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2 MILLIGAN, SEAN

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4 J. TEFFT: SDPD Det. John Tefft

5 MILLIGAN: Sean Milligan

6 *****

7 J. TEFFT: (Unintelligible) today is August 4th, 1999 the time is 1700 hours and I'm conducting a
8 telephone interview with Sean Milligan he just telephoned me and, let me just get
9 some information on you here real quick, Sean, and its I got your last name it is Sean -
10 S-e-a-n?

11 MILLIGAN: [Personal data deleted]

12 J. TEFFT: Alrightie, okay, well Sean, I'll tell you what could you just kind of uhm, tell what was
13 going on that evening just prior to driving down Mission Boulevard and then just kind
14 of going on a narrative tell me where you were coming from, what you did, what you
15 saw, where you went after that and all the way up to the time you got home..

16 MILLIGAN: Okay, uhm, started off we've gone to see a friend ah, who lives down I think is Rivera
17 ah there Mission Bay

18 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

19 MILLIGAN: ... Mission Bay I guess.

20 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

21 MILLIGAN: The exact address I'm not sure.

22 J. TEFFT: Okay.

23 MILLIGAN: Uhm, my wife had some friend in town and so we went to see them, we had dinner ...

24 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

25 MILLIGAN: ... Uhm, at his place and then part of the deal was that night we were gonna go to the
26 roller coaster ...

27 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

28 MILLIGAN: ... and then to Frosty's afterwards.

J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

MILLIGAN: ... and so after we finished dinner, sat and talked a little while we'd ah taken off in our
pick-up and ah -- we're driving down Mission Boulevard and ah prior to get into the

1 area we'd seen a helicopter uhm, in the air above the area that (unintelligible) taking
2 place ...

3 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

4 MILLIGAN: ... you know we could see the spotlight coming down so we thought something was
5 going on ahead, didn't think much of it ...

6 J. TEFFT: Uh-hm.

7 MILLIGAN: ... uhm, as we came up there a little bit close we're almost right on top of the scene
8 before we even knew it, you know ...

9 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

10 MILLIGAN: ... and we, my wife and Martha she saw where the spotlight was coming down, we
11 saw that the officers ah, with the guy and ah, they were getting thrown around pretty
12 good and you know just kind of in disbelief we're just sitting and watching and pretty
13 much everybody in the car kind of had that feeling, you know, something bad is gonna
14 happen you know like ...

15 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

16 MILLIGAN: ... you know 'cause they were getting tossed around pretty big time.

17 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

18 MILLIGAN: And so my wife it's kind of trying to find a spot to get out of the way uhm, and ah --
19 that's about the time that we saw the one officer get thrown off and ah saw the guy
20 with his nunchuck and stuff like that, you know as we're trying to get out of the way
21 and everything else, you know, it just did, he was still pretty much tossing around the
22 one officer that had a hold of him ...

23 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

24 MILLIGAN: ... and I saw the, the gentleman that was thrown off, draws his weapon ...

25 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

26 MILLIGAN: And was hearing him, you know basically telling him to get down, get down and the
27 guy still had his nunchucks and at one point I thought I saw him, you know, he thrown
28 the other officer off and had both sets.

J. TEFFT: Uh-hm.

MILLIGAN: ... and then ah just at about that time we've pulled slightly forward and a parked
vehicle was somewhat in the way and that's when I heard the shots go off.

1 J. TEFFT: Okay.

2 MILLIGAN: Uhm, you know, at that point we just wanna.. trying get the heck out of there 'cause

3 we didn't know whether the guy pulled the gun and that was his shots or what was

4 going on.

5 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

6 MILLIGAN: And, that's when the traffic pulled ahead and we were able to get over to Belmont

7 Park ...

8 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

9 MILLIGAN: ... and parked the vehicle and didn't really know what to do or anything like that so

10 we just kind of went about our ...

11 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

12 MILLIGAN: ... actions went on the roller coaster, climbed back in the vehicle, took a different

13 route uhm, around the area uhm, to get back to ah, where is it -- ah, Grand ...

14 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

15 MILLIGAN: ... or whatever, went to Frosty's had some ice cream and then went back to our

16 friend's house said good-bye and then went home.

17 J. TEFFT: Okay. Alrightie. (Unintelligible) that was great and ah, had you been drinking that

18 evening?

