



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



2025-2243

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3013 Mohawk Street,  
Middletown, Ohio 45044 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** [REDACTED] (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/25/2025  
**Activity Location:** Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,  
Middletown, OH 45042  
**Author:** SA Kenneth J. Smith, #53

**Narrative:**

On Friday, July 25, 2025, at approximately 1056 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Kenneth Smith conducted an interview with Middletown Police [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was accompanied by his attorney, Robb Stokar, of Front Line Advisors, LLC. The interview was held in the administrative conference room of the Middletown Police Department and was audio-recorded.

SA Smith read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that he understood the content of the notification form and signed it.

The following summary of the 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 aid in the overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not reflect the actual interview sequence. For further details, please refer to the audio recording.

[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] with badge number [REDACTED]. He has been employed at the Middletown Police Department for approximately [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has prior military experience, described as the Army infantry, for [REDACTED]. His radio call sign was [REDACTED], which indicated that he was a two-officer unit that day. [REDACTED] was in cruiser # [REDACTED], described as a Ford Explorer marked with Middletown Police decals and a light bar on top. He said that he was a passenger in the vehicle and [REDACTED] was the driver. [REDACTED] was working his normally assigned shift from [REDACTED]. His immediate supervisor is Sgt. Adam Cox. On the date of the incident, his supervisor was Sgt. Jason Wargo.

[REDACTED] was wearing the standard Middletown Police uniform with a ballistic vest,

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described as a dark blue uniform with Middletown patches on each sleeve and a badge on the outer vest carrier. [REDACTED] stated that he had an in-car cruiser camera, that was functioning and recording. [REDACTED] was also wearing a body-worn camera, which was operable and recording at the time of the incident. He stated that he is up to date on his use of force training. He did not work any overtime in the preceding 48 hours. [REDACTED] stated that he was well rested.

[REDACTED] was equipped with his department-issued duty pistol, described as a Glock 17. He also had three spare magazines, in addition to pepper spray, taser, and handcuffs. [REDACTED] did not discharge his duty pistol during this incident. [REDACTED] was also equipped with a backup weapon, described as a Smith and Wesson model 6 .38 special, which was not discharged. [REDACTED] was armed with a personally owned and department approved Daniel Defense model DDM .556 caliber rifle. He had 30 rounds in the magazine. [REDACTED] discharged his rifle during the incident and believed that he fired 4-6 rounds. Modifications to his rifle include an EOTech optic, EOTech magnifier GE43, angled fore grip, two-point sling, magpul stock, and flashlight. After the incident occurred, his rifle was given to Officer Ryun Rawlins.

[REDACTED] was asked to read his written statement, which was provided to investigators. The written statement read as follows and was signed by [REDACTED] at the conclusion:

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED], BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

*This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at approximately 4:42 p.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 [REDACTED]. My regular assignment with Middletown PD is as a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] off. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on July 13, 2025, I was working my regular hours. On the day of the incident, I was working as a two-officer unit with [REDACTED] and my call number [REDACTED] operating car [REDACTED].*

*At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing my regular duty, dark blue police uniform. The uniform included Middletown Police patches on the sleeves, an outer ballistic vest, badge, nameplate, and a fully equipped police duty belt. I was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) which recorded the event. I was carrying a department approved Glock 17, Gen 5 semi-automatic 9mm pistol loaded with department approved ammunition. I was also equipped with a Daniel Defense, DDM4, MK18 Rifle loaded with department approved ammunition. This was the weapon I fired during the incident. I most recently qualified with both weapons on April 16, 2025, and am current with all required qualifications. I was carrying a secondary back-up handgun; a S&W model 638, .38 cal. revolver. My uncorrected 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 not consumed alcohol in the 24 hours prior to my shift. I had not worked any overtime or extra details within the 48 hours prior to my shift on the day of the incident. I had approximately 9 hours of sleep the night before my assigned shift and was well rested.*

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*Immediately prior to being dispatched to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was on a routine traffic stop with my partner, [REDACTED]. At approximately 4:42 p.m. radio aired a "Signal 28," meaning a shooting had occurred, at 3013 Mohawk St. The initial information indicated a female had been shot. We immediately responded to 3013 Mohawk utilizing lights and sirens, arriving at the location approximately 5 minutes after the call was aired. While enroute to the incident location, Officer Patterson aired on the radio she had observed the suspect had a firearm. I believe Officer Kessler also aired information indicating a male with a firearm had shot a family member inside the residence.*

*As I arrived on scene, we parked the marked patrol vehicle in front of the house to the south of the residence. 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 recall having had previous contact with the suspect or the female victim involved in this incident. I exited the vehicle and retrieved my patrol rifle from the trunk. I then chambered a round and used my patrol vehicle as cover as I assumed a position at the front of the residence. From this position, I observed the front entry was equipped with a long wheelchair ramp. The front outer door was open, a secondary glass or screen door was closed, and I observed a white male, in a wheelchair, in the front doorway of 3013 Mohawk St. looking outside at police. I could not see a weapon, but the suspect was refusing to exit the residence and surrender.*

*An officer used the cruiser PA system to engage the suspect and attempt to convince him to come to the front door, unarmed, with his hands visible. I was aware the suspect's son was on scene, on the phone with the suspect, and he was attempting to convince his father (the suspect) to surrender to police. The suspect refused and retreated into the interior of the residence where he was no longer visible. At this point, officers determined this was a hostage situation, with a victim in critical condition. Sgt. Wargo stated this necessitated an immediate entry into the residence and we prepared to attempt an entry into the residence. Officer Harris retrieved a ballistic shield and I and several other officers organized into a "stack" formation with the intent of making an entry. I was positioned 4th in line, behind Officers Harris, [REDACTED] and Rawlins. We were advised by a family member that the back door was unlocked. I believed that only the suspect and the victim remained inside, as the son had fled the residence after the shooting occurred.*

*We proceeded in a stack formation to the back door where Officer Harris, the first person in the "stack" because he had the ballistic shield, confirmed the back door was unlocked. Officer Harris opened the door and announced, "Middletown Police." The door opened inward and to the left. The suspect responded by yelling he would shoot if officers entered the residence.*

*The suspect was positioned somewhere inside the rear door, and I could hear sound and movement indicating he was towards the rear of the house and in the area directly on the other side of the wall where officers were positioned in the stack. Officer Kessler attempted to negotiate with the suspect to convince him to surrender so we could provide medical aid to the female victim inside. The suspect refused to comply and*

*stated he didn't want to hurt anyone. The suspect then fired a single round in what I perceived to be the direction of the rear of the house where officers were positioned outside. I could clearly hear the suspect was in the area directly on the other side of the wall that separated officers from the interior of the house. I was aware the wall separating the suspect from our position appeared to be sheetrock and siding, indicating rounds fired from the suspect, or from officers, would likely penetrate the wall. Due to this fact, officers had minimal cover and concealment from the danger of the suspect firing subsequent rounds from his firearm.*

*Officer Kessler continued to attempt to negotiate a surrender. I then heard what sounded like a pop or beer can being opened inside the residence, indicating the suspect remained inside the rear of the residence. I could not see into the room on the other side of the wall, but with the door open, I could see it opened into a wall. I did not know the layout of the interior but knew the suspect was likely positioned to the right of the open door as sound was coming from the right.*

*I observed [REDACTED] move to the left of the doorway with his rifle pointed towards the interior of the residence. Officer Harris or [REDACTED] yelled "police don't move." This indicated the suspect was still inside the rear of the house based on [REDACTED] verbal commands and the direction in which his rifle was pointed. [REDACTED] then fired several rounds into the interior of the structure. I also fired 4-6 rounds from my rifle at the wall where I believed the suspect was positioned on the other side. I fired my weapon because I, and other officers, were under an imminent threat of serious physical harm, and the suspect posed a deadly threat to the officers positioned outside the door. I stopped firing when [REDACTED] stopped firing because I heard no return fire, and I believed the suspect might be down.*

*After I fired my weapon, I made entry into the rear of the residence with the other officers. I entered in order to secure the residence and ensure the threat from the suspect had been eliminated, as well as to render aid to the victim(s). Upon entry, I observed the suspect lying on the floor next to his wheelchair. I observed a handgun on the floor next to the suspect and I officers securing the suspect in handcuffs. I penetrated into the interior and assisted other officers with clearing the residence. I observed the female victim was on the floor in the front of the house and she appeared deceased. Officer Kessler indicated the female was deceased. I exited the residence prior to medics making entry and left the scene to return to the police station.*

*At the time I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect was seated in a wheelchair inside the rear of 3013 Mohawk St. approximately 10-15 feet from my position on the other side of the wall. I had very limited cover and concealment from the threat. I believe I fired 4-6 shots in rapid succession from my patrol rifle. My target was the wall where I reasonably believed the suspect was positioned on the other side. I believed the rounds had a high probability of penetrating the wall and striking the suspect who was positioned in a small room in the rear of the residence. I believed the backdrop for my shots was the interior wall of the back room. I was in a standing position when I fired my weapon and, recognizing the suspect was in a wheelchair, I believe I fired in a downward trajectory to strike the target and minimize errant rounds. Prior to firing my weapon, as*

*a result of information conveyed by a family member, I believed a female victim and the suspect were the only ones inside the residence. I also believed the female victim, who was likely in critical condition in need of immediate assistance, was in another area of the house because I heard no sounds from the female coming from the room at the rear of the house.*

*At the time I fired my weapon, I was responding to an immediate and deadly threat of serious physical harm to myself and to the other officers immediately outside the doorway. I fired my weapon to protect myself, other officers and to gain access to the female victim inside the residence that had been critically injured. At the time I fired my weapon, I believed that an immediate response was the only means to stop an imminent threat of death or serious injury to myself or others.*

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

SA Smith asked [REDACTED] additional questions regarding his position at the back door. He said that Officer Harris opened the back door and an officer announced, "Middletown Police." [REDACTED] heard the subject from inside the residence respond, stating "if you come inside, I'm going to shoot you." Officers tried to negotiate with the subject. At one point, the subject fired a round and told the officers to get off of his back porch. [REDACTED] said that there were five officers on the porch and 3-4 other officers in the back yard. He said that the officers on the porch were to the immediate right of the now open doorway, standing stacked up on the exterior wall, which led to the kitchen area. When the subject fired a round, [REDACTED] said that he believed that the subject was firing towards officers.

SA Smith stated that [REDACTED] statement said that he believed that the back wall was made out of sheet rock and siding, which is normal for houses in that neighborhood. SA Smith asked if most handguns could penetrate sheet rock and [REDACTED] stated yes. Based on his location and what he could hear, [REDACTED] said that he believed that the subject was on the other side of the wall, near the officers outside. [REDACTED] said that he based this on how the subject was speaking from inside the residence, the echo coming from the right side of the door, and the subject's demeanor.

[REDACTED] said that Officer Kessler began trying to negotiate with the subject. He said that Officer Kessler had dealt with the subject previously. While Officer Kessler was talking, [REDACTED] recalled hearing the subject open a soda or beer can from inside the residence. He said that's when [REDACTED] went to the other side of the door and looked into the residence. He said that [REDACTED] or Officer Harris gave another verbal command, stating "police, don't move." [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED] put his rifle into position and began hearing gunshots, presumably by [REDACTED].

SA Smith asked when [REDACTED] fired, if he believed his shots were in the direction of the subject and he stated yes. [REDACTED] said that he believed that shots were being fired at officers. [REDACTED] stated that he thought "he (the subject) was going to hit and either kill or seriously injure one of us. Um, I knew he was on the other side of the wall, or at least a very good general direction of where he was on the other side of the wall. Um, I knew that the son was already outside of the residence. It was just him and the female subject still inside of the

residence. Um, I knew she wasn't in the same room as him. Um, I knew she was somewhere inside of the residence in a critical condition and we needed to get her help. Uh, I knew that, you know, my bullets would go through the wall. Uh, I did attempt to shoot in a downward trajectory due to a suspect being wheelchair bound, um, to minimize any inherent rounds, like I said." [REDACTED] believed that the subject was armed and was a threat.

