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File: 2015-376186

STATEMENT OF: **Staff Sergeant Reginald TILLEY**
 Royal Newfoundland Constabulary

INTERVIEWED BY: **Cpl. Monty HENSTRIDGE, RCMP Major Crime Unit**
 April 6th, 2015 commencing at 15:30 hours

1 **Henstridge:** The time now is 20:40 hours. My name is Corporal Monty Henstridge.
2 The date is April 7th, 2015 and I'm with the Major Crime Unit out of St.
3 John's, Newfoundland, RCMP. I'm currently at the RNC Headquarters
4 and I'm speaking to Staff Sergeant Reginald Tilley who is with the Royal
5 Newfoundland Constabulary. And Staff Sergeant Tilley I understand that
6 you, on the day of the shooting there on two days ago, that you were
7 working that – at that time. Is that correct?

8 **Tilley:** Yeah, that's correct. It was Sunday and it was April 5th and I received a
9 telephone call from our Communications Centre, Sergeant Gerard Ryan ...

10 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

11 **Tilley:** ... Ah, advising me there had been an incident there in – in Mitchell's
12 Brook involving one of our members, Acting Sergeant Joe – Joe Smyth, is
13 involved in the incident and there had been shots fired. And, ah, from
14 there I contacted, ah, our Acting Inspector Mike Adams by cell phone and
15 we arranged that we'd – together we'd drive out there, out to Mitchell's
16 Brook and, ah, with the intentions of providing some support there for, ah,
17 for Joe Smyth. Not to interfere in any way with the – with the RCMP
18 investigation. So it was, ah, that would have been at – that was 2:33 I had
19 noted that I was notified by Sergeant Ryan. It was only a minute or so
20 later that I had contacted Inspector Adams. And it was approximately 3:20
21 when we boarded the vehicle here and headed out over the highway
22 there. Ah, we were on Salmonier we were notified that, from our
23 Communication Centre, that Sergeant Smyth was on route back to your
24 Holyrood Detachment. So instead of proceeding on out there we – we

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1 headed back and we spoke to a couple of your members on the parking
2 lot, went inside and we spoke with, ah, Staff Sergeant Rod Tiller. He
3 introduced himself to us and he advised at that point – that point in time
4 that, ah, Smyth was on the way back. So we – we just sat around there
5 and we – we advised, ah, Staff Sergeant Tiller at that time that we didn't
6 want to interfere in any way with the investigation and we were here for
7 just moral support and for Smyth there.

8 **Henstridge:** Uhm...uhm.

9 **Tilley:** So we hung around there and spoke to a couple more members. I'm not
10 sure what their names were but they all introduced their self to us. But,
11 ah, - it was about four-thirty and I had called Constable Warren Sullivan
12 who is our President of our Police Association and, ah, just to make sure
13 he was notified. He had already had known. And I believe he had told me
14 that he had already spoken to Joe Smyth by telephone. He – he told me
15 he was in the process of then dropping his daughter off, whatnot, and –
16 and he was gonna pick up a sandwich and a coffee and bring up to Joey
17 and have a chat with him. Shortly after that telephone call one of your
18 members came in with Joe Smyth and they made room in – in a room
19 upstairs at your Detachment there for us to have a chat with him, try to put
20 him at ease, which we did with – it was a room up on the second floor
21 there. Ah, a couple of things, I don't know if – I'll just throw em in there
22 but, ah, ah, Inspector Adams had called a couple of people while we were
23 on route. He had spoke with Deputy Chief Carroll ... He had spoke with
24 Deputy Chief Singleton with it. I guess he – he probably ...

25 **Henstridge:** Yeah, he covered all that off ...

26 **Tilley:** ... gave you those details.

27 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

28 **Tilley:** Ah, once upstairs in the room we – we made some chat with Sergeant
29 Smyth there. He, you know, obviously he was upset and, ah, ah, he kept

