



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



2021-1431

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5714 South Park Boulevard, Parma,  
OH 44134

To: Prosecutor Anthony Pierson, Ohio Attorney General's Special Prosecution  
Section  
Cc: David Posten #6, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI  
From: Jared Prill #137, Special Agent, Ohio BCI  
Date: December 6, 2021  
Involves: Giesel, Kevin R.  
Case Title: Officer-Involved Critical Incident—5714 South Park Blvd., Parma, OH  
44134  
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2021-1431  
Crime Scene (CSU): 2021-1431  
Cyber Crime (CCU): 2021-1431  
BCI Laboratory: 21-36006

### **Investigative Request**

On Monday, June 14, 2021, Chief Joseph Bobak of the Parma Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on June 14, 2021, in the area of 5714 South Park Boulevard, Parma, Ohio 44134, and resulted in the death of Kevin R. Giesel (Giesel).

#### *Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the June 14, 2021, officer-involved shooting in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

### **Investigative Team**

BCI Special Agent (SA) Jared Prill (Prill) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Prill received assistance in the investigation from SA Jonathan Lieber, SA Arvin Clar and SA Charles Snyder. BCI Special Agents Justin Soroka (Soroka), Andrew Harasimchuk (Harasimchuk) and Larry Hootman of the CSU processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving and

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collecting possible evidence. BCI Computer Forensic Specialist (CFS) Natasha Branam of the Cyber Crimes Unit conducted an extraction and analysis of cell phones recovered from 5714 South Park Boulevard. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor David Posten. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

### **Summary of Process**

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]); an officer who discharged his weapon. Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] declined to interview.
- Recorded interviews of Sergeant (Sgt.) Nathan Savetski (Savetski), Officer (Ofc.) James Mack (Mack), Ofc. Christopher Kalina (Kalina), Ofc. Philip Seelie (Seelie), Ofc. Patrick Cullivan (Cullivan) and Ofc. Darryl Smigelski (Smigelski); officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information.
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene.
- Interviews of three civilian witnesses to the incident.
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent.
- Special agent attendance to postmortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased.
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports.
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen).
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident.
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident.
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident.
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting).
- 3D scans/model of incident area.
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence.
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident.
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident.

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- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident.
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident.
- Reviewed phone/text records obtained via search warrant from wireless service provider.
- Review of the department's reports, photographs and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement.
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present.
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings and bullets
  2. Firearm operability testing
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence.
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any).
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers.
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons.
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review.
- Performed records checks, including LEADS and NCIC off-line search, for the vehicle(s) involved in the incident.

### **Incident Summary/Overview**

During the late morning to early afternoon hours of June 13, 2021, Giesel and his girlfriend, Rosanne Couture (Couture), engaged in a domestic dispute at his residence located at 5714 South Park Boulevard in Parma, Ohio. It is known from the investigation that Couture and Giesel had been in a romantic relationship since approximately January 2021, and that domestic altercations were common during their relationship and that physiological and physical abuse had occurred at times in the past. Couture stated during an interview conducted on June 21, 2021, that the domestic dispute on June 13, 2021, and many other altercations, were related to drug use and the procuring of drugs.

From interviews with neighbors of Giesel, Giesel's daughter and conversations with detectives of the Parma Police Department, it is known that Giesel was involved in the use and distribution of narcotics and consumed large amounts of alcohol. Couture advised SA Prill that she knew Giesel to have a severe addiction to crack cocaine since the inception of their relationship and knew him to spend approximately \$1,000 a day to support this habit. Couture stated, during her

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interview with SA Prill, that the domestic dispute on June 13, 2021 was the result of Giesel not being able to procure the drugs needed to support his addiction.

During her interview on June 21, 2021, Couture stated, on June 13, 2021, Giesel had ran out of money to purchase narcotics and was demanding that Couture fill a prescription for Klonopin pills that he could sell for cash to procure crack cocaine. Couture stated that she was against this idea and a verbal altercation ensued that quickly turned physical and progressed to Giesel forcing Couture into his vehicle, a gray-in-color Ram truck, against her will. It was known to Couture at this time that Giesel was in possession of a firearm.

According to Couture, Giesel began to drive toward a drug store, and while in the city of Cleveland, Couture was able to jump out of Giesel's truck and flee. Couture advised that Giesel chased after her and forcibly dragged her back into his truck by her neck. At this time, Giesel advised Couture that he was driving her back to his residence and that he intended on killing her.