19 MILLIGAN: No.

20 J. TEFFT: Okay. Okay. Just checking some notes here as well, uhm, now as you were driving

21 down ah, and you guys remember who was (unintelligible) in the car?

22 MILLIGAN: Uhm, it was myself, my wife, a friend of ours uhm, Larry ...

23 J. TEFFT: Uh-uh.

24 MILLIGAN: ... and then ah, we had Larry's sister in the back uhm, she is from Oklahoma and then

25 a couple of Larry's friends in the back her husband, his friend and his wife in the back

26 seat.

27 J. TEFFT: You know their names?

28 MILLIGAN: Uhm, Dave is I don't know their last names.

J. TEFFT: Okay. Their first names is cool.

MILLIGAN: Yeah, uhm, Dave, Jeannette, Ka ah, Kathy, Larry, Laura and myself.

1 J. TEFFT: Okay. Okay, and whose house were you at earlier that night with the, with the
2 barbecue?
3 MILLIGAN: That was Larry's house.
4 J. TEFFT: Okay, at Larry's house, okay.
5 MILLIGAN: Yes.
6 J. TEFFT: Alright and so you're on what street if you know the name of the street coming down
7 towards the roller coaster?
8 MILLIGAN: Uhm, coming towards the roller coaster?
9 J. TEFFT: Yeah, when you're driving down the street, you know the name of the street?
10 MILLIGAN: Uhm, I thought it was just Mission Boulevard.
11 J. TEFFT: Yeah, that, that, yeah, you're yeah that's cool.
12 MILLIGAN: I'm not very familiar with the area down there.
13 J. TEFFT: No, you're doing fine and so you guys are going on Mission Boulevard towards the
14 roller coaster.
15 MILLIGAN: Yeah.
16 J. TEFFT: Okay, now you said you earlier saw you saw the helicopter over head and had the
17 spotlight on.
18 MILLIGAN: Mh-uh.
19 J. TEFFT: And so you guys' attention was kind of draw until were this activity was.
20 MILLIGAN: Yeah.
21 J. TEFFT: Okay, now when you looked over to this activity, where I need for you to do here is
22 just and you're done fine is just tell me what you saw exactly, uhm, uhm, the best as
23 you can now when there was you saw what, three people standing on the sidewalk?
24 MILLIGAN: Uhm, yes I saw the two officers and the person that they were wrestling.
25 J. TEFFT: Okay, and the, okay now how did you know they were police officers?
26 MILLIGAN: Uhm, you know they had the shorts and the belts and basically the uniform that I
27 recognize as being San Diego Police Department.
28 J. TEFFT: Okay. And how far were you from them roughly do you think you were able to
identify them as police officers?

1 MILLIGAN: Geez, when I identify actually who they were I would say that we're probably good
2 ah, let's see I'm trying to judge the distance I would say we're probably good thirty
3 yards away.
4 J. TEFFT: Okay. And was the lighting good that you were able to make out that they're officers?
5 MILLIGAN: Yeah, specially with the spotlight I mean the street it was right in front of the
6 convenience store ...
7 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
8 MILLIGAN: ... so there is a lot of light coming through there, and then with the spotlight it wasn't
9 there wasn't any doubt.
10 J. TEFFT: Okay, and the person that you saw the officers wrestling with can you describe that
11 person for me?
12 MILLIGAN: Uhm, it was a large, very large black male ...
13 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
14 MILLIGAN: ... uhm, see, I think he's wearing a dark shirt ...
15 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh
16 MILLIGAN: ... pants I don't remember, but uh, he was, he was big and
17 J. TEFFT: Okay.
18 MILLIGAN: ... as large as I thought the officers were he was tossed around pretty easily.
19 J. TEFFT: Okay, now we all have a different definition of what big is.
20 MILLIGAN: Okay, okay (laughs)
21 J. TEFFT: What I mean if you were I mean you know what I'm saying if you were to if you were
22 to -- estimate height and weight.
23 MILLIGAN: Uhm, estimate height and weight, I would say that he was at least 6.5 ...
24 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
25 MILLIGAN: ... uhm, I'm just guessing by the space on the weight ...
26 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
27 MILLIGAN: ... I would say he was up up were his, you know 250 ...
28 J. TEFFT: Okay.
MILLIGAN: ... (ui).

