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

2026-2566
Officer Involved Critical Incident - State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, OH 44867, Seneca County (L)

Investigative Activity:	Involved Officer Interview
Involves:	[redacted] (S)
Activity Date:	07/22/2026
Activity Location:	Seneca County Sheriff's Office – 3040 S. State Route 100, Tiffin, Ohio, 44883
Authoring Agent:	**SA David Hammond #120**

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 0822 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SA Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser) interviewed Seneca County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) [redacted] who was accompanied by his attorney, Yvonne Wojtas , from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. The interview was audio recorded only at the request of legal counsel.

[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 intend to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in 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. Some answers to questions have been compressed for ease of reading. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

It should be noted that during the interview, law enforcement officials were shown a drone photograph/diagram of the overall scene and final vehicle locations, taken by the Crime Scene Unit. This photograph/diagram (2026-2566 diagram without placards) was used to reference locations and movements of persons and vehicles during the incident. A copy of this photograph/diagram has been attached to this report.

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Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [redacted]	**Rank:** [redacted]
Badge Number: [redacted]	**Cruiser/Vehicle Number:** 74[redacted]
Radio Call Sign: [redacted]	**Immediate Supervisor:** [redacted]
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	**Mobile Data Terminal:** Not Present
Cruiser Description: Ford F-150	**Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:** [redacted] – Driver. [redacted] – Passenger Seat.
Assignment: [redacted]	**Normal Shift:** [redacted]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	**Spotlight:** Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	**Siren:** Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: [redacted]	**Duty Status:** On-Duty
Days Off: Rotating	**Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:** N/A
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 5-6 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: Standard Uniform of Day	**Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:** Taser
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	**Body Worn Camera:** Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: N/A	**Partner:** [redacted]
Injuries: None	**Equipment Damage:** None
Training or Areas of Specialty: CIT - CISM	**OPOTC Certification:** #[redacted] – Terra State Community College
Military Experience/Training: None	**Use-of-Force Training:** CPT Related / Department Related
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	**Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:** None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	**Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:** None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? N/A	**Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:** None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	**Model:** 17
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	**Serial:** [redacted]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	**Method of Carry:** Holstered
Magazine Capacity: 17	**Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):** 18
Extra Magazines: 2 – Belt Worn	**Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:** N/A
Discharged During Incident? Yes	**Primary or Backup Weapon:** Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 15	**Number of Rounds Fired:** Possibly 1-3. [redacted] advised he utilized 2 rounds, days prior to put down a deer and did not replace the rounds.
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	**Ownership:** Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: 9-9-25	**Type of Holster, if any:** Retention Holster

Narrative:

[redacted] related that he had one prior interaction with Jeffrey Sergent (Sergent) roughly one month prior to July 7th, 2026, officer involved critical incident.

> At the 05:05 mark, "*I had one interaction with him prior to that personally. Um, we had called for a disturbance at his house with his wife. Um, she had left and we were trying to get him to come outside and talk to us. Like he wasn't going to jail. He wasn't getting arrested, just talk, nothing like that. Just wanted him to come out and talk to us and he continued to refuse. We ended up talking to him on the phone. He was extremely paranoid the entire time. Um, I can't recall exactly what was said but I know he was freaking out the whole time.*
>
> *Officer Scherley from Bloomville PD was on duty at the time, so he was handling the call. He tried talking to him for probably 10, 15 minutes and then I stepped in and talked to him for probably another, I'd say five to 10. And it was the same thing. He was paranoid. We were beating ourselves, so we ended up disconnecting the phone call and then the wife showed up and we talked to her. Um, she made reference to, she believed he was using meth again, um, because he's been increasingly more paranoid lately. Um, they have a camera on their front window because he is so paranoid according to his wife.*"

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[redacted] related that during this prior incident, Sergent mentioned a previous encounter with the sheriff's office where he was arrested.

> At the 07:20 mark, "*Yeah, he kept saying, he kept referencing the previous incident with another deputy where um, he tried taking his gun. They ended up fighting over it, and he went to prison for it. He referenced that numerous times. Um, he continuously referenced that interaction with law enforcement and we both tried telling him like, look dude, you're not any trouble, just come out, we want to talk to you. Yeah. We get your side of what's happening and then we're going to go on our way.*"

[redacted] stated that he received an email on July 6, 2026, indicating that Jeffrey Sergent would have a felony domestic violence warrant for his arrest. Deputies were made aware of Sergent's previous encounters.

