



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



2026-1831

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 E. Warren St.,
Bucyrus, OH 44820, Crawford County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Statement Review
Involves: Officer Noah Waterer (W)
Activity Date: 07/06/2026
Activity Location: BCI – Bowling Green
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond #120

Narrative:

On Monday July 6, 2026, Special Agent David Hammond (SA Hammond) received an email from Fraternal Order of Police Union Attorney Jessica Franken (Atty. Franken). The email contained a written statement as an attachment from Officer Noah Waterer (Ofc. Waterer) of the Mansfield Police Department (MPD). Ofc. Waterer was deployed as a member of the ASORT Tactical Team during the May 11, 2026, Officer Involved Critical Incident that took place at 905 E. Warren St. in Bucyrus, Ohio.

On July 6, 2026, SA Hammond reviewed the statement from Ofc. Waterer. The following portions of Ofc. Waterer's statements were deemed notable in this investigation. Some of the written statements have been compressed for ease of reading. Ofc. Waterer's statement was attached to this report, in its entirety. The heading of the document read:

Officer Noah Waterer, Mansfield Police Department, Statement Regarding Incident on May 11, 2026.

I arrived on scene with ASORT and began putting my gear on. I was assigned to a team led by Team Leader Williams in Bearcat 182 at the rear of 905 E. Warren St., position in the alleyway behind the residence. I drove Bearcat 182, with my team inside, to the alleyway and parked it at the rear of the residence.

From our positions at the rear, we could hear announcements being made directing Mr. Paul Desmarais to surrender. After an extended period of announcements with no compliance from Mr. Desmarais, officers began deploying gas into the residence. Despite additional gas deployment and continued announcements, Mr. Desmarais still refuses to surrender.

Our team observed a home security camera mounted on the garage and pointed directly toward our position. After receiving authorization from Team Leader

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Williams, I used a ladder and Halligan tool to dismantle the camera in order to better conceal our position.

Our team was advised that the gas rounds being deployed through the rear windows were exiting through the front window and affecting the team positioned at the front of the residence in [REDACTED]. Due to this, our team needed to reposition, in order to deploy gas more effectively inside the residence.

Equipped with a shield, I, along with Deputy Neer and Team Leader Williams, moved closer to the residence and positioned ourselves under a carport on the right rear side of the residence. Deputy Neer then deployed several rounds of gas into the upper-right rear window. I could both hear the gunfire and visibly observe bullet holes penetrating the siding near the upper-right rear window. We immediately withdrew from our position and took cover.

Ofc. Waterer described being assigned to approach the residence, providing cover while other disabled power to the residence. He later provided cover for the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Rook while it removed siding from the residence and deployed gas.

On two separate occasions during those operations, Mr. Desmarais fired several additional rounds through the siding of the residence from the same area near the upper-right rear window.

At one point, a hostage negotiator entered our Bearcat and began making announcements to Mr. Desmarais, encouraging him to surrender and resolve the incident peacefully. Mr. Desmarais stated on several occasions that he was lying on a grenade and would not come out. He also stated multiple times that officers would have to kill him and that he would "take us with him". I remained inside the Bearcat 182 providing cover when [REDACTED] fired one round at Mr. Desmarais.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Officer N. Waterer Statement OIS.051126

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Officer Noah Waterer, Mansfield Police Department,
Statement Regarding Incident on May 11, 2026.

I arrived on scene with ASORT and began putting my gear on. I was assigned to a team led by Team Leader Williams in Bearcat 182 at the rear of 905 E. Warren St., positioned in the alleyway behind the residence. I drove Bearcat 182, with my team inside, to the alleyway and parked it at the rear of the residence. Upon our arrival, the Crawford County SWAT team, which had been positioned at the rear, took a break and our team relieved them.

From our position at the rear, we could hear announcements being made directing Mr. Paul Desmarais to surrender. After an extended period of announcements with no compliance from Mr. Desmarais, officers began deploying gas into the residence. I was specifically assigned to provide rifle cover for Deputy Neer from behind Bearcat 182 while he deployed gas into the rear windows using a launcher. Despite additional gas deployment and continued announcements, Mr. Desmarais still refused to surrender.

At that time, our team observed a home security camera mounted on the garage and pointed directly toward our position. After receiving authorization from Team Leader Williams, I used a ladder and Halligan tool to dismantle the camera in order to better conceal our position. After additional time and announcements, officers deployed another round of gas into the residence, during which I again provided rifle cover for Deputy Neer. Our team was advised that the gas rounds being deployed through the rear windows were exiting through the front windows and affecting the team positioned at the front of the residence in [REDACTED]. Due to this, our team needed to reposition in order to deploy gas more effectively inside the residence.

Equipped with a shield, I, along with Deputy Neer and Team Leader Williams, moved closer to the residence and positioned ourselves under a carport on the right rear side of the residence. Deputy Neer then deployed several rounds of gas into the upper-right rear window. At that time, Mr. Desmarais fired several rounds through the walls of the residence in our direction. I could both hear the gunfire and visibly observe bullet holes penetrating the siding near the upper-right rear window. We immediately withdrew from our position and took cover behind Bearcat 182. Our team then maintained cover from inside the Bearcat while observing the rear of the residence.

After some time, I was assigned to a small team tasked with approaching the side of the residence to provide cover while other team members disabled power to the residence. Following completion of that assignment, I resumed providing rifle cover from inside Bearcat 182 at the rear of the residence while the Ohio State Patrol team used their Rook vehicle to remove siding from the residence and deploy gas into the rear of the home.

On two separate occasions during those operations, Mr. Desmarais fired several additional rounds through the siding of the residence from the same area near the upper-right rear window. From that point forward, I remained inside Bearcat 182 providing rifle cover over the rear of the residence.

At one point, a hostage negotiator entered our Bearcat and began making announcements to Mr. Desmarais, encouraging him to surrender and resolve the incident peacefully. Mr. Desmarais stated on several occasions that he was lying on a grenade and would not come out. He also stated multiple times that officers would have to kill him and that he would "take us with him." I remained inside Bearcat 182 providing cover at the rear of the residence when [REDACTED] fired one round at Mr. Desmarais. After a period of time, I was instructed to secure my position and return to the equipment van and Command Post to gear down. This concluded my involvement in the incident.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident that occurred on May 11, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Off. Noah Waterer #319
Officer Noah Waterer #319
Mansfield Police Department

7/2/26
Date