

1 TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF RICHARD MICHAEL CREQUE

2 CASE NUMBER 08-74777

3 CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL ERIC EDWARDS

4 RECORDED ON DECEMBER 10, 2009

5 CE – CORPORAL ERIC EDWARDS

6 SA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN

7 RC – RICHARD CREQUE

8
9 It is currently... what's today's date? Twelve/10/2009, it's 11:48 a.m. Corporal
10 Eric Edwards, Orange County Sheriff's Office, sitting in a room with.. (Sergeant
11 John Allen), and... Richard Michael Creque.

12 CE Alright sir. Richard will you raise your right hand for me? You swear the
13 information that you give today is going to be the true?

14 RC I do.

15 CE Okay thank you. Richard ah, I.. your name has come to my attention
16 Through several other interviews that I've done. And I wanted to reach
17 Out to you. It's my understanding that you assisted Texas EquuSearch
18 As well as being part of some independent searches during the Caylee
19 Anthony ah, investigation is that correct?

20 RC I was yes.

21 CE Okay. How... knowing now what you know about where the recovery
22 Was made um, have you yourself ever been a part of any coordinated
23 Searches in that area prior to the recovery?
24

25 RC Yes.

1 CE In the Suburban Drive area?

2 RC Yes.

3 CE Okay. Do you remember when?

4 RC Ah, around September 5th and 6th.

5 CE Okay. Did you act as a team leader...

6 RC I was, I was a team leader.

7 CE Did you fill out Texas EquuSearch forms?

8 RC I did.

9 CE Okay, so you filled out forms for that..

10 RC I was briefed and debriefed.

11 CE Okay. Who did your brief and debrief?

12 RC Ah, I couldn't tell you this kid can't remember his last name. I know Doug an

13 Older gentleman.

14 CE Where was he from?

15 RC He, he was part of they corp.. corp...

16 CE Texas EquuSearch,

17 RC Texas EquuSearch..

18 CE Okay.

19 RC ...EquuSearch. We were ah, matter of fact ah, this is when they right when

20 They arrived they were still at the Holiday Inn Express parking lot. And that's

21 Where we were dispatched out of and..

22 CE From...

23 RC (Inaudible)...

24

25

1 CE ...there?
2 RC Yeah.
3 CE Okay.
4 RC So, it was during that time.
5 CE Do you remember who was on your team when you guys went down there
6 That.. during that time frame
7
8 RC I had um...
9 CE Numerous teams.
10 RC ...numerous teams.
11 CE Okay. Alright. But they would have that paperwork or you, you gave them
12 That paperwork?
13 RC Um, they would assign the paperwork along with a maps.
14 CE Okay.
15 RC And they would brief you on the map area and ah, how many people that
16 You would need so according to that you would get that many applications.
17 So, if you needed fifty so you'd have two team leaders, fifty people, twenty-
18 Five assigned to each. But you have to keep track of everyone you had and
19 Areas you search the time you got there. Um, areas of ah, interest.
20
21 CE Okay.
22 RC Ah, they were marked on the map, which I did of areas of interest of concern.
23 That need to be returned to and etc.
24 CE So, on September 5th and or 6th you were briefed to go down to Suburban with
25 Your..

1 RC I..
2 CE ... team?
3 RC ..I was.. matter of fact I had lead enough.. I been in.. I was leading I..
4 Had multiple teams inn one day, like fifteen different areas. And they knew I
5 Was dedicated. They came to me with a map and ah, it was.. they pulled me
6 Aside they said you have to be really discrete here. Because the family is
7 Just on the other side of this area and we don't need a whole bunch of noise
8 And ruckus and attention brought . And then they showed me my route in.
9
10 SA Uh-huh. (affirmative)..
11 RC By the school instead of coming around the backside where the little retention
12 pond is. 'Cause they didn't want them.. upset the neighbors and they weren't
13 sure about the fencing and all that. So, we came along the back of Suburban
14 Drive. Um...
15 CE And this was Doug that have you this...
16 RC (Inaudible)... Doug um, Mandy and ah, this one other... Trying to remember
17 His name.
18 CE Shawn?
19 RC No, Shawn wasn't.. Shawn.. Shawn came in during this last thing.
20
21 CE Okay.
22 RC And they had a little go out there so he didn't...
23 CE But Doug, Many and third person..
24 RC Yeah there was one other.. others that just flew in from Texas. It was
25 another Texas corp member. Ah, I can't even... Dave? It might've Dave.

