



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



2023-2008

Officer Involved Shooting - Terminal Road by Dayton Airport, OH

Investigative Activity: Scene Processing  
Activity Date: August 2, 2023  
Activity Location: Terminal Road near State Route 40, Vandalia, Ohio 45377  
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Kevin Wagner #80

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Special Agent (SA) Kevin Wagner, SA Aja Chung, and Crime Scene Technician (CST) Amy Gill with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) were assigned to assist the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) with an officer involved critical incident. Earlier that same morning, London Police Department (LPD) officers made a traffic stop on a Dodge minivan that reportedly had no taillights. The two suspects inside the vehicle were later identified as Rodney Helman (Rodney) and Elaine Helman (Elaine). During the stop, the suspects fled from LPD officers in their vehicle to a truck stop, where they abandoned their vehicle and ran towards parked semi-tractor trailers. London police reportedly attempted to tase Rodney, but failed. It was reported that Rodney pointed a firearm at London officers as he ran, causing them to take cover. The two suspects entered a running semi-tractor trailer truck, where a male, later identified as [REDACTED], was inside asleep. A confrontation between [REDACTED] and the suspects led to [REDACTED] sustaining an injury to his hand. The semi-truck then fled the scene, with [REDACTED] still inside, being held against his will. LPD officers reengaged the pursuit with the suspects, and called the OSHP for assistance. Stop-sticks were deployed, damaging the front tires which caused the semi-truck to come to a halt on Terminal Road, just south of State Route 40 in Vandalia. An OSHP Special Response Team (SRT) responded and attempted to contact the suspects. After many hours of attempted contact, talking, and the deployment of gas canisters, no progress had been made and the SRT breached the truck in a rescue effort. It was reported that the suspects fired at troopers as the breach took place. Three OSHP troopers returned fire, striking Rodney and Elaine multiple times. [REDACTED] was extracted from the vehicle and transported to Miami Valley Hospital (MVH) for treatment of his injuries. OSHP extracted the suspects and attempted medical intervention before they were both transported to MVH, where they were later pronounced deceased.

SA Wagner arrived on scene of the incident at 0900 hours. The semi-truck was located in the middle of the northbound lanes of traffic on Terminal Road, just south of State Route 40, and a consent to search was obtained. The scene was documented with photography as it was upon arrival. A Leica BLK360 3D scanner was utilized to collect measurements and data of the scene. The semi-truck was white with gold and blue stripes, and a Department of Transportation (DOT) number of 53467. An area around the semi-truck was taped off with yellow crime scene tape. The two front tires were completely gone, and the front end was sitting on the metal rims. Multiple ballistic events were observed to the cab of the semi-truck. Medical supplies, broken glass, and bottles of water sat on the pavement on the passenger side of the semi-truck and multiple areas of suspected blood were observed on the pavement nearby.

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*Image 1 – Overall picture of the passenger side of the semi-truck*

SA Wagner observed eleven 5.56 Hornady casings (item 1) on the roadway that spanned from the driver door to the front of the semi-truck. Seventeen 9mm WIN casings located on the roadway that spanned from the front-passenger side to the rear-passenger side of the semi-truck and were collected together as item 2. A bloody T-shirt and pants (item 4) were located on the roadway near the rear passenger side of the semi-truck. A bloody shirt, halter top, and bra (item 3) were also located on the roadway, near the passenger side of the semi-truck. An additional piece of Elaine's clothing was retrieved from MVH and given to SA Wagner. This piece of clothing was packaged together with item 3. An intact projectile fell out of the clothes as they were being photographed; the projectile was packaged separately as item 3A. No other items with evidentiary value were observed on the roadway. One of the firing OHSP troopers reported that he had been up on a small hill on the east side of the semi-truck while negotiations took place. Thick brush, barbed wire fencing, and tall grass was observed in the area around where the trooper had been positioned. Multiple agents searched the area and utilized a metal detector in an attempt to find any casings, but were unsuccessful.

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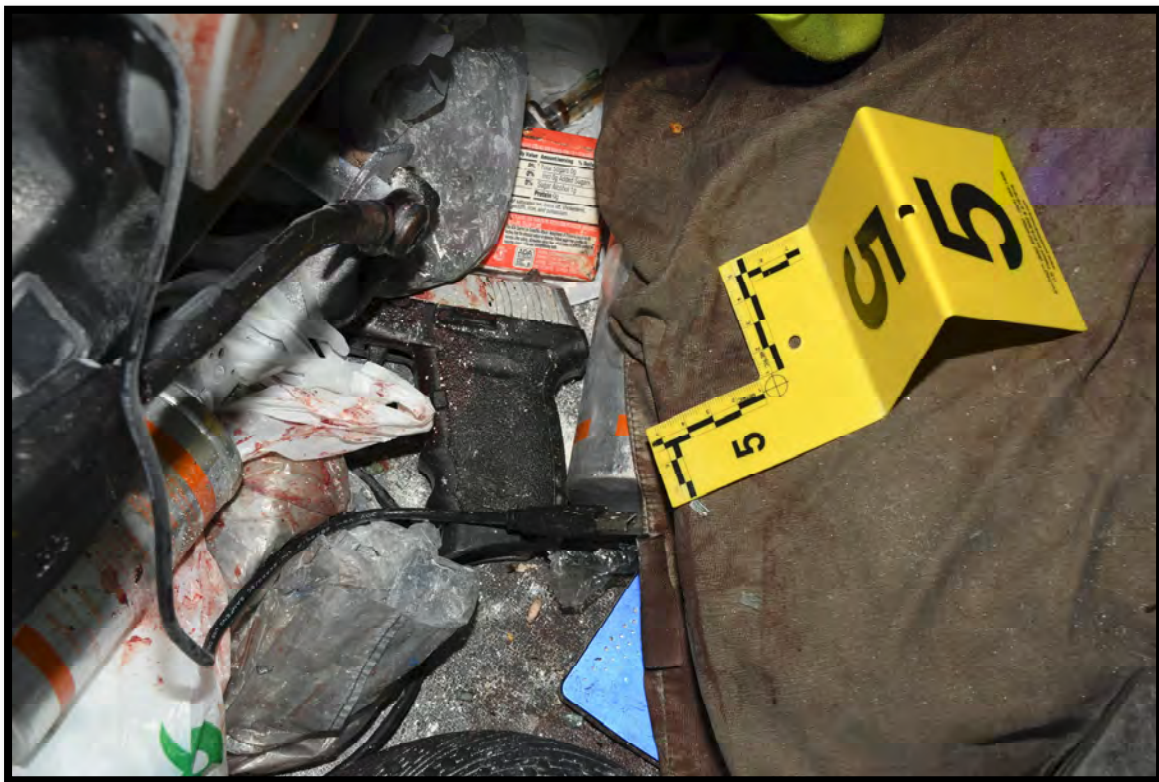
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Inside the truck, a two-toned SCCY handgun (serial number C232709), with an empty magazine was observed on the floorboard between the driver and passenger seats amongst debris and was collected as item 5. There were no cartridges in the magazine nor the chamber of the gun. Three FC cartridges (items 6 and 7) and one 9mm FC casing (item 8) were located on the driver floorboard. A hammer with suspected blood on it (item 11) was also located on the driver floorboard. The hammer was reportedly used by ████████ to initially defend himself against Rodney and Elaine. A fired projectile (item 9) was collected from the semi-truck's rear cabin, on the bed. An additional projectile was located on the passenger side exterior step, and was collected as item 10.



*Image 2 – Item 5, a SCCY handgun found between front seats on the floorboard*

SA Wagner documented the ballistic events (BE) that were located in various locations on the semi-truck. The semi-truck's side windows were all broken and shattered at some point during the confrontation. Forty-eight (48) BE's were observed and documented with photography. Forty-seven out of the forty-eight BE's had a trajectory from outside the semi-truck, to inside. The BE's on the windshield of the semi-truck all had beveling on the inside of the windshield, indicating outside to inside trajectory. The BE's on the passenger door and door frame of the semi-truck all had leading edges in the sheet metal, and that sheet metal was bent inwards. The only BE that had an inside to outside

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trajectory was BE32. BE32 was located in a tall, black cabinet inside the semi-truck. The projectile that caused BE32 perforated completely through the semi-truck. It traveled through the cabinet, out the back of the cabinet, through the side wall, and then out the driver side of the semi-truck. SA Wagner attempted to recover projectiles from multiple BE's inside the truck. The only two projectiles that were recovered were from BE48 (item 12) and BE33 (item 13).

There were no additional items of evidentiary value located on scene.

An OHSP cruiser had been damaged as a result of the pursuit. CST Gill documented the damage on the OHSP cruiser with photography.

SA Wagner released items 1-13 over to CST Gill, who transported them back to the BCI London headquarters and put them into the crime scene temporary evidence locker at 1723 hours. SA Wagner cleared the scene at 1700 hours.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> (following day), at 1405 hours, SA Wagner retrieved items 1-13 from the crime scene temporary evidence lockers and submitted items 1, 2, 3A, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 to the lab. Items 3, 4, 8 and 11 were submitted into the BCI temporary locker to be put into the major crimes vault.