

1 TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF TONY ROVINSKY

2 INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL ERIC EDWARDS

3 AND SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN

4 CASE NUMBER 08-74777

5 RECORDED ON DECEMBER 10, 2009

6 CE – CORPORAL EDWARDS

7 SA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN

8 TR – TONY ROVINSKY

9
10
11 Twelve/10/ 2009, it's approximately 2:19 p.m. Corporal Eric Edwards Orange
12 County Sheriff's Office. In the room with... (Sergeant John Allen) And.. (Tony
13 Rovinsky. Tony, we appreciate you coming here today. Ah, can you raise your
14 right hand for me?

15
16 TR Yes.

17 CE Do you swear the information that you give today is going to be true?

18 TR I do.

19 CE Thank you. Um, we call... I called you because your name has come up in some
20 other interviews as being a searcher ah, in the Anthony case.

21 TR Yes.

22 CE You've volunteered to come here and I appreciate that.

23 TR Sure.

1 CE Um, can you tell me about your experience or how many times you felt you
2 searched in there or who you may have searched with. And educate me on your
3 experiences for that search.

4 TR Okay. When you say in there, specifically ...

5 CE I'm... right to be (Inaudible)...

6 TR ...location.

7 CE ..from what I... the location of the body recovery.

8 TR Okay.

9 CE Have you ever searched that area?

10 TR Yes I have on many occasions. Initially with Texas EquuSearch um, we were
11 assigned the area down at the end of the road beyond the fence.

12 CD Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

13 TR And we took ATV's in there and spent a lot of time out to the waterway whenever
14 that ah...

15 CE What date was that do you remember?

16 TR I don't.

17 CE Q Now...

18 TR That was the first session search session that Texas EquuSearch had in the
19 Orlando area for Caylee.

20 CE Okay.

21 TR And we spent a lot of time back there. There was a lot of water and got an ATV
22 stuck and ultimately realized that we weren't gonna have a lot of success back
23 there because of the water conditions. And as it turned out I think it was the next
24 day Sunday, Texas EquuSearch announced that they were pulling out. Stepping
25 back from the search. Ah, because of my um, interest in the case and having

1 met a number of people over the course of the days that we searched with Texas
2 EquuSearch. I had met some folks that were also like myself, very interested in
3 continuing the search. If it made sense to do so. Since we lived in the area.

4 CE Who are they?

5 TR Um, Brett Churchill was one. Ah, Laurie um, sorry I'm skipping on her last name.
6 Um, and Brett's wife and there were... there were six or eight people. Michelle
7 um, and her sister um, Michelle Jordan. Her sister, I don't know her sister's last
8 name or her sister's name. First name is Karen. There were about six or eight of
9 us. And we kind of came together and said...

10 SA (cough)

11 TR we'd like to continue on if we could you know. On the weekends whenever
12 we can arrange to have time to get together. And um, I had the luxury of having
13 some free time being a consultant. Living in Tampa and not having um, ongoing
14 projects at the time. I made the commitment to continue to come over to
15 Orlando. Not only on the weekends, but after the rest of the folks would go back
16 to work. I would stay sometimes and research on Monday and Tuesday and
17 sometimes Wednesday. I spend overall probably fifty or so days. I didn't keep up
18 with an exact count. As far as the time line, ah, I can pin that down a little bit
19 closer. By looking at hotel ah, bills and so forth that..

20 CE Where'd you primarily stay?

21 TR I stayed at the Holiday Inn.

22 CE Right there where Brett is...

23 TR Yeah.

24 CE ...an employee?
25

1 TR And.. yeah. And ah, so um, because of what I had heard and what I believe to
2 be the circumstances of, of the case. With respect to ah, where we might have
3 had the greatest success in finding Caylee. Would be somewhere in the vicinity
4 of the home. And so, that area out there, listening to um, Casey's comment
5 about, she's close to home. I don't know what the exact words were, but
6 something to that effect.

7 CE That pretty much sums it up.

8 TR It just struck me as, that makes a lot of sense. That really makes a lot of sense.
9 And I.. I can't explain fully, but anytime we.. we were asked to go to a specific
10 area because of telephone pings or whatever.

11 SA Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

12 TR We would go there and to the best of our ability clear that area. And then ah, we
13 would have perhaps another two or three hours of daylight. And among us we
14 would comment, where would.. where would everyone like to go now. On a
15 number of occasions I suggested, let's go back over there and, and research.
16 And continue to look there because I just.. I just feel that that's the place to look.
17 That area where the remains were found, was under water. That area was
18 definitely under water. I walked up to the edge of the weed line, the grass there
19 just over the ah, edge of the up from the curb and it was deep in water. Or I
20 would've gone back there. And previously I'd had the experience of getting the
21 ATV stuck in the other area. And it just kind of didn't make sense to wade into
22 the water because you couldn't really see anything anyway. But I went back
23 there on a number of occasions and I'm telling you it was, it was deep in water.
24 And so ultimately when the remains were found and I learned where. I was not
25 shocked. I was not surprised at all. That's..

1 CE Okay.

2 TRthat would've been what I, what I would've expected. And if anything I was
3 upset with myself as I expressed earlier for not having you know.

4 CE Right.

5 TR Paid more attention to that. Over a period of time when it did get drier back
6 there. But it is what it is.

7 CE Now when you say that there was standing water there. Do you remember
8 approximate times of the year of during wood searches or the entire time that
9 you were there?

10 TR There was water every time that I was there. But the period of time that I'm
11 focusing more on right now was after EquuSearch left the first time. And before
12 they came back the second time. And I don't remember the exact dates, but I'm
13 sure that we can pin those .. that time line down fairly easily. Um, but um...

14 SA But you're saying in the... you searched there forty or fifty days and there was
15 water there pretty much every time you were there?

16 TR Yes.

17 SA Okay.

18 CE You say you have prior military experience with that same search....

19 TR I was search and rescue Navy military. And um, that's what attracted my
20 attention to want to volunteer you know. And I knew they were asking for any
21 kind of volunteers. Anyone..

22 CE True.

23 TR that could stand up and look.

24 CE Yah.

25

1 TR You know. But since I felt that I had something a little more to offer I thought I
2 need to volunteer to do this.

3 CE Um, did you ever act in a capacity of a team leader?

4 TR Yes I did.

5 CE So, you filled out EquuSearch forms probably?

6 TR Yes.

7 CE Um, what was the process there with that paperwork?

8 TR Ah, we ere given the sheet to begin with and all the searchers who were gonna
9 be on that team were asked to sign. And to list their cell number so we could get
10 a hold of them. And they were given instructions about when they came back
11 when we reported back in to make sure you signed out at the end of the day.
12 And to keep in touch with a team leader. And to be directed by the team leader
13 with respect to where you were going and stay together and follow directions.
14 And...

15 CE Okay.

16 TR ... all the usual things.

17 CE What.. what would happen with those forms at ...

18 TR Those forms would be turned back in at the end of the day. And on not every
19 occasion, but on some occasions they would ask that we do a debriefing. And
20 they would ask us you know what we saw, what we found of any significance or
21 what we thought was important enough to be ah, marked for research.

22 CE Were you ever a team leader in that area?

23 TR No.

24 CE No.

25 TR I wasn't.

1 CE Ah, who...

2 TR Most, most of the times I was in that area, I was on my own or with my smaller
3 team. Ah, some of the folks that I mentioned earlier.

4 CE Okay. Did.. who would do the debriefs that you remember?

5 TR I, I do not recall.

6 CE You don't know who they were? Okay.

7 TR I do not recall.

8 CE But you would always turn the paperwork in?

9 TR Yes.

10 CE Okay. Um, the name, we mentioned a name to you ah, prior to going ... Do you
11 know the name, or did you already ask that? Laura Buchanan.

12 SA Laura Buchanan.

13 TR Name's very familiar to me. And...

14 SA The name's been on the news. I.. I.. earlier said something about a Lori, there's
15 a Lori, there's a Lori Cree and a ..

16 TR Yeah.

17 SA ... Laura..

18 TR Lori Cree was the person I was referring to.

19 SA Okay.

20 TR Earlier. I couldn't remember her last name.

21 SA There's a Laurie Crey, whom we spoken to.

22 TR yeah.

23 SA And a Laura Buchanan, um, that we haven't spoke to, but has been mentioned,
24 has been mentioned and we're trying to find somebody who has met this Laura
25 Buchanan.

1 TR Okay.

2 SA Did you ever, do you recall meet... I don't want to confuse Laurie... Laurie Crey
3 and Laura Buchanan.

4 TR Right.

5 SA Um...

6 TR Laura Buchanan you mentioned to me. The name is familiar, but I.. I really can't
7 give you any ,...

8 SA You could've met her there...

9 TR ...recall..

10 SA ...you could've heard the name on the news.

11 TR I could have (Inaudible)... ...

12 CE We're just trying to find a photograph of her.

13 TR Yeah.

14 CE Actually we're actively doing that. And when we come across that we're probably
15 give you a shout and if you're willing to look at it for us.

16 TR Sure, absolutely...

17 CE And see if you recognize her.

18 TRI would.

19 CE Alright.

20 TR Yes.

21 CE Okay. Um...

22 SA Um, the only other person that.. mentioned... did you ever a Joy Wray at any of
23 these searches?

24 TR Joy...

25 SA Joy Wray.

1 TR I don't recall.

2 SA Alright.

3 TR Having met anyone by that name.

4 SA Did you ever meet a woman out there who claimed to be friends with the
5 president Bush or a spy for the white house?

6 TR No.

7 SA Okay.

8 CE Birney.. ah, Birney Smith.

9 TR Birney Smith I know very well...

10 CD You know Birney Smith?

11 TR Yes.

12 CD What can you tell me about Birney Smith?

13 TR Um, Birney and I have crossed paths in some of the search activity. Most
14 recently um, we were involved in a search ah, here on a Saturday for Jennifer
15 Kesse. And the other ah, young lady that's missing from Ocoee. Um...

16 CE Cosio?

17 TR And we went out on the lake. I um, he and I were on his boat and using side
18 sonar. Um, up in the Ocoee area. And I've talked to him quite a number of times
19 and...

20 CE So, you know ...

21 TR ...that's how...

22 CE ...Eddy Mills?

23 TR I don't know Eddy Mills.

24 CE No. Okay. Um, Birney Smith um, he was.. I talked to him on the phone today.

25 TR Yes.

1 CE He also searched here with... for Caylee.

2 TR Yes he did.

3 CE Um, he was staying at that hotel too.

4 TR Right.

5 CE Down there. Was there a time between the Texas EquuSearch 'cause it's where
6 Tim actually came down, that you recall. Where they may have done some
7 Jennifer Kesse searches? Did you assist in any of that? It wasn't part of the
8 formal search one, two or three. It was something that happened between.

9 TR I do recall him being here . And, and I was involved in ah, some of the Jennifer
10 Kesse searches in Texas Search ah, Texas EquuSearches absence. At the
11 request of Tim Miller.

12 CE Okay.

13 TR Um, and I think that communication took place perhaps between Lori Cree and,
14 and someone within Texas EquuSearch.

15 CE Okay. But never, never with (Inaudible)...

16 TR But I was not present at the Holiday Inn for that.

17 CE Okay.

18 SA Were you ever present with ah, with this Birney Smith when ah, when there was
19 any kind, any type of, there any evidence found was turned over to the police that
20 you're aware of?

21 TR No.

22 SA Okay. Um, were you present when, when he was ah, at any search he did with
23 the Tampa Airport Police officer?

24 TR No I wasn't.

25 SA Alright.

1 CE Do you know what Birney does for a living?
2 TR He's, I think he's retired.
3 CE Retired what?
4 TR Um, law officer. Ah, I think he was with um, the sheriff's department up in some
5 county up near Gainesville. I've never been to his home I don't know... But I
6 understand that he was um, injured on duty. And he's disabled and is no longer
7 working actively.
8 CE Okay. Have you ever seen a K-9 deployed off Suburban or any K-9 tracks in
9 Suburban while you were searching?
10 TR I've seen them deployed.
11 CE In that area?
12 TR In that area.
13 CE Whose dogs?
14 TR Don't... I did not know them.
15 CE Towards the school or in the area...
16 TR Towards the school.
17 CE ... of the recovery?
18 TR Close to the school. Not down the recovery area.
19 CE Okay so you never seen a K-9 search in, in that recovery area?
20 TR No I have not.
21 CE Okay.
22 SA That's it.
23 CE You raise... Can you think of anything else you want to add?
24 TR No I can't.
25

1 CE Okay at this point and time after all these interviews I.. I fried. Can you raise your
2 right hand for me. You swear everything you said today is true?

3 TR I do.

4 CE Freely given?

5 TR Freely given.

6 CE Thank you sir. And it's currently 2:32 p.m. Same individuals in the room.

7

8

9

10

11 **THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT**

12

of the interview which was sworn before me.

13

14

Signed this 22 day of January, 200~~9~~¹⁰.

15

Cpl. Eric Edwards 0282

16

CORPORAL ERIC EDWARDS , OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25