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

2026-2566
Officer Involved Critical Incident - State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, OH 44867, Seneca County (L)

Investigative Activity:	Witness Officer Interview
Involves:	[redacted] (W)
Activity Date:	07/22/2026
Activity Location:	Seneca County Sheriff's Office – 3040 OH-100, Tiffin, Ohio
Authoring Agent:	**SA David Hammond #120**

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 0949 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SA Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser) interviewed Seneca County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) [redacted] who was accompanied by her attorney, Yvonne Wojtas, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. The interview was audio recorded.

[redacted] was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the July 7, 2026 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of State Route 67 and Township Rd. 8 near Republic, Ohio. Reportedly, [redacted] 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 officer.

The following is a summary of 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. The information 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. In some instances, answers have been compressed to aid in ease of reading. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

It should be noted that during the interview, law enforcement officials were shown a drone photograph/diagram of the overall scene and final vehicle locations, taken by the Crime Scene Unit. This photograph/diagram (2026-2566 diagram without placards) was used to reference locations and movements of persons and vehicles during the incident. A copy of this photograph/diagram has been attached to this report.

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[redacted] stated her radio call sign on July 7, 2026, was [redacted]. She has been employed by the SCSO for [redacted]. She has been a police officer for a total of [redacted]. During the incident, [redacted] wore her standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. She also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. She was the passenger of the patrol cruiser driven by [redacted], unit # [redacted]. She considered herself to be well-represented as a Deputy Sheriff during the incident. She stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair her memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

[redacted] related that her primary duties have her in the role of [redacted] with a field training officer. [redacted] stated that she was wearing a body-worn camera that was activated during the event.

[redacted] advised that she had viewed her BWC camera video one time prior to the interview. She stated her memory was different than what she viewed in the video. She was encouraged to answer questions, telling investigators what she felt, saw and how she reacted, based on her memory, to the best of her ability.

[redacted] related that she was briefed about Sergent and the potential dangers of arresting him on the felony charges that were coming down.

> At the 13:57 mark, "*Jeff had an incident a couple years ago with a deputy here and was violent towards him, fought him and tried to disarm his firearm. So, me being new too, I don't know everybody in the county, I don't know, you know, when we go to their houses, how they're going be. But* [redacted] *does, I'm pretty sure* [redacted] *and* [redacted] *did too. But, you know, we were obviously just, I think they were just kind of letting us know, hey, you know, he doesn't like law enforcement. He has PTSD. He's got mental issues, he has, you know, drug issues in the past. So just to keep our head on a swivel anyways, that he probably wasn't going to come with us willing. So, we had to be careful and approach him cautiously."*
>
> At the 14:58 mark, *"On our way there. I remember asking* [redacted] *this is going to be a felony stop. And he said yes. So, it's going to be dangerous, and you just have to be careful when we get there."*

[redacted] described how she became involved in the incident:

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At the 05:25 mark, "*So,* [redacted] *and I were going to another call, and we were already prepped kind of in the morning about this situation and who we had a warrant for and, because we were on the east side anyways. So that's the Bloomville, Attica area. So, we were already informed to kind of keep an eye out for this Jeffrey Sergent because we had felony warrants for him. So, we were on our way to another call and we got a phone call from* [redacted] *and he said that Bloomville PD, which is Scherley had eyes on Jeff Sergent, and so we were, I don't even remember the roads that we were on because we were all over the east side to get to them. Um, so we all were aware that Kevin had eyes on him and was waiting for backup to stop him because he is prior violent guy.*

When we got there, Bloomville PD was behind Jeff, [redacted] *was in front of Jeff and we just kind of pulled to the side of the road and I turned my body camera on before we even got there. But when we literally got there, I turned it on right away. because* [redacted] *was standing and the driver's, his driver's side door, like the crack, he had it open and was, had his hands up like this"* [redacted] indicated a hand's up or open hands position in front of her].

[redacted] related that deputies eventually moved up to Sergent's truck to speak with him. She described trying to find an area of safety/cover while not overwhelming Sergent with additional people at the truck.

At the 07:36 mark, "S*o, we kind of just waited a little bit and I stood behind the passenger side door and waited. Um, and then we walked up to Jeff's passenger side. And again, I'm still like in training, so I kind of just stood back, if that makes sense. Like, I just remember* [redacted] *and* [redacted] *being at the passenger side. And for some reason, I don't know, I, I don't, I really don't know why, but I went behind the truck because I did, I didn't want to overwhelm him."*

[redacted] described the efforts of [redacted] at the passenger window.

At the 08:41 mark, *"I just remember* [redacted] *pleading with him to just get out of the car. Um, I didn't realize he was on a phone call. because when we got there, I think Jeff rolled his window up so I could barely hear him anyways. Um, and I, I don't really remember. I, it took maybe, like 10, 15 minutes and, but, or* [redacted] *showed up and* [redacted] *parked behind us and he got out of his car and we, we were still talking to him. And then* [redacted] *moved his cruiser to the other side of* [redacted] *cruiser because there was an opening a little bit."*

At the 15:47 mark, *"That we just wanted to do this peacefully. I remember* [redacted] *saying, please, I remember him saying, you know, please Jeff, this doesn't have to be like this. You know, we have a warrant for you. Um, you are under*

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arrest, you know, please get out of the car. You know, let's, let's not make this any harder than what it has to be.

Like we were, we were showing, like I kept my hands right here in the front of my chest because I, I remember Jeff freaking out thinking that we had something in our hands and I remember just keeping my hands here because I wanted him to also, you know, he was looking around, he was watching us. So, I didn't want to freak him out and have my hand on my, my radio or have my hands in my pockets. I mean, that's the number one thing they teach you is we don't keep our hands in our pockets anyways. But, or I didn't want to like, hold anything, so I just wanted, I kept my hands right here or I, you know, I kept them visible for him to see, and I mean, for everybody to see really."

[redacted] described the efforts of deputies before breaking the window.

At the 09:50 mark, "*I remember* [redacted] *asking for, uh, uh, a window breaker and* [redacted] *gave him one. Um, and I remember* [redacted] *being at the passenger side still begging him, begging him to, to get out of the car and, and just to calm down and* [redacted] *was the only one that I remember talking to him. Um, and then I remember* [redacted] *and* [redacted] *were on the driver's side, and I remember them throwing the window key back to* [redacted] *And* [redacted] *had it on the window and they still gave him, you know, more chances to open the door. And he refused."*

[redacted] described what happened when [redacted] used the glass punch and [redacted] began clearing the driver's window.

At the 09:46 mark, "*And I remember* [redacted] *just popping the window and Jeff [Sergent] backed up really fast and I don't really remember why, but I ended up in the front of Jeff's vehicle and I remember him coming towards me and I went over the railing a little bit because I, you know, I didn't know if he was going to keep going because he hit the [guardrail] behind him. So, he was coming forward and I didn't pull my weapon because I didn't know where anybody was. To be completely honest with you. I didn't know where any of the other deputies were. Um, I remember hearing shots and I, I didn't know if it was, the deputies. I didn't know if it was Jeff shooting. Um, and then Jeff crashed into* [redacted] *cruiser, and he stopped and he wasn't moving. And I, I ended up back on the back side of Jeff's car truck and when the truck stopped making noises, like his truck was popping also."*

[redacted] described being at the rear of the truck just before it backed up.

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At the 18:18 mark, *"I think I was right in the middle of Jeff's truck, and I remember [redacted]ooking at me and pointing to get me to move from where I was standing. So, I moved closer to where they were. So, it was [redacted] and [redacted] Kevin and I was in the back more towards the back of his truck. Okay. They were more in the front. So, I was in the middle of his truck and then when [redacted] waved at me to move, I went behind them on the driver's side."*

At the 19:07 mark, *"So the glass breaks and I don't, I don't know if Jeff, what, what he did. I didn't hear him say anything. Um, I just, he put it in reverse and swung his truck around and hit the guardrail and I think that's, he went to go forward and that's when I started hearing the shots."*

[redacted] was asked how many shots she heard.

At the 19:42 mark, *"I don't, I really don't know to be honest with you. Okay. I don't want to say a number. It, it wasn't many, it wasn't a lot. It was very fast. Very fast."*

[redacted] described moving to avoid being hit and climbing onto the guardrail.

At the 20:34 mark, *"I think in my head I, because I don't remember getting in the front of his vehicle, but I genuinely think like I ran to the front because when, when he backed up, I got out of the way. because I was, I mean, we were all in the way. Because when he backed up, he didn't back straight up. He like cranked his wheel and swerved like, towards us and crashed into the guardrail. I remember running to the, the other guardrail and I thought, you know, maybe his truck would be disabled after slamming it that hard. But he put it in drive, and I remember seeing his car coming towards me and that's when I went like one leg over the guardrail. Okay.*

He crashed and his truck was still mobile, so he put it in drive, and I remember him going towards me and then he, he must have turned and he crashed into [redacted] cruiser."

[redacted] was asked if Sergent's vehicle hadn't impacted [redacted] cruiser, if there was a chance that she may have been hit, while she was on the nearby guardrail. [redacted] indicated "*yeah*". She went on to say that she considered jumping off the guardrail to avoid being hit.

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At the 24:17 mark, *"But I also didn't want to be like, out of there, you know, I didn't want to be out of the, the call. I didn't want to jump over and then, then I'm out."*

[redacted] indicated that she feared for her safety and the safety of others during the incident. She indicated that she may have experienced some tunnel vision during the incident and that she thought [redacted]

The interview concluded at approximately 1017 hours.

The audio recording of this interview was uploaded to Axon Evidence.com as Reference Item M – Witness Officer Interviews – Axon Capture Audio 2026-07-22 [redacted].

References:

Reference Item M – Witness Officer Interviews – Axon Capture Audio 2026-07-22 [redacted]

Attachments:

1. 2026-2566 Diagram without placards

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BCI Case Number:	Location:	Date of Occurrence:
2026-2566	E Township Rd. 8 & SR 67, Republic, OH	Jult 7, 2026
Offense:	**Involved Agency:**	**Lead Investigator:**
Officer Involved Critical Incident	Seneca County Sheriff's Office	Special Agent Hammond

Drawn By:
Emily Miller, Crime Scene Technician - Overhead Diagram w/o Placards