1 his composure pretty good in the meantime but, ah, he, ah, we told him
2 that we weren't here to ask any questions regarding the – the incident.
3 We just wanted to make sure if we could do anything for him to keep him
4 relaxed, put him at ease, a stressful situation. Ah, from there – like during
5 – during the conversation, we were trying to make some small talk with
6 him. But he – he did, you know, tell us – tell us a couple of things.
7 Basically what had happened there is that he had responded there that
8 day after signing on here at Headquarters. He – he was conducting an
9 investigation to some threats that were made on the Twitter. Apparently
10 he had – he told us that he had come here to make – make some notes
11 and – and background checks on this – this person that he had visited
12 there. And he further told us that he had notified the RCMP that he was
13 gonna be in the area of Mitchell's Brook conducting an investigation. Ah,
14 he told us basically he – before he went into that residence he had – he
15 had stopped, I think it was, next door and spoke with the family next door
16 who's – who's the brother of the deceased. And I'm not sure if he spoke
17 with the brother or if he spoke with his brother's wife there and, ah, before
18 going over there. I think they indicated that he was over in the house or
19 so. He – he went over to the house and spoke with this guy and, ah, from
20 there he – he had a folder. He told me had a folder in his hand making
21 some notes and this guy became somewhat agitated. He was – he was
22 getting agitated. He – he noticed that he had a stick or a bat or something
23 on the side of the chesterfield where he had been sitting and while in the
24 process of making some notes he said he got a glimpse out of the corner
25 of his eye that, ah, when he looked he had a long – a long barrel gun.
26 And he – he – he told me at the time he – he wasn't quite sure if it was a –
27 a shot gun or a – a rifle. But then he proceeded to say that pretty sure it
28 was a small barrel on it so he – he kind of indicated it was a rifle.

29 **Henstridge:** Uhm...uhm.

30 **Tilley:** In the – and the rifle had been pointed towards him ...(cell phone
31 buzzing)... was coming towards him with the rifle and that he had

1 discharged his firearm. He told me three or four times but he said he – he
2 can't be quite sure exactly how many. We didn't re – we didn't ask any
3 questions regard – he – like he was from time to time he – he'd be telling
4 us this kind of a thing here so, ah. We didn't want to get involved with
5 questions and all this sort of thing so basically that was his story. Now,
6 ah, Constable Sullivan and Constable Scott Harris, both of those fellows,
7 are with our Police Association and they showed up – let me see now, I
8 got a note made here – they showed up around five-thirty. I had a note in
9 here. I had, ah, they brought a sandwich and a coffee for him and, ah,
10 they were making some – chatting to him and, ah, we stayed behind after
11 that about – probably about another half hour until six o'clock. Myself and
12 Acting Inspector Adams left to come back to town. And, ah, not before
13 speaking with yourself and, ah, advising him that Cons 'er Sergeant Smyth
14 wanted – indicated he'd probably like to, ah, tell his story the next day as
15 opposed to right now, so.

16 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

17 **Tilley:** We had no, ah ...

18 **Henstridge:** I don't remember if it was you that advised of that or – or Adams.

19 **Tilley:** I – I think myself and Adams were standing together and we – I'm not sure
20 who said it but ...

21 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

22 **Tilley:** ... but one of us. But I – I – I know I was present when it was said.

23 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

24 **Tilley:** I'm not quite sure which one of us had said that to you. And ...

25 **Henstridge:** And I was more than open, just for the record.

1 **Tilley:** ... and you – and you were open that he – you were quite understandable
2 and whatever was – whatever he, you know, whatever is best for him. It's
3 not – not a problem.

4 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

5 **Tilley:** And, ah, from there Constable Sullivan said he'd say back and, ah,
6 arrange for to take Sergeant Smyth back home after he was – after you
7 guys had finished with him.

8 **Henstridge:** Uhm...uhm.

9 **Tilley:** And the only other thing I did there was I contacted our, ah,
10 Communications Centre and advised them to have a car drop by Sergeant
11 Smyth's residence to pick up some clothing that – that he had requested
12 from his wife there. He wanted the clothing – you had indicated that you
13 wanted to seize his clothing.

14 **Henstridge:** Uhm...uhm. Yeah. Okay. So you left around six PM and that was ...

15 **Tilley:** Six PM. Yeah, I – I – myself and – and Mike Adams left to come back out
16 of it.

17 **Henstridge:** Okay. Ah, anything else that comes to mind regarding kind of the – I
18 guess the tone or any other details that have come to mind as you're re-
19 telling the event? I'm just gonna go back through ...

20 **Tilley:** Yeah.

21 **Henstridge:** ... if it's okay with you and I'll just sort of restate what you've – what I –
22 what I understand you told me.

23 **Tilley:** Yeah.

24 **Henstridge:** And, ah, if I make a mistake or I inaccurately represented what you said,
25 by all means interrupt and – and tell me. You said that on April 5th you

1 received a call from Sergeant Ryan. I – I always write OCC but I think you
2 call it your Dispatch or Tele ...

3 **Tilley:** Yeah Comm Centre, yeah.

4 **Henstridge:** Comm Centre.

5 **Tilley:** Yeah.

6 **Henstridge:** Ah, at 2:43 PM or thereabouts and you were informed that there was an
7 incident.

8 **Tilley:** Yeah, yeah. I – I think it was 2:33

9 **Henstridge:** 2:33.

10 **Tilley:** 2:33 Yeah.

11 **Henstridge:** I'll change that right now. 2:33.

12 **Tilley:** Yeah.

13 **Henstridge:** And that you were informed that there was an incident in Mitchell's Brook,
14 ah, and that active Sergeant Smyth was involved and there had been
15 shots fired. You contacted Acting Inspector Mike Adams, filled him in on
16 what had happened or what you understood to have happened, and
17 arranged to drive out to provide support and you specifically noted your
18 intent and Inspector Adams intent certainly wasn't to interfere with the
19 investigation but to provide support for your colleague who ...

20 **Tilley:** Exactly.

21 **Henstridge:** ... who had clearly gone through something that was, you know,
22 traumatic. You said that at approximately 3:20 you – you headed out from
23 here. I assume that there were some phone calls being made by different
24 people in the form of management and so on.

- 1 **Tilley:** Yeah.
- 2 **Henstridge:** Ah, as you got on the Salmonier Line you were notified by again your...
- 3 **Tilley:** Yeah.
- 4 **Henstridge:** ... Comm Centre ...
- 5 **Tilley:** Yeah.
- 6 **Henstridge:** ... Sergeant Smyth was on route to Holyrood at that time so you changed
7 course and attended the Holyrood Detachment where you met with some
8 members outside but most importantly, I suppose, was you spoke to Staff
9 Sergeant Tiller. It's my understanding that you wanted him to understand
10 that your role in this was merely to support and that you understood
11 completely that the jurisdiction was RCMP's and that they would be
12 conducting the investigation.
- 13 **Tilley:** Exactly. We – we wanted to make sure up front that we had notified 'em
14 and that we – like we didn't wanna be seen as – as, you know, interfering
15 in any way ...
- 16 **Henstridge:** Of course.
- 17 **Tilley:** ... and we wanted to be upfront and tell him that so.
- 18 **Henstridge:** Absolutely. Ah, so you told Tiller that, ah, yeah, just said that you told
19 Tiller you didn't wanna interfere in any way and you were there for moral
20 support for Constable Smyth, ah, Sergeant Smyth. Approximately 4:30
21 PM you called Warren Sullivan who's President of the RNC Association-
22 Members' Association and he indicated to you that he had already spoken
23 to Constable, ah, Sergeant Smyth. Ah, shortly after that conversation you
24 said that Sergeant Smyth arrived and you all went up to, so presumably
25 yourself, Sergeant Smyth, and Acting Inspector Adams, went up to a room
26 on the second floor which I – I actually met you in.

- 1 **Tilley:** Yeah.
- 2 **Henstridge:** It's a vacant office up there. That the conversation was primarily to put
3 him at ease. You chatted with him a little bit. He seemed upset but he
4 certainly kept his composure.
- 5 **Tilley:** Uhm.
- 6 **Henstridge:** Ah, ah, shortly after Smyth arrived – okay, sorry already said that. Ah, you
7 – I think you more or less said you weren't there to ask questions. I don't
8 know if you – did you express that to him that that was ...
- 9 **Tilley:** Yeah, we – we express – we- we – we, you know, we told him that we're
10 not going – we didn't want to ask you any questions about ...
- 11 **Henstridge:** Yeah. He ...
- 12 **Tilley:** ... whatever happened but, you know, from time to time he – he'd tell us
13 some of – obviously he wanted ...
- 14 **Henstridge:** Right.
- 15 **Tilley:** ... to tell things.
- 16 **Henstridge:** And I – I assume that part of the reason for saying that was not just – not
17 to interfere with the RCMP investigation but to let him know that you
18 weren't there in an official capacity. It was ...
- 19 **Tilley:** Yeah exactly.
- 20 **Henstridge:** ... internal.
- 21 **Tilley:** Exactly.
- 22 **Henstridge:** Right.
- 23 **Tilley:** I wanted – I wanted to make sure that he, you know, cause he, you know,
24 it'd be very easy for him to assume that we kind of wanted to ...

- 1 **Henstridge:** Right.
- 2 **Tilley:** ... question him on the matter.
- 3 **Henstridge:** Sure.
- 4 **Tilley:** But we wanted to tell him up front as well as to the RCMP ...
- 5 **Henstridge:** Yeah.
- 6 **Tilley:** ... that we didn't – this had nothing to do with the investigation
7 whatsoever. We're here to help him. If he needed ...
- 8 **Henstridge:** Yeah.
- 9 **Tilley:** ... anything, help him, talk, you know.
- 10 **Henstridge:** Sure.
- 11 **Tilley:** That's – that's the – that's – that was the mindset there.
- 12 **Henstridge:** Yeah. Because you're right. Cause there was a fair bit of Rank in the
13 room with him so I – it – whether he felt that way or not I'm certain – I'm
14 certain that you – you folks were clear with him that was not ... (unintel) ...
- 15 **Tilley:** Yeah, and he understood too.
- 16 **Henstridge:** Yeah.
- 17 **Tilley:** You know, he understood that ...
- 18 **Henstridge:** Yeah. So you feel that the reason that he wanted to – to say things, and
19 he – he specifically wanted to give you some account of what had
20 happened, was purely for his own benefit.
- 21 **Tilley:** His own benefit.
- 22 **Henstridge:** Okay.

1 **Tilley:** You know, I could – you could see him there like in between, you know,
2 the small chat that – that he'd be thinking – he'd say oh, you know, you
3 know, it – something would come to him that he almost had to – to tell us,
4 like you know ...

5 **Henstridge:** Sure.

6 **Tilley:** ... so. We just let him tell us but we wouldn't question him on it.

7 **Henstridge:** Yeah. Yeah, okay. Ah, ...

8 **Tilley:** And we didn't take any notes either like, you know, because we were
9 primarily there – you know, I want – I probably should get this on record.

10 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

11 **Tilley:** The reason why I didn't have my notebook out and taking notes with any
12 of this is because we were there for a critical incident stress ...

13 **Henstridge:** Right.

14 **Tilley:** ... debriefing type thing.

15 **Henstridge:** Right.

16 **Tilley:** And that's normally off the record of notebooks.

17 **Henstridge:** Right. Good.

18 **Tilley:** It was for his help and – and, ah, so I'd like to be on the record saying that
19 as well.

20 **Henstridge:** Yeah, certainly. And if you were there with notebooks I'm sure that the
21 critical incident debriefing wouldn't be very effective.

22 **Tilley:** Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

23 **Henstridge:** Cause people are assuming that you're – you know.

1 **Tilley:** Yeah.

2 **Henstridge:** Ah, so he indicated to you that he had come to RNC Headquarters in the
3 morning and signed on; that he was conducting a threats investigation or
4 something to do with threats investigation through ...

5 **Tilley:** Uhm.

6 **Henstridge:** ... through Twitter; that he had – he'd come here to – to make some notes
7 and to develop some background checks. He told you that he had notified
8 the RCMP that he was gonna be in the Mitchell's Brook area. He said that
9 he stopped, prior to going to the residence in question, that he stopped
10 and talked to either the brother or the brother's wife ...

11 **Henstridge:** Uhm.

12 **Henstridge:** ... of the subject that he was speaking to. Ah, you said that, ah, he then
13 went to the house and spoke with the – with the guy; that he had a folder
14 and that he was making notes of some kind and that the guy that he'd
15 been speaking to seemed to get – become agitated. You said that he
16 indicated that he had saw – had seen a bat or a stick or something and
17 that while making notes he glimpsed out of the corner of his eye and noted
18 a long barrel gun. You said he initially said he wasn't sure if it was a rifle
19 or a shot gun and then noted that it was small barrel so it was likely a rifle
20 of some kind and that it was pointed towards him. He – he discharged
21 three or four times. He wasn't sure how many but he said three or four.
22 You again indicated that you – you didn't ask any follow-up questions
23 cause that wasn't your function there at the time. Ah, you said that
24 Constable Sullivan, Constable Scott Harris approximately 5:30 PM and
25 had brought him some nourishment, sandwich and coffee. Ah, you said
26 that you stayed for about another thirty minutes and left around 6:00 PM
27 but prior to leaving, I think you sort of went back, you – you indicated to –
28 to me that Constable Smyth would like to, ah, would like to wait until
29 tomorrow, presumably until his head was clear and to provide a statement.

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1 And you weren't sure, and I'm not sure, whether it was you that was
2 saying it or Inspector – it doesn't really matter – somebody ...

3 **Henstridge:** Uhm.

4 **Henstridge:** ... somebody had indicated that. Ah, and for the record I agreed that that
5 wouldn't be a bad idea. I never got any sense, for the record, that, ah, ah,
6 Constable 'er Sergeant Smyth wanted to do anything other than to
7 cooperate and to provide his account at his – at the earliest possible time.
8 In fact, the sense that I got is that he actually wanted to do it then but ...

9 **Tilley:** Yeah, exactly.

10 **Henstridge:** ... common sense prevailed and he decided he should wait and let his
11 memory be more clearer ...

12 **Tilley:** Yeah.

13 **Henstridge:** ... and accurate should he wait for a – a reasonable amount of time and I
14 did not disagree with that. I think that was a good idea. Constable
15 Sullivan said, ah, that he'd stay back and arrange for a ride for Constable
16 – for Sergeant Smyth. You indicated that, instead of going back, that
17 during your time with him, ah, I – I came into the room and indicated that
18 we would be seizing his clothing as part of the investigation and that you
19 had made arrangements through your Comm Centre to have a uniform
20 member, I don't think you said a uniform member, but you arranged to
21 have someone go by his residence and pick up some clothes for him.

22 **Tilley:** Exactly.

23 **Henstridge:** Is there anything that I left out or any kind of detail that ...

24 **Tilley:** Well yeah, a couple of things that I probably should – I think you touched
25 on it but, ah, Sergeant Smyth did – did like, you know, like he – he wanted
26 to provide a statement and story forthright.

- 1 **Henstridge:** Yeah.
- 2 **Tilley:** He wanted – and he kind of felt bad actually. I don't know if that's the right
3 word to use but he felt ...
- 4 **Henstridge:** Uhm.
- 5 **Tilley:** ... kind of felt a little bad or – that he – that he was – wanted to wait until
6 the next day. Like you know, he did – he didn't want ye guys to look at it
7 as a trying to avoid, like you know, telling what happened.
- 8 **Henstridge:** Yeah.
- 9 **Tilley:** So he, you know, you know, we kind of – you know, he – he did say that to
10 us. Well I just like to have that on record as well.
- 11 **Henstridge:** Okay. So he indicated to you after that conversation or before – before I
12 came out and declined to provide a statement right then and there. Was it
13 after that or before that?
- 14 **Tilley:** No it was before that.
- 15 **Henstridge:** Okay.
- 16 **Tilley:** It was before that.
- 17 **Henstridge:** Okay.
- 18 **Tilley:** Cause the issue come up about him providing a statement or he said I'll
19 give a statement and then said just wondering what the right thing to do,
20 sort of thing. And like he – he said well I'm, you know, kind of, you know, I
21 don't want 'em to look at me as not, you know, not – not cooperating, eh.
22 And which wasn't the case at all, like you know so. And – and the other
23 thing I should probably say, and – and – and the – which Constable Smyth
24 had told us on a couple of different occasions, cause I know it was when
25 the – like he was speaking his mind like the house, the residence, that he
26 was in was in like deplorable condition, eh.

1 **Henstridge:** Yeah.

2 **Tilley:** Like he had mentioned that there was – it was – the house was full of cats
3 and cat feces and – and, ah, like run down, really run down house and,
4 ah, I think – I think that he may – had mentioned to – to the deceased that,
5 ah, you know, like he – he got some concerns for his health and wellbeing
6 there, like you know. He – and – and – and you know, he – he got a little
7 up – like he was getting agitated over that. Like he – he seemed to be
8 more agitated after he told him that. That's about it really. I – you know,
9 unless you have some more questions for me.

10 **Henstridge:** I'll just quickly go through and just see but I don't think so. I guess it's fair
11 to ask. During you interaction with the RCMP during this period and I
12 guess it's not specifically related to, ah, to the investigation per se but just
13 kind of in terms of professional relationship. Did you have any issues with
14 the way you were treated by the RCMP or did the RCMP...

15 **Tilley:** No, I – I gotta be honest with you. We were treated with upmost
16 professionalism and – and you couldn't ask for better.

17 **Henstridge:** Okay.

18 **Tilley:** It was perfect.

19 **Henstridge:** Okay. Ah, no I – I don't really have any other questions other than what
20 you've told me. Ah, I'm gonna conclude the statement here unless you
21 have some questions for me.

22 **Tilley:** No. No, ah.

23 **Henstridge:** Time now is 9:06 according to my watch.

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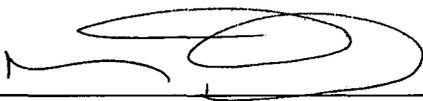
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Cpl. Monty Henstridge
"B" Division Major Crime Unit

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