



City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Public Safety
Dornat (Wayne) A. Drummond, Interim Chief
FBI NA #230
Division of Police
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Disposition Letter

July 14, 2022

Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237
C/o Fourth District Headquarters
9333 Kinsman Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Re: IU2022-0002

Sergeant Schneider #9237:

This letter is to advise you, Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237, of the result of the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing you attended on March 14, 2022, to address an internal investigation wherein you were alleged to have engaged in improper procedure and/or conduct.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

In part: The Manual of Rules sets forth the conduct and behavior to be followed by officers and employees. Any violation of these rules shall be a basis for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to, verbal and written reprimands and the preferring of divisional charges which can result in suspension, loss of pay, demotion or termination. The rules and standards contained in this manual shall apply whether the officer or employee is on or off duty. Where a conflict exists between a Rule and a General Police Order, the Rule provision shall be adhered to.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification #1: (IU2022-0002) On or about January 5, 2022, you, Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237, did allow the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to bring a live suspected device to the Bomb Squad Unit, in violation of Bomb Squad Standard Operating Procedures, Response to Suspect or Suspicious Items, and Manual of Rules 2.02. (*Group II Violation*)

Specification #2: (IU2022-0002) On or about January 5, 2022, you, Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237, did allow a suspected live device to be stored inside a truck that was parked inside the Bomb Squad Unit prior to being transported to a safe location, in violation of Bomb Squad Standard Operating Procedures, Duties and Responsibilities and Manual of Rules 2.02. (*Group II Violation*)

These specifications are in violation of the rules and procedures of the Division of Police, Department of Public Safety.

RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Bomb Squad Standard Operating Procedures

Manual of Rules for the Conduct and Discipline of Employees of the Cleveland Division of Police: 2.02

HEARING INFORMATION

In attendance at the administrative pre-disciplinary hearing, were you, President James O'Malley, Vice President Daniel Bernath and Attorney Joseph Mando of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #8, Sergeant Dianne Salamon of the Inspection Unit, Commander Brian Carney of the Bureau of Compliance, and Deputy Chief Daniel Fay of Administrative Operations, who presided over the hearing.

During the hearing, you acknowledged receipt of the charge letter; you and your representatives waived the reading of your charge letter and were then afforded the opportunity to be heard. You entered a plea of "Not Guilty" to each specification as set forth in the charge letter. Upon reviewing the evidence presented, the memorialized record, as well as the arguments of you and your representatives, the Hearing Officer recommended that you be issued a "Letter of Reinstruction" for Specification #1 and that Specification #2 be "Dismissed."

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

I have carefully reviewed the evidence incorporated into the record by reference, the memorialized record, including statements made at your hearing, and the applicable Rules, Policies and Procedures. I accept and adopt the recommendation of the Hearing Officer. As the Officer-in-Charge of the Bomb Squad, you should have ensured only training devices are used during training – in this instance a completely empty sealed pipe could have been used. Therefore, I am issuing you this "**Non-disciplinary Letter of Reinstruction**" for **Specification #1**. Please utilize training devices for instructional purposes, with pre- and post-training briefs. This discipline is within the First Group I violation range of the discipline matrix where mitigating factors (*no active discipline, the device was brought by the ATF for ATF lead training, immediately addressed safety concerns*) outweigh aggravating factors (*none*).

Regarding Specification #2 (which should have been dated January 15, 2022): While you did allow a suspected live device to be stored inside a truck that was parked inside the Bomb Squad Unit prior to being transported to a safe location, you were left with no viable alternative. The Cleveland Division of Police's Total Containment Vessel was not available to you, and you had no access to the Ordnance Unit at the time of the incident. You did examine the live device and determine it to be a grenade with missing components (i.e. switch, detonator, power source, explosive load or charge) rendering the device inoperable. You also placed the grenade into a "Frag Bag" which would have mitigated the blast and contained the fragments. As such, I am "**Dismissing**" **Specification #2** and I will address the lack of alternatives that were available to you.

Sergeant Vincent Schneider #9237

July 14, 2022

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Pursuant to the Manual of Rules, you are personally responsible for maintaining a current set of General Police Orders either as a paper copy or in electronic format. Furthermore, your Commanding Officer maintains all Divisional directives, which you are obligated to also know pursuant to the Manual of Rules. Please inform your Commanding Officer, through the chain of command, if you cannot access these policies and protocols. If you have any questions, please contact your immediate supervisor for specific answers about any of the Division's policies and protocols and their application.

This letter is not discipline and should not be regarded as such.

Sincerely,



Dornat A. Drummond
Interim Chief of Police

DAD:bcs:cld

cc: Sammy Morris, Acting Deputy Chief, Field Operations
Daniel Fay, Deputy Chief, Administrative Operations
Harold Pretel, Deputy Chief, Homeland Special Operations
Robert Simon, Acting Commander, Bureau of Compliance
Brandon Kutz, Commander, Fourth District
Mark Maguth, Commander, Bureau of Support Services
Shawn Smith, Lieutenant, Training Section
William Mokshefsky, Sergeant, Personnel Unit
Jeffrey Follmer, President, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association
Melissa Dawson, Sergeant, Officer-in-Charge, Employee Assistance Unit
William Menzalora, Chief Assistant Director of Law
George E. Coulter, Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety
Monique Young, Labor Relations Officer, Department of Human Resources
Michael Spreng, Secretary, Civil Service Commission
Paul Patton, Chief Human Resource Officer
Jason Goodrick, Executive Director, Cleveland Community Police Commission
Hassan Aden, Federal Monitoring Team