



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



2026-1831

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 E. Warren St.,  
Bucyrus, OH 44820, Crawford County

**Investigative Activity:** Witness Officer Interview  
**Involves:** Dep. Nolan Neyer (W)  
**Activity Date:** 06/03/2026  
**Activity Location:** Richland County Sheriff's Office – 597 Park Ave. E,  
Mansfield, Ohio  
**Authoring Agent:** SA David Hammond #120

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, June 03, 2026, at 1050 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Richland County Sheriff's Office (RSCO) Deputy (Dep.) Nolan Neyer (Dep. Neyer), who was accompanied by his attorney, Beth Liggett, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Richland County Sheriff's Office. The interview was audio recorded.

Dep. Neyer was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 10, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Neyer did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

The following was a summary of 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. The information 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.

Dep. Neyer stated his radio call sign on May 10, 2026, was 735. He has been employed by the Richland County Sheriff's Office for about six years. He has been a Deputy Sheriff for a total of six years. During the incident, Dep. Neyer wore a tactical unit uniform with Sheriff's Department patches and identifiers. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He arrived at the scene as a passenger in the ASORT Bearcat Armored Vehicle. The tactical vehicle was marked with law enforcement

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emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He was not wearing a body-worn camera.

Dep. Neyer stated that he served as a sniper on the ASORT Team. He has attended specialized training and was certified as a sniper in April 2025. He has no prior military experience.

Dep. Neyer stated that he received a call about 0129 hours on May 11, 2026, regarding this incident. He was asked to respond to the Mansfield Police Department to assemble equipment before responding to the area. Dep. Neyer stated that he didn't remember much about the briefing or if they stopped at a command post before arriving at the subject's house.

Dep. Neyer described taking up a position at the rear of the house, inside the armored vehicle when he arrived:

*At the 07:15 mark, "I was assigned to the sniper position, uh, with that 308 rifle, and I was placed in the turret, uh, looking at the rear of the residence providing cover."*

Dep. Neyer indicated that the armored vehicle was parked in the alleyway, close to the garage. He described using the metal plates of the turret to provide cover as he monitored the windows at the back of the home for the subject.

Dep. Neyer advised that team leaders decided to introduce CS gas into the home.

*At the 10:59 mark, "Crawford County, their, their team had been out there for some time. They had already gone through their options. So, um, our command staff had decided to go ahead and start deploying gas."*

Dep. Neyer explained that tactical team members were in the process of deploying gas when the subject fired rounds out of the rear of the home. He explained his initial confusion about whether the damage was created by tactical team members breaking the glass to aid in the deployment or whether the subject was firing at them.

*At the 12:52 mark, "I was under the impression at that time that he (Tactical Team Member) was using those wooden baton rounds to try to break the window out. Okay. So, what I thought happened at that time was he (Tactical Team Member) fired, uh, I don't know how many, one or two rounds of knee knockers into this window breaking it. And then I thought that he (Tactical Team Member) had transitioned to the three-two window on the second story, because when I was watching the house, I saw two holes show up in the siding on that three-two window on the second story."*

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*At the 13:55 mark, "He (Tactical Team Member) was using those gas rounds. So those holes, I believe came from inside the house and he (Desmarais) was firing at us at that time."*

Dep. Neyer advised that a second round of gas was deployed into the home at a different angle. When this happened, he observed what he believed was the subject firing five or six rounds out of the back of the home.

*At the 14:45 mark, "I believe he fired two 40-millimeter gas rounds into that window, and it hit on the top right corner breaking out that window. And when he did that, I saw that room. The blinds never moved. Nothing ever. No, he never presented himself, but the room lit up and I saw, I could actually physically see the rounds exiting the house. So, if you're looking at, when I was looking at the window on the bottom right-hand corner of that window, I could see the sparks flying out where the rounds were hitting the siding and over that. And then there were about five or six holes that just showed up on the bottom. And then we caught out that he was fired shots at us at that point."*

*At the 16:20 mark, "I could see the muzzle flash."*

Dep. Neyer related that this series of events caused the tactical team members to back away from the home. Neyer stated that he felt that the gunfire placed the tactical members in danger.

*At the 20:49 mark, "I was very concerned at that point, from my position that this team here had taken rounds."*

Dep. Neyer remained inside the tactical vehicle. He went on to say that some of the lighting around the tactical vehicle caused him to have concerns that he was being back lit. He coordinated with the team member to eliminate a light located on the side of the garage that was hindering the operation. Early efforts to disable the light were ineffective, so the light was shot out with a 9mm round.

*At the 19:35 mark, "I believe they attempted to use the 40-millimeter launcher to take that out, and it was not effective. So, I think, uh, he did whatever it was that he did with communicating with team leaders and commanders on that stuff and ended up taking that out with, I believe a nine-millimeter."*

After this series of events, Dep. Neyer recalled being swapped out from this position to get a break. He was later called back to the command post for a 20-30-minute break. While at the command post, Dep. Neyer described watching the Ohio State Patrol Troopers deploying the Rook and tactical vehicles to the area of the home. He stated

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that he watched the events on the drone feed inside the command post. During this period of time, additional gun fire could be heard.

Dep. Neyer requested permission from the scene commander to seek a better position for the sniper in the surrounding houses. He was permitted to scout a better spot. Dep. Neyer reported going into a house (with permission) on the back side of the subject's home. He then stayed in this position, monitoring the subject's home for a period of time.

Dep. Neyer reported that the tactical team started to remove portions of the wall with the Rook and Bearcat. At that time the sniper units closer in the alley reported to Dep. Neyer that they could see the subject. He stated that he then moved from the location inside the unknown home, to the area of the white, Ford Truck in the rear alley.

Dep. Neyer utilized a tripod during this period of the incident. He stated that his rifle was set up beneath the carport with a narrow window of view into the home. He ranged the distance at 29 yards.

Dep. Neyer talked about how the elevation and angle prevented him from seeing anything other than Desmarais' head:

*At the 33:12 mark, "I believe just the angle, uh, that we were at, because he was elevated. Um, and then right at the bottom of that opening, basically his head and, and the angle that I was at, it was just above the, the edge of that opening. So, I was looking just over that too, and there was debris and whatever it was inside of the house. And that's, yeah, that's all I could see was just his head."*

While monitoring the subject, members of the tactical unit continued to deploy gas into the home. Dep. Neyer stated that he could see that Desmarais was wearing a gas mask.

*At the 34:55 mark, "Over the radio, I alerted them that, um, the gas was not going to be effective at that point because he was wearing a gas mask."*

Dep. Neyer reported that during this period, hostage negotiators were continuing to try and get Desmarais to surrender peacefully.

*At the 35:16 mark, "They were attempting to hail him with the PA, and the hostage negotiators that are attached to SWAT or a sort, um, were attempting to, you know, get him to comply."*

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Dep. Neyer advised that after a period of time, [REDACTED] switched positions with him, placing his rifle on Dep. Neyer's tripod. Dep. Neyer took a break at that location. He then described hearing the SWAT Commander give the command to fire over the radio.

*At the 37:58 mark, "I stepped back and stood behind, um, the other sniper, um, until I heard on the radio the SWAT commander going through our process of, um, giving him the command a fire."*

Dep. Neyer was asked who gave the command to fire.

*At the 38:20 mark, "Jared Kingsborough."*

*At the 38:26 mark, "So from my vantage point of what I heard, um, I don't know if they had had a conversation and understanding prior to this, but over the radio there would've just been, it was Jared Kingsborough, but [REDACTED] was the other sniper in that position. Um, [REDