

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEW DATE:	July 19, 2016	BCA CASE #:	2016-433
OFFENSE:		EXHIBIT #:	
INTERVIEW OF:	Daniel Steven Wellman (DW)	INTERVIEWED BY:	SA Michael Phill (MP) SA Joseph O'Brien (JO)
REVIEWED BY:			

MP It is 1510 hours on July 19th, 2016. Special Agent Michael Phill along with Special Agent Joe O'Brien at Total Defense Incorporated to interview Mr. Dan, Daniel Steven Wellman. I'm gonna spell that. D-A-N-I-E-L, Steven is common with a V, Wellman is W-E-L-L-M-A-N. Dan's date of birth is 1-13 of 68. Address to contact him is [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Minnesota 55000. Contact phone for Dan'll be [REDACTED]. Dan everything I just read sound correct to you?

DW Yes.

MP Okay. Dan I'm contacting you because of you uh one of the many things you do here at the business is a conduct CCW classes to certify people to carry concealed and is it Minnesota and Florida?

DW Correct.

MP Okay. Um and you've been doing that for how long for Total Defense?

DW Five years.

MP And you do own the company here?

DW Yes I do.

MP What are the other things that Total Defense provides?

DW Uh we're a full service FFL so we do gun sales. Buy, sell, trade. Uh we do guh ss-some gun smithing. Uh we do have a ten lane range, run range as well with room for nine more expansion. Uh we do a self-defense classes not related to firearms. Women's self-defense specific. Uh I'm also certified as a firearms, Minnesota firearms safety uh trainer. We've done one of those. Uh, and obviously we sell (inaudible), we're kind of a retail line of firearms related or, or uh outdoor related uh good, goods as well.

MP Okay. So providing classes is just part of what you do?

DW Correct.

MP How does a, people come across your CCW class? How do they register or sign up?

DW To sign up everything is online via our website.

MP So it's online. Do they uh pay up front?

DW Not, no not necessarily. No, no.

MP Okay so they...

DW Unless it's a groupon I mean it kinda depends, we're also out there with, via groupon. And that is how uh, uh and forgive me it's Allysza uh the sister...

MP Yes.

DW ...and uh and, and Philando actually paid via groupon.

MP They did that together?

DW Uh yes.

MP Okay.

DW Yep.

MP So uh, so bringing your attention to just that we are here to talk about your class you provided for Philando Castile and his sister Allysza. Um do you remember what day that was?

DW It was uh May 2nd of 2015.

MP Okay. And how many hours is that course?

DW Uh we start roughly at 9:00 in the morning. Uh usually it's a little bit earlier, 8:45 and it uh is done by usually 2:30, 3:00 at the very latest.

MP Okay. Of that time how much do you, how do you have it split between classroom and range time?

DW Uh depending on the size of the class I mean the classroom can run from four, four and a half hours, five hours. Usually in that four, four and a half hour range. Uh and then we have a, a and obviously there's a break built into that.

MP Um-hm.

DW And that are a short break but then we also spend with a class of normally 30, 40, 50 people tops uh there's gonna be a, a range session depending on where you fall in the, in the waves if you will it can only take ten at a time.

MP Yeah.

DW Uh another hour or hour and a half.

MP Okay. And the class is a pass/fail?

DW Correct.

MP So is the, there's a, a written component that they must pass?

DW No.

MP Oh so is it just, performance?

DW It's a performance, 85% accuracy on, on the on targets that the, on the shooting portion of the class.

MP Okay. And each student will bring in their own firearm? Or do you provide one?

DW We it, it, it depends yeah, yes and no I mean if they have uh a firearm of their own that they choose to shoot, we encourage that. If not we have rentals available yes.

MP Okay. And you do not keep a record of what firearms people bring in...

DW No.

MP ...of their own?

DW No we do not.

MP Okay. So as far as your records show uh Philando Castile and his sister both passed?

DW Yes.

MP Okay and then with that what do you provide to them as proof that they passed the class?