1 J. TEFFT: Okay. Alright that's cool. Now when you said uh, okay let me go back here just a
2 second, now when you saw the officers and you saw this guy, what exactly was going
3 on?
4 MILLIGAN: Uhm, when we saw him ...
5 J. TEFFT: No, when you saw them, just the ...
6 MILLIGAN: ... okay when I ...
7 J. TEFFT: Yeah, what you saw.
8 MILLIGAN: What I saw was uhm, we come on the area ..
9 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
10 MILLIGAN: ... and -- the two officers look like they had a hold of him ...
11 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
12 MILLIGAN: ... and -- from my perspective I saw they look like they at least one of them had
13 gotten one side of the handcuffs on him ...
14 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
15 MILLIGAN: ... and that point he had basically an officer in one arm and another officer in the other
16 and they were just kind of like almost like spinning around and where they were at
17 'cause they were trying pull, he was trying to pull away from them and they were
18 pulling the opposite direction look like they are trying you know get him down on the
19 ground at least ...
20 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
21 MILLIGAN: ... and he just basically just kind of flinging them around in circles.
22 J. TEFFT: Okay he was spinning them around in circles?
23 MILLIGAN: Yeah.
24 J. TEFFT: Okay, okay -- and then what happened?
25 MILLIGAN: Uhm, let's see, after a little bit I saw the one officer basically either you know lost his
26 grip whatever and he was kind of thrown off, you know, probably cleared the whole
27 (unintelligible) four of five feet he was thrown back and I noticed that the black guy
28 had that officer's nunchucks.
J. TEFFT: Okay.
MILLIGAN: Uhm, he still had hold of the other officer, her, whichever way you wanna say it.
J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

1 MILLIGAN: Both had a hold of each other I guess you'd say ...
2 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
3 MILLIGAN: Uhm, so the officer that was thrown off uh, draw his weapon and came in kind of, you
4 know, in the little crowd he was pointing the weapon, you know, basically down at the
5 ground but in the general area where he would need to use it.
6 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
7 MILLIGAN: And uh, you know, thought I heard him shout you know get down and ah – at that
8 point thought I saw the other officer throwing off ...
9 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
10 MILLIGAN: ... or at least, uh, drop to the ground and that's when I saw I saw the guy was (ui) the
11 nunchuks.
12 J. TEFFT: Okay.
13 MILLIGAN: And then the parked vehicle had gotten in the way that's when I heard the shots go
14 off.
15 J. TEFFT: Okay. Okay and then then it, here's a car parked in the way?
16 MILLIGAN: Yeah, I think it was like a -- if I remember right it was like a small van kind of like that
17 like a Volkswagen van.
18 J. TEFFT: Okay. Alright -- and then you heard the shots?
19 MILLIGAN: Yes.
20 J. TEFFT: Okay, but you don't know who the shooter is, do you?
21 MILLIGAN: At that point ...
22 J. TEFFT: Did you see the shooter was?
23 MILLIGAN: .. uhm, in my mind I thought that was the police but not knowing for sure I thought it
24 could have been this other guy may be he had a weapon on him and had pulled it out
25 but I was, for the most part pretty sure it was the police.
26 J. TEFFT: Okay, alright, but you didn't see. Alright that's cool, and then, from there you guys,
27 uhm, ah -- continued down went to the coaster and (ui) okay. Now, your wife said
28 something about that sh -- that she had (ui) a conversation with you where you
thought David and Larry had already been interviewed by the police?
MILLIGAN: Yeah uhm, let's see, Sunday ...
J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.

1 MILLIGAN: Uhm, Larry stopped by the house ...
2 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
3 MILLIGAN: ... and, uh, you know we're just like, you know, they were about ready to leave and I
4 brought it and said you know if he had heard everything that's going on.
5 J. TEFFT: Now, is this the Sunday after the incident, or this last Sunday.
6 MILLIGAN: This last Sunday the ah, the first.
7 J. TEFFT: Okay, okay.
8 MILLIGAN: And ah, he is like yeah, he said, well Dave and I called in and given a deposition on it
9 and I 'cause he said it sounds like they're gonna try and go after the police officers.
10 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
11 MILLIGAN: And you know, we held pretty much in agreement that everything we saw was pretty
12 much, you know, fine and good, I mean ...
13 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
14 MILLIGAN: ... and ah, he I said well then you know if they are gonna after the police officers I
15 need to try and get a hold of them too, because I mean that's just wrong.
16 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
17 MILLIGAN: And so he says yeah, cause we already called in and told them you know everything
18 we knew (ui) okay so, that's when I told Lara uhm, later that night that you know
19 we'd probably had to call in and let you guys know what we know.
20 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
21 MILLIGAN: (Ui) help out.
22 J. TEFFT: Okay. Allrightie. Uhm yeah, uhm, yeah I would need to talk to uhm Larry and Dave
23 because uhm, as far as we can see that (ui) detectives there are four of us that are inter
24 -- doing this investigation, none of us have interviewed this guys ...
25 MILLIGAN: Mh-uh.
26 J. TEFFT: ... and so we --we would gonna be the guys that need to talk to them so I'll be
27 hooking up with them but so appreciate your guys coming in 'cause up until this
28 you're unknown to all of us and so let me is there anything else in this statement here?
MILLIGAN: Uh-mm besides the fact of had lots of discussion with guys at work and you know the
whole thing is just you know the whole discussion came out you know we have a guy

