



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



2025-1227

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4411 Montgomery Road,
Norwood, Ohio (Hamilton County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Akeem A. Holtz (S)
Date of Activity: 04/28/2025
Activity Location: Norwood Police Training Center – 2600 Park Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45212
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Monday, April 28, 2025, at approximately 1502 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Richard Ward and Doug Eveslage interviewed Norwood Police Department [REDACTED]. The interview took place at the Norwood Police Department Training Center, located at 2600 Park Avenue, Norwood, Ohio 45212. [REDACTED] had Attorney Scott Rubenstein during his interview.

[REDACTED] was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the April 16, 2025 officer-involved critical incident, which occurred in the area of 4411 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] was read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form, which he signed and stated that he understood.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the key points that the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in a chronology to enhance the reader's understanding of the information elicited during the interview. However, it is important to note that this may not reflect the actual order of the questions posed. Therefore, it is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]

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Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate [REDACTED]
Radio Channel Utilized: Hamilton East	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Standard marked SVU vehicle	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: One
Assignment: Patrol	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: N/A	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Yes	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Prescribed; Not Worn at Time
Uniform Worn: Standard navy-blue uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: ASP
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: DT instructor / ASP Instructor (both expired)	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: N/A

[REDACTED] was asked if he had any issues or interactions with Holtz previous to this incident and he stated yes. A week prior to this incident, [REDACTED] was dispatched to person seated behind a laundromat selling puppies. When [REDACTED] arrived, he observed Holtz with puppies in a small gated area used as a pen. [REDACTED] interaction with Holtz was short and had no issues and cleared the dispatch.

In the late morning hours of April 16th, [REDACTED] and other officers were dispatched to a disturbance call at 4411 Montgomery Road with a male and female. According to [REDACTED] dogs were mentioned in the dispatch, which [REDACTED] stated the information relayed was "weird". [REDACTED] arrived simultaneous with other officers in the area. [REDACTED] observed a van closely backed into front area of an office building. [REDACTED] noticed a white German Shepherd walking outside unrestrained and began to bark at officers. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] arrived on scene.

[REDACTED] engaged with a female who he observed was filming and inquired about the call. The female directed the officers to the building manager who arrived in a white truck.

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The manager informed officers a male [Akeem Holtz] was yelling and running through the building / parking garage and had dogs with him. Shortly thereafter, officers entered the parking garage and made contact with a male and female who worked in the office building and directed the officers to a possible location of Holtz. While walking through the parking garage with [REDACTED] they observed puppies and dog excrement along with high pitched screaming. Officers were able to locate Holtz, a female [Karita Thomas] and a large German Shepherd seated in an elevator attached to a small enclosed hallway, which connected the building to the parking garage on the third floor. Because Holtz appeared to be suffering from a mental event, a call was made to the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) to respond. [REDACTED] requested medics and animal control for the dogs. According to [REDACTED], the medics can administer Verset if needed to calm Holtz down. Officers repeatedly tried to engage Thomas and Holtz, but Thomas responded for Holtz and indicated Holtz has mental issues. [REDACTED] asked Thomas what can calm Holtz down and Thomas replied, "nothing". [REDACTED] made contact with medic crews that arrived on scene and briefed them about the situation who then staged in the parking lot.

While outside with the medics, [REDACTED] heard via the radio officers were "fighting one". [REDACTED] observed through a window a glimpse of a struggle in the area the officers were interacting with Holtz and Thomas. When he ran back into the building, the white German Shepherd nipped his pant leg. Once upstairs, [REDACTED] observed Holtz who was now out of the elevator engaged with officers. [REDACTED] observed Thomas who was removed from the elevator by [REDACTED] and informed her to leave the immediate area. According to [REDACTED], officers were engaged with Holtz trying to handcuff him, but Holtz was resisting. [REDACTED] observed Thomas come back into the hallway who was eventually secured by [REDACTED]. Thomas was "hindering" the activities of the officers. [REDACTED] described Holtz as screaming while in the prone position. [REDACTED] was on Holtz's waist area and [REDACTED] on the other side. [REDACTED] was attempting to handcuff Holtz and [REDACTED] remembered observed, "handcuffs everywhere".

Because of the confined area, [REDACTED] moved to the back and buttock area to hold Holtz down. [REDACTED] retrieved a pair of handcuffs from the ground and attempted to hand the handcuffs to someone. [REDACTED] observed live bullets falling out of Holtz's pocket, which he announced to other officers. Earlier during the interaction between officers and Holtz, officers observed an empty, inside the pants, holster on Holtz's right hip.

[REDACTED] observed Holtz's sweatpants had fallen down and only his boxer shorts were visible. Officers were concerned Holtz may be in possession of a handgun, which may be under his body. Holtz began to kick holes into the hallway wall while still in the prone position. [REDACTED] arrived and assisted with holding down Holtz's feet while [REDACTED] requested the medics to administer Verset. The medic responded and administered the Verset to Holtz's left leg and informed officers it may take five to ten minutes to take effect. Within a minute after the medics administered the Verset, Holtz's body went limp. Once Holtz went limp, the handcuffs were reassessed and adjusted. Holtz was patted down for weapons and sat up against the wall. Once placed against the wall, the "medics took over". Minutes after the medics administered the Verset, Holtz stopped resisting and talking. Agent Ward asked [REDACTED] if, when Holtz was placed against the wall, was he was breathing. [REDACTED] replied that he did not know.

Agent Ward asked [REDACTED] if he observed Holtz bite anyone and he stated no, but heard officers talking about a bite. [REDACTED] now knows Holtz bit [REDACTED] did not observe or was told Holtz attempted to grab a handgun, but may have not been present.

The video and audio recorded interview with [REDACTED] was concluded at 1535 hours.

References:

Axon BWC video of [REDACTED] interview

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-04-28 [REDACTED] BCI notification



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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).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of Interviewee

4/28/25 1505
Date / Time

[Redacted]

[Signature] #66
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)