



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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Detective Timothy Arnold
Involves: Timothy Arnold (W)
Activity Date: 06/17/2025
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriff's Office, 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road,
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Authoring Agent: Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 1451 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (SA Valente) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Detective Timothy Arnold (Detective Arnold), of the Mount Vernon Police Department (MVPD), relative to the officer-involved critical incident (OICI) which took place on Thursday, June 5, 2025. The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's Office, 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by Detective Arnold regarding their response to the incident scene as a member of the MVPD SWAT team. It should be noted that there is no video available from the drones as no memory cards were present in the devices during their use.

The interview started at 1451 hours. SA Lamping asked Detective Arnold to explain his role on the SWAT team during the incident. Detective Arnold stated that he was a drone operator during the call-out. He then explained that he flew two drones during the incident. Through the drones, Detective Arnold was able to clear most of the residence. During the flight with the first drone, Detective Arnold located one female [Lauretta Beltz (Beltz)]. Detective Arnold described finding Beltz in the following way:

"When I flew it into the bedroom, the initial time, um, she was laying, the female victim was laying on the floor. She had a obvious, uh, gunshot wound to the stomach area. Um, looked like small caliber. Um, you could tell at that point, or I had very strong feelings that she was deceased. There was lividity already set in. Uh, her arms were, were blued out and everything. So, it looked like she had been down for quite a while." (1:15)

Detective Arnold provided verbal updates to the team members in regard to what he saw on the drone feed so that another member could draw a diagram of the residence.

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He went back through the residence to ensure that he didn't miss any blind corners and then returned to the bedroom where Beltz had been found. When Detective Arnold went further into the bedroom, he discovered a male's body [Lloyd Ray (Ray)]. He described the discovery as follows:

"And that's when I found the male, uh, laying on the one side of the, the, uh, bed between the wall and, um, the bed there behind the female. Um, from the position of where he was at, it looked like he possibly was belly down, um, with the rifle underneath of him. Uh, almost like he was on scope. Uh, so I wasn't sure if he was still, uh, alive or if he was waiting on ambush." (2:09)

Detective Arnold could not immediately determine if Ray was alive or deceased, and he described Ray's body position as being in line with someone that may have been attempting to ambush responding officers. Detective Arnold tried to keep the drone in the air to watch Ray despite a low battery warning, however; the drone ran into an object and crashed. The Knox County Sheriff's Office brought up a second drone that Detective Arnold utilized. He described his second flight into the bedroom as follows:

"Um, this time I hovered down real close to the male to see if he would move on me. Hair blowing things to that extent. Still was in the same exact position he was when I flew the drone in the first time. Had pretty good indicators that he was probably also deceased. But again, with um, his positioning and things like that, I couldn't tell one way or the other." (3:12)

The second drone also had a malfunction and crash landed. Following the drone crash, the SWAT team made an entry plan and began to execute it. This involved porting a section of wall/window in the bedroom. When the port was created Detective Arnold had a clear view of Ray from his vantage point. Detective Arnold maintained a visual on Ray until the residence was secured.

The interview was concluded at 1455 hours.

The interview with Detective Arnold was audio and video recorded. The recordings can be reviewed in their entirety on Axon Justice as part of Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews.

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References:

Reference Item D - Witness Officer Interviews - Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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