> At the 08:18 mark, "*So we had an email sent to us the day prior from another deputy, um, referencing the charges that were being sent up, um, for him. And obviously, the whole office is aware of his, you know, violent history with law enforcement specifically and with others. Um, he also has a documented history of drug use.*"

[redacted] related how he became involved in the officer involved critical incident:

> At the 08:47 mark, "*So we were notified over the radio that Bloomville Officer Scherley had, uh, seen Mr. Sergent driving his vehicle. He could positively identify him due to past dealings with him, um, single occupant in the vehicle. Um, he began following him as instructed by our agency because we didn't want him to conduct a traffic stop on him without somebody in the area.*
>
> *He's led us on several different high-speed chases. Um, he's fought with several of our other guys. Like I already said, he tried stealing one of our guys' guns when they were fighting. Um, it's just has a history of being very violent, especially with the enforcement.*"
>
> At the 10:35 mark, *"So, he notified us that he was behind the vehicle. He was instructed to wait to stop the vehicle. Um, I was clear up by Flat Rock, which is the northern eastern part of our county. Um, so I diverted from the call that I was going to after I asked* [redacted] *if I was able to, and I started driving down to the area where, um, Bloomville PD was. He was giving us different areas on the radio, but we were trying to be able to get to where he was at and cut him off successfully. Um, they ended up getting turned around and they ended up going to where the incident happened to Route 67 and Road 8. Um, at*

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that time, [redacted] was in that area and instructed Bloomville PD to stop the vehicle, at which point he blocked both in.

Once I arrived on scene, I parked on the north side of the intersection to block off the other, um, possible exit point. Um, then myself and [redacted] exited the cruiser, and we stood there for probably a good two minutes, maybe three minutes. Um, while [redacted] continued to try and negotiate with Mr. Sergent, trying to get him to exit the vehicle peacefully.

Um, our hands were all free the whole time. We showed him multiple times. Um, he did ask us to just kill him at one point. Um, we explained to him we did not want to do that. We didn't want to hurt him. Um, after two, three minutes of being there, [redacted] motioned to me that we were going to approach the vehicle. Um, at this time Officer Scherley was positioned behind the vehicle. Um, so [redacted] and [redacted] and I, we all approached the vehicle."

At the 13:15 mark, *[redacted] and I were initially on the passenger side. [redacted] was back here by the guardrail and Officer Scherley's cruiser was also further back at the time. She was more so back in here. Um, so we began negotiating with, again, I don't know exactly how long we were at the passenger side window. Um, but I transitioned back to the rear of the driver's side, um, to kind of step back a little bit but still be in the area in case something did happen.*

[redacted] continued pleading with him, you know, asking him, just come out, we don't want to hurt you. You know, you have a warrant, you need to, you know, it's a felony warrant. Um, after a couple more minutes of that, um, [redacted] arrived, he initially parked up here. Um, and then [redacted] instructed him to move his cruiser over here more to block the vehicle in to avoid fleeing. Because as I've already said, he has a history of pursuits. Um, so at that point, [redacted] changed his position and came in front right by the driver's side window. I moved up directly behind him. We continued giving him verbal commands to exit the vehicle. He eventually rolled the window up. Um, [redacted] told him that we were going to break the window if he did not comply. Um, at that point he tossed [redacted] a window punch tool, just a little tool we carry on our belt."

[redacted] related that Sergent did not comply with the orders of the deputies and refused to shut the vehicle off.

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At the 15:21 mark, "*The vehicle is still, the vehicle never was shut off. It was running the whole time. We've told him numerous times to shut the vehicle off as well.*

Um, so we gave him more commands to roll the window down, shut the vehicle off, get out and talk to us. Um, he continued refusing. He was frantic, he was yelling, he was paranoid. Um, he was constantly taking his hands and like grabbing his head, stuff like that. Um, so [redacted] *shattered the window with the window punch tool. Um, I used an ASP baton to clear the broken glass, at which point, as I was coming down to finish the bottom of the glass, that's when excuse, excuse my language, Mr. Sergent yelled, 'fuck you motherfuckers', put the vehicle into reverse. Floored it. And I know that because I know what the sound of a vehicle at the rapid acceleration."*

[redacted] described what the deputies did as Sergent's vehicle backed up at high speeds.