DW Uh they get a certificate from a certified instructor which we represent Total Defense represents. Uh they're gonna get a certificate that then they take to their County Sheriff...

MP Okay.

DW ...to make the application for a permit to carry.

MP And then as typical in Minnesota it's up to the County Sheriff to do the background checks um the criminal histories all that.

DW Correct they...

MP And they make the decision

DW We teach the class uh as per the MPP, Minnesota Personal Protection act.

MP Okay.

DW They take our certification uh or, or form if you will to their, to their local county sheriff.

MP Um-hm. So just getting a, a the CCW class is just a portion, a part, the first step in actually being able to, by law carry?

DW Correct.

MP Concealed, okay.

DW Correct.

MP Um so bringing to you, you say your power point you have is thirty-four slides.

DW Correct.

MP Approximately?

DW Correct.

MP Uh bringing your attention to one, can you please explain to us what you teach all your students in regards to how to interact with law enforcement to let them know that they are armed?

DW Okay. Uh basically the, the slide is actually entitled "Interacting With Law Enforcement" and once again regardless of which instructor is teaching.

MP Um-hm.

DW That is the, when that tile comes up that is obviously our topic in, during the class.

MP Okay.

DW Uh (inaudible) obviously uh I, I'll read right down the, the list here. The first one is a traffic stop. Uh second one is give both permit and license insurance card to the officer as they approach the vehicle. We're not, in Minnesota you're not required to.

MP Um-hm.

DW Uh let an officer know uh unless asked uh or until prior, prior to being asked. We loo, we look at it as a, a, a that's a little scary. We wouldn't want the gun to be discovered if we had not disclosed that we had gun. We don't, and, and once again during the paper I, I wrote or uh in the while I was interviewed via the AP

MP Um-hm

DW I, I, I we, we do an example in class. We've done that for years. Uh the, rolling down the window and saying I have a gun is not, it, it wasn't intended to be insinuating that or disrespectful to what happened there it, it's we've done that for years to kinda alleviate that,

you know there's no other way to do this other than hand over your permit, with your driver's license. That way the law enforcement officer can then take the direct, the next direction if they choose depending on how they interpret what, which obviously you have a gun or a permit. Is there a gun. And then very, very carefully get the interior light on, car off if safe to do so. Uh be upfront, honest. Keep hands in sight and move slowly and announce your movements. Those are the things that we discuss step by step by step. But initially we start out with present your permit to carry.

- MP Um-hm.
- DW Uh in conjunction with your Minnesota, well, well Minnesota driver's license obviously...
- MP (inaudible)
- DW ...to the officer as they approach or when they re, in you know inquire you to do so provide the documentation.
- MP Okay.
- DW So let them then make the next step or directive.
- MP And for a lot of your uh students that are normal citizens, most of 'em haven't been pulled over before. Don't have interactions with police. Why do you tell them this? Why do you tell them to proceed in this way?
- DW Well as be, because of the uh, the uh, the once again the inverse of not letting 'em know. Of letting 'em know via the permit to carry is a very innocuous way of doing so.
- MP Um-hm.
- DW It's you know they can then you know inquire what, what they can then take you know the next step. Do you have a firearm with you, and we go over this. Most likely the next question is uh yes I do or no I do not. The next question the would be where is the gun currently located. Or firearm currently located in the vehicle. And then take their direction. If it's on your hip, it's in the glovebox, center console. Wherever it may be.
- MP Okay.
- DW Follow their lead. Period. Comply, comply, comply with their uh request/direction.
- MP Okay.
- DW Is how we teach the class. So the reason we do that is once again the inverse. I would not want to be reaching for my you know uh insurance information or my, my wallet in, in the glovebox or center console and there's my you know Glock 19.
- MP Yes.
- DW So that's kinda why we do that because it, it just shows that you, you need to be a little step, a step ahead of you're not just driving around uh you have a firearm on you and given the context and nature of a law enforcement officer's job, you know that surprise is not something they want to be, you know uh privy to.
- MP So to break it down. It's for the safety of not only themselves but the officer?
- DW Absolutely.
- MP That's the main reason you have (inaudible)
- DW Ab, absolutely.
- MP Okay.
- DW Yeah.

