



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



2024-3649

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave
NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 11/27/2024
Activity Location: BCI Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong

Narrative:

On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 1007 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) and SA Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) interviewed Canton Police Department (CPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Ty Graham. The interview took place at the BCI Richfield Office located at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The interview was audio and video recorded. Prior to the interview, [REDACTED] read, indicated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form. It has been attached to this report.

This report only summarizes the information deemed most relevant to the investigation. It 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. It may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. The full recording should be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions related to the information provided during the interview. Time stamps listed throughout the report correspond with the video recording.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: Wyatt – [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: [REDACTED]
Radio Channel Utilized: Special Operations	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: Black armored vehicle with Canton Police Logos and equipped with lights and a siren	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Multiple other SWAT officers

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Emergency Lights: Yes	Partner: Other SWAT officers
Siren: Yes	Spotlight: N/A
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status:
Days Off: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Could not remember
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: No
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Previous LE Experience: None	OPOTC Certification: Akron Police Academy
Military Experience/Training: None	Training or Areas of Specialty: Attended SWAT School and participated in SWAT training 2 days each month
Use-of-Force Training: Regular department training on use of force and reviewed the Use of Force Policy annually	CIT/SWAT/Force Science Training: SWAT Certified and CIT Certified
Uniform Worn: Black boots, green pants, hoodie with "POLICE" on it, outer vest carrier with "POLICE" on it, duty belt, helmet, and gas mask.	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: A Glock model 17 and magazines for it, rifle, magazines for the rifle, a TKO breaching shotgun
Ballistic Vest: Outer carrier with rifle plates and soft body armor on the sides.	Body Worn Camera: Yes. Activated it while en route. Had it mounted to the center of his torso just below his chest.
In-Car Camera: None	Other Recording Devices: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:

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	None
Where you under the influence of any substances that would impair your memory or judgment at the time of the incident: No	

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Daniel Defense	Model: Unknown
Caliber/Gauge: .223/5.56	Serial: Unknown
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Sling
Magazine Capacity: 30 cartridges	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 112 cartridges
Extra Magazines: 3	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 28 cartridges
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: Approximately 8
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Left-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: October 2024	Type of Holster, if any: None

Narrative:

██████████ had reviewed his body worn camera video two times. His recollection of the incident was similar to what was depicted in the video.

On November 18, 2024, ██████████ was working at SWAT Headquarters assisting with SWAT School for officers newly assigned to the SWAT Team. Sometime before noon, ██████████ relayed that the U.S. Marshalls had tried to arrest a subject with ATF warrants and the subject had brandished a firearm. The Marshalls pulled back and were calling for SWAT to come handle the situation.

They loaded their gear into the armored vehicle, "Wyatt" and he rode to the scene in it. While responding to the scene, he learned the subject was a white male, possibly older, with warrants related to firearms violations.

When they arrived, the Wyatt was parked. He followed the shield officer out the back of the Wyatt. The shield officer took up a position at the rear driver side portion of the vehicle which was also the "threat side". He provided shield cover and presented his

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rifle toward the main door and window of the room. The door was closed so he could not see inside. A plan to deploy less lethal munitions was formed and announcements were made on the Wyatt's public address system. Other officers held the perimeter while the gas team moved up and began deploying gas through the window. He believed a less lethal shotgun was also utilized to break open the door which was latched closed.

After the door was opened, they flew a drone which was equipped with cameras into the room. He explained:

Once the drone went in, the, the suspect fired shots at the drone. Um, however, I believe some of them missed the drone because I saw, uh, bullet holes in the window consistent with being shot from the inside out. Um, the drone went down after being shot. So, we, you know, we called out with shots fired. Um, we, I believe they, the team inserted more gas and uh, that was kind of it from there. So, in between all this, I was bumping out or switching positions with other team members to kind of, you know, get relief there. At one point, um, a team member suggested that we're gonna send a shield team up there to have another officer insert a throwable, uh, robot camera in there that could ride on the floor since we didn't have the drone anymore. So, I left my position on the corner of the Wyatt, grabbed a shield, I walked around the Wyatt.

So, I walked around this side of the Wyatt (pointed to passenger side) where the team was being orchestrated. The plan was to go up through here (pointed to the area between the front bumper of the Wyatt and the northeast corner of the motel building) and then throw the, throw a robot in the door.

Um, so around that time I downed the shield 'cause I had a bunch of gear on me. So, I wanted to down my rifle. I handed my rifle to someone who was inside the Wyatt. Um, and around that time I heard a gunshot and then I heard screaming. Um, I looked up and [REDACTED] was shot. I wasn't sure where I saw him on the ground. He was yelling. Uh, other officer's kind of pulled him behind the vehicle (19:22).

At that time, he had returned to his original position at the rear driver side portion of the Wyatt. He then rotated on and off with another officer providing cover with his rifle on the front door area of the room. Additional gas and pepper balls were deployed and then more gunfire was exchanged.

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After [REDACTED] was shot, [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] sniper rifle and positioned himself further away from the room. [REDACTED] then called out that he was being shot at. [REDACTED] said:

So, around that time, officers, uh, shot into the room towards where the suspect was or Intel said that he was hiding behind the bed that would've been on this wall (pointed to area of west wall in the room). And he said he was hiding behind the bed in the wall here. So, officers conducted their, or, uh, targeted their fire to the bed area to try and suppress his gunfire. Um, we got, you know, green lights to do so by the captain (20:17).

During that portion of the incident [REDACTED] did not fire. He then described when he fired:

There was a couple exchanges of gunfire where he was shooting out. Uh, we heard him reloading multiple times. We called out with that and went over the radio and officers were yelling that as well. Um, during one of the exchanges when he was shooting out, we got the green light. Um, there was an officer here (pointed to rear driver side of the Wyatt) that was shooting into here (pointed to front door area of the motel room) and I was standing right behind him. His magazine ran dry so I swapped him out. Uh, and the suspect was still shooting out of there. So, I fired into the bed area where Intel said that the suspect was hiding by (23:34)

[REDACTED] added, at the time he fired he was returning fire because the subject was shooting at them. When asked how he knew the subject was shooting at them, he said:

So, the initial shots, so our team, like I said, deployed gas into the window. It didn't shatter the window completely. It left holes in the window consistent of, with our 40-millimeter gas canisters, which are large. So, when they sent the drone in, we all heard gunfire, none of us were shooting. Um, and then I saw bullet holes in the window consistent with gunshot or gunshot holes. Um, it appeared that he was shooting from inside at the drone and was missing and they were going through the window and then out towards these motels which were occupied. And then I believe the highway was over here (26:26).

When asked how he felt throughout the incident he explained,

Uh, to be honest, it was, it was terrifying. Um, you know, we all kind of think that we're prepared for that and when the moment comes, you know, we step up



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and deal with it. But we're all human. It's, it's scary, you know, when gun, gunshots are going past your head and stuff (27:30).

Throughout the incident [REDACTED] did not see the subject. He received intel from other officers who relayed the subject's position and that they could see pillows moving. He never heard the subject say anything. He remembered hearing the subject reloading a firearm two different times. He could hear what he described as the magazine being inserted into a firearm and the slide being racked.

[REDACTED] did not recall having any previous encounters with the involved subject or that incident location.

He consented to agents reviewing the results of the drug screen he submitted to after the incident and to agents reviewing any written reports he may complete in the future.

The interview concluded at approximately 1043 hours.

References:

Reference Item I - Officer Interviews - Evidence.com

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-27 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form - [REDACTED]
2. 2024-11-27 Audio Recorded Interview - [REDACTED]

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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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

11/27/24 1005
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

Nick VALENTE
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature] #139
BCI Agent (Signature)