[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] stopped firing, at which point he stopped shooting, because there was no longer a threat. Officers collectively went to the door that was open and went inside. [REDACTED] said that he saw the subject's legs appearing from the side of the refrigerator. He observed the subject to be lying motionless on the ground. He said that he stepped over him and began clearing the rest of the house and looking for anyone else, who might have been inside of the residence. When he entered the living room, he observed a female, presumably deceased, on the living room floor. SA Smith asked if the female was in the direction of where the shooting had occurred and [REDACTED] stated that she was not.

[REDACTED] said that medics were already staged on scene and responded quickly. [REDACTED] remained in the living room with Officer Harris. He said that the female was lying on her stomach, and he observed the back of her shirt stained with blood. Officer Harris rolled the female over and he observed more blood staining on her chest area. He said that the female was not responsive. [REDACTED] then left the residence.

The interview concluded at 1131 hours. The audio recording, signed statement, and signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form are attached to this investigative report.

#### References:

No references.

#### Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 2025-07-25 Interview of [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 02: Middletown Police [REDACTED] Signed Statement
- Attachment # 03: BCI Criminal Notification Form – [REDACTED]

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED], BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

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My date of hire as a police officer with the Middletown Division of Police was [REDACTED]. My regular assignment with Middletown PD is as a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] off. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on July 13, 2025, I was working my regular hours. On the day of the incident, I was working as a two-officer unit with [REDACTED] and my call number [REDACTED] operating car [REDACTED].

At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing my regular duty, dark blue police uniform. The uniform included Middletown Police patches on the sleeves, an outer ballistic vest, badge, nameplate, and a fully equipped police duty belt. I was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) which recorded the event. I was carrying a department approved Glock 17, Gen 5 semi-automatic 9mm pistol loaded with department approved ammunition. I was also equipped with a Daniel Defense, DDM4, MK18 Rifle loaded with department approved ammunition. This was the weapon I fired during the incident. I most recently qualified with both weapons on April 16, 2025, and am current with all required qualifications. I was carrying a secondary back-up handgun; a S&W model 638, .38 cal. revolver. My uncorrected 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 not consumed alcohol in the 24 hours prior to my shift. I had not worked any overtime or extra details within the 48 hours prior to my shift on the day of the incident. I had approximately 9 hours of sleep the night before my assigned shift and was well rested.

Immediately prior to being dispatched to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was on a routine traffic stop with my partner, Officer Flor. At approximately 4:42 p.m. radio aired a "Signal 28," meaning a shooting had occurred, at 3013 Mohawk St. The initial information indicated a female had been shot. We immediately responded to 3013 Mohawk utilizing lights and sirens, arriving at the location approximately 5 minutes after the call was aired. While enroute to the incident location, Officer Patterson aired on the radio she had observed the suspect had a firearm. I believe Officer Kessler also aired information indicating a male with a firearm had shot a family member inside the residence.

As I arrived on scene, we parked the marked patrol vehicle in front of the house to the south of the residence. 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 recall having had previous contact with the suspect or the female victim involved in this incident. I exited the vehicle and retrieved my patrol rifle from the trunk. I then chambered a round and used my patrol vehicle as cover as I assumed a position at the front of the residence. From this position, I observed the front entry was equipped with a long wheelchair ramp. The front outer door was open, a secondary glass or screen door was closed, and I observed a white male, in a wheelchair, in the front doorway of 3013 Mohawk St. looking outside at police. I could not see a weapon, but the suspect was refusing to exit the residence and surrender.



An officer used the cruiser PA system to engage the suspect and attempt to convince him to come to the front door, unarmed, with his hands visible. I was aware the suspect's son was on scene, on the phone with the suspect, and he was attempting to convince his father (the suspect) to surrender to police. The suspect refused and retreated into the interior of the residence where he was no longer visible. At this point, officers determined this was a hostage situation, with a victim in critical condition. Sgt. Wargo stated this necessitated an immediate entry into the residence and we prepared to attempt an entry into the residence. Officer Harris retrieved a ballistic shield and I and several other officers organized into a "stack" formation with the intent of making an entry. I was positioned 4th in line, behind Officers Harris, [REDACTED], and Rawlins. We were advised by a family member that the back door was unlocked. I believed that only the suspect and the victim remained inside, as the son had fled the residence after the shooting occurred.

