



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



2024-3564

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5050 Eastpointe Drive,
Medina, Ohio 44256, Medina County

Investigative Activity: Interview Involved Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 11/25/2024
Activity Location: 3149 Frantz Road, Medina Township, OH
Authoring Agent: SA Jesse Bynum

Narrative:

On Monday, November 25, 2024, at 1100 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jesse Bynum (SA Bynum) and SA Cory Momchilov (SA Momchilov) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) [REDACTED], who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher. The interview took place at OSHP Post 52 located at 3149 Frantz Road, Medina Township, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt Castallanos
Radio Channel Utilized: OSHP Medina	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: Unmarked Dodge Durango	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Driver
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized

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Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No
Uniform Worn: green tactical uniform consisting of TDU's (Tactical Dress Uniform), long sleeve shirt with OSP [REDACTED] patches on each shoulder.	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]s
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: No
Injuries: No	Equipment Damage: No
Training or Areas of Specialty: tactical training through OSHP SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) school, sniper and rifle certified, and a [REDACTED] instructor with OPOTA	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED] OSHP Academy
Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Use-of-Force Training: Use of force training with SWAT Training Monthly
Prior Shooting Incidents: Yes	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No	

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: MASTERPIECE ARMS	Model: Ruckus Bolt Action Rifle
Caliber/Gauge: .308 caliber	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: In a rifle box
Extra Magazines: No	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary

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Rounds Remaining After Incident: 8	Number of Rounds Fired: 1
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Monthly	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Narrative:

██████████ provided and read aloud a five-page typed statement prepared by him prior to this interview. The statement is included below as read and written. included demographic information noted above and an account of the incident. For the purposes of brevity, the following is only the part which relates to the incident on November 11, 2024.

“On the day of this incident, I was at home when I received a SRT call out at 8:25 p.m. Earlier in the day there was an Amber Alert for a 7-year-old girl taking by a non-custodial parent in Jefferson County, Ohio. The call out notification stated that the Amber Alert suspect was southbound on I-71 at milepost 219. According to the notification, the suspect had called 911 and advised that he had the child and that it’s not going to end well. During the pursuit, the tires were down to nothing, so it was going at a slow speed. It gave the location as 5050 Eastpoint Drive, Medina, 71/SR18 southbound.

I put on my tactical gear and grabbed my heavy tactical vest and drove in my unmarked OSHP Durango, with my lights and sirens activated, to the location. As I was driving there, I learned that the little girl had been taken by force and the suspect had pointed the gun at her and had threatened to kill her. I was also in contact with the OSP helicopter (which was already overhead) to locate a good tactical position.

I arrived in the area a little before 9:00 p.m. I took the Medina Road exit from I-71-S. I stopped my Durango on the exit ramp, approximately 70 yards from Arby’s (5081 Eastpoint Drive). It was dark outside but the Arby’s and surrounding businesses had their lights on and there were numerous cruisers, forming a perimeter around the suspect, with their headlights on and pointed toward the U-Haul. The U-Haul was in Arby’s parking lot. It was parked east, with the front towards I-71S and the driver’s side door was to the north. Prior to my arrival, law enforcement officers had evacuated the Arby’s and surrounding businesses. The OSP helicopter stated that the little girl was on or near the suspect’s right thigh and possibly sitting on his lap. I believe they also stated that the gun was in his hand or on his lap. I exited my vehicle and grabbed my rifle. I got on the roof of my SUV and rested the stock of my rifle on a sandbag and used the bipod to

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stabilize the front. I got off the roof and took off my heavy tactical vest because I was going to need to lay flat against the roof, in a prone position.

Another officer, I believe it was Medina SWAT Officer Eckstine, came to my location. I asked him to shine his spotlight towards the U-Haul. I believe he also had another officer, who was on the south side of the suspect, point their spotlight onto the U-Haul. I got back onto the roof of my SUV. I put my body camera next to me, as well as the radio. I took a prone position and I looked through my scope. The exit ramp was elevated in comparison to the suspect's location. I had a good view of the suspect's silhouette in the driver's seat, as well as the little girl's head to his right. The driver's side window was broken, I believe due to the rounds he had fired at officers prior to my arrival. I asked Officer Eckstine to check my distance and I believe he stated I was 69 yards from the suspect. I watched the suspect through my scope for a couple of minutes to familiarize myself with his movements.

The suspect would lean his head back into the seat and then move it forward. When he would move, there would be times I would have a full view of his head and then it would be blocked by the A pillar as he moved. After about 3-4 minutes, the suspect leaned his head back and left it there for a second or two. While his head was back, I saw the little girl's head and she was not behind his head. I put my target directly towards his left eye so that if the round penetrated all the way through, it would go into the cab of the U-Haul and I pulled the trigger. I saw the round strike the suspect. As soon as I fired, I tried to air "shots fired" but I could not get the ready. I heard someone, I believe the helicopter, erroneously air that it was self-inflicted. I was yelling from my SUV for the assault team to go get the little girl as I could hear her crying. After several seconds, officers ran up to the U-Haul and took the little girl to safety. There were numerous law enforcement officers on scene and they assessed the suspect.

