



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



2025-1603  
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods  
 Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Involved Officer Interview  
**Involves:** ██████████  
**Activity Date:** 05/29/2025  
**Activity Location:** Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton &  
 Lipperman located at 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus,  
 Ohio 43220  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Chad Holcomb, #61

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 1020 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and SA Lauren Frazier (SA Frazier) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) ██████████ who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the attorney's office located at 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH. The interview was audio recorded.

██████████ 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:**

<b>Name:</b> ██████████	<b>Rank:</b> ██████████
<b>Badge Number:</b> ██████████	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> SWAT unmarked vehicle
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> ██████████	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> N/A
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> N/A	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> N/A	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> N/A

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<b>Assignment:</b> SWAT [REDACTED] Team	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Not Present	<b>Spotlight:</b> Not Present
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present; Not Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> Day off	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> No
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> Well rested	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> N/A	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Full tactical CPD gear	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> N/A
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> Tactical Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> Helmet Camera	<b>Partner:</b> N/A
<b>Injuries:</b> N/A	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> N/A
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> SWAT training; prior defensive tactics & firearm instructor	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> N/A	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> No use of force outside of policy
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None that would impair abilities	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> No
<b>Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?</b> No	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> N/A

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**Officer's Firearm(s):**

Weapon #1

<b>Make:</b> Daniel Defense	<b>Model:</b> DDM4
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> .223 caliber	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> N/A
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 30	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> N/A
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned

Weapon #2

<b>Make:</b> Glock	<b>Model:</b> 17
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 9 mm	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Hip carry
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 22	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 23
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> All fully loaded	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> N/A
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> No	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Backup
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> 23	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> None
<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned	

**Narrative:**

[REDACTED] stated that he was on his day off when an 'SWAT All Call' notifying officers of a barricade situation with a hostage. [REDACTED] drove his unmarked SWAT vehicle to the scene located at 4484 Hampton Woods Court.

[REDACTED] took a position approximately 50-60 feet north of the suspect's front door. [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "Another minute or two passed and the suspect came to the door again. He had a gun in his hand and multiple officers aired that, including myself. However, he did not level or discharge the gun at anyone, so I maintained my position". [REDACTED] talked about how a negotiator was in communication with the subject, Jerry Smith (Smith).

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██████████ continued in his statement, "Several minutes passed and the suspect opened the storm door and came to the window area of the screen door and waved his hand out the window. A second or so later he put his gun out the window and waved it around. Someone yelled at him to 'drop the gun!'. He did this for a second or so and then retreated into the apartment. About a minute later he did it again. From my position, I did not see him ever directly point the gun at any officers or start to level the gun, so I did not fire. However, about a minute or two later, I heard gunshots from inside the apartment". At this point, SWAT Lt. Hargus gave a Delta order.

██████████ wrote, "Approximately another five minutes went by and the suspect turned the porch light on. A couple more minutes passed, and the suspect briefly came to the door and then went back inside the apartment. Command Post aired that the suspect was coming to the door with his gun in his hand. A second or so later, the suspect came back to the door. I did not see the female hostage. Initially he waved his hand out the window of the screen door. Then, suddenly, he pointed his gun out the window and leveled it directly towards the Bearcat-where I knew multiple officers were positioned. I squeezed the trigger of my rifle and fired one round at the suspect. The suspect went down. I did not see the female hostage even after the suspect went to the ground".

██████████ then wrote about how the female hostage exited the residence and commands were given for Smith to exit the residence. Eventually, SWAT officers made entry and found Smith on the ground in the apartment.

██████████ wrote, "I fired one round at the suspect during this incident. I believe I was approximately 50-60 feet from the suspect when I fired". Later he wrote, "At the moment I fired at the suspect, I was in fear for the lives of the SWAT officers around the Bearcat. The suspect had previously fired at officers and had fired several rounds while I was on scene, including one that officers aired struck the Bearcat. Immediately before I fired, Command Post aired that the suspect was coming out with the gun and the suspect leveled his gun out the window, directly towards officers located at the Bearcat. I believed he was going to shoot and seriously injure or kill one of the officers around the Bearcat. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of those SWAT officers, as well as the life of the female hostage in the apartment with him from the deadly threat that presented by the suspect's actions".

