



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2024-1385

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin, OH,
44883 (L)

Investigative Activity: Attempt to Locate/Contact, Evidence Collection
Date of Activity: 05/03/2024
Activity Location: Tiffin Police Department – Business – 51 East Market Street, Tiffin, OH 44883
Author: SA Ryan Emahiser, #36

Narrative:

On May 3, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Emahiser (Emahiser) was at the Tiffin Police Department (TPD) gathering information regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI). While at TPD, SA Emahiser had been advised that the involved TPD Officer Drew Westenbarger (Drew), had been placed into a meeting room within the TPD. TPD administration had already taken possession of Officer Westenbarger's duty weapon that was allegedly used in the incident being investigated by BCI. Lt. Jake DeMonte had placed Officer Westenbarger's duty belt with his duty weapon still in his duty retention holder in a secure location within Lt. DeMonte's office.

SA Emahiser first made contact with Officer Westenbarger, introduced himself to Officer Westenbarger, and advised Officer Westenbarger that SA Emahiser needed to take photos of Officer Westenbarger in his uniform that he was wearing at the time the incident occurred. Two photos were taken by SA Emahiser with Axon Capture, using SA Emahiser BCI issued cell phone, and uploaded to Axon Evidence. Those photos have been uploaded to this case file and attached to this report for review, below are the file names of the photos taken. The file name lists the case, date, and time the photos were taken.

1. Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_10_23
2. Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_10_30

Officer Westenbarger utilizes an outer carrier uniform vest, with the ability to carry issued items on his outer carrier vest. On his left upper chest his TPD badge is affixed, below that a carrier for a body worn camera, and below that in the left stomach area a Taser secured in a Taser holster. On Officer Westenbarger's left side, under his arm, he has a radio in a holder, and directly behind that a double magazine holder with two Smith and Wesson magazines.

SA Emahiser advised Officer Westenbarger that BCI Agents would make contact with Officer Westenbarger to schedule an interview regarding the incident, after sufficient evidence of the

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Approved By SA Christopher Hamberg on
05/15/2024

investigation was obtained to conduct the interview.

Following making contact with Officer Westenbarger, SA Emahiser returned to Lt. DeMonte's office and took possession of Officer Westenbarger's duty weapon utilized in the incident. Upon viewing, Officer Westenbarger's weapon was still secured in its retention holder attached to a nylon duty belt, appearing to be used on Officer Westenbarger's right side of his right hip. On the front of the retention holder is a tourniquet within it's holder. Also on the duty belt was a handcuff keeper with blue ASP hinged handcuffs secured, and initials "M. W." written on the handcuffs, that appear to be carried directly behind his duty weapon holster on the belt. On what appears to be the left side carry portion of the belt is what is believed to be a metal key keeper.

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The following is a description of Officer Westenbarger's weapon that was removed from his duty belt and used during the incident being investigated.

- Black Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0, 9mm, serial number [REDACTED]; with attached Trijicon reflex sight, and Streamlight TLR-1 HL light attachment.



The handgun had a 17 round capacity magazine still inserted into the magazine well of the handgun. Upon removing the magazine, SA Emahiser counted 14 live 9mm rounds loaded in the magazine. SA Emahiser cleared the weapon to make it safe for placement into evidence, and one live round was located and removed from the chamber of the handgun. Handling of the handgun was conducted using latex gloves in an attempt to preserve any additional evidence that may be needed or contained within or on the handgun.

Photos were taken of Officer Westenbarger's duty weapon, magazine, live rounds previously mentioned, and the duty weapon in the retention holster on the duty belt. All photos have been uploaded to this case file and will be attached to this report for review.

After placing the handgun into an evidence container, SA Emahiser provided Lt. DeMonte with

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a BCI property inventory receipt which is attached to this report and case file for review. The evidence item was later the same day transported to the Bowling Green BCI Office and placed into temporary evidence storage locker #3.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Emahiser Prop Receipt Westenbarger Weapon
- Attachment # 02: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_29_05
- Attachment # 03: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_27_16
- Attachment # 04: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_26_20
- Attachment # 05: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_25_43
- Attachment # 06: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_25_32
- Attachment # 07: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_24_12
- Attachment # 08: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_10_30
- Attachment # 09: Tiffin_OICI_2024-05-03_13_10_23

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