Giesel travelled back toward his home at this time; while driving eastbound on Brookpark Road, Couture stated that she grabbed his cellular phone and threw it out the window of his truck at the BP gas station located at the intersection of Brookpark and State (5206 State Road). This causes Giesel to punch Couture in the face, causing significant bleeding and superficial damage in the form of bruising and swelling.

Surveillance video from BP provided details of the following events. At 14:03:12, Giesel turns into the BP gas station and exits his vehicle to recover the cellular phone in the northwest corner of the gas station's parking lot. At 14:03:48 hours, Couture can be seen exiting the passenger side of the truck and begins running across the parking lot for help. Giesel can be seen chasing after her as they travel south through the parking lot. Couture slows down as she passes the center of the parking and appears to have made contact with an individual. At 14:04:04 hours, Giesel catches back up with Couture and begins to force her back toward his vehicle. As Giesel and Couture reach the center gas pump, they are confronted by Ofc. Leach of the Wakeman Police Department.

Ofc. Leach was off duty at this time but was wearing the uniform of a Wakeman police officer. According to provided statements, Ofc. Leach had witnessed Giesel striking Couture inside his truck when he arrived at the BP gas station and witnessed Couture running for help across the parking lot. Ofc. Leach stated that he observed Giesel catch Couture in the parking lot and that he could hear Couture screaming for help. Ofc. Leach parked his car to intervene at this time and observed another male from a nearby gas pump instructing Giesel to leave Couture alone. Upon exiting his vehicle, Ofc. Leach observed Couture bleeding from her nose.

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According to statements and video surveillance, Ofc. Leach attempts to stop the altercation between Giesel and Couture and grabs onto Giesel's right arm, attempting to escort him away from the Couture. Ofc. Leach stated that he informed another witness to call 911 at this time. Giesel struggles with Ofc. Leach as he is attempting to gain control of him and is able to pull a small revolver from his waist band. Giesel is clearly seen on surveillance video, at 14:04:40 hours, brandishing the pistol in his right hand and pointing it at Ofc. Leach while other witnesses look for cover. Giesel discharges the firearm and flees to his vehicle.

Giesel is observed exiting the parking lot of the gas station and traveling southbound. Ofc. Kaniecki of the Parma Police Department is responding to the scene at the time of Giesel's departure and turns to follow Giesel. Ofc. Kaniecki's dash camera records him attempting to conduct a traffic stop on Giesel and a subsequent pursuit with Giesel, when he fails to stop.

Ofc. Kaniecki pursues Giesel from just south of the BP gas station on State Road to his residence at 5714 South Park Boulevard, a distance of approximately 1.7 miles. During this short pursuit, dash-camera footage identified speeds of approximately 87 miles per hour and overhead lights and sirens were noted to be utilized.

Giesel pulled into the driveway his residence at 5714 South Park Boulevard at approximately 14:08 hours and parked near the side door of the residence. Giesel exits his vehicle and enters the home through the side door, ignoring verbal commands from Ofc. Kaniecki who has his service pistol deployed at this time. The commands included for Giesel to get on the ground and to show his hands. Once inside the home, Giesel is treated as a barricaded subject and responding officers begin to establish a perimeter around his residence.

At approximately 14:10 hours, radio traffic advises the officers (at and responding to 5714 South Park Boulevard) that Giesel had discharged a firearm at the off-duty Wakeman police officer, Ofc. Leach, and that he had attempted to kidnap Couture. This information would be passed along to responding officers throughout the day and into the early mornings. At approximately 14:12 hours, an officer who responded to the BP gas station advised over the radio that Giesel had multiple firearms inside the residence.

During the first several minutes of the stand-off, officers obtained a phone number for Giesel from dispatch. At approximately 14:14 hours, an officer utilized a loud speaker in an attempt to communicate with Giesel. Officers would utilize a loud speaker to communicate or issue commands to Giesel routinely throughout the entirety of the standoff.

Further communication was established with Giesel, via the telephone, and would occur multiple times throughout the first several hours of the standoff. This was an attempt to establish a rapport

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with Giesel in an effort to have Giesel surrender himself to law enforcement. Along with verbal communication with Giesel, responding officers, specifically Ofc. Mackensen, deployed a less-lethal shotgun on the front perimeter of Giesel's residence as an alternative option to lethal force. Police K9's were also positioned on the perimeter during the standoff.

As the standoff between the Parma Police Department and Giesel continued, Giesel is seen by Ofc. Ciarrone coming out the back door of the residence to let his dog outside. Giesel is observed at this time to be wearing jeans with no shirt and a shoulder holster with spare magazines. This observation was made at approximately 15:01 hours and was relayed via the radio to officers on scene. It is noted that Giesel was wearing a shirt without a shoulder holster when the initial incident occurred at the BP gas station.

Ofc. Ciarrone witnessed Giesel coming out the back door of his residence a second time at approximately 1631 hours. Ofc. Ciarrone observed Giesel draw a firearm from his person and secure it in his hand as he exits the back door of the residence. Giesel then looks around the back yard, while letting his dog out, and is believed to have observed Ofc. Ciarrone in his perimeter position. At approximately 1635 hours, Giesel and his dog go back inside the residence, and Ofc. Ciarrone observes Giesel re-holstering his pistol while entering his home. This information was relayed to officers via radio.

At approximately 1641 hours, the first members of SEB SWAT arrived on scene in an armored personnel carrier. This vehicle takes up a position in front of 5714 South Park Boulevard; as members of the SWAT team arrive and mix with patrol officers, who have been on scene since the initial call, and plan to take Giesel into custody should he surrender himself to law enforcement.

The standoff with Giesel continues and officers repeatedly engage Giesel with verbal communication via the telephone and verbal commands. At approximately 18:06 hours, Giesel is seen coming to and from the front door of the residence and yelling at officers and slamming the door multiple times. Giesel is witnessed by officers to have a cane in his hand. According to an interview conducted with Ofc. Kalina of the Parma Police Department, Giesel held this cane as though it was a weapon, to seemingly instigate officers. Giesel cannot be heard on the body-worn cameras or vehicle dash cameras, but according to neighbors, Alan and Michele Holbrook (5708 South Park Boulevard), they could hear Giesel telling officers to shoot him and taunts them. The Holbrook's further confirmed that police officers on scene were issuing numerous verbal commands during the standoff in an effort to get Giesel to surrender to law enforcement.

From approximately 1806 hours until approximately 1832 hours, Giesel comes to the front door of the residence and steps out onto the front porch of the home on multiple occasions. Giesel is

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observed to be extremely agitated with officers; Giesel is observed yelling at officers, punching the front door of his home and dropping his pants on multiple occasions to expose himself to officers outside of his house. The whole time that Giesel is at the door and on the front porch of his residence, officers are heard attempting to get Giesel to surrender peacefully to them.

From audio video recordings, it is unclear of what Giesel is shouting at officers while at the front door of his residence. However, neighbors, Alan and Michele Holbrook, advised during a recorded interview that they could hear Giesel taunting officers and demanding that they shoot him. It is additionally known from interviewing Ofc. Kalina on August 18, 2021, that Giesel was holding a walking stick as though it were a weapon, while seeming to taunt officers to shoot him.

After 1832 hours, Giesel returns inside the home and communication with Giesel begins to deteriorate, and Giesel stops coming to the front door of the home. Officers still continue to talk with Giesel over a loud speaker and telephone for a period of time and also deploy a long-range acoustic hailing device (LRad) from the armored personnel carrier, also known as a sound cannon. This device was used at multiple points during the standoff with Giesel as both a means to transmit communications with Giesel and as a distractionary/less-lethal device.

As the standoff with Giesel continues, SWAT officers from the SEB SWAT team are known to be arriving on scene and taking up perimeter positions relieving patrol officers. At approximately 2058 hours, radio traffic advises that there has been no contact with Giesel for 40 minutes, further signaling a further breakdown in communication with Giesel. After the decline in communication with Giesel, Parma SWAT Commander Savetski makes the decision to deploy OC/CS gas rounds through the DRACO system on the SEB armored personnel carrier.

Prior to deploying this OC/CS, at approximately 21:46 hours, the exterior of Giesel's residence is illuminated by a portable light system. At approximately 22:34 hours, verbal commands are given through a loud speaker advising Giesel that there is a warrant for his arrest and that he needed to surrender to law enforcement. These commands further identified the manner that officers wished Giesel to surrender. Less-lethal options were further deployed, including a K9 unit and an officer with a Pepperball gun, in case Giesel did exit the residence when OC/CS gas was deployed and was not cooperative.

