



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



2025-1049
Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 275 / State Route
32, OH, 45245 (Clermont County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Trooper Jason Byron (W)
Date of Activity: 04/02/2025
Activity Location: – Interstate 275@State Route 32, OH
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at approximately 0134 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Jason Byron. The interview took place at the scene in SA Seitzman's agency-issued vehicle. The interview was audio recorded.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the key points the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in a chronology to enhance the reader's understanding of the information elicited during the interview. However, it is important to note that this may not reflect the actual order of the questions posed. Therefore, it is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Trooper Byron was identified as being an officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved critical incident that transpired just hours prior on April 1, 2025, in the vicinity of Interstate Route 275 near State Route 32 in Clermont County, Ohio. Trooper Byron confirmed that he did not discharge his firearm. The primary objective of the interview was to gather all pertinent information known or observed by him. He confirmed that he was providing his statement voluntarily.

Trooper Byron advised that he was working his [REDACTED] on April 1, 2025, which encompasses the hours of [REDACTED]. He advised he was wearing a standard Ohio State Highway Patrol uniform with an agency-issued jacket with Ohio State Highway Patrol shoulder patches and a badge. He advised he was patrolling in a marked Dodge Durango (OSHP #3063), featuring the new Ohio State Highway Patrol color scheme.

Regarding the incident, Trooper Byron stated the following:

Trooper Byron became aware of a possible wrong-way driver on Interstate Route 275 approximately six miles north of the eventual officer-involved critical incident scene. The

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

information provided was that a wrong-way driver was traveling north in the southbound lanes. [REDACTED] responded from the Batavia post; however, he was unable to locate the vehicle. Approximately 20 minutes later, troopers were dispatched again for a wrong-way driver in the area of mile marker 64.

Trooper Bryon advised that [REDACTED] located the vehicle and asked a supervisor for permission to make "intentional contact" with the vehicle due to the threat to public safety posed by a wrong-way driver. The supervisor granted permission. [REDACTED] broadcast that he struck the vehicle and quickly radioed that the suspect had a gun. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] broadcast over the radio, "Shots fired!"

Trooper Byron advised that he arrived and saw two Union Township police officers and [REDACTED] told him that he had the gun. Trooper Byron also observed the Union Township police officers apprehending the involved subject. He instructed [REDACTED] to retrieve a first aid kit. As a Union Township police officer was administering chest compressions, Trooper Byron placed pressure on a chest wound. A Union Township police officer placed gauze on the wound, and Trooper Byron continued to hold pressure on it. He stated that an ambulance arrived shortly after. He advised that he did not see any signs of life as he was treating the involved subject.

Trooper Byron advised that he secured [REDACTED] duty weapon, which was a Sig Sauer P320. He also secured [REDACTED] backup weapon, which is a Sig Sauer P365. The firearms were secured in the rear cargo area of Trooper Byron's cruiser.

SA Seitzman inquired if [REDACTED] commented on the incident. Trooper Byron recalled [REDACTED] stating that the involved subject's gun did not have a magazine; however, he stated that [REDACTED] later discovered a Glock magazine in his back pocket. He stated that [REDACTED] became confused, believing the magazine was from his backup weapon when [REDACTED] cleared it. He clarified that [REDACTED] is a newer trooper and appeared visibly distressed after the incident. He stated that the magazine was then turned over to him by Ohio State Highway Patrol Sergeant Joseph Westhoven.

Trooper Byron advised that paramedics requested the removal of the involved subject's handcuffs. He was present while her handcuffs were removed, and he observed four wounds on the involved subject's forearm at that time. He stated that paramedics pronounced the involved subject deceased at approximately 2330 hours. He said he felt that the law enforcement officers and emergency medical services personnel did everything possible to preserve the life of the involved subject.

Trooper Bryon spoke about why the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit was requested. He stated that he went into the involved subject's vehicle in an attempt to locate her identification. As he was doing so, he heard a "beeping" noise, such as a timer, emanating from the interior of the vehicle. Given that the involved subject was wearing a vest and helmet and appeared to have deliberately driven on the wrong side of the highway, he believed it was plausible that a concealed explosive device may have been intentionally placed within the vehicle. He stated that a Miami Township (Clermont County) canine responded, along with the Cincinnati Fire Department EOD Unit. Subsequently, no explosive devices were located inside the vehicle.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

The interview concluded at 0146 hours. The audio recording was attached to this investigative report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-04-02 Interview of Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Jason Byron

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.