



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



2025-1666
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 909 Garden Ave., Middletown,
OH 45044 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Michael Baker (S)
Date of Activity: 06/13/2025
Activity Location: Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,
Middletown, OH 45042

Narrative:

On June 13, 2025 at approximately 1011 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Richard Ward and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police Officer Adam Grindstaff. The interview took place at the Middletown Police Department. Also present for the interview was Union Attorney Rob Stokar. 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 obtained 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.

Officer Adam Grindstaff's typed written statement read as follows:

"STATEMENT OF DETECTIVE ADAM GRINDSTAFF, BADGE NO. 625

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at approximately 7:23 a.m. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation concerning this matter.

My date of hire as a police officer with the Middletown Division of Police was January 27, 2020. I was previously employed by the City of Monroe, Ohio police department and was hired on Feb. 23, 2016. My assignment with Middletown PD is as a Special Operations Unit Detective, with [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED] and on May 27, 2025, I was working from [REDACTED] until approximately to [REDACTED]. On the day of the incident, I was working with a five-officer Special Operations unit that included an additional one-officer uniformed patrol unit and a uniformed [REDACTED] unit assigned to the Special Operations Unit. We were tasked with the mission of serving high-risk search warrants that were the result of narcotics investigations, securing the locations, and conducting subsequent

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.

searches. The unit was utilizing one un-marked police SUV and a marked police unit for the execution of search warrants. I was identified as unit V-14. At the time that this incident occurred, I was wearing a maroon T-shirt, dark camo patterned shorts, and an outer bullet proof tactical vest, prominently marked in white with "POLICE" on the front and back. I was carrying a department issued Daniel Defense AR-15 style rifle loaded with department issued ammunition. I had recently qualified with this weapon on May 15, 2025. As a secondary weapon, I was carrying my department approved Glock 26, semi-automatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department approved ammunition. I was not equipped with a body worn camera. I have prescription contacts and was wearing them during the incident in question. My corrected vision and hearing are good. I am in good health, and I do not take any medications that would impair my ability to perform my duties. I had consumed a minimal amount alcohol around 8:00 pm on the evening prior to my shift. I consumed no other alcohol.

On May 27, 2025, I attended a role call which included a briefing of the locations where search warrants would be served. This briefing included information about 909 Garden Ave., to include a site assessment providing information on where the entry would be made and intelligence on the potential residents. I was not the affiant for the warrant. Following the service of another search warrant at another location, I proceeded with four members of the team to 909 Garden Ave. Middletown, Ohio 45044. 909 Garden Ave. is a single-story home in a residential neighborhood, with an elevated front porch. I do not recall having previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not believe I have had previous contact with the suspect involved in this incident. The weather on the day of the incident was cloudy and temperatures were moderate.

The four-officer Special Operations unit and the marked [REDACTED] unit [REDACTED] arrived in two separate vehicles and parked several houses east of the 909 Garden Ave. residence. We approached from our vehicles, single file, until we reached the front of the residence, when Officer Singleton moved towards the back door to secure the rear of the residence. The four-officer team, which included [REDACTED], Detective Crank, Detective Hoyle and me, prepared to announce our presence and make entry into the front of the residence. Detectives Hoyle and Crank were equipped with a Haligan and ram to assist in breaching the door to the residence if residents refused entry. I assumed a position against the side of the structure, to the left of the front door, between the door and a window. The front door had a metal outer security door and a wood and glass front door. As we stood outside the front door, I gave several loud clear commands announcing our presence as "Middletown Police," identifying the residence as "909 Garden Ave." and stating police had a search warrant for the residence. I was positioned approximately 2-3 feet from the doorway. As I continued to make announcements, Detective Hoyle used the Haligan tool to pry open the locked security door to provide access for Detective Crank to breach the front door. Suddenly, the interior door opened inward, and a male pushed the outer security door open. The male pointed a silver revolver just outside the doorway and aimed the weapon directly at [REDACTED]. The revolver appeared to be raised to a 90-degree angle and pointing at [REDACTED]. Although my view of the suspect's body was blocked by the frame of the door, I immediately recognized a silver barrel and the cylinder of the revolver as they protruded beyond the doorway. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who was in line with the open doorway, had no cover or concealment. I observed [REDACTED] fire several rounds at the suspect from approximately 10-12 feet, before the suspect retreated into the residence and fell to the ground. Prior to the door opening, and

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.

until shots were fired, I do not recall hearing any statements or other noise from inside the house.

Although my position to the left of the open doorway provided some cover and concealment from the suspect's position in the doorway, I was unable to see the interior of the residence, had no target acquisition on the suspect, and was not in a position to fire my weapon. After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, I entered the residence with the other Detectives to secure the interior and to provide medical care to the suspect. After I entered the house, the suspect was yelling but any statements were indiscernible. I quickly cleared two bedrooms and secured the residence. I returned to [REDACTED], who had remained with the suspect, and assisted in placing the suspect into handcuffs. The medics arrived and pronounced the suspect before attending to the female suspect who had an injury. During this time, I maintained visual control over the suspects weapon which remained on the floor where it had fallen. I maintained this position inside the residence until I was relieved, and a guard duty was established.

At the time I observed [REDACTED] fire his weapon, I had observed the suspect open the door with a weapon in his hand pointed in the direction of [REDACTED]. I believe [REDACTED] was responding to the suspect's deadly threat. I did not fire my weapon because I was not in a position to see the suspect, or to obtain acquisition of the target from my position outside, and to the immediate left of the doorway.

This concludes my statement, and I am prepared to answer additional clarifying questions."

Detective Grindstaff has been employed with the Middletown Police Department for five years and with the City of Monroe Police Department prior to Middletown. Grindstaff has been assigned to the detective section for under two years; assigned to narcotics investigations and is an experienced SWAT officer. While on the porch of 909 Garden Ave., [REDACTED] was squared up with the front door; Detective Crank deployed the ram while Detective Hoyle deployed the Halogen tool for an exterior security door. Grindstaff is to the left of the front door; Hoyle in front of the door to set the Halogen and Crank next to Hoyle. Grindstaff provided lethal cover with his rifle.

SA Ward asked Detective Grindstaff if he heard any noise from inside 909 Garden Ave. prior to entry, and he stated he did not. Grindstaff was the "sole" officer announcing their presence and intentions. Once the security door was opened with the Halogen, the interior door open and Grindstaff observed Michael Baker pointing a silver revolver, which protruded from outside the threshold of the doorway. Grindstaff did not observe [REDACTED] discharge his firearm, but heard the shots being fired. Grindstaff stated he was not in a position to discharge his rifle when he observed the threat. After [REDACTED] discharged his firearm, Grindstaff followed [REDACTED] into the front door of the residence. Grindstaff cleared a back bedroom and returned to where [REDACTED] and Baker were. Grindstaff observed a bullet hole on Baker's chest and assisted [REDACTED] with handcuffing Baker.

Once Baker was secured, Detective Grindstaff and [REDACTED] rolled Baker, who was now unconscious, onto his back. A tourniquet was retrieved for the female (Mary Dunn) who had also been injured. An officer had also retrieved a medic bag from a nearby police vehicle. Grindstaff began to put on gloves to assist with life saving efforts, but the medics had arrived

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.

and assumed first aid. When asked, Grindstaff stated the location of the revolver was approximately three feet from the front door slightly to the right. According to Grindstaff, the revolver was not touched or moved while he provided security for the crime scene until relieved by Detective Bender.

Once he was relieved, Detective Grindstaff relocated to the Middletown Police Department. SA Ward asked if he had discussions with any officers and he stated there were brief interactions, but [REDACTED] was kept separate from the other team members. Grindstaff was photographed in the outer body armor with markings by BCI.

Grindstaff was asked, at the time [REDACTED] discharged his firearm, was he in fear for his life and/or the lives of other officers and he replied, "yes." Grindstaff believed the actions of the officer acted within policy.

Agent Ward concluded the audio recorded statement at 1032 hours with Detective Adam Grindstaff. Attached below is the audio recorded interview and typed statement of Grindstaff.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 2025-06-13 Detective Adam Grindstaff Audio Interview
- Attachment # 02: 2025-06-13 Detective Grindstaff Typed Statement

STATEMENT OF DETECTIVE ADAM GRINDSTAFF, BADGE NO. 625

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at approximately 7:23 a.m. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation concerning this matter.