After multiple verbal commands, the Bearcat armored personnel carrier was brought up to the front of the house and ported a hole in the front bay window of 5714 South Park Boulevard. Once an access point was ported, three rounds of OC/CS gas were deployed through the DRACO system on the Bearcat, starting at 22:42:54 and ending at approximately 23:16:20 hours. Additionally, two OC/CS rounds were deployed into the back bedroom windows from a 40mm launcher. This is followed by another round of verbal commands calling for Giesel to surrender

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to law enforcement and additional OC/CS gas rounds being deployed approximately from 23:14 through 23:28 hours into the basement windows of the residence.

After the volley of OC/CS gas did not gain the cooperation of Giesel and since no communication with Giesel was restored, the SWAT team utilized the Bearcat armored personnel carrier to port a larger access point in the front of the residence. This access point would of increased visibility from SWAT team members staged outside the house along with allowing the SEB SWAT team to deploy a Transcend robot, commonly utilized by the bomb squad.

Deployment of the robot into 5714 South Park Boulevard occurred at approximately 0115 hours, on June 14, 2021. From inside the residence, operators of the robot observed Giesel laying on the floor by the front door of the residence. Giesel was observed to be moving and conscious.

At approximately 0125 hours, operators of the robot attempted to communicate with Giesel, who was observed laying on the kitchen floor with his head under a chair and what appeared to be an empty bottle of pills next to him. Further communication from the perimeter is also attempted, via a loud speaker, to try and illicit a response from Giesel.

At approximately 0130 hours, the robot operating crew advised that Giesel was observed with no visible weapons and they observed Giesel attempting to sit up. The robot was utilized to issue commands to Giesel, at this time, to go to the front door of the residence. Giesel did not comply and instead became agitated yelling at the robot. As Giesel shouted at the robot, he was observed moving around the kitchen and toward the front door of the residence. At this time, the order was given to Ofc. [REDACTED] to deploy Pepperball rounds at Giesel, in an effort to drive him out the front door of the home. Ofc. [REDACTED] deployed approximately 20 rounds into kitchen area and an additional 8 to 12 rounds that impacted Giesel on his back. This was supported through radio traffic logs and an interview conducted with Ofc. [REDACTED] on June 24, 2021.

After the Pepperball rounds were deployed, Giesel fled deeper inside the residence and was observed moving the curtains in the master bedroom. Two additional OC/CS gas munitions were deployed into the master bedroom. After these rounds were deployed, radio traffic, at 0156 hours, indicated that Giesel had a shotgun on his person and that commands were being given via the transcend robot.

In conducting an interview with Ofc. Kalina from the SEB SWAT team on August 18, 2021, SA Prill was advised that after the SWAT team deployed the OC/CS gas inside the home, Giesel could be heard discharging what was believed to be a shotgun inside the house. Ofc. Kalina was stationed in an armored personnel carrier in the front of 5714 South Park Boulevard when he

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heard these shots; which, from his firearms experience, were consistent with the sound a shotgun makes. Additionally, it is known from a search warrant conducted after the standoff was concluded, that a 12-gauge shotgun and fired rounds were discovered by the BCI CSU inside Giesel's bedroom.

At approximately 02:01 hours and 02:04 hours, radio traffic advised that Giesel had discharged a firearm inside the residence multiple times. The SWAT team believed they were directed at the three side (the rear) of the house. At 02:05:15 hours, radio traffic further advises that Giesel is seen with two revolvers in his hands. This was supported in interview statements made by Ofc. Seelie and Ofc. Kalina on August 18, 2021, and by Ofc. [REDACTED] on June 24, 2021.

At 02:06:15 hours, radio traffic advises that Giesel just fired two rounds out the front door of the home. At this time, the SEB SWAT team begins to move the armored personnel carriers, in an effort to prevent rounds from going astray into the neighborhood. At 02:09:45 hours, additional radio traffic indicates that Giesel discharged another inside the home.

At 02:10:15 hours, Giesel shoots the Transcend robot that SEB had deployed into the residence. This disabled the robot's camera system, taking away a visual of Giesel, and ultimately did \$2,788 of damage to the device. Giesel was then observed by officers on the perimeter of the residence dragging the disabled robot into the front of the house with a firearm in each hand.

