



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



2024-3649

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave  
NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720

**Investigative Activity:** Interview of Involved Officer  
**Involves:** Canton Police [REDACTED]  
**Activity Date:** 11/27/2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Nicholas Valente

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 1156 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (SA Valente) and SA Matt Armstrong (SA Amstrong) interviewed Canton Police Department (CPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Ty Graham. The interview took place at BCI, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] read, indicated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form prior to beginning the interview.

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:**

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Rank:</b> [REDACTED])
<b>Badge Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Sergeant Lee and [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> Spec Ops	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Black and white colored marked patrol vehicle with light bar and police markings.	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Solo
<b>Assignment:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]

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<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational & Utilized	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present & Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> Did not recall
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> At least 8	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> [REDACTED] Previously worked for Uniontown and Boston Heights Police for a brief period.
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> No	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> No Corrective Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Standard issue Canton Police Uniform worn to scene (blue pants and blue marked police shirt with patches, badge, etc.) and transitioned at scene into SWAT entry vest (plate carrier), helmet, etc.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Switched to SWAT belt during incident. SWAT belt equipped with duty pistol holster, rifle magazine pouch, dump pouch, medical kit).
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> No	<b>Partner:</b> None/ SWAT Team as a whole
<b>Injuries:</b> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> No
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> CIT trained, SWAT operator and [REDACTED] (collectively three full eight-hour days per month when scheduling allows), [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Munroe Falls Police Academy, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> No	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Yearly with CPD and additional during SWAT trainings.
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> No	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> Yes, in 2021 received a 75-day suspension related in part to a use of force incident where he struck a subject in the head.
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, Drugs, or</b>	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, Drugs, or</b>

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**Alcohol that might Impair Your Duties  
at Time of Incident:** None

**Alcohol that might Impair You Now for  
Interview:** None

**Officer's Firearm(s):**

Weapon #1

<b>Make:</b> Unknown - Custom built rifle used or assigned to Swat [REDACTED] took possession of and utilized the rifle after [REDACTED] was shot, discarded the weapon, and was evacuated from the scene.	<b>Model:</b> Unknown
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> .308 caliber	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> In hand
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> Unknown	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> Unknown
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> None but did have additional loose cartridges in a bag.	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> N/A
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unknown	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 4
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Did not know.
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> None, has fired the weapon before and was familiar with its use. Did qualify with a similar .308 Dan Ross bolt action sniper rifle in the recent past.	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> N/A

**Narrative:**

[REDACTED] stated he watched his body-worn camera (BWC) recording prior to the interview in totality once or twice and skipped through the video, watching bits or pieces approximately four or five times. [REDACTED] had not watched any of the other involved officers' BWC recordings. [REDACTED] reported his recollection of the incident was similar to what he observed on the BWC recording.

[REDACTED] was driving to police headquarters to handle an unrelated call when he was called off from that assignment and dispatched to respond to the motel

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complex where the officer-involved shooting would occur. [REDACTED] received a brief summary of what had transpired from his dispatcher. That included being told that U.S. Marshals were requesting assistance from SWAT for an armed barricaded male subject.

[REDACTED] responded to the scene, utilizing his emergency lights and siren based on the above-noted information he received from dispatchers. Once on scene, [REDACTED] met with Marshals task force officers. [REDACTED] received a description of the subject (a white male in his 60s) and his location (room 220). [REDACTED] was one of the first SWAT operators to arrive on scene, and he arrived prior to any armored SWAT vehicles. [REDACTED] had his sniper equipment with him and chose to set up as a sniper to observe any potential activity of the subject based on the above-noted factors and nature of the complaint. [REDACTED] then observed the subject's room without noting any movement or activity from the subject or from his room for an undetermined period of time until additional SWAT operators arrived. Once additional SWAT personnel arrived on scene, [REDACTED] changed into his SWAT vest and transitioned into the role of a SWAT operator rather than a sniper. [REDACTED] took an assignment of interior perimeter control. Once assigned his new role, [REDACTED] secured his sniper rifle and equipped himself with an M4 patrol rifle.

[REDACTED] spoke with other SWAT operators and learned that they were preparing to deploy chemical munitions into the subject's motel room. [REDACTED] put on his gas mask and took a position behind what he believed was a U.S. Marshals Ford Explorer near the front door of the subject's room and what he later learned was the subject's Dodge Ram truck that was parked in front of the subject's motel room. [REDACTED] remained in this position for what he believed was approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

While in position behind the Ford Explorer, [REDACTED] heard other law enforcement giving the subject loud verbal commands to surrender over a loudspeaker. [REDACTED] did not hear the subject respond to those commands. [REDACTED] noted that during that time other law enforcement/SWAT operators deployed chemical munitions into the subject's room.

After the subject failed to comply with verbal commands to surrender and chemical munitions failed to garner any noticeable response from the subject, SWAT team members deployed a drone into the subject's room. [REDACTED] observed the drone push open the front door of the subject's motel room and enter the room. [REDACTED] described his view into the subject's room at that time as (27:03



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mark) "pretty poor." Once the drone entered the subject's room, he observed muzzle flashes coming from the subject's room and heard the sound of gunshots coming from the subject's room. Another officer reported over the police radio that the subject shot the drone down.

After the subject shot the drone down, SWAT Operator [REDACTED] transitioned into a sniper role. [REDACTED] took over the position [REDACTED] was then behind the Ford Explorer. [REDACTED] had his rifle on a tripod and was set up partially behind the Ford Explorer and was looking into the subject's room for approximately 30 seconds when [REDACTED] heard a gunshot. Immediately after hearing the gunshot, [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED] react in pain and take cover behind the Ford Explorer. [REDACTED] then heard [REDACTED] say he was shot and observed an injury to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] then placed a tourniquet on the [REDACTED] above the gunshot wound. Another officer then placed a second tourniquet on [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] helped [REDACTED] leave the scene of the shooting, walking southbound away from the subject's room.

After successfully having helped [REDACTED] out of the scene and to an ambulance, [REDACTED] returned to the group of SWAT operators. [REDACTED] then took control of [REDACTED] rifle because (30:54 mark) "this guy's demonstrated, you know, he's willing to use extreme amounts of violence to prevent arrest." [REDACTED] removed the sniper rifle from the affixed tripod. [REDACTED] notified his supervisor, Sergeant Lee, of what he was doing, and looked for a better position to set up as a sniper further back from the subject's motel room. Eventually, [REDACTED] set up approximately 200 feet from the subject's room on a hill or embankment between the motel parking lot and the parking lot of a neighboring Cracker Barrel restaurant southwest of the subject's motel room.

From his position on the hill/embankment, [REDACTED] attached his own tripod to the rifle. [REDACTED] also took off his vest and helmet so that he could comfortably operate the rifle from the position he was now in. [REDACTED] remained in this position for an unknown amount of time. He believed it may have been approximately 15 to 20 minutes. While in this position and looking into the subject's room through the scope on the rifle, [REDACTED] saw a muzzle flash and heard a gunshot. [REDACTED] stated, (34:29) "So, at this point I know that the suspect has already pointed a firearm at deputy marshals, which was the reason for the original, uh activation for the team Um, I knew he used a firearm to shoot down a drone, uh, and I, uh knew he'd shot [REDACTED] at this point, uh, so I was extremely confident that this suspect uh, was continuing to discharge a firearm for the purpose of not just preventing apprehension but to hurt and or kill other officers. To

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that end, uh, so with that knowledge, uh and with the belief it was necessary and justified to use lethal force to stop that suspect from continuing to hurt people, um, I made the decision to shoot the sniper rifle, uh, where I believed the suspect was at. Now, to again, to clarify, visibility into the room was pretty poor, even on a magnified optic at 200 feet. Um, I could see basically inside the room and then I think as a mixture of how dark it was in addition to the chemical munitions and everything that had been deployed visibility in the back of the room was pretty poor but I could, again I could hear the gunshot and I could see the muzzle flash. Um, based on my training, you know, if you can identify the source of the muzzle flash, uh, uh, you're, you can essentially, um extrapolate that that's where the suspect is at or at least in the area. So, I send uh, the first round into that specific area where I see the muzzle flash and believe that the suspect is probably at or at least holding the firearm. Um so, he fires once. I fire one. Um, so this happens twice more, uh within a short period of time he fires again. I respond, send uh, another round from the sniper rifle to that same area, um so, one, two, and three, in that, in that timeframe. After that initial engagement I get on the air, on the radio, and uh, say something to the effect of, you know '█████ shots fired at the suspect.' It's not clear if he's hit at this point or, um, you know what effect those rounds that I fired had. However, he did stop shooting for a period of time. While I'm on the radio he shoots again. Um, so, uh, it's very obvious he's still able to do harm. Um, at some point I, I, don't recall exactly how long this, uh, this time frame was, within a few minutes. Uh, after the first round, uh, that I heard him fire, uh, I very well though that he was shooting at me or at least at other officers. Um, he shoots a fourth time and even after I lost, uh a significant, significant portion of my ability to hear after the first round I fired, um this, I believe it was the fourth round he fired at me or fired, I could hear came past me and I could hear the definitive like whiz sound basically of a round passing by my position. I again, out of fear for my own life and the life of the other officers on scene, um I believed it was necessary and justified to return fire or apply lethal force to that suspect. Did so again with the fourth round from the sniper rifle. Um, and uh, kind of retreated back into cover a little bit. It didn't take a lot for me to do that because I was able to lean back and out of the way and that was it. Took me out of the line of sight of that suspect. I'm there for a minute. He sends another round. Uh, the suspect fires another round that goes close by my position again. Again, I can hear that whiz. Uh, things are muffled but I can distinctly hear the gunshot and whiz of that bullet flying by. So, um, I made the decision to abandon that position that I had set up at and seek out a different one. Um, because it was clear to me the suspect knew where I was at and was shooting at me."

█████ then briefly took up a position further back but quickly moved again.  
█████ then moved up to the armored vehicle to attempt to see into the room

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better from this closer vantage point. [REDACTED] learned from another SWAT operator that he believed the subject was in the right corner of the room behind a pile of bedding.

[REDACTED] then returned to his previous position where he exchanged gunfire with the subject. [REDACTED] requested closer SWAT operators direct a green laser into the subject's room at the back wall to help [REDACTED] orient himself to the subject's presumed location should he need to fire again. At that time, [REDACTED] learned that other SWAT operators were able to utilize a drone to see into the subject's room, and it appeared the subject was unresponsive and lying face down in a pool of blood. Ultimately, the closer SWAT operators deployed flash bang grenades into the room and then sent SWAT operators into the room who stated the subject was deceased.

When asked, [REDACTED] stated he believed the first three shots he and the subject exchanged occurred within approximately 30 seconds. The fourth and final shots he and the subject exchanged occurred very shortly thereafter, while [REDACTED] was speaking on the radio.

[REDACTED] described the incident as one of the scariest events he had ever been in.

When asked if he felt he perceived any other options available to him at the moment he fired, [REDACTED] stated absolutely not.

When asked, [REDACTED] stated he did not perceive any actions of any other involved officers to be criminal in nature.

[REDACTED] has been a SWAT sniper for approximately two to three months and completed a 40-hour sniper course prior to becoming a sniper on the SWAT team.

[REDACTED] last qualified with his assigned sniper rifle, which is similar in form and function to the rifle he fired during this incident, within the last month or two.

[REDACTED] stated he was okay with agents reviewing his full BWC recording including any potential Garrity protected statements.

[REDACTED] stated he was okay with agents obtaining and reviewing the results of a drug/alcohol screening he completed at the conclusion of the incident.

The interview concluded at approximately 1249 hours.



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The audio recording of the interview of [REDACTED] was attached to this report. The video recording of the interview of [REDACTED] was saved as part of Reference Item I. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

**References:**

I – Video Recorded Officer Interviews

**Attachments:**

1. 2024-11-27 Audio Recorded Interview - [REDACTED]
2. 2024-11-27 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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## Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Interviewee

11/27/24 1153  
Date / Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interviewee

SA Matthew Armstrong  
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #146  
BCI Agent (Signature)