forces in there walked around the POD in there
6 would probably be eighty percent plus. But it was heavily flooded.

7 CE Okay.

8 DI This is the weekend immediately after Hurricane Faye.

9 CE Okay.

10 DI There is no doubt there was lots of water in there. And the deeper the... I
11 noticed when I went in. The further I went in.. 'cause I was complaining to him
12 that I was getting all wet going back in there again that day. It was ankle deep at
13 least where I was. And it looked like it got deeper as it went back. 'Cause there
14 was Cyprus knees it looked like there was a lot of standing water back there.

15 CE Okay. So, these forms they give you guys forms?

16 DI Yes.

17 CE And it's been explained to me that there was a short period of time you could
18 actually download those forms from the internet from the website?

19 DI Yeah they're on... everywhere. They're on..

20 CE The..

21 DI ...every... you go to the Instant Command Structure on FEMA website you can
22 download 'em.

23 CE The Texas EquuSearch form?

24 DI It's... he uses, he uses a standardized form like every search uses in the country.

25 CE So, it's not (Inaudible)..

1 DI Nothing special that to my knowledge his form looked like any other ICS 214 I've
2 ever seen.

3 CE Standard.

4 DI Yes. The Instant Command Structure 214. It's just a form.

5 CE And his didn't have ah, that you recall certain letterhead or something like that?

6 DI He may have stuck his...

7 CE Okay.

8 DI It's very possible he may have had his letterhead on there I don't know.

9 CE Now as a team leader did you pick those up in the morning and then fill out who
10 was gonna be on your team? Or was that done for you?

11 DI Um, no we usually filled out, basically they come out of the trailer and say we got
12 the following area, check this, check this. They hand 'em out to the team leaders
13 with attached maps. We go alright find gather your team up ten...

14 SA (cough)

15 DI ...twenty people. You go gather them up, everybody writes down their names,
16 phone numbers, contact information. It's also the safety checks so when they're
17 out there they're not um, you don't leave anybody behind. (chuckle) Um, it's
18 also for safety and other things if somebody gets hurt you know you're dealing
19 with. Um, the 214 is real standard everyone uses it.

20 CE So, you go out, you find suspicious things. You might flag 'em.

21 DI Correct.

22 CE For someone with additional training...

23 DI correct.

24 CE ...to come in.

25 DI Correct.

1 CE Um, and then you go back at the end of that search and my understanding is
2 there's a debrief of some sort.

3 DI Correct.

4 CE Okay. How does that normally go?

5 DI Um, normally you'd walk in the.. crew leader's the only one that debriefs. The
6 team goes back rehabs relaxes. In this circumstance we went into the ah, into
7 their rented trailer that they had. Ah the rented school room, the portable trailer.
8 Portable unit. And there was ah, I was debriefing with I believe the guy's name
9 was Doug, was doing the debriefs. And he reviewed the form, he'd talk, he'd ask
10 questions of what you thought. Do you think this area needs to be re-searched.
11 Is there anything of significance you picked up in that area. Well yes we saw
12 this, this and this it needs to be checked again. Ah, he makes said notes then
13 he's suppose to turn 'em back into higher up the food chain and they re-task
14 somebody else back out there.

15 CE You know Doug's last name?

16 DI No.

17 SA What does he look like?

18 DI He was one of the mapping guys. Ah, he came with Tim, from Texas. Um,
19 balding, probably late forties, glasses. That's about how I remember him. His
20 name would be on the debrief form 'cause he was signing 'em. He was at the...
21 when you're done you sign the form, he signs the form. (Inaudible)...