1 at work that he is a black guy and he seems to think that was excessive force they
2 could of used something else and I honestly saw no other means I was like ...
3 J. TEFFT: Okay.
4 MILLIGAN: ... I was rather happy that they took care of it because I mean being right there you
5 hear about guys jumping in vehicles and stuff like that ...
6 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
7 MILLIGAN: ... we're right there ...
8 J. TEFFT: So you thought the force was reasonable.
9 MILLIGAN: ... Yeah and we, you know, something that we'd also you know some of the
10 conversation while were watching the event is ...
11 J. TEFFT: Mh-uh.
12 MILLIGAN: ... we did feel that this guy I mean almost looked like he is on drugs and that was you
13 know ...
14 J. TEFFT: Okay.
15 MILLIGAN: ... 'cause the police that I saw they weren't small guys and they were being tossed
16 around pretty hard ...
17 J. TEFFT: Okay.
18 MILLIGAN: And I just thought you know, that's some you don't normally see people doing
19 specially when they're yelling at you ...
20 J. TEFFT: Sure.
21 MILLIGAN: ... telling you to get down.
22 J. TEFFT: Sure, alright, well Sean let me go over your statement where I took some notes and of
23 course I taped recorded this well but let me just go over and make sure I have it all
24 correct and if I don't be sure and correct me on that okay.
25 MILLIGAN: Okay
26 J. TEFFT: Uhm, on that night I would say July uh, 24, you earlier that night you've been over at
27 Larry's house for dinner and then a group of you got into your car and was Laura de
28 driver?
MILLIGAN: Yeah.
J. TEFFT: Okay, so we have Laura, we have you we have David we have Larry Jeannette and
Cassandra.

1 MILLIGAN: Mh-uh.

2 J. TEFFT: And you guys were gonna go to the roller coaster from the roller coaster then you're
3 gonna go to Mr.Frosty's for some ice cream afterwards.

4 MILLIGAN: Yes.

5 J. TEFFT: And you were driving on Mission Boulevard and you saw a helicopter overhead and
6 the spotlight was down so that threw your attention up to you know that's something
7 out of the ordinary on this traffic.

8 MILLIGAN: Mh-uh.

9 J. TEFFT: As you got in front of this little store as you were approaching the little store you (ui)
10 directly in front of it you saw and you had good lighting based on the spotlight as well
11 of the lighting of the convenience store you saw three persons on the sidewalk in front
12 of the store ...

13 MILLIGAN: Mh-uh.

14 J. TEFFT: ... two of which you recognized as uniformed police officers San Diego police officers
15 and the other one was a black male that you describe as large built, wearing dark shirt,
16 dark pants maybe as much tall as 6 foot five weighing two hundred and fifty pounds.

17 MILLIGAN: Mh-uh.

18 J. TEFFT: And the three of them were engaged in a uhm, struggle, confrontation whatever you
19 wanna call it where the officers had a hold of him and you thought they maybe they
20 may have a hold of one hand like either was handcuffed or was gonna be handcuffed
21 and the they were spinning around in circles.

22 MILLIGAN: Yes.

23 J. TEFFT: And that everybody was kind of pulling on each other and there was a lot of spinning
24 and struggles going back and forth. One of the officers was thrown off of the, thrown
25 out of the struggle it was thrown maybe four or five feet back from the struggle ah, at
26 that time you noticed that the black male had a pair of nunchuks in his hands, okay,
27 and the officer that got thrown off of the struggle drew his weapon and in the (ui)
28 crouched and he had his gun out but pointed in the direction of the black male but had
it down at the ground.

MILLIGAN: That's right.