1 CE White male?

2 RC Yeah tall, white male.

3 CE Okay. So, you get a piece of paper with a map?

4 RC Uh-huh. (affirmative)..

5 CE And you took how many people do you remember?

6 RC I believe I had fifteen that day.

7 CE But none of those names come off the top of your head who they were?

8 RC No, no sir.

9 CE Alright. Tell me about when you got in there area there what happened?

10 RC Ah, we got in the area, we ah, noticed some um, a lot of debris from

11 Looked like local dump site where people were just backing up and dumping

12 Old furniture and stuff.

13 CE This was where exactly?

14 RC Ah, right there at the dead end of ah, Suburban by the elementary school.

15 That was an open access, the gates were open then. So, we went in

16 Through there.

17 CE Okay.

18 RC Ah, we followed the main path and so, that was heading back I guess south

19 west something like that I guess. And we head, we're heading back and ah,

20 in a line pattern and we started tightening in 'cause it started to narrow. And

21 we went in you know looked at top cover just lifted around the ah,

22 debris but we kept on searching.

23 CE This is down by the school?

24

25

1 RC Yes sir.

2 CE Okay. At anytime during that search did you guys head back up to where
3 Back up Suburban Drive over..

4 RC Yeah, well after we.. we cleared, pretty well cleared that area we got to the
5 Point where there, there was a, it was a flood state so we couldn't go
6 Any further that way. I had.. everybody turned and we started walking back
7 Toward up into the woods. Um, along.. there's barbwire, it was
8 Knocked down you could see there's barb.. little barbwire fence that
9 Used to be maybe ah, two or three feet high, but it was laid down. Ah,
10 We were going along that and we had ah, different areas of where the
11 water was running through. And ah, we were walking through there
12 and then all the people I had couldn't go any further. I mean It started getting
13 deep. We had that that storm and I believe we had the runoff from the retention
14 pond that came in there. And ah, once it got up to past our ankles. I told 'em to
15 come out. We were instructed once we, we got into deep water pull out. Don't
16 go in, don't bring any machinery. If we had four wheelers don't put 'em in,
17 horses or anything. If there's anything under the water we don't want it
18 disturbed. So..

19
20
21 CE So, that area was under water?

22 RC That area was saturated.

23 CE Okay. Um, how far down Suburban did you get before you called it, do you
24 Remember was it before the Apex or just after or was it.. did you get as far
25 As the wood fence?

1 RC We got.. well the wood... How we. well, we got there um, it started to turn.
2 CFE Uh-huh. (affirmative)..
3 RC Made that turn and once it made that turn it had a little slope going down.
4 And that's where it was.. we couldn't go any further.
5 CE Okay.
6 RC I wouldn't let anybody go any further.
7 SA Okay.
8 CE Okay. Um, now that's the first time.. that's the time you were dispatched
9 By Texas EquuSearch. You said..
10 RC Uh-huh. (affirmative)..
11 CE ...that you were a part of additional searches while they were in town?
12 RC Um, you know it's just like um, I don't like telling people a bunch of stuff.
13 I mean like a lot of.. a lot of knew my background anyway. Brett, and he
14 Trusted me and I said there's just something about that. He was with me
15 And ah, I had got a whiff of something. That wasn't.. that didn't belong there.
16 Um, I'm not saying I'm like.. talking... I know decomp, I know the smell
17 Of decomp. I worked with the medical examiner's office doing their um,
18 Removals. Homicides, ah, decomp...
19 CE Natural..
20 RC All naturals, or down to mid summer three weeks later type of things. Where
21 You put on the rubber boots and all and black water. So, it's like ahhh, I'm
22 Really familiar with that smell. I work for a mortuary right now so it's..
23 Pretty still fresh. But it's .. I got something and it was like, he looked at

