



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



2025-1603
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods
 Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Witnessing Officer Interview
Involves: Lieutenant Dan Hargus
Activity Date: 07/01/2025
Activity Location: Columbus PD SWAT Headquarters
Authoring Agent: SA Chad Holcomb, #61

Narrative:

On Tuesday, July 01, 2025, at 1354 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Lieutenant (Lt.) Dan Hargus (Hargus), who was accompanied by his attorney, Lathan Lipperman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the CPD SWAT headquarters. The interview was audio recorded.

Before the interview began, Lt. Hargus was informed that his interview was voluntary and that he could stop the interview at any time; he agreed to continue.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and 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 and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: Dan Hargus	Rank: Lieutenant (Lt.)
Badge Number: 5050	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: N/A
Radio Call Sign: 502	Immediate Supervisor: N/A
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: Unmarked SWAT vehicle	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: N/A
Assignment: SWAT	Normal Shift: Varies
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: N/A	Siren: N/A
Shift Day of Incident: N/A	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within

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	Preceding 48 Hours: N/A
Total Length as Officer: 26+ years	Length at Current Agency: 26+ years

Narrative:

SA Holcomb asked Lt. Hargus about his role as SWAT lieutenant. He stated that he has all the SWAT training and equipment but "... my guys do cool guy SWAT stuff, I authorize the cool guy SWAT stuff." He stated that he doesn't go into structures, does containment or surveillance. Typically, Lt. Hargus would make the decision based on the information that is known if SWAT would respond to a call.

Lt. Hargus said that when the call came in regarding this incident, Sgt. Scott Bray called him and stated SWAT officers were responding to the scene because patrol officers were taking active fire. He was made aware the subject, Jerry Smith (Smith), had discharged a firearm and that a female, Marybeth Bright, was still inside the residence.

Lt. Hargus then sent out an 'All Call' for all SWAT members including the commander, deputy chief, all K9 officers, TEMS medic, and the hostage negotiators (part-time team) to respond to the scene.

Lt. Hargus respond to the scene from home as it was his day off. He never went near the scene and was mostly positioned in the command post (CP).

Lt. Hargus stated that his role was mission commander and relaying information from Sgt. Jason Ayres (Sgt. Ayres) who was on the phone with Smith to the SWAT operators in the field.

SA Holcomb asked about the Delta order. Lt. Hargus said that a Delta order is when he knows something that the rest of SWAT doesn't know. For example, a hostage is tied up in the front room and the suspect is in the back room of the house. If the suspect says, "if I don't get this, I'm going to kill the hostage." A Delta order would then be relayed that if SWAT sees the male walking from the back of the house to the front of the house, they can use deadly force. The SWAT officers would not be aware of the conversation that the suspect is going to kill the hostage.

For this OICI incident, Sgt. Bray asked for a Delta order but wasn't necessarily applicable in this situation. Lt. Hargus stated, "When the guy points a gun out of the window, the front door shooting at us, that isn't Delta order situation. That's deadly force situation." Lt. Hargus said that the SWAT officers don't need his permission to discharge their weapons if they're being shot at.

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Lt. Hargus talked about his time in the CP while negotiators were talking to Smith. Lt. Hargus said that Smith's demeanor was 'erratic' and that he would have an ok conversation to then saying, "I'm coming out with that fire." Lt. Hargus missed the first half of the phone call between Sgt. Ayres and Smith and really was only able to hear once when they moved to the CP. He would then radio pertinent information from the phone call to the SWAT officers.

SA Holcomb asked if he could remember any other threatening statements made by Smith. Lt. Hargus knows there were other statements but can't remember what they were.

Lt. Hargus talked about the video camera that is positioned on top of the BearCat. That video is *sometimes* able to be viewed in the CP. He acknowledged that the video is typically pixilated, unviewable and worse than what was recorded during the incident. During this incident, Lt. Hargus saw via the video the firearm come out right before the shooting and then something falls, which he believed to be the magazine. Lt. Hargus never heard any gunshots.

SA Holcomb asked what his role was after the SWAT shooting occurred. Lt. Hargus stated that he worked with BCI Crime Scene with the sniper rifle, BearCats that were involved and other various tasks.

The interview concluded at approximately 1417 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment #01: 2025-07-01 - Lt. Dan Hargus Interview (2025-1603)

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