Agents also asked ██████████ additional follow-up questions.



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SA Holcomb asked [REDACTED] about not wearing his glasses during the shooting. [REDACTED] said that his eyesight was "excellent" and that he can see better through the optic without his glasses on. [REDACTED] said the magnifier on his optic is set at 3x.

SA Holcomb asked [REDACTED] about how Smith was holding the gun from his statement on page four first paragraph. [REDACTED] was holding the gun "whimsical" and was waving it around and not pointing it at anyone.

SA Holcomb asked [REDACTED] to explain a Delta order. He said that the Delta order is something that the mission commander can give to neutralize the suspect on sight. SA Holcomb asked [REDACTED] if he is allowed to use lethal force without a Delta order; he stated yes.

SA Holcomb asked that when he discharged his rifle if he heard any other gunshots at that time; he stated no. [REDACTED] stated that he followed all CPD policies and procedures that day. SA Holcomb asked if he had reviewed his body camera; he stated yes. He was asked after he reviewed his body camera if anything had changed based on his statement; he stated no.

The interview concluded at approximately 1026 hours.

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:**

No references.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment #01: [REDACTED] statement
- Attachment #02: [REDACTED] CIN
- Attachment #03: 2025-05-29 - CPD [REDACTED] Interview (2025-1603)

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**STATEMENT OF SWAT [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]**

This statement concerns my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, May 19, 2025, between about 10:20 p.m. – 12:10 a.m. in Franklin County, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police is [REDACTED]. I was promoted to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I have been assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) for almost 2 years. Currently, I am on the [REDACTED] Team. My call number is [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] off. When this incident occurred, I was on my regularly assigned day off; however, this incident resulted in an “all call” for all SWAT teams so I reported to duty in an overtime status. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I do not have any military experience. I do not currently have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy.

I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Capital University. I have also completed Special Weapons and Tactics training. I was previously a certified Defensive Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor and Master Ground Defense Instructor; however, those certifications are currently expired as I have not had time to renew them since joining SWAT. I am a certified rifle operator.

At the time of this incident, I was wearing full tactical gear consisting of a long-sleeved shirt and pants. I was also wearing my tactical kit which consists of my ballistic helmet which has a camera mounted to it, as well as an earpiece and microphone, as well as my ballistic vest which says “Columbus SWAT” on it. My body worn camera (BWC) was also mounted to my vest. Both my body worn camera and helmet camera were activated during this incident.

I was carrying my Division-issued Daniel Defense .223/5.56 AR-15 Rifle, loaded with Division-issued TAP ammunition. I carry my rifle with 29 in the magazine and 1 in the chamber, for a total of 30 rounds. My rifle was also equipped with an EOTech red dot and magnifier. My range qualifications are current for that weapon. I was also carrying my Division-issued Glock 17 9mm handgun but I did not discharge my handgun during this incident.

I do wear [REDACTED] but I was not wearing them during this incident due to the magnifier on my rifle. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I had not taken any medication, over the counter or prescription, which would impair my abilities. I had not consumed any alcohol in the 24-hours prior to this incident. I had not worked any special duty or overtime in the 24-hours prior to this incident.

I was at home when I received an "All Call" that there was a barricade with a hostage. It also stated that the suspect had also fired at patrol officers. The command post was at 3845 Mount Hood Court. I drove in my unmarked SWAT vehicle from my home to the command post. I believe I arrived in approximately twenty minutes.

When I arrived, there were numerous officers on scene and many other SWAT officers arriving. Since this was an "All Call" officers from all three SWAT teams (red, gold and green) were responding. The location of the barricade was 4484 Hampton Woods Court which was a single-story apartment with apartments attached on each side. There was a small row of parking spots that went north/south directly in front of the apartment building.

