



**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: Interview with Sgt. Erik Lofland
Involves: Sgt. Erik Lofland (O)
Activity Date: 06/15/2026
Activity Location: 3617 State Route 4, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820 (Bucyrus OSP)
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Monday, June 15, 2026, at 1027 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) and SA Dave Hammond (SA Hammond) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Sergeant (Sgt.) Erik Lofland (Sgt. Lofland), who was not accompanied by an attorney. The interview took place at 3617 State Route 4, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820 (Bucyrus OSP). The interview was audio recorded.

Sgt. Lofland was identified as being a trooper who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 11, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, Ohio. Reportedly, Sgt. Lofland did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this trooper.

Sgt. Lofland stated his radio call sign on May 11, 2026, was Lofland. He has been employed by the OSHP for about twenty-three years. He has been a trooper for a total of twenty-three years. During the incident, Sgt. Lofland wore his standard OSHP Special Response Team (SRT) uniform with a fabric trooper badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove to the scene in his state issued vehicle. He considered himself to be well-represented as a trooper during the incident. Sgt. Lofland stated that he was wearing his Body Worn Camera (BWC) and used it intermittently throughout the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland how he was dispatched to the incident and he stated that he was contacted directly by the ASORT commander (Kingsborough). Sgt. Lofland stated that ASORT was requesting OSHP's Rook. SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland how he responded to the scene and he stated that he responded in his state issued vehicle. He stated that he arrived on scene around 0600hrs.

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SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what happened when he arrived on scene and he stated that he went to the command post for a briefing¹.

Sgt. Lofland stated (04:00 mark):

Uh, that they had been there since, I think it was like 10 or 11, uh, the night before. Um, the PD was called, uh, when they got there. I, I believe the guy had a vest on and a rifle on him. Uh, police called Crawford County SWAT. And then I believe Crawford County must have called ASORT. And then ASORT was asking for assistance with some of our equipment.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what was the purpose of the Rook and he stated (04:28 mark):

Uh, in or, well, to get up close that it can, uh, um, penetrate the house. It can tear a house down. Uh, it gives you a lot of options. It can deploy gas, um, it can provide a shield for guys to, to move up that it can lift up and down, up to the second floor.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what happened once their equipment arrived on scene and he stated "I told 'em we could induce gas and it, the gas inducer on it is, uh, very potent. Um, I said that would be a good place to start with it." He stated that Trooper Stephen Gillum was assigned as the Rook operator and that Troopers Korey Robinson and Kyle Shearer were assigned to protect the Rook.

Sgt. Lofland stated that after gas was introduced into the residence "Shots were being fired." SA Boerner asked him if he knew from where or from whom the shots were being fired and Sgt. Lofland stated (06:25 mark):

Fired from inside the house. He was, he was shooting. And what, what I did know is that he had, the weapon he had is at close to our capabilities of protection with the Rook.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland how his members responded to the shooting and he stated (06:46 mark):

Uh, Steve re moves back, retreats back, um, and kind of gets a place of cover. No shots were fired, um, from our end. Um, I asked our guys

¹ For purposes of this interview Sgt. Lofland referenced an overhead image of the scene provided by investigators. A copy of the overhead image was attached to this report. 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.



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and they said they didn't see the flash. They didn't, they could see it coming through the walls, but they weren't real sure where it was coming from. So, no shots were returned.

Sgt. Lofland stated that the Rook was reloaded with gas and that gas was introduced into the residence two additional times with no effect.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland why the gas was not working and he stated (08:05 mark):

Heard that he had gas mask. We, we had, we had heard that, but with the amount of gas that that puts in there sometimes that's still gonna make it too uncomfortable to wanna stay inside. Um, so then we transitioned, um, he had a pickup truck. Well, I guess that would've been the first thing we did. We pulled the trip, the pickup truck out with the forks with, with the Rook. And then before we got into the inducing the gas, um, also pulled a truck and trailer from the front side of the house out of the way so that the Bearcat could move up to turn the gas off. Um, that was the issue. We didn't wanna start using our ram attachment and tearing the house apart and having gas flowing through the house. So, we moved that and so that, uh, ASORT can move up and shut the gas off, uh, utilizing the gas company to do that.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what was happening at the command post at this point and he stated (08:59):

Just, they're just working on working on the options of what we can, uh, what we can do to get that guy to surrender. Um, so then it came time for the ram attachment and we're going to start opening up the house, see if we could locate him, uh, get him to get him to give up.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland to describe what happened next and he stated (10:15 mark):

Um, just trying to locate, I think somebody, he started yelling. He was yelling, they could hear him in the backside. I don't know what he was yelling. Um, he started getting aggressive so we're trying, trying to create communication with him. Um, but then he would talk and then he just started shouting from what they were saying, um, cursing and stuff like that. Uh, the drone was flown up just to get an eye on him.