At approximately 02:10:45 hours, Giesel is observed by officers raising the two pistols he was carrying and shoot at officers stationed in front of 5714 South Park Boulevard. This was observed by Ofc. Seelie, who relayed that Giesel was shooting at officers, and further observed by officers [REDACTED] and Kalina, who were stationed in the front of the home. Giesel was described to be shooting with both hands, one gun at a time (described as a cowboy), when Ofc. [REDACTED] Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] returned fire.

This was further supported by radio traffic, in which each officer identified themselves as returning fire. It is known from the investigation that Ofc. [REDACTED] fired one round from a .45 caliber HK pistol, and Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] each fired two 223 Remington rounds from their PWS semi-automatic rifles. Giesel was struck by this gunfire and was ultimately observed by SEB SWAT members laying on the kitchen floor of the home. An entry team was assembled that included SWAT medics, and upon their approach and assessment of Giesel, determined him to be deceased. It is known from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office that Giesel was struck by two rifle rounds that were an eighth of an inch apart in the center of Giesel's chest, that did significant damage to his heart and liver.

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After the scene was clear of immediate threats and hazards, BCI was dispatched to the scene and a search warrant was prepared by Detective Sergeant Kalal of the Parma Police Department. This search warrant was executed by members of BCI's CSU and supporting investigators. This search warrant revealed a Ruger 357 magnum revolver, found under the body of Giesel, that had discharged all six rounds in the chamber, along with Ruger 9mm pistol in the kitchen sink. A Maverick 12-gauge shotgun was found loaded in the master bedroom of the residence along with discharged fired shell casings on the floor. Additionally, a gun safe was found open in the master bedroom, and it appeared that Giesel had been preparing multiple firearms and staging ammunition to be used during his encounter with law enforcement. CSU agents also discovered a 38 special Smith and Wesson revolver with empty shell casings inside the cylinder; believed to be the firearms Giesel discharged when confronted by the off-duty officers at the BP gas station prior to the standoff.

Bullet impacts were observed and documented throughout the residence and suspected bullet impacts were observed on the passenger side of SEB Bearcat armored personnel carrier parked in front of the residence. An additional bullet impact was observed and documented in the front of 5709 South Park Boulevard, just below a second story window. This residence was located across the street from Giesel's home at 5714 South Park Boulevard.

A rifle round, believed to have been discharged by Ofc. [REDACTED] was found having struck the C pillar of the Holbrook's car at 5714 South Park Boulevard, and fragments from this round were recovered by SA Soroka in the passenger headrest of the vehicle. A second bullet or fragments from 223 Remington were collected by SA Soroka inside the bathroom of 5714 South Park. This bullet was excluded from Ofc. [REDACTED]'s rifle and found to be inconclusive to Ofc. [REDACTED]'s by Forensic Scientist Gardner with BCI's firearms.

Due to the collected and processed evidence and forensic testing conducted by BCI's Firearms Division, it is believed that the two rifle rounds fired by Ofc. [REDACTED] Parma Heights Police Department and assigned to the Southeast Enforcement Bureau's SWAT team, were the rounds that struck and killed Giesel on June 14, 2021, after he shot at law enforcement officers.

### **Decedent**

Kevin Richard Giesel (SSN: [REDACTED])

DOB: April 11, 1957

5714 South Park Boulevard, Parma, OH 44134

### **Autopsy Report**

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The autopsy report for the decedent (Kevin Richard Giesel) was obtained from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office.

A review of those documents revealed the following information:

The cause of death for Kevin R. Giesel was determined to be two gunshot wounds to the chest that caused significant damage to the heart and liver. The manner of death was ruled homicide.



### Physical Evidence

BCI CSU was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for documentation and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the information below only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

Findings on the scene during the execution of a search warrant obtained by the Parma Police Department:

Identified a Ruger 357 revolver under the body of Giesel that had six empty shell casings in the cylinder and an additional Ruger 9mm semi-automatic near Giesel in the kitchen sink. This pistol was found with a round chambered and 11 rounds in the magazine. From open sources, this pistol is known to commonly come with a 15-round magazine.

In the master bedroom of Giesel's residence, numerous other firearms were discovered, including a Maverick 12-gauge shotgun found loaded with a round partially inserted into the chamber and fired shotshells on the floor nearby. On the bed in the master bedroom there was a loaded AR-style rifle and additional amounts of ammunition, magazines and a revolver speed loader. Additionally in the bedroom was an open safe containing ammunition.