1 J. TEFFT: And that he had ah, he said something to the effect that get down or something to that
2 effect. The second officer was either thrown off or dropped off the suspect and at that
3 time you noticed he had both pairs of nunchuks and then as you pulled parallel with
4 the store there was a parked car on your way a small van or something similar to that
5 that obstructed your view and you heard some shots and although you don't know
6 who the shooter is you kind of thought it was probably the police uhm but you don't
7 know for sure and then you continued on down to the roller coaster and then went
8 about your evening then on July or August first which was Sunday, you had a
9 conversation with Larry and Larry told you that he and David had given a statement to
10 the police about this and you've been following what is going on the press and you
11 thought that maybe you should tell, you and your wife should relate to what you had
12 seen.

12 MILLIGAN: Yeah.

13 J. TEFFT: Okay. Uhm, you felt that what you saw the force was reasonable and that you kind of
14 felt that the person they were fighting with could possibly be on drugs.

15 MILLIGAN: That's correct.

16 J. TEFFT: Okay. the nunchuks do you -- now you said they were nunchuks now I know what I
17 know about nunchuks could you describe to me what you mean by nunchuks.

18 MILLIGAN: Uhm, basically two -- two handles connected by a ah, a piece of rope.

19 J. TEFFT: Okay.

20 MILLIGAN: Basically.

21 J. TEFFT: Okay, alright, okay. Now when he had these in his hand, the nunchuks, what was he
22 doing with them.

23 MILLIGAN: He was swinging them.

24 J. TEFFT: He was sw -- okay swinging them like --uhm, can you describe to me how he was
25 swinging them?

26 MILLIGAN: Uhm I guess in ah, you know overhand manner I mean it, it was at the officers.

27 J. TEFFT: Okay. Okay now ah, okay like was he holding like one of the handles and swing while
28 the other was swinging, or was he just kind of ah, you know what I'm talking about
like ...

MILLIGAN: Yes I guess.

1 J. TEFFT: One of them had the rope and the other flying around I just need for you to describe
2 how it was swinging.

3 MILLIGAN: Yeah he had a hold of one handle and the other one was basically you know, at the
4 other end you know, free swinging.

5 J. TEFFT: Okay.

6 MILLIGAN: The impact someone.

7 J. TEFFT: Okay, kind of kind of like what they like you see in Kung-fu (ui) stuff.

8 MILLIGAN: Like they (ui).

9 J. TEFFT: Okay and it, it was at the direction of the officers?

10 MILLIGAN: Yeah.

11 J. TEFFT: Okay and was he swinging one or both?

12 MILLIGAN: Uhm at the time I for sho - I for sure I saw him he was swinging one...

13 J. TEFFT: Okay.

14 MILLIGAN: And then the second one I thought I just saw him just as he had gained control of the I
15 didn't actually see him swinging (ui).

16 J. TEFFT: Okay he swung one and was holding the other.

17 MILLIGAN: Yes.

18 J. TEFFT: Okay, alrightie, okay. Okay now did you see the officers using the nunchuks at all?

19 MILLIGAN: Uhm, no I didn't actually observed them using them.

20 J. TEFFT: Alright, okay let me just go (ui) pretty much everything (ui) the nunchuks (ui) okay
21 well I appreciate your giving me is there anything else that you think we need to go
22 over, Sean that I didn't cover?

23 MILLIGAN: I can't think of anything ...

24 J. TEFFT: Allrightie, you have my business or your wife has my name and number obviously
25 'cause she telephoned me and so uhm if you think of something else, feel free to give
26 me a call.

27 MILLIGAN: Okay.

28 J. TEFFT: Uhm, and we'll go ahead and add it to the report you know sometimes uhm these
things happen where you know you think of something two days later you go oh, man
I forgot to tell the officer that, and if that does don't feel bad about just give me a call
and we'll add and addendum to your report. I appreciate your calling and uhm I called

1 Larry and left a message with him and his message machine so we'll try to interview
2 this other folks as well.
3 MILLIGAN: Okay.
4 J. TEFFT: Okay well thanks for getting back to me Sean I understand you got some test tonight
5 so I don't wanna keep you too long.
6 MILLIGAN: (Laughs)
7 J. TEFFT: Alright .
8 MILLIGAN: Alright.
9 J. TEFFT: Take care sir.
10 MILLIGAN: Bye.
11 J. TEFFT: Bye bye.
12 End of interview.