



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



2024-3649

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave
NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 12/06/2024
Activity Location: FOP Ohio Labor Council
2721 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Friday, December 06, 2024, at 1127 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) interviewed Massillon Police Department (MPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Paul Siegfert Jr., from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the FOP Ohio Labor Council office located at 2721 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44319. The interview was audio and video 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.

Any time references made correspond with the time elapsed in the video recorded interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: MPD unmarked vehicle
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Captain Marino

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	and [REDACTED]
Radio Channel Utilized: SPEC OPS	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: Black Mitsubishi eclipse cross	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Only occupant
Assignment: General SWAT operator	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Not Present	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: Special Duty Detail
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8+ hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Tan BDU pants, green jacket, green plate carrier "police" green ballistic helmet	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Radio, AR mag, tourniquet, body cam, spare pistol mag, handcuffs, door stops, medical kit, 2 pistol mags, rifle mag, duty firearm (R)
Ballistic Vest: Tactical Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT, training related to Major Crimes investigation, CIT, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	OPOTC Certification: Stark State College [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Annual UOF policy review, SWAT training 16 hours a month, 40-hour week once a year
Prior Shooting Incidents: Never been officer involved	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
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

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Bravo Company	Model: BCM4
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Click here to enter text.
Magazine Capacity: 30	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 28
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 56
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 28 (conducted reload)	Number of Rounds Fired: 28
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Personally Owned
Last Qualification Date: Recently before incident (2x annually)	Type of Holster, if any: 2 point sling

Narrative:

██████████ reviewed his body-worn camera approximately two times. He believed what he observed on his body-worn camera was primarily what he recalled from the incident.

On the morning of November 18, 2024, ██████████ was performing his normal duties as ██████████ with the MPD. Sometime during the mid-morning, while at the police department, he received a phone call from ██████████ who was a dispatcher for MPD and Jackson Township Police Department (JTPD). ██████████ asked if he was in Jackson Township on the Canton Regional SWAT (Canton SWAT) call out. ██████████ was unaware of any Canton SWAT call out that was active.

██████████ hung up the phone with ██████████ and contacted Canton SWAT Assistant Commander ██████████ informed ██████████ that there was an active "full team activation" in Jackson Township at 6880 Sunset Strip Avenue NW in North Canton, Ohio. ██████████ then said, "this guy is shooting at us, he shot a drone down, if you can get here, get here."

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██████████ immediately went to his unmarked ██████████ vehicle parked at the MPD and began responding to the incident location. ██████████ also received a page on his phone for the "full team activation" for Canton SWAT. Minimal details about the incident were provided, and the page simply stated there was a barricaded subject with shots fired at the Rodeway Inn motel.

While ██████████ was driving, he turned his radio on and changed the channel from the MPD main channel to the Canton SWAT SPEC OPS channel. He listened to the officers who were already on scene in an effort to gain more information about how the incident was unfolding. ██████████ heard someone on the radio say there was an officer down (officer who was shot) and he also heard gunfire in the background over his radio.

██████████ arrived at the Rodeway Inn motel approximately midday (unknown time). When he arrived, he parked on the northwest side of the Cracker Barrel restaurant. He observed a large crowd of people standing on the north side of the restaurant, and police units in the area beginning to shut down roadways.

██████████ gathered his equipment and approached the Canton SWAT armored vehicle. The vehicle was parked in front of the involved subject's motel room, Room #220. He approached multiple team members from the Canton SWAT team who were positioned at the rear of the armored vehicle. ██████████ asked where he was needed and eventually took a position at the rear of the vehicle on the driver's side next to another officer. To his left, he observed a black SUV that he believed was a U.S. Marshal vehicle and a small pool of blood where ██████████ had been shot.

██████████ also learned some additional information about the involved subject including the subject's identifying information, the motel room number, that the subject had a gun, and that the original call for service was the U.S. Marshals attempting to arrest the subject on a warrant.

██████████ recalled hearing commands coming through the PA system of the armored vehicle he was standing behind. He could not recall the actual commands given.

While still positioned at the rear of the armored vehicle, ██████████ heard gunfire coming from the motel room. He said he knew the gunfire was coming from Room #220 based upon the sound of the bullets impacting behind him and also statements made over the radio by the SWAT ██████████ who stated he was being shot at by the subject.

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██████████ was still standing next to another SWAT officer at the rear of the vehicle. The officer stated he was unable to see inside the room. ██████████ offered to switch positions with him because he had a magnifying scope on his gun, and it would likely allow him to see more clearly.

██████████ switched positions with the officer, and as he began to move from cover to look into Room #220, he heard additional gunfire coming from the motel room. He also heard ██████████ state he was being shot at again. ██████████ then leaned around the side of the armored vehicle where he could observe muzzle flash(es), a bed, and a mound of pillows. Based on the knowledge given to him by other officers on scene, ██████████ knew the subject was behind the bed in between the bed and wall. He also could narrow down the location of the subject based on the muzzle flashes.

██████████ asked other officers around him if they wanted him to shoot since he had a clear shot on the subject. He was given permission.

At that moment, ██████████ fired multiple rounds from his firearm. He aimed at the area he believed the subject was based on all the factors previously mentioned. ██████████ returned to cover. He then went on to describe the scenario, stating, "so the first time I had fired, um I popped back behind cover, started listening for more (gunfire) and at that point I could actually hear him reloading his firearm" [25:49]. ██████████ then fired his gun a second time at the same general area where the subject was believed to be hiding.

██████████ fired his gun because he feared for the safety of ██████████ who had clearly stated on the radio that he was being shot at. ██████████ believed he fired his gun approximately 28 times due to the fact that his magazine became empty, and he was required to reload his gun with an additional magazine.

██████████ feared for his safety and the safety of the other officers on scene. He also was concerned about the safety of the general public. He explained behind the area where ██████████ was positioned was a major highway and beyond that there were multiple businesses. He was concerned that the subject was firing in that direction.

As for less-lethal munitions used, ██████████ observed an OSHP "operator" fire multiple breaching rounds from a less-lethal firearm into the subject's room. He could not recall how many rounds the OSHP operator fired.

The interview concluded at approximately 1159 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:

Reference Item I – Officer Interviews – Evidence.com

Attachments:

1. 2024-12-06 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form - [REDACTED]
2. 2024-12-06 Audio Recorded Interview - [REDACTED]

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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).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of interviewee

12/6/24 1126
Date / Time

[Redacted]

Signature of interviewee

Matthew Armstrong

BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #146

BCI Agent (Signature)