I left my rifle at the scene, on top of my SUV in the custody of other law enforcement, and I left the scene. I returned to the OSHP Medina Post and waited for BCI agents to arrive. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I fired one round at the suspect. I fired from a prone position, on top of the roof of my SUV. I utilized my sights, and I had my sights magnification amplified so that I my view was of the driver's side window and suspect's head. I did not have any cover or concealment but the spotlight next to me would have made it somewhat difficult for the suspect to see me. The direction of my shot was south, at a slightly downward angle due to the differing elevation. I angled my shot so my

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target was around the suspect's left eye. This had to be my target to ensure that the little girl's head was not in the path of the round, should it penetrate all the way through. My backdrop was the U-Haul cab. I only fired one round because I saw it entered the suspect's face/head and his head jerk and blood splatter. I did not want to fire any more rounds than absolutely necessary with the little girl in the vehicle.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the life of the little girl, who I now know to be Oaklynn Alexander. The suspect had kidnapped his daughter, lead police on a pursuit, fired at officers and repeatedly made threats to kill himself and his daughter. While on the phone with dispatch he repeatedly told his daughter she was going to go to heaven. He was given multiple opportunities to surrender and refused. I believe that had I not shot the suspect, he would have shot and seriously injured or killed his daughter. I do not believe I had any other choice to protect her life at the time I fired my weapon.

I know the suspect's name is Charles Alexander. I do not believe that I ever had any prior encounters, personal or professional, with the suspect.

This concludes my statement, and I am now prepared to answer any additional questions you may have."

After the statement was read by [REDACTED], SA Bynum and SA Momchilov asked follow-up questions to fill in missing items from the demographics sections and to clarify his statement.

When asked what the call or text was that [REDACTED] received, he was able to locate the text message and read it aloud. He recited "Amber Alert suspect 71 southbound milepost 219. The suspect called 911 during the pursuit, tires were down to nothing, so it's slow speed. He advised he has the child and it's not going to end well." Through additional information obtained from dispatch, [REDACTED] stated he believed that Oaklynn Alexander's life was in jeopardy and the only way to end the situation peacefully was for him to fire the shot at Charles.

[REDACTED] explained that his rifle was zeroed at 100 yards and Montville Township Police Officer Joel Eckstine was a sniper who was attempting to get into position, but instead ended up assisting [REDACTED] as a spotter. He further explained that Eckstine told him the distance in yards.

The interview concluded at approximately 1126 hours.

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The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report.
The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report.
Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-25 Criminal Investigation Notification
2. 2024-11-25_110034_Interview_██████████
3. 2025-11-25 ██████████ Statement

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Printed Name of Interviewee

11/25/2024 / 1100A
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

SA Jesse Bynum
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF TROOPER [REDACTED] UNIT [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred between approximately 8:25 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2024, in the area of 5081 Eastpointe Drive, Medina, Ohio. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

My date of hire with the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) is [REDACTED] and I graduated the OSHP academy approximately [REDACTED] and obtained my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Certificate. My badge number is [REDACTED] and I am Unit [REDACTED]. I am currently assigned to the [REDACTED]. I have been part of [REDACTED] since [REDACTED]. I have a [REDACTED] schedule but will typically work from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and complete approximately 32-40 hours of SRT training a month and 8-16 hours of sniper training every month. My regular days off are [REDACTED]. I have completed tactical training through OSHP SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) school, and I am sniper and rifle certified. I am also a certified sniper instructor with OPOTA. I have [REDACTED] experience in the [REDACTED]. I also have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Akron.

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I did not consume any alcohol in the 24-hour period prior to this incident. I was not under the influence of any medications, prescription or over the counter, which would have impaired my abilities. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I did not work any special duty in the 24-hour period prior to this incident. I did not work the day of this incident due to the Veterans Day holiday, so I arrived at the location well rested. I have a body worn camera and it was with me and activated during this incident.

On the date of this incident, I was dressed in my normal green tactical uniform consisting of TDU's (Tactical Dress Uniform), long sleeve shirt with OSP [REDACTED] patches on each shoulder. I was carrying my custom built 308 Winchester bolt rifle. It was equipped with a Zero Compromise 5-27x50 optic and a suppressor. I was current in my range qualifications and had just complete the monthly proficiency qualification. I did have my service pistol on my person at the time, of this incident. It was holstered and was never drawn or discharged.

On the day of this incident, I was at home when I received a SRT call out at 8:25 p.m. Earlier in the day there was an Amber Alert for a 7-year-old girl taking by a non-custodial parent in Jefferson County, Ohio. The call out notification stated that the Amber Alert suspect was southbound on I-71 at milepost 219. According to the notification, the suspect had called 911 and advised that he had the child and that it's not going to end well. During the pursuit, the tires were down to nothing, so it was going at a slow speed. It gave the location as 5050 Eastpoint Drive, Medina, 71/SR18 southbound.

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with the front towards I-71S and the driver's side door was to the north. Prior to my arrival, law enforcement officers had evacuated the Arby's and surrounding businesses. The OSP helicopter stated that the little girl was on or near the suspect's right thigh and possibly sitting on his lap. I believe they also stated that the gun was in his hand or on his lap. I exited my vehicle and grabbed my rifle. I got on the roof of my SUV and rested the stock of my rifle on a sandbag and used the bipod to stabilize the front. I got off the roof and took off my heavy tactical vest because I was going to need to lay flat against the roof, in a prone position.

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surrender and refused. I believe that had I not shot the suspect, he would have shot and seriously injured or killed his daughter. I do not believe I had any other choice to protect her life at the time I fired my weapon.

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