MP So let's say, hypothetically if uh well first of all before I get the hypothetically, state law require them to keep that permit with them?

DW Absolutely.

MP So if, if they're carrying...

DW And, and...

MP ...the permit...

DW ...and...

MP ...needs to be on them?

DW And a, a valid a photo ID as well to identify cuz the Minnesota permit to carry does not have a picture. They don't, they don't operate in, in unison (inaudible) they have to be in tandem with one another to be complete.

MP And they are...

DW So if you...

MP ...told that in your class?

DW Absolutely. If you have your gun on you, you need your, your identification your obviously you're in most cases you're D driver's license especially if you're driving a car better be your DL. And your permit to carry. So those two in conjunction once again are what we, and to convey the information that we may or may not be carrying.

MP Gotcha. So hypothetically if someone forgot their permit and they were on a traffic stop how would you advise somebody to let the officer know that they, they're carrying?

DW I would, uh once again you know ver, I would, verbally and obviously now because now you don't have the opportunity to hand them your permit.

MP Yes.

DW But once again hands at ten and two on the wheel like we're taught in driver ed and don't you know let, very calmly inform the officer I have a permit to carry, I am uh you know currently carrying or not.

MP Um-hm.

DW Uh and my, where the firearm is located if they don't inter, inter you know interrupt you and, and ask you where or take over the you know the scene if you will. But uh make it very clear that you have a gun or do not have a gun and, at that point (inaudible) if you have your permit or not if you forgot it you better let him know.

MP Yes. So that's why you say keep the hands visible?

DW Absolutely.

MP (inaudible) keep your hands visible at all times because with an ID an officer can still look up that CCW can look it up in our computer (inaudible)

DW Absolutely.

MP So you just have to keep your hands visible and let them know?

DW Absolutely.

MP Uh, as far as you know uh do you get questions from people normally on this slide on how to act, interact with police?

DW For the most part it's, it eh you know we, yeah I mean yeah we get questions regarding you know very you know every, every now and then a very specific question.

MP Um-hm.

DW But for the most part everybody gets this. You know ya, you know the fact that you are carrying a firearm and in relation to once again to the context of a law enforcement officers job or what they face on a daily basis uh the surprise gun in the backseat or in the you know uh, uh or in the glovebox as you're reaching for your permit uh or I'm sorry your driver's license info or insurance info is not a good thing.

MP (inaudible)

DW So we absolutely convey that over and over and over again to, comply, comply, comply and, and, and don't do anything until requested to do so.

MP Okay. Uh for that class did you specifically teach that one Dan?

DW I did not. I did not.

MP So which, who was the instructor for that one?

DW Uh his name was Jim Deal.

MP But you have all of your instructors do the same power point?

DW Yeah. Correct.

MP Same lesson plan?

DW Correct.

MP So it's, it's consistent across the board?

DW Yep.

MP And but you're confident that this is exactly the power point...

DW Absolutely

MP ...he was shown?

DW Well I uh and I've discussed it with him and you know we, we don't, there is no variation this is our, this is our you know our prompter if you will.

MP Okay.

DW So,

MP There's, there's no room for freelance?

DW No, no.

MP This is what you (inaudible)

DW (laugh) no.

MP Okay. Anything I'm missing Joe?

JO No I don't have anything else.

MP Okay and you say you're gonna provide a copy of the power point...

DW Yep.

MP ...for me? I have a thumb drive I can give to you?

DW Yep I can oh I got it.already got it

MP Okay

DW So you don't need to see the, it's already on there?

MP Yeah we'll go ahead and cover that. Just a second. We're gonna go ahead and terminate uh the interview at this time. It is 1520 hours.

END OF RECORDING.