22 CE Were you at the debrief when Joe Jordan debriefed that cooler incident? Were
23 you there at the same time?

24 DI No.

25

1 CE Okay. I've seen that form so I know that all that, everything you're bringing up
2 there for the most part's mentioned on Joe's. He seems to be very ah, through.
3 DI Yes, he was. In fact he had... one thing I did notice about him, he did keep
4 explicit notes.
5 CE Okay.
6 DI Much more then even I've seen trained people keep. He's a little excessive
7 actually he had stuff in there he didn't need. But he had it in there.
8 CE Okay. Um, well we've covered the search, the dog, the paperwork
9 responsibilities, this form. You can go type FEMA web site and pull it up.
10 SA Did you have any conversation you and Joe ever have any conversation about
11 looking the conditions out there on ah, Suburban Drive?
12 DI Yes.
13 SA What.. tell me about the conversations you had.
14 DI Um, I do remember vividly that ah, I asked him if they searched back in here and
15 he said no 'cause it was flooded.
16 SA Okay.
17 DI It was heavily... The likelihood of detecting anything with the amount of water
18 back there would've been done more harm then good.
19 SA Right. Did you guy get any instructions from ah, EquuSearch as to what to do in
20 areas where it was flooded? Did they ever talk to you, ever say anything to you,
21 if it's flooded don't search because, and give you any reasons? Or did they or
22 was that ever..
23 DI Um, these.. the comment we.. that was used was just use your, use common
24 sense.
25 SA Okay.

1 DI Don't endanger yourself.

2 SA Okay.

3 DI Was the standard rule.

4 CE As, as a dog handler with your training. And this is just an opinion I guess I'm
5 asking 'cause I'm not a dog handler.

6 DI Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7 CE Being a cadaver dog handler.

8 DI Yes sir.

9 CE If, if in fact um, you're dealing with a water level and a body.

10 DI Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

11 CE What, what obstacles do you run into there?

12 DI Um, cadaver's all about environmental. An, A, how long has it been. B, water...
13 my cadaver dog will.. it not water certified. Okay let me be clear on that. He's
14 land certified. But submerged in water however deep I don't care if it's six inches
15 or what the dog will show some reaction. Water or moisture actually magnifies
16 the dogs' ability to smell even more.

17 CE Okay.

18 DI Water does magnifies the scent. So, if it's been wet, it's a real wet environment
19 the scent's gonna be all over the place. Um, if... I mean this is you know take it
20 for what it is as far as, it just.. and this is my opinion. If something was in a bag
21 under the water. Um, age or no age, bone or not it doesn't matter what it...
22 unless it was really recent as in like the next... the last couple weeks. The dog's
23 behavior's gonna be mild. Dog's just won't walk in just 'cause there's a body in
24 there and it's been there for three months and just throw an alert. It's not quite
25

1 that simple. You have... as a handler you got to sit back and evaluate the dog
2 and go, hm, he's acting weird.

3 CE Hm.

4 DI I wonder what's going on this area? Alright, my dog's alert is to sit. My dog
5 won't sit in water. He doesn't like it.

6 CE Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7 DI Well, some other dogs go berserk they bark and scream and run around in
8 circles. It's just the way it all based on the A, how the dog's trained and B, what
9 he's trained for. Water is an obstacle. Vegetation is an obstacle. Um, I mean it
10 is...

11 CE So, even if you had pulled your dog from your car that day.

12 DI Yeah.

13 CE You would've had all kinds of obstacles to overcome most likely?

14 DI For the dog?

15 CE Yeah.

16 DI Maybe, yeah.

17 CE Okay.

18 DI It's.. that's my opinion yes.

19 CE My attempt to educate myself on what it is you do.

20 DI Correct.

21 CE That's all.

22 DI Correct.

23 CE Okay. Can you think of anything else?

24 SA Did you ever meet a woman at any of these searches name Laura Buchanan?

25 DI To my recollection, no.

1 SA You ever ah, do you ever remember meeting a woman at any, any of these
2 searches that claim to be a ah, prior law enforcement officer from Kentucky?

3 DI To my recollection, no. I'd know the face if I saw it though.

4 SA Okay.

5 CE Okay. Well we're attempting to get that so, if we're successful with that we'll
6 reach back out to you.

7 DI Absolutely.

8 CE Yeah. Raise your right hand for me. You swear everything you've said today is
9 true?

10 DI Yes.


11 CE Thank you for your time. It's currently 10:02 a.m. Same individuals in the room
12 conclusion of the interview.

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19

20 **THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT**

21 **of the interview which was sworn before me.**

22 Signed this 22 day of January, 2010.

23 
24 _____
25 **CORPORAL ERIC EDWARDS , OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**