We proceeded in a stack formation to the back door where Officer Harris, the first person in the "stack" because he had the ballistic shield, confirmed the back door was unlocked. Officer Harris opened the door and announced, "Middletown Police." The door opened inward and to the left. The suspect responded by yelling he would shoot if officers entered the residence.

The suspect was positioned somewhere inside the rear door, and I could hear sound and movement indicating he was towards the rear of the house and in the area directly on the other side of the wall where officers were positioned in the stack. Officer Kessler attempted to negotiate with the suspect to convince him to surrender so we could provide medical aid to the female victim inside. The suspect refused to comply and stated he didn't want to hurt anyone. The suspect then fired a single round in what I perceived to be the direction of the rear of the house where officers were positioned outside. I could clearly hear the suspect was in the area directly on the other side of the wall that separated officers from the interior of the house. I was aware the wall separating the suspect from our position appeared to be sheetrock and siding, indicating rounds fired from the suspect, or from officers, would likely penetrate the wall. Due to this fact, officers had minimal cover and concealment from the danger of the suspect firing subsequent rounds from his firearm.

Officer Kessler continued to attempt to negotiate a surrender. I then heard what sounded like a pop or beer can being opened inside the residence, indicating the suspect remained inside the rear of the residence. I could not see into the room on the other side of the wall, but with the door open, I could see it opened into a wall. I did not know the layout of the interior but knew the suspect was likely positioned to the right of the open door as sound was coming from the right.

I observed [REDACTED] move to the left of the doorway with his rifle pointed towards the interior of the residence. Officer Harris or [REDACTED] yelled "police don't move." This indicated the suspect was still inside the rear of the house based on [REDACTED] verbal commands and the direction in which his rifle was pointed. [REDACTED] then fired several rounds into the interior of the structure. I also fired 4-6 rounds from my rifle at the wall where I believed the suspect was positioned on the other side. I fired my weapon because I, and other officers, were under an imminent threat of serious physical harm, and the suspect posed a deadly threat to the officers positioned outside the door. I stopped firing when [REDACTED] stopped firing because I heard no return fire, and I believed the suspect might be down.

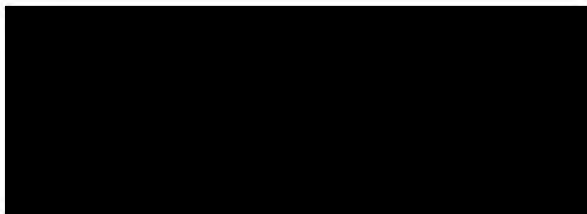


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At the time I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect was seated in a wheelchair inside the rear of 3013 Mohawk St. approximately 10-15 feet from my position on the other side of the wall. I had very limited cover and concealment from the threat. I believe I fired 4-6 shots in rapid succession from my patrol rifle. My target was the wall where I reasonably believed the suspect was positioned on the other side. I believed the rounds had a high probability of penetrating the wall and striking the suspect who was positioned in a small room in the rear of the residence. I believed the backdrop for my shots was the interior wall of the back room. I was in a standing position when I fired my weapon and, recognizing the suspect was in a wheelchair, I believe I fired in a downward trajectory to strike the target and minimize errant rounds. Prior to firing my weapon, as a result of information conveyed by a family member, I believed a female victim and the suspect were the only ones inside the residence. I also believed the female victim, who was likely in critical condition in need of immediate assistance, was in another area of the house because I heard no sounds from the female coming from the room at the rear of the house.

At the time I fired my weapon, I was responding to an immediate and deadly threat of serious physical harm to myself and to the other officers immediately outside the doorway. I fired my weapon to protect myself, other officers and to gain access to the female victim inside the residence that had been critically injured. At the time I fired my weapon, I believed that an immediate response was the only means to stop an imminent threat of death or serious injury to myself or others.

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



7.25.25 1120

Date



Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



**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).

[Redacted]

7.25.25 1058  
Date / Time

[Redacted]

KEN SMITH  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)