1 Me and called, he.. he has a nickname I'm.. I'm their like cadaver dog.
2 'Cause it's like I'm looking and I'm like... He's like you smell that? And
3 I said, yep. It's , it's a animal and right there is a deer carcass.
4 SA Uh-huh. (affirmative)..
5 RC (laugh) But this, this one point I stopped you know and it's like just one
6 Of those things and I looked at him and he looked at me and he says, I
7 Smell it, I said...
8 CE When was that?
9 RC Ahhh, I believe that was the 6th, because we, I took my wife, she wanted.. all
10 She wanted.. September 5th was her birthday. And all she wanted to do is go
11 On the search.
12 SA Uh-huh. (affirmative)..
13 RC Want nothing else to do with anything else. Um, and I took Brett and right
14 After that and he was with me, he wanted to be a team leader and...
15 SA Right.
16 RC ...help more. But there was.
17 CE And that's the Brett that was down in the lobby there?
18 RC Yes sir.
19 CE And that you guys were walking... where were you walking when you say you
20 Picked up that...
21 RC We were walking toward, back toward our vehicles.
22 CE Where?
23 RC We were coming back up from...

1 CE On Suburban?

2 RC Yeah. Right off of there. That is the only place and I... My wife, it's like

3 Dreams I've had I mean that place is the only place I said needed to be looked.

4 SA Huh.

5 RC I.. I put, matter of fact on my search I, I had the map. I said.. I, I...

6 SA Uh-huh. (affirmative)..

7 RC ...crossed out where we searched and the pattern with little arrows.

8 CE Right.

9 RC So, we.. and then I put the dead end where we stopped. But when I got that

10 Scent it's like I marked it and I circled it of key interest. (Inaudible)...

11 Needs to go back. (Inaudible)...

12 CE On September 6th?

13 RC Yeah, needs to be re-looked at.

14 SA Okay.

15 CE And that's in your EquuSearch paperwork (Inaudible)...

16 RC That's on everything.

17 CE Okay, so it would be on the map that...

18 RC It would be on...

19 CE ... you smelled that..

20 RC Yeah.

21 CE ...you detected an odor?

22 RC And it..

23 CE Who did you provide your debrief to that day?

1 RC That would be, would've been Doug. He was doing the debriefs then.
2 Even then he... after all the training I've done and everything it's...
3 Like, I didn't think it would.. it just hit me that it had to be you know.
4 SA Yeah.
5 RC There's something there need to be looked at and it's so close.
6 CE September 6th.
7 RC And my wife had knee surgery and destroyed her knee. So...
8 CE Oh.
9 RC ...she really couldn't go in there.
10 CE Right.
11 RC And...
12 CE Okay. Do you recognize the name Laura Buchanan?
13 RC I couldn't.. It's like I told him I can't really say the name. I mean I
14 Did have somebody of law enforcement about five two, shoulder
15 Length brown.. brownish hair and a real, real hyper.. she was really
16 Hyper she wanted to get into everything. She started taking control
17 To the team and they started getting resentment so, I said I had to
18 Calm her down (Inaudible)...
19 CE What ate was that?
20 RC Ah, that was ah, nope it had to be the same time because that's when
21 Mandy came out to me and said she had complains from the other
22 Searchers about this. And she...
23 SA About what?