My date of hire as a police officer with the Middletown Division of Police was January 27, 2020. I was previously employed by the City of Monroe, Ohio police department and was hired on Feb. 23, 2016. My assignment with Middletown PD is as a Special Operations Unit Detective, with [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on May 27, 2025, I was working from [REDACTED] until approximately to [REDACTED]. On the day of the incident, I was working with a five-officer Special Operations unit that included an additional one-officer uniformed patrol unit and a uniformed [REDACTED] unit assigned to the Special Operations Unit. We were tasked with the mission of serving high-risk search warrants that were the result of narcotics investigations, securing the locations, and conducting subsequent searches. The unit was utilizing one un-marked police SUV and a marked police unit for the execution of search warrants. I was identified as unit V-14. At the time that this incident occurred, I was wearing a maroon T-shirt, dark camo patterned shorts, and an outer bullet proof tactical vest, prominently marked in white with "POLICE" on the front and back. I was carrying a department issued Daniel Defense AR-15 style rifle loaded with department issued ammunition. I had recently qualified with this weapon on May 15, 2025. As a secondary weapon, I was carrying my department approved Glock 26, semi-automatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department approved ammunition. I was not equipped with a body worn camera. I have prescription contacts and was wearing them during the incident in question. My corrected vision and hearing are good. I am in good health, and I do not take any medications that would impair my ability to perform my duties. I had consumed a minimal amount alcohol around 8:00 pm on the evening prior to my shift. I consumed no other alcohol.

On May 27, 2025, I attended a ^{roll AMG} ~~rote~~ call which included a briefing of the locations where search warrants would be served. This briefing included information about 909 Garden Ave., to include a site assessment providing information on where the entry would be made and intelligence on the potential residents. I was not the affiant for the warrant. Following the service of another search warrant at another location, I proceeded with four members of the team to 909 Garden Ave. Middletown, Ohio 45044. 909 Garden Ave. is a single-story home in a residential neighborhood, with an elevated front porch. I do not recall having previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not believe I have had previous contact with the suspect involved in this incident. The weather on the day of the incident was cloudy and temperatures were moderate.


The four-officer Special Operations unit and the marked [REDACTED] unit ([REDACTED]) arrived in two separate vehicles and parked several houses east of the 909 Garden Ave. residence. We approached from our vehicles, single file, until we reached the front of the residence, when Officer Singleton moved towards the back door to secure the rear of the residence. The four-officer team, which included [REDACTED] Detective Crank, Detective Hoyle and me, prepared to announce our presence and make entry into the front of the residence. Detectives Hoyle and Crank were equipped with a Haligan and ram to assist in breaching the door to the residence if residents refused entry. I assumed a position against the side of the structure, to the left of the front door, between

the door and a window. The front door had a metal outer security door and a wood and glass front door. As we stood outside the front door, I gave several loud clear commands announcing our presence as "Middletown Police," identifying the residence as "909 Garden Ave." and stating police had a search warrant for the residence. I was positioned approximately 2-3 feet from the doorway. As I continued to make announcements, Detective Hoyle used the Haligan tool to pry open the locked security door to provide access for Detective Crank to breach the front door. Suddenly, the interior door opened inward, and a male pushed the outer security door open. The male pointed a silver revolver just outside the doorway and aimed the weapon directly at [REDACTED]. The revolver appeared to be raised to a 90-degree angle and pointing at [REDACTED]. Although my view of the suspect's body was blocked by the frame of the door, I immediately recognized a silver barrel and the cylinder of the revolver as they protruded beyond the doorway. [REDACTED], who was in line with the open doorway, had no cover or concealment. I observed [REDACTED] fire several rounds at the suspect from approximately 10-12 feet, before the suspect retreated into the residence and fell to the ground. Prior to the door opening, and until shots were fired, I do not recall hearing any statements or other noise from inside the house.

Although my position to the left of the open doorway provided some cover and concealment from the suspect's position in the doorway, I was unable to see the interior of the residence, had no target acquisition on the suspect, and was not in a position to fire my weapon. After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, I entered the residence with the other Detectives to secure the interior and to provide medical care to the suspect. After I entered the house, the suspect was yelling but any statements were indiscernible. I quickly cleared two bedrooms and secured the residence. I returned to [REDACTED] who had remained with the suspect, and assisted in placing the suspect into handcuffs. The medics arrived and pronounced the suspect before attending to the female suspect who had an injury. During this time, I maintained visual control over the suspect's weapon which remained on the floor where it had fallen. I maintained this position inside the residence until I was relieved, and a guard duty was established. AMG

At the time I observed [REDACTED] fire his weapon, I had observed the suspect open the door with a weapon in his hand pointed in the direction of [REDACTED]. I believe [REDACTED] was responding to the suspect's deadly threat. I did not fire my weapon because I was not in a position to see the suspect, or to obtain acquisition of the target from my position outside, and to the immediate left of the doorway.

This concludes my statement, and I am prepared to answer additional clarifying questions.

 6/13/25

Detective Adam Grindstaff, Badge No. 625