

May 25, 2009

On May 24th 2009 at approximately 1:30 pm my partner – Maurice White and myself – Paul Franks were transporting a patient from a personal residence in Boley to Prague Hospital E.D. About 3 miles out of Boley, our unit was approached by an OHP cruiser traveling at a high rate of speed. I did not see this unit approach for several reasons – (1) Because of the hilly terrain and winding road, my window of opportunity to see his approach was very small. (2) The speed at which he was traveling further reduced the time available to me. (3) I was focused on a vehicle in front of me that was driving erratically. (4) The fact that when the trooper closed the gap between our vehicles he continued to travel at a matching rate of speed of our unit – 3 feet behind my back bumper. This scenario made it impossible for me to see him due to the design of an ambulance vehicle.

The trooper's vehicle passed me at a very high rate of speed causing me to remark to my passenger – "Wow where did he come from?" I did see his lights at this time, but did not hear any audible sirens.

After entering the town of Paden we were pulled over by an OHP vehicle. I exited our unit to the greeting of "get your ass in my vehicle. I'm giving you a ticket right now." I tried to explain to the trooper that I didn't see him, had I, I would have gladly pulled over. I also explained that we had a patient enroute to Prague ER and if he would follow us and let us complete the job we were bound and sworn to do, we would sort this out afterwards.

At this point Paramedic Maurice White exited the vehicle and told trooper Martin the same thing. At this time an already enraged trooper Martin assaulted Mr. White saying he was placing him under arrest. I pleaded with trooper Martin to let us continue and we would be happy to meet with him afterward, to no avail. At this point the patient's family became involved. The situation was extremely close to becoming out of control.

Trooper Iker arrived on scene and the altercation continued another minute or so. Trooper Iker convinced trooper Martin to allow us to continue patient care and transport our patient to Prague ER.

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