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'Cause he did say at some point he said he had a grenade. Um, we were never able to get communications with the telephone. Uh, well they did talk to him earlier in the day from what they told us, but his cell phone, he wasn't answering anymore. Um, so they were trying to talk to him. Actually, one of our guys was over here trying to listen to see what he was saying, but he was just yelling. So, when the drone got up there, he could see that he was behind, uh, bed. He said he was pinned, so he wanted to see if he was, we in fact pushed something sure. On top of him. And he, he couldn't move. Uh, but the drone showed that he was just sitting there.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland if he recalled what the subject was wearing at the time and he stated (11:28 mark)²:

He was set up behind a, what was it? I think it was a bunk bed. And he had his weapons. He had a shield; he had magazines laid out in front of him on the bed. Yeah. It looked like military type gear. Like, uh, it was in a t-shirt. He didn't have a gas mask on at the time with the drone footage. Um, yeah, it's just, it's like a military type gear with a black T-shirt. It looks like that's all you can see. You can only see from his chest up.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what if any conversation did he have with the other SWAT team commanders about bringing an end to this event and he stated (14:44 mark):

Well, after, after seeing the, the video, um, 'cause their drone pilot brought it back into command post, uh, put it on, on the big screen to watch and looking at how the individual was sitting. There he is like; he was prepared for somebody to come walking in. Now he's like pointing towards and talking about somebody out there said grenade. You can't hear any, any verbiage through the right through the drone. But he is like pointing and, you know, moving his hands a lot. Um, but what they said is he's sitting on a grenade and he told him that. He was like, well, what are you gonna do? I mean, you have to take his word that he is on a grenade. It's not the first time we heard that. But you never know. Um, but he wasn't trapped. That was a big thing. We

² Sgt. Lofland referred back to photographs of drone footage taken with his state issued phone. Sgt. Lofland subsequently provided the photographs to investigators.

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thought, well, maybe debris was laying on top of him. He wasn't trapped and it looked like he was just kind of sitting and wait, uh, waiting to see for somebody to come up there. Gotcha. Um,

Sgt. Lofland continued stating (15:50 mark):

So, when he is yelling and screaming, I recommended that, well let's shoot some 40-millimeter gas in there. 'Cause if he's, if he's yelling and screaming, he obviously doesn't have a gas mask. Maybe we can get him to where he takes a breath of that and says, okay, I've had enough. Um, but somebody said that he had put the gas mask back on after shooting a 40 er, so it was ineffective. Um, but other options we had was they talked about using like impact munitions, which we could utilize the Rook with the shield. However, with the weapon system he had and being right at the cusp of what our armor can hold, that's putting our guys in a very, very bad position. Um, and if the shield's up there and the distance that we would have to get, um, it would just have our guys sitting in a bad position to do that. So, their commander decided that wasn't a good option to do. So, they, we got the hostage negotiator back to the back of the Bearcat, try to get some kind of communication going with them. Um, there was some talking back and forth, but then a lot of yelling and screaming again from what I understand. Uh, I didn't hear it, but that's what they were communicating back to us.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland if there was one scene commander during the incident and he stated that it was Kingsborough. Sgt. Lofland stated that the Sheriff of Crawford County was there, but that he communicated with Kingsborough the most.

Sgt. Lofland confirmed that at some point (19:35 mark) there was a decision made to use lethal force. SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland if anyone disagreed with the use of lethal force and he stated (19:57 mark):

No. No. It was a unanimous decision. Um, on, 'cause he wasn't, he wasn't giving up and then the threat of him. 'Cause we didn't know where those rounds were going either. Cause there's all houses back behind and they could been going through all the houses behind us and he had already said he wasn't, uh, so many words wasn't coming out.

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SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland who was given the order or directive to shoot and he stated (21:29 mark):

Uh, Kingsboro stepped a stepped away and said Yeah, we're, 'cause they, after trying to negotiate once again from the backside, he stepped away. I don't know what he used for a command. Um, but then I heard the shot rang out. So.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what happened after the shot was fired and he stated (21:53 mark):

The, not really any video or anything. I mean they just said he was down. Um, and there wasn't a lot of radio traffic at the time. I think it felt like it was, uh, the situation was over. Um, I wasn't comfortable with, he's down, so I asked Korey to get our drone up. And just to verify, uh, what, what he saw because obviously we still had the grenade that was an issue. Um, and when he passed off the, the, uh, goggles to me and it was obvious that he was, he was deceased. So, um, so then it kind of, we could slow down, wait for the bomb squad to come Sure. And get, um, try to get, see what the grenade is.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland what happened after Ashland County's EOD team arrived on scene and he stated (23:06 mark):

So, we use, we utilize the shield. Um, one of our guys went up with two of their, to their guys on the shield. They moved up, tried to get a visual of them. Uh, they ended up moving in, um, hooked onto 'em with a rope of some sort and backed up and tried to get that distance that they sure they would need from a grenade going off. So, they did pull 'em and then they did see there, there was a grenade, however it was inert.

Sgt. Lofland stated that the residence was checked for any kind of booby traps or trip wires, and none were found. He stated that after the residence was cleared his team had a debriefing. Once the debrief was completed his team packed up and left.

SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland how long he had been an SRT member and he stated twenty years. SA Boerner asked him how long he had been a commander and he stated ten years. SA Boerner asked Sgt. Lofland, based on his training and experience, if he felt that they were out of less lethal options, and he stated that they were.

The interview concluded at approximately 1053 hours.

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The interview was audio recorded (OSHP Sgt. Lofland Axon Capture Audio 2026-06-15 102743). The audio recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interviews > OSHP.

References:

Reference Item # - Officer Interviews > Sgt. Lofland stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. DJI_20260511152923_0059_D_ESM

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