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Statement of Cpl. Doug NOEL.

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Digital Recording
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STATEMENT OF: Cpl. Doug NOEL, RCMP

INTERVIEWED BY: Cst. Mike NIPPARD, RCMP Major Crime Unit
May 14th, 2015 commencing at 1:56 PM

- 1 **Nippard:** Alright. What's the date? May 14th, 1:56 PM. My name is Constable
2 Nippard and I'm sitting with – are you Corporal...
- 3 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 4 **Nippard:** ... Corporal Doug Noel.
- 5 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 6 **Nippard:** At the Confederation Building here in St. John's. We're just talking about
7 the RNC shooting involving Joseph Smyth and Donald Dunphy. So the
8 questions I've got for you, Doug, is when did you start in the Premier's
9 Unit?
- 10 **Noel:** December of 2014 when Lindsey retired.
- 11 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 12 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 13 **Nippard:** How many were working here at that time when you first started?
- 14 **Noel:** Two.
- 15 **Nippard:** Just two.
- 16 **Noel:** Myself and Joe.
- 17 **Nippard:** Just for – yourself and Joe, okay. How long have you known Joseph?

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- 1 **Noel:** Ah, this was the first time I've actually worked with him. I've seen him
2 around in different roles over the years.
- 3 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 4 **Noel:** Ah, mainly for VIP visits when he would attend as RNC Liaison and maybe
5 from their Intelligence Unit ...
- 6 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 7 **Noel:** ... and provide some information on threat assessments. But I don't think
8 I'd actually met him. I was aware of him. The first time I actually met him
9 was ...
- 10 **Nippard:** December is it.
- 11 **Noel:** ... December past.
- 12 **Nippard:** So December – 2013.
- 13 **Noel:** 2014.
- 14 **Nippard:** Or 2014, yeah.
- 15 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 16 **Nippard:** Alright. Ah, have you – in your duties now have you ever had to use any
17 force within in this unit – use force on somebody that you met in the public
18 or anything like that?
- 19 **Noel:** No, not ...
- 20 **Nippard:** No.
- 21 **Noel:** ... no, I haven't
- 22 **Nippard:** As Joe ever had to that you're aware of?

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- 1 **Noel:** Not that I'm aware of, no.
- 2 **Nippard:** No. Okay. Ah, now as you know on April 5th he was – he was dealing
3 with a perceived threat anyway, come across social media.
- 4 **Noel:** That's right.
- 5 **Nippard:** How are those things typically handled in this unit like those – I know from
6 what I've gathered from talking to other people it's kind of – they could
7 come in through an email or a phone call and it could be dealt with as
8 simply as talking to somebody or ...
- 9 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 10 **Nippard:** ... or something like that.
- 11 **Noel:** When – often, like you say, often there's a – an email or a phone call
12 made to one of the Premier's staff, over on his Facebook or his Twitter,
13 ah, or through other MHAs occasionally will get something flipped from –
14 an email flipped from one of the other MHAs. You might be – wanna be
15 aware of this ...
- 16 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 17 **Noel:** ... that type of thing. Ah, generally we'll have a look at it and do a – do a
18 bit of a risk assessment, a threat assessment, on it. Use our police
19 sources as well as open sources to try to figure who this person is and
20 what their intentions are ...
- 21 **Nippard:** Uhm.
- 22 **Noel:** ... and, ah, and often we'll – and occasionally we'll go talk to them if – if –
23 it there's some ambiguity on what do they mean. Just to try to get a – a
24 sense for what this person is all about.
- 25 **Nippard:** Okay.

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- 1 **Noel:** Ah, I know one in particular someone was making, ah, just rambling,
2 vague, vague statements that could have been construed as threatening
3 or not and I just wanted to get a – a feel for what their state of mind were
4 so I attended at their residence and spoke to them, encouraged them to
5 continue their democratic right to express themselves but try to not be
6 threatening.
- 7 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 8 **Noel:** And after I spoke to that person I – I was satisfied that they weren't a
9 threat. They were rambling a bit and ...
- 10 **Nippard:** Uhm.
- 11 **Noel:** ... a bit overly passionate about what they felt was a – a perceived wrong
12 but they weren't threatening as such. And we had a discussion and I went
13 – I went on my way again.
- 14 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 15 **Noel:** You know.
- 16 **Nippard:** Ah, how many times would you have to do that or ...
- 17 **Noel:** Since December I've done ...
- 18 **Nippard:** ... go – to go ... (unintel) ...
- 19 **Noel:** ... since December I've done it once.
- 20 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 21 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 22 **Nippard:** Alright. So yeah, and that's the kind of vibe I got. It didn't happen all the
23 time but ...
- 24 **Noel:** No.

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1 **Nippard:** ... maybe a few times a year type thing.

2 **Noel:** Yes.

3 **Nippard:** Ah, since you've been here, I guess before April 5th, did Donald Dunphy's
4 name ever come up?

5 **Noel:** No, not – not ...

6 **Nippard:** As a ...

7 **Noel:** ... that I'm aware of.

8 **Nippard:** Okay.

9 **Noel:** Yeah.

10 **Nippard:** Alright. Ah, did you speak with Joe after the shooting?

11 **Noel:** Yes.

12 **Nippard:** Okay. Did he – did you guys ever have any conversations or did he tell
13 you about what happened on April 5th down in Mitchell's Brook?

14 **Noel:** Not – not in great detail.

15 **Nippard:** No.

16 **Noel:** Not all the details.

17 **Nippard:** Okay.

18 **Noel:** Just some vague conversations about how he was feeling and, ah, ah,
19 how he felt at the time. Afraid. After it happened he was very concerned
20 and, ah, afraid that someone else was gonna come get him type thing. He
21 was paranoid for moments, in the immediate after – the follow up
22 afterwards. He – he ...

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1 **Nippard:** Yeah.

2 **Noel:** .. was very fearful then and then he calmed down and – and the shock of it
3 all type thing, I guess. But that was the jest of our conversation after the
4 fact.

5 **Nippard:** Did he ever walk you through what happened in the – in the room at the
6 time?

7 **Noel:** Not in great detail, no.

8 **Nippard:** No.

9 **Noel:** No.

10 **Nippard:** What did he have to say about that?

11 **Noel:** Ah, ...

12 **Nippard:** If you can remember.

13 **Noel:** Yeah. Ah, just – just – he – he mentioned that going into the room and,
14 ah, the state, bad – like a bad smell, animals, this type of thing. Ah, he
15 talked about Mr. Dunphy asking him to sit down and he didn't. He
16 declined to sit down. He wished that he – not that he wished but he said it
17 wasn't because of any great tactical thinking. It was just due to the dirt ...

18 **Nippard:** Uhm.

19 **Noel:** ... on the couch or whatever. He just didn't wanna sit down there. And
20 Mr. Dunphy encouraged him several times to sit down and he didn't. Ah,
21 he said he was talking to them – talking to him and that he was becoming
22 – Joe was looking around he said about – looking at the filth, the – the
23 deplorable conditions ...

24 **Nippard:** Yeah.

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1 **Noel:** ... and I guess that was agitating Mr. Dunphy somewhat so Joe was
2 focusing on his clipboard, from what I understand, or his file folder, maybe
3 he was making some notes I believe about what Mr. Dunphy was saying
4 but mainly just to, ah, just to have something to focus on rather than
5 looking around which was bothering Mr. Dunphy.

6 **Nippard:** Uhm.

7 **Noel:** And then, ah, he said – he saw the gun come up out of the corner of his
8 eye when he was looking down and that was the first time he seen the
9 gun. He'd seen a bat beside his – his chair and then he doesn't know
10 where the gun came from whether it was under garbage or where it was.

11 **Nippard:** Yeah.

12 **Noel:** That was my impression anyways.

13 **Nippard:** Yeah.

14 **Noel:** And he remembers seeing the – the barrel of the gun, ah, coming across
15 or coming up and he commented to me that he, ah, his first reaction was
16 to put his hand out 'stop' or 'no'. I don't know if he said stop or no.

17 **Nippard:** Uhm.

18 **Noel:** I think no. Stop or no. And he moved and from what I can gather there,
19 he moved and – and then shot him as he was moving away from the
20 threat of the – the gun coming up. And then from what I can gather he
21 was out of the room then. And then he looked back in, cause he moved to
22 safety, and then he looked back in and Mr. Dunphy was on the – on the
23 floor I think or – or fell back in the chair, sat back in the – sat back in the
24 chair. And I think he was – felt he was dead then.

25 **Nippard:** Yeah.

26 **Noel:** Yeah.

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1 **Nippard:** Okay.

2 **Noel:** And at that point he was afraid that there was people coming for him. I
3 talked to him about being afraid. He was afraid that there was brothers –
4 he said he was – and he was talking about how his – he know now it didn't
5 make a whole lot of sense but at the time he was concerned that it was
6 more than one brother gonna come for him, type thing, even though he –
7 as far as he knew there was only one brother existed.

8 **Noel:** Okay.

9 **Noel:** Next door, whatever, that he'd been talking to him. So for a few moments
10 he was very, I guess in the heightened state of fear, and then he calmed
11 down and, I believe, then he called – I don't know if he called our people
12 or called the RNC or called Telcoms or who he called.

13 **Nippard:** Alright. In this Unit is there any specific – cause I know it's integrated,
14 right ...

15 **Nippard:** Yeah.

16 **Nippard:** ... so is there any specific things where you have to have two members go
17 to it or is it just more or less, you know, you risk assessment? You do
18 your ...

19 **Noel:** Yeah.

20 **Nippard:** ... your assessment and determine of that, right.

21 **Noel:** You just determine off that.

22 **Nippard:** Yeah.

23 **Noel:** Yeah. There's no established protocol that there's always two people.
24 Ah, just if there – if there was occasions for – not to go anybody. We
25 haven't had occasions where we felt there was a – a serious enough
26 threat to go – warrant two people as a must.