1 RC About Laura taking control and trying to take 'em this way and that
2 Way and this way and that way.
3 CE And that was her name Laura?
4 RC Ah, well I shouldn't even said that I really can't...
5 SA Yeah..
6 CE Okay.
7 RC But she um, Mandy and, they put me with her.
8 CE So, you would know her again if you saw a picture of her? You think?
9 RC I think so.
10 CE Okay. Where..
11 SA Do you know where she was from?
12 RC No there were people from all over...
13 SA Okay.
14 RC ...the place
15 SA Do you know was she from here locally or was she from out of town?
16 RC She wasn't local because I remember her saying that you know she's only
17 Here for a little time and she had to get back home. So, I, I took it she...
18 SA Did she ever, do you ever remember her saying hat she was a law
19 Enforcement officer or anything like that?
20 RC She may have told that to corp and then they re, re.. told me.
21 SA But you don't recall her...
22 RC I don't...
23 SA ...saying she...

1 RC Not out of her mouth.

2 SA Okay.

3 RC 'Cause ah, matter of fact that was the first.. that was the first time any of
4 Them have ever asked me to take some.. this person other then media to
5 Throw them off. The last time I did that we found where the dog fighting
6 Guys were dumping all these body.. these dog carcasses ...

7 CE Really.

8 RC ...up there on ah, Dean Road. (laugh)

9 CE Let me, let me ah...

10 RC I mean had found like forty of 'em scattered...

11 SA Did you ever meet anybody, did you ever, ever meet anybody or turn
12 Paperwork into somebody name Brad Dennis?

13 RC I don't remember Brad.

14 SA okay.

15 CE Out of all the times you went down there to the area . Be it with Texas
16 EquuSearch or not Texas EquuSearch. Was there ever, well now you
17 Know where we found her. Was there ever, did you ever observe
18 K-9's being deployed in that area?

19 RC No.

20 CE Did you ever..

21 RC I requested those for next search.

22 CE You did?

23 RC Yes sir.

24

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1 CE But it, at that point it hadn't been done?

2 RC No sir.

3 CE Okay. And did you ever coordinate or witness an online search through that

4 Area?

5 RC That back area?

6 CE Yeah.

7 RC No sir I didn't. From what I understood... nobody else after that had gone

8 There um and well wait. I believe Tim Miller took a few back up

9 There. And I believe they got the three wheeler stuck in there a well.

10 They couldn't go in because they, they hit the water and they got the three

11 Wheeler stuck. They had to get...

12 CE Is that down towards the school?

13 RC Yeah. Right in that area. See right where, when they found her. Right there

14 That's where my personal van I had parked it. But I didn't... there was no

15 Odor there. And it was further down that you got, it came it was so.. Here's

16 The street, she's found here, we're over here in that little apex bend here.

17 And it's right in here where it was coming across and it... and that's when I

18 Looked at Brett and then we got closer then we lost it. That was, if you went

19 Went back the way the wind was blowing.. it was coming from inside that

20 Area. And that's why I marked it on my map off of where, where we stopped

21 I put a block of stuff and I put the arrows of the area that still needed to

22

23

24 SA Uh-huh. (affirmative)..

25 RCbe gone over that we couldn't approach.

1 CE Did ah, at that point in time could you still see water in that area?
2 RC Oh yeah it was right on the top and this... Yeah you could still see the
3 Snakes on the top. (laugh)
4 CE No motivation to go down in there then?
5 RC Oh I.. a snake don't bother me I got, I had a stick and a machete.
6 SA Hm.
7 CE Okay, but no one went in there?
8 RC No.
9 SA You have anything else?
10 CE Alright an you think of anything else?
11 RC No.
12 CE Can you raise your right hand for me? You swear the information that you
13 Gave today is true?
14 RC I do..
15 CE It's currently 12:04. Same date, same individuals in the room. Thank you sir.
16 RC Thank you.
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THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT

of the interview which was sworn before me.

Signed this 22 day of January, 2009. ¹⁰

Cpl. Eric Edwards 282
CORPORAL ERIC EDWARDS , OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF