



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



2023-2812  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 16178 SR 160, Vinton  
45686 (L)

Investigative Activity: Processing of Shooting Scene  
Activity Date: October 22, 2023  
Activity Location: Between 16182 and 16088 State Route 160, Vinton, OH 45686  
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Mathew Austin

On October 22, 2023, the Gallia County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) requested assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) reference an officer involved critical incident. It was reported that during the attempted execution of an arrest warrant at a trailer, gunfire was exchanged between a deputy and a subject inside the residence. The male subject, later identified as Roger Meade (Meade), was pronounced deceased at the scene. BCI was advised that the incident occurred near the address of 15957 State Route 160 and the deputy may have been struck by shrapnel. Special Agents (SA) Mathew Austin and Sarah Taylor from the Crime Scene Unit (CSU) responded to assist.

SA Austin arrived at the scene at approximately 1230 hours. Crime scene tape, multiple cruisers, and uniformed law enforcement secured the dirt driveway to the property. The property and driveway were found to be between the addresses of 16182 and 16088 on State Route 160. A search warrant for the property had not yet been obtained; SA Austin parked in the driveway and documented the overall area with a drone flown above the roadway (see below). SA Austin also photographed two cruisers further south on SR 160 that were reportedly parked by deputies, before they walked to the trailer to attempt to execute the original arrest warrant.



*Image 1. Overall diagram of scene area created from drone photograph*

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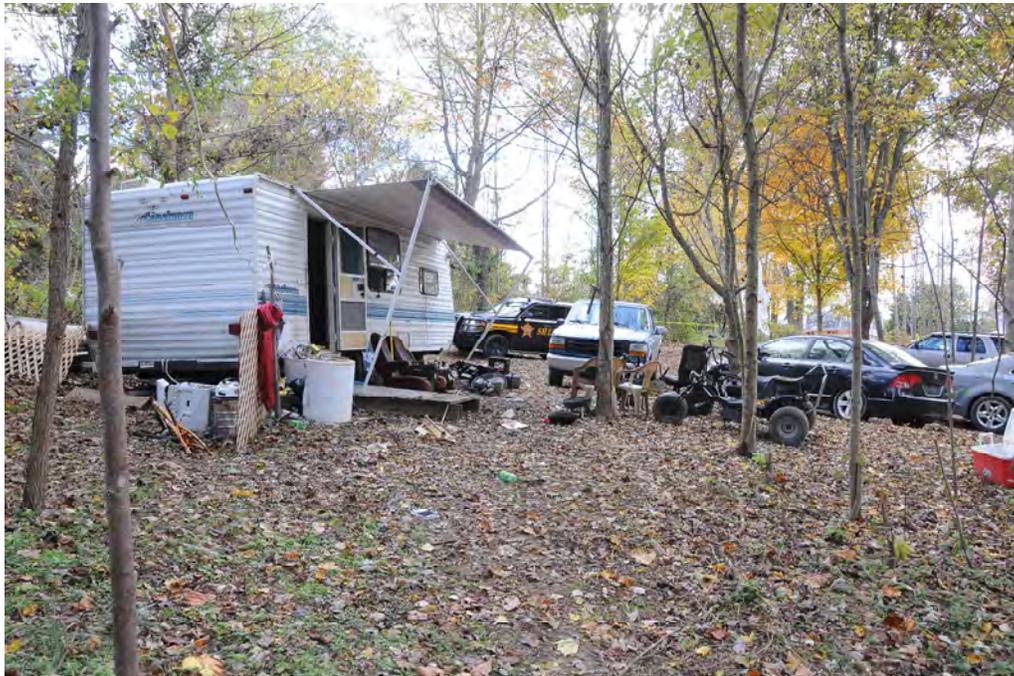
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At 1307 hours, SA Austin was advised that a search warrant for the property had been obtained. SA Austin had the crime scene tape moved that secured the entire driveway/yard to allow for parking off of the roadway. A crime scene log was then maintained for the scene past this tape. The scene was documented through photography and a Leica 3D scanner.

The trailer was described as a white and blue Coachman trailer (OH plate: SXH-9471) that was installed on cement blocks/timber. A canopy was extended over a small wooden porch in front of the sole entrance door and small outdoor sitting area. Multiple items and trash surrounded the trailer. Four personal vehicles and one GCSO cruiser were parked near the trailer. SA Austin was advised that after the incident, one of the involved deputies retrieved this vehicle from S.R. 160 near the other two parked cruisers. The four other vehicles consisted of a blue Ford pickup truck, black Honda sedan, gold Chevrolet Tahoe, and silver Chevrolet sedan.



*Image 2. Coachman trailer and yard*

A .410-gauge shotgun was located to the left of the trailer's entrance. It was found to be an "SB" model, break-action, single shot shotgun manufactured by "Firearms Import and Export Corp." A light/laser was mounted to the barrel and most of the stock and rear grip was removed (S/N 334474). A fired, red-colored, shotgun shell manufactured by Fioochi was found inside the chamber. The shotgun and shotgun shell were packaged together as item 1. A black spiral notebook was found near the shotgun and reportedly belonged to one of the involved deputies. It was collected as item 2 and released later

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on scene to GCSO Lieutenant Holcomb. Agents were advised that the shooting deputy, Deputy ██████ was in this general location at the time of the shooting. A large area to the left of the trailer was visually searched and thoroughly examined with a metal detector; a single Speer 9mm Luger casing was located and collected as item 7.

A circular hole, approximately 20mm across, was found in the floor just past the threshold of the front door. The hole perforated the brown carpet and the plastic mat above the carpet. Underneath this area, there was a downward-shaped dent in the black trailer step. Brown fibers were located in this dent along with several silver-colored circular areas of damage approximately 3mm across. Sodium rhodizonate was used to test this area of the floor for lead; the test result was positive (sodium rhodizonate is a chemical reagent used to detect traces of lead by converting it to lead, a positive response for lead is pink/purple).



*Images 3-6: Suspected shotgun damage and positive sodium rhodizonate to trailer floor by front door*

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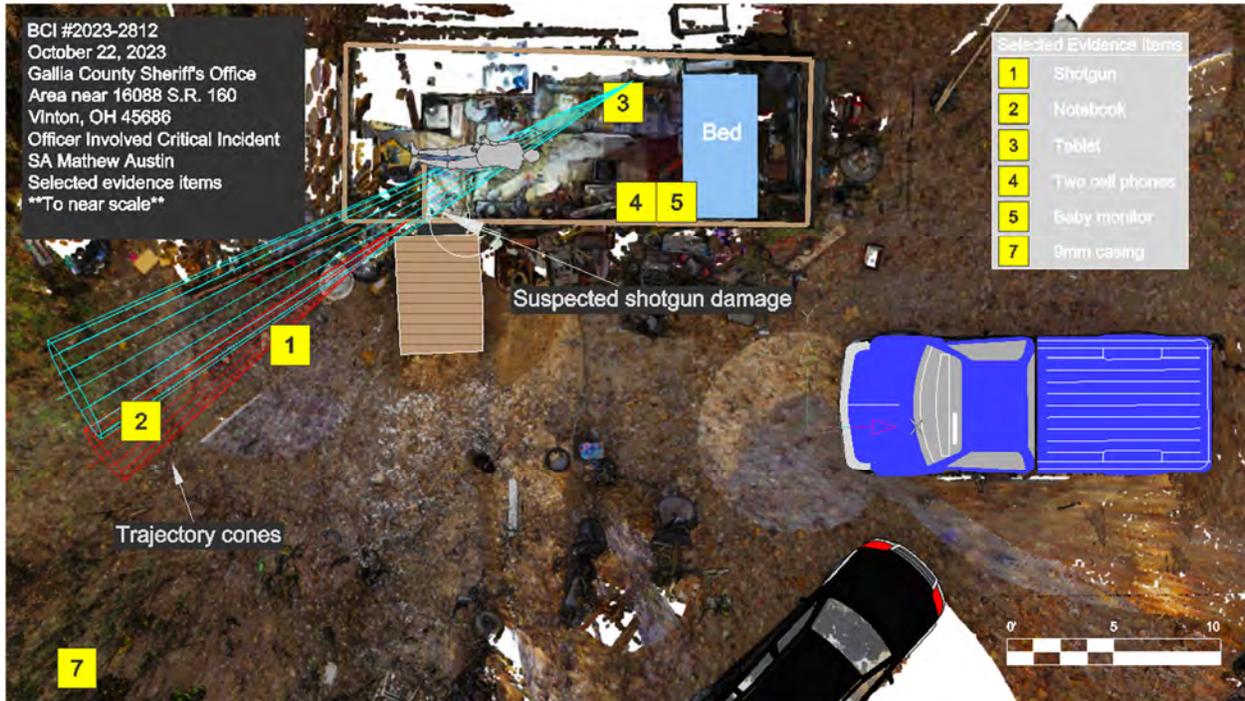


Image 7. Diagram of scene with selected items and two trajectory cones

Just past the front door, the body of Meade was found face up, on his back, with his hands cuffed behind his back. He was found wearing blue sweatpants; a cut t-shirt was located near his body along with multiple items of first aid intervention. These first-aid items, along with a flashlight, were documented through photography and released to the GCSO. Meade had a suspected bullet graze to his left shoulder along with a suspected bullet hole in the front and rear of his chest that were covered with chest seals. Dr. Whiteley, Gallia County Coroner, responded to the scene and arranged for the transport of Meade to the Montgomery County Coroner's Office for an autopsy.

SA Austin collected a black tablet (item 3) from inside the trailer along with two cell phones that were found plugged in. The black and silver AT&T phone was collected as item 4.1 and the black Google phone was collected as item 4.2. Both were placed into airplane mode prior to packaging. A Vtech baby monitor, that showed a live view of the front door, was found near the foot of the bed. The monitor also relayed audio from the camera that was positioned to the right of the trailer's door. Voices of other agents in the scene could be heard when they were near the camera and shouts from anywhere in the front yard area were audible over the monitor. After consultation with Special Agent Supervisor Justin Root from the Cyber Crimes Unit, the monitor was determined to be a live-view device only and was not set up to record. The baby monitor was unpowered and collected as item 5.

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*Image 7. Viewpoint of baby monitor found near the foot of the bed (SA Craig Call shown on porch)*

SA Austin observed a suspected bullet hole in the exterior of the trailer to the left of the front door. This was labeled as ballistic event 1.0 (BE 1.0) for documentation and identification. The bullet that created BE 1.0 perforated the trailer wall and entered the interior of the trailer through a wooden wall by the front door at BE 1.1. A lead in mark<sup>1</sup> was observed on the left of the hole on the outside of the trailer and splintered wood was inside of the trailer. Both were consistent with a shot origin from the yard to the left of the trailer door. A second BE (BE 2.0) was located in a cupboard above the couch. The bullet from BE 2.0 passed through the cupboard, exited at BE 2.1, and made an oblong hole in the rear wall of the trailer at BE 2.2. Trajectory rods were placed through the two series of BEs, photographed, and documented through the 3D scans. The information from the scans was used to create trajectory cones with 5° margins of error<sup>2</sup> (see image 7 above). No projectiles were collected from either of these flight paths.

<sup>1</sup> 1 A lead in mark is a visible, thin, elongated deposition of bullet wipe transferred to a surface as a bullet first makes contact with the surface at a shallow incident angle. (Haag, 2021)

<sup>2</sup> +/- 5° is a generally accepted level of error, as explained by Haag and Haag in their 2021 edition of *Shooting Incident Construction*, “~5 degrees is a reasonable uncertainty level for most bullet paths derived from actual scene work” (p. 129).

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While on scene, GCSO Lieutenant Chris Gruber provided SA Austin with a paper bag that contained Deputy ██████'s firearm. Inside there was one loose 9mm cartridge, a magazine with 13 cartridges, and a 9mm Glock 45 (S/N ██████). These items, along with a light that was mounted to the pistol, were all collected together as item 6.

With assistance from agents from the Special Investigations Unit, the trailer and vehicles were searched. A holstered handgun was located inside the gold Chevrolet Tahoe (OH plate: JYK-7720) in-between the front driver seat and center console. The Ruger EC9s (S/N 457-98904) was found unloaded with no magazine (item 8). No other items of evidentiary value were located. Agents cleared the scene at approximately 1937 hours.

On October 23, 2023, SA Austin placed all items collected (except for #2 that was previously released) into locker 2 at the BCI office in London, OH for submission into evidence storage.

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