I walked up to the location and asked other officers who were in the apartment complex parking lot which one was the suspect's door. Someone responded that it was the one with the wreath and the windows to the right of it all of which had blinds/curtains covering them. The door to the suspect's apartment had a screen door with a window at the top half and storm door

leading into the apartment. I confirmed that none of the windows to the left of the door were to the suspect's apartment. The two Bearcats (tactical armored vehicles) were also on scene and getting into position at the front of the residence. It was dark outside but the Bearcats had their spotlights turned on and they were illuminating the front of the suspect's apartment providing ample lighting.

There was a silver mini van parked approximately 50-60 feet north of the suspect's front door. I took a position at the driver's side "A" pillar of that vehicle. I had only been on scene for a few minutes when the suspect came to the door, opened the storm door and broke out the window at the top of the screen door. He was yelling something but I could not make out exactly what he was saying. He closed the storm door and retreated into the apartment. CPD Sergeant Ayers had established communication (I think online via Facetime) with the suspect. He was trying to de-escalate the suspect, secure the release of the hostage, and get the suspect to surrender. However, the suspect was becoming increasingly agitated. SWAT Lt. Hargus was relaying the information to the SWAT members. He also aired that the suspect stated if we made entry, he would shoot her (referring to the hostage, whose name I later learned was Mary) and himself.

Another officer aired that the suspect had previously fired at officers. I maintained my position at the "A" pillar of the van. I also had a bunker in front of me and I was using it and the side mirror of the vehicle as a platform for my rifle. I had my rifle stock fully extended and my rifle was trained at the front door. Approximately 5-10 minutes passed when the suspect came to the window and started dumping lighter fluid onto the front porch/steps. Someone aired to make sure that we had fire extinguishers on scene.

Another minute or two passed and the suspect came to the door again. He had a gun in his hand and multiple officers aired that, including myself. However, he did not level or discharge the gun at anyone so I maintained my position. Sergeant Ayers was still in communication with the suspect and it was aired that the suspect wanted to know what officers would do if he shot the female. Sergeant Ayers continued to try and de-escalate the suspect and get him to release the hostage. Several minutes passed and the suspect opened the storm door and came to the window area of the screen door and waved his hand out the window. A second or so later he put his gun out the window and waved it around. Someone yelled at him to “drop the gun!” He did this for a second or so and then retreated into the apartment. About a minute later he did it again. From my position, I did not see him ever directly point the gun at any officers or start to level the gun, so I did not fire.

However, about a minute or two later, I heard gunshots from inside the apartment. At this time, I believe Sgt. Bray came over the air and requested the Delta order be given if the suspect points a weapon at officers because he had previously fired at officers and threatened to shoot the hostage and himself. SWAT Lt. Hargus agreed and gave the Delta. About a minute later, there was another gunshot from inside the apartment and someone aired that the Bearcat had been struck. I was concerned about the safety of the hostage. However, Sgt. Ayers was still online/facetime with the suspect and confirmed that the hostage was unharmed and Lt. Hargus relayed this information over the air.

Sgt. Ayers continued trying to convince the suspect to surrender and peacefully end this incident. After a couple minutes, he stated he was going to come out without his gun but that he had a knife in his pocket. Lt. Hargus aired that if that occurred the Delta was rescinded. Several more minutes passed and Lt. Hargus aired that the suspect was going to allow Mary (the female

hostage) to leave the apartment but that she was trying to persuade him to come out with her. Mary never came out.

Approximately another 5 minutes went by and the suspect turned the porch light on. A couple more minutes passed and the suspect briefly came to the door and then went back inside the apartment. Command Post aired that the suspect was coming to the door with his gun in his hand. A second or so later, the suspect came back to the door. I did not see the female hostage. Initially he waved his hand out the window of the screen door. Then, suddenly, he pointed his gun out the window and leveled it directly towards the Bearcat-where I knew multiple officers were positioned. I squeezed the trigger on my rifle and fired one round at the suspect.