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- 1 **Nippard:** Uhm.
- 2 **Noel:** Ah, occasionally if it was a bigger event one of us would work overtime
3 and then two of us would attend with the Premier ...
- 4 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 5 **Noel:** ... to do a bit of an advanced type thing, yeah.
- 6 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 7 **Noel:** That type of thing. But it was just based on our risk assessments as we
8 went along.
- 9 **Nippard:** Okay. What kind of shift schedule have you guys been following since
10 you've been here?
- 11 **Noel:** Up 'til that time ...
- 12 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 13 **Noel:** ... ah, it was twelve hour shifts. We never worked together.
- 14 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 15 **Noel:** We were either – it was a two week rotation. One week I'd work Monday,
16 Tuesday, be off Wednesday, Thursday, work Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
17 And the next week it'd be reversed.
- 18 **Nippard:** Oh okay.
- 19 **Noel:** I'd work, ah, ...
- 20 **Nippard:** Off Monday, Tuesday.
- 21 **Noel:** ... off Monday, Tuesday, work Wednesday, Thursday, work Friday,
22 Saturday, Sunday.

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- 1 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 2 **Noel:** And Joe would work the opposite.
- 3 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 4 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 5 **Nippard:** And from what I understood from Lindsey anyway was, and I don't know if
6 it's like that now, but if he you had particular events that, you know,
7 required two of you then you'd adjust shift schedule ...
- 8 **Noel:** Just adjust the shift schedule, yeah.
- 9 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 10 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 11 **Nippard:** ... to be both there, whatever.
- 12 **Noel:** Just a lot of flexibility.
- 13 **Nippard:** Yeah, exactly.
- 14 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 15 **Nippard:** And I guess for travelling and whatever else, right.
- 16 **Noel:** Right.
- 17 **Nippard:** Ah, I think that's all I can, ah, think to go over with you. Anything else you
18 wanna add or think we should know?
- 19 **Noel:** No. No. Ah, the first I heard of it was Ed flip – or Joe flipped me some
20 emails ...
- 21 **Nippard:** Okay.

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- 1 **Noel:** ... that Friday, I believe. Good Friday. Just the same ones he got, ah,
2 with the – the partial tweets. And he just said, yeah, just a heads up, this
3 is what we're looking at. And then, ah, at some point in time he – he
4 emailed me that he was gonna see Dunphy, Mr. Dunphy. And that day I
5 was messaging him, ah, on Blackberry.
- 6 **Nippard:** Uhm.
- 7 **Noel:** And just said 'er, ah, just to confirm with him that he was – said what
8 about the Twitter guy. He said, yeah, I'm on my way to see him now. I
9 said, okay, did you let anyone know in Holyrood. He said, yeah, he did. I
10 said, okay, let me know when you're clear, that type of thing. And then the
11 next tweet was that he pulled on a gun me.
- 12 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 13 **Noel:** And it was – in a shooting. So that was that. And then I came back to
14 work. I was out in Carbonear visiting relatives.
- 15 **Nippard:** Oh okay.
- 16 **Noel:** So I came back in and, ah, that was that.
- 17 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 18 **Noel:** Yeah.
- 19 **Nippard:** Did you see him that day at all after it happened or?
- 20 **Noel:** No, no.
- 21 **Nippard:** No.
- 22 **Noel:** No. I don't know when I saw him. It was a week or more or ...
- 23 **Nippard:** Okay. ... (unintel)...
- 24 **Noel:** ... several days after. Yeah ...

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- 1 **Nippard:** Alright.
- 2 **Noel:** ... before he went to Florida. I know he went to Florida not long after.
3 Maybe a week after. But yeah, it was two or three days after that that I
4 saw him.
- 5 **Nippard:** Did Joe ever have any issues with, ah, like co-workers while – since
6 you've been here? I guess, it's only been the two of you really.
- 7 **Noel:** It's only been since December.
- 8 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 9 **Noel:** I've found him excellent.
- 10 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 11 **Noel:** Ah, very professional. Very intelligent. Very thoughtful about
12 everything,...
- 13 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 14 **Noel:** ... everyone. Yeah.
- 15 **Nippard:** Yeah. Thorough kind of guy.
- 16 **Noel:** Oh yeah.
- 17 **Nippard:** Hasn't had any complaints that you're aware of from the public or people
18 just coming complaining about how he's been ...
- 19 **Noel:** Oh no.
- 20 **Nippard:** ... perceived, I guess, in the public and whatnot?
- 21 **Noel:** No. No, nothing like that.

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1 **Nippard:** Okay. Perfect. No, that's – that's good. Alright, I'll end it there. What
2 time is it? 2:08.

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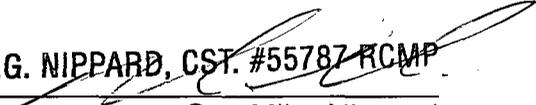
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