At the 16:39 mark, "*Me and* [redacted] *were both by the driver's side door. Um, if we didn't jump out of the way we would've been hit by the vehicle. Um, and at that time I had thought that* [redacted] *position was still back here. So, when he reversed and slammed into the guardrail, I no longer could see her. Um, he put his vehicle into drive, at which point* [redacted] *was in front of the vehicle directly. I had transitioned to the passenger side, and I was more so over here. At that point, I could see* [redacted] *running towards the front of the vehicle into this area here right next to where* [redacted]*'s vehicle was at. And that was in the same direction that Mr. Sergent was driving."*

[redacted] related what he saw as [redacted] was firing his weapon. He also described firing his own weapon into Sergent's truck.

At the 17:25 mark, "*At that point,* [redacted] *pulled his duty firearm out and fired several rounds through the window. He did have to jump out of the way to prevent being hit again. Um, once he was out of the line, out of my crossfire and I could clearly see* [redacted] *who had at that point stepped one leg over the guardrail just in case she had to bail out over the guardrail to prevent being hit. Um, once I had a clear shot, I did fire my firearm through the passenger side window. Um, at that point, Mr. Sergent's vehicle slammed into* [redacted]*'s vehicle, um, with I would say pretty great force, um, with the damage that was caused.*

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Um, after the vehicle came to a stop, I believe that the vehicle shifted into neutral from the impact, um, because it was backfiring because his foot was still in the accelerator. Yeah. Um, at that point I holstered my duty weapon.

[I] put latex gloves on, went over and immediately checked for a pulse. Um, I was not able to find one. I checked numerous times. Uh, I had, I let [redacted] *know who was standing right there. Um, we got EMS rolling right away. They were there in a couple minutes. Um, and confirmed that there was no pulse."*

[redacted] related that he felt that deputies faced a serious threat due to Sergent's actions.

At the 20:56 mark, SA Emahiser asked, "*So when you pulled out your weapon, and then you said you fired one shot? When you did that, did you feel like there was an imminent serious threat of death to anyone present?"*

At the 21:02 mark, [redacted] *answered, "To my recollection, yes [number of rounds fired]. Yes [threat of death]. Because* [redacted] *had just jumped out of the way and* [redacted] *was still trying to get out of the way."*

[redacted] was asked if he believed that a vehicle could be used to inflict serious bodily harm to a person. [redacted] stated that he did.

At the 22:38 mark, "So as soon as he put it into reverse, um, he turned the wheel real hard and then pushed the accelerator to the floor, I'm assuming. because it was very quick. Um, and when he swung his truck, we had to jump back to not be hit. Because the truck was here, we were both here when he turned it was like that. So, it was almost a complete 90 degrees pinwheel."

[redacted] related that he felt being in close proximity to the truck as Sergent backed away put him in danger. He also talked about the danger the was posed to [redacted] who was in the area of the guardrail as he accelerated forward.

At the 23:55 mark, "*He would've hit* [redacted] *Because there was no way he was going to squeeze between that gap. He was going to hit the guardrail and the cruiser and her. With where she was at. Because he was, he was rapidly accelerating."*

[redacted] stated that he believed that his actions were consistent with his training as a law enforcement officer.

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The interview concluded at approximately 0847 hours. The audio recording was uploaded to Axon Evidence.com as Reference Item L – Involved Officer Interviews – Axon Capture Audio 2026-07- 22-[redacted].

References:

Reference Item L – Involved Officer Interviews – Axon Capture Audio 2026-07-22-[redacted]

Attachments:

1. [redacted] Criminal Investigation Notification Form
2. 2026-2566 Diagram without placards

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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

7/22/2026 08:20
Date / Time

[redacted]
ee

Ryan Emanhizer
BCI Agent (Printed)

BCI Agent (Signature)

BCI-INVEST-34
Revised 03/17



BCI Case Number:	Location:	Date of Occurrence:
2026-2566	E Township Rd. 8 & SR 67, Republic, OH	Jult 7, 2026
Offense:	**Involved Agency:**	**Lead Investigator:**
Officer Involved Critical Incident	Seneca County Sheriff's Office	Special Agent Hammond

Drawn By:
Emily Miller, Crime Scene Technician - Overhead Diagram w/o Placards