The suspect went down. I did not see the female hostage even after the suspect went to the ground. However, a few seconds later she walked out of the apartment. She did not appear to be injured and went to the officers located on the north side of the apartment. Officers yelled for the suspect to come out and announcements were made over the Bearcat's LRAD (long range acoustic device) for Jerry to come out with nothing in his hands. There was no response. SWAT officers lined up and made entry into the apartment. Once the apartment was cleared, medics entered to render aid to the suspect. I did not enter the apartment. I returned to the SWAT headquarters and I voluntarily waited there for BCI Agents to arrive to photograph me and collect my rifle. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I fired one round at the suspect during this incident. I believe I was approximately 50-60 feet from the suspect when I fired. The suspect was still inside the apartment when I fired. I could only see from about the suspect's mid-chest to his head, as the screen door was closed but I could see him through the top of the door where there had previously been a window. My target was the suspect's center mass as that is the largest target. I fired from a standing position

at the "A" pillar of the van. I had my bunker in front of me and I was trying to use that and the minivan as cover as well as a platform for my rifle. I had my rifle in my sling and I had the stock fully extended. I utilized my optics and magnifier when I fired. The direction of my shot was south. My backdrop was the interior wall of the apartment.

I did not see the female hostage when I fired. However, because I was firing TAP (tactical application police) rounds, there was little to no risk of the round penetrating the suspect and striking the hostage or anyone in the attached apartment. TAP rounds are specifically designed to fragment to prevent over penetration and allow for controlled expansion. I only fired one round at the suspect, as the suspect immediately went down when I fired. I believe I struck him with my round. Once the suspect went down, I could no longer see him due to the screen door being closed.

At the moment I fired at the suspect, I was in fear for the lives of the SWAT officers around the Bearcat. The suspect had previously fired at officers and had fired several rounds while I was on scene, including one that officers aired struck the Bearcat. Immediately before I fired, Command Post aired that the suspect was coming out with his gun and the suspect leveled his gun out the window, directly towards officers located at the Bearcat. I believed he was going to shoot and seriously injure or kill one of the officers around the Bearcat. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of those SWAT officers, as well as the life of the female hostage in the apartment with him from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.

Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had been given multiple opportunities and time to surrender. Sgt. Ayers tried for more than an hour to de-escalate him and get him to peacefully surrender. However, he refused to comply, shot at officers prior to my arrival, fired rounds when

I was on scene, fired a round out of the apartment that officers aired struck the Bearcat, made repeated threats to shoot the female hostage and finally leveled his gun directly at officers. I did not know exactly which SWAT officers were near the Bearcat but I knew that there were officers there. I discharged my weapon directly in response to the deadly threat posed by the suspect and not due to the Delta order.

I did have a taser at the time of this incident. However, I did not use my taser as the use of the taser requires time, distance, barrier, lethal force back up and reasonableness. I was too far from the suspect to deploy my taser. In addition, since the suspect had previously fired at officers and was leveling his gun at officers, I did not believe it would be reasonable to attempt less lethal force when the suspect was utilizing lethal force.

I believe my actions were consistent with my experience and training as a law enforcement officer. I also believe they were consistent with the law in Ohio. Immediately before utilizing deadly force the suspect leveled his gun directly toward SWAT officers and he never gave any indication that he would peacefully surrender, despite having ample time and multiple opportunities to do so.

I know that the suspect's name is Jerry Smith. Prior to this incident, I do not believe I have ever had any professional or personal encounters with him. I do not recall having any prior calls for service at this residence.

This concludes my statement. I am prepared to answer any additional questions you may have at this time.

SV





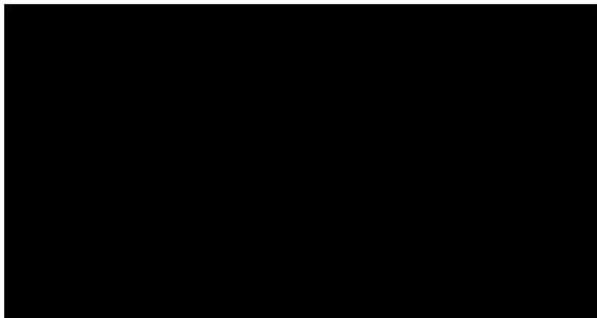
**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Office (740) 845-2000  
Fax (877) 732-1134

### 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).



5/29/2025  
Date / Time

Chad Holcomb

BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #61

BCI Agent (Signature)