Suspected bullet impacts were observed and documented by Crime Scene agents in various locations inside Giesel's residence; on the passenger side of the SEB Bearcat armored personnel carrier and in the neighbor's residence across the street from Giesel's residence.

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

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The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the 19 firearms/casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

**Firearm Evidence related to Kevin Giesel**

A Ruger 357 magnum revolver (serial number: 177-17272) was found underneath the body of Giesel during the execution of a search warrant at 5714 South Park Boulevard after the shooting with law enforcement. his revolver was found during the examination to be operable. It is further known that this firearm had six empty cartridges inside the cylinder when collected by SA Soroka.

A Smith and Wesson 38 special revolver (serial #: 8D29457) was found by SA Soroka on the bed of Giesel. This firearm was found with six Hornady 38 special cartridge cases in the cylinder and determined by Forensic Scientist Gardner to be operable.

A Ruger 9mm semi-automatic pistol (serial #: 302-14557) was discovered by SA Soroka in the kitchen sink of 5714 South Park Boulevard. This pistol was found to have a round in the chamber at the time of discovery and eleven 9mm rounds in the seated magazine. This pistol was determined to be operable by the forensic scientist.

A Maverick 12-gauge pump-action shotgun (serial #: MV33474P) was found by SA Soroka in the master bedroom of 5714 South Park Boulevard. Next to this firearm were fired shotgun shells. Upon being discovered, SA Soroka documented a live round was started into the chamber but not fully seated. This shell and eight additional shells were removed from the shotgun and the nine total rounds were submitted to firearms. The forensic scientist determined this firearm to be operable.

A Heritage 22 Magnum single action revolver (serial #: L20633) with one fired .22 magnum cartridge case inside the cylinder and five live rounds was discovered by SA Soroka in an open gun safe in the master bedroom of 5714 South Park Boulevard and determined by Forensic Scientist Gardner to be operable.

A Bushmaster multi-caliber (223 Remington & 5.56X45mm) semi-automatic rifle with a magazine loaded with 38 rounds of 5.56X45 mm cartridges and one in the chamber was found on the bed in the master bedroom of 5714 South Park Boulevard by SA Soroka. Forensic Scientist Gardner determined to be operable, however, Gardner noted it was missing components.

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**Firearm Items connected to Officer [REDACTED]**

A PWS multi-caliber (223 Remington/5.56X45mm) semi-automatic rifle (serial #: [REDACTED]) was found to be operable and connected to items #18 & #19, the 223 Remington cartridge cases discovered by SA Harasimchuk inside the armored personnel carrier.

**Firearm Items connected to Officer [REDACTED]**

A Heckler & Koch USP 45 auto semiautomatic (serial #: [REDACTED]) was found to be operable and connected to the shell casing identified as item #3, a Federal 45 Auto cartridge case collected on the sidewalk outside of 5714 South Park Boulevard. This was the only 45 auto cartridge recovered from the scene.

A 45 auto jacketed hollow point bullet was recovered by SA Soroka during his search of the residence. This round exhibited six-sided polygonal rifling with a right twist direction and heavy abrasion damage. It is known that Ofc. [REDACTED] fired the only 45-caliber weapon associated with the scene.

**Firearm Items connected to Officer [REDACTED]**

A PWS multi-caliber (223 Remington/5.56X45mm) semi-automatic rifle (serial number #: [REDACTED]) was found operable and connected to items #1 & #2, the 223 Remington cartridge casings collected by SA Soroka on the sidewalk and tree lawn of 5714 South Park Boulevard.

**Non-Tested or Inconclusive Items**

Three items of collected copper jackets and lead fragments.

The fired cartridge cases from the revolvers.

A bullet recovered from the bathroom of the residence at 5714 South Park was excluded from being connected to Item #16, the rifle of Ofc. [REDACTED] and inconclusive as being connected to Item #15, the rifle belonging to Ofc. [REDACTED]. These were the only two weapons known to fire 223 Remington rounds during the shooting.

**Witnesses**

Rosanne Couture, the girlfriend and victim of Giesel's assault and kidnapping, was interviewed on June 21, 2021. Couture gave specific details related to Giesel's drug habits and previous domestic altercations. Couture advised Giesel had forced her into his truck against her will on June 13, 2021, while in possession of a firearm and assaulted her as she attempted to escape.

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Couture stated that she heard Giesel discharge a firearm when he was confronted at the BP gas station by the off-duty police officer.

Ofc. Ernest Leach of the Wakeman Police Department was off duty in the city of Parma when he observed the altercation between Giesel and Couture at the BP gas station on State Road. Ofc. Leach heard Couture being struck and yelling for help, when he confronted Giesel who brandished a small revolver from his waist band and pointed it at Ofc. Leach, who was in uniform and discharged a round. Ofc. Leach was interviewed by detectives of the Parma Police Department.

On June 14, 2021, Alan and Michele Holbrook were interviewed as part of the neighborhood canvas. The Holbrook's live directly next door to 5714 South Park Boulevard, and although they were in the basement during the standoff with law enforcement, they heard law enforcement issuing verbal commands to Giesel and Giesel taunting officers at the front door of his home; screaming for law enforcement to shoot him. The interview with the Holbrook's provided additional information related to Giesel's history with drugs and alcohol.

### **Officer Interviews**

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

Ofc. [REDACTED] of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department was interviewed on June 24, 2021. During this interview, Ofc. [REDACTED] stated that he arrived at the scene at approximately 1950 hours. While on scene, Ofc. [REDACTED] witnessed officers employ multiple communication techniques with Giesel, in an effort to get him to comply. After communications deteriorated, less-lethal munitions, including OC/CS gas was deployed into the house by SWAT officers. When this did not drive Giesel out of the house, Ofc. [REDACTED] stated a bomb robot was deployed to observe and communicate with Giesel. When Giesel was moving around the house yelling at the robot, Ofc. [REDACTED] deployed approximately 20 Pepperball rounds into the kitchen of the residence and an additional 8 to 12 rounds into Giesel's back. After the deployment of the less-lethal munitions, Giesel was known to have discharged a firearm inside the house multiple times. After Giesel shot the bomb squad robot, Ofc. [REDACTED] stated he observed Giesel inside the residence and observed fire coming from Giesel's right hand and heard a gunshot. At this time, Ofc. [REDACTED] shot one round from his service pistol at Giesel.

Sgt. Savetski of the Parma Police Department was interviewed on August 18, 2021. Sgt. Savetski served as the commander for the SEB Central Region team during the incident. Sgt. Savetski

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stated he was one of the first SEB SWAT officers on the standoff scene, and that upon his arrival and for several hours after his arrival, communications were ongoing with Giesel. Sgt. Savetski did state that Giesel was acting erratically, screaming at officers at the front door of the home and taking off his pants. Sgt. Savetski stated that after these communications broke down, he made the decision to deploy OC/CS gas rounds into the home. Sgt. Savetski stated that he had heard multiple gunshots from inside the home as the standoff progressed and knew Giesel had shot the SEB bomb squad robot. Sgt. Savetski stated, after the bomb robot had been shot, he heard a volley of gunfire and radio traffic advising officers had returned fire.

Ofc. Christopher Kalina of the Parma Police Department was interviewed on August 18, 2021. Ofc. Kalina operated an armored personnel carrier during the SWAT operation and issued verbal commands to Giesel through that vehicle's loud speaker. Ofc. Kalina stated he observed Giesel come to the front door of the residence several times and witnessed him shouting vulgarities and telling officers to shoot him. After Giesel shot the bomb squad robot, Ofc. Kalina stated he observed Giesel dragging the disabled robot to the front of the house with two firearms in his hands. Ofc. Kalina then stated, he observed Giesel raise a firearm, point it at the direction of officers stationed outside of the home and discharge the firearm. At that time, Ofc. Kalina heard officers return fire but did not see which officers shot.

Ofc. Seelie of the Parma Police Department was interviewed on August 18, 2021. Ofc. Seelie was inside an armored personnel carrier parked in front of Giesel's residence during the standoff. Ofc. Seelie stated that he had witnessed Giesel coming to the front door acting erratically and the deployment of OC/CS munitions, after Giesel stopped communicating with officers. Ofc. Seelie knew that a bomb robot had been deployed into the home and heard shots as Giesel shot the robot. After shooting the robot, Ofc. Seelie witnessed Giesel dragging the disabled device toward the front of the house with a handgun in his hand. Ofc. Seelie then observed Giesel drop the robot and raise the pistol shooting at officers who were stationed to the right of Ofc. Seelie. Ofc. Seelie then heard officers return fire and witnessed Giesel fall inside the home.

Ofc. James Mack of the Parma Police Department was interviewed on August 18, 2021. Ofc. Mack served as a sniper during the early stages of the standoff. Ofc. Mack was relieved from his position before chemical munitions were deployed into Giesel's residence. From Ofc. Mack's overwatch position, he could clearly see the front of 5714 South Park Boulevard. Ofc. Mack advised he heard officers negotiating with Giesel, attempting to get him to surrender to law enforcement. Ofc. Mack observed Giesel come to the front door of the home at one point and further witnessed him inside the residence shaving his head inside the home.

Ofc. Patrick Cullivan of the Parma Police Department was interviewed on August 18, 2021. Ofc. Cullivan had been stationed inside an armored personnel carrier in the front of 5714 South Park

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Boulevard during the standoff with Giesel. Ofc. Cullivan stated that communications with Giesel had been ongoing before his arrival and continued while he was on scene. These communication attempts ultimately broke down, and Ofc. Cullivan's armored personnel carrier was used to deploy OC/CS gas into the home, along with porting an access point through the front bay window. Ofc. Cullivan advised he had been relieved from his position just prior to Giesel shooting the bomb squad robot but heard the shots being fired from his secondary location.

Ofc. Darryl Smigelski of the Parma Police Department was interviewed on August 18, 2021. Ofc. Smigelski stated that on a few occasions, he was able to observe the subject inside the residence. This occurred when the subject would come to the front living-room area. Ofc. Smigelski stated that he was not able to see the subject's hands from his vantage point, so he was not able to observe the subject holding a weapon. Ofc. Smigelski recalled the subject walking around the kitchen. He stated that he could only see the upper part of the subject's body. He also stated that the subject was moving slow. Ofc. Smigelski stated that gas (chemical munitions) had already been deployed into the residence at that time, and there was no noticeable response from the subject. Ofc. Smigelski said, at the time that officers fired their weapons, he had previously been relieved and he was gearing down several hundred feet away

Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] elected not to interview with investigators.

### **Video Recordings**

Forty-one DVDs containing dash camera and body-camera footage from various officers were reviewed during the investigation. These recordings document the initial interaction of Giesel and the Parma Police Department, along with events that occurred over the approximately 12-hour standoff; this included the verbal communication efforts, deployment of less-lethal munitions and the sound of gunfire fire. The actual exchange of gunfire between officers and Giesel was not captured.

An additional DVD obtained from the Parma Police Department showed surveillance footage from the BP gas station on State Road. This footage identified Couture attempting to flee Giesel's control and Giesel brandishing a firearm and pointing it at off duty Wakeman Police Officer Ernest Leach.

### **Conclusion**

On Sunday, June 13, 2021, Kevin Giesel engaged in a domestic dispute with Rosanne Couture. This dispute led to Giesel kidnapping or attempting to kidnap Couture while in possession of a firearm. Couture was able to flee Giesel's control at the BP gas station, located at 5206 State Road in Parma, Ohio. An off-duty, but uniformed Wakeman police officer (Ofc. Leach)

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confronted Giesel at the gas station as he gave chase to Couture. Giesel brandished a firearm during this encounter, pointed it at the officer and ultimately discharged a round. Giesel fled in his vehicle from the BP gas station and was pursued at a high rate of speed by Ofc. Kaniecki of the Parma Police Department.

At approximately 1408 hours, Giesel made it to his residence at 5714 South Park Boulevard in the city of Parma, and a standoff between Giesel and Parma police officers ensued. As the standoff progressed, the Southeast Enforcement Bureau's SWAT team was dispatched and took control of the scene. Verbal communication with Giesel broke down after approximately six hours, and the SWAT team resorted to deploying less-lethal munitions inside the home. A bomb squad robot was also deployed inside the home in an effort to observe and negotiate with Giesel.

Giesel shot this robot and discharged multiple rounds from inside his home. At approximately 0210 hours, on June 14, 2021, Giesel is known to have shot at SWAT officers positioned in the front of the home. Officers [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the SEB SWAT team returned fire. Two rounds struck Giesel, causing his death.

**Contact Information**

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Jared Prill. SA Prill can be reached via email at [jared.prill@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:jared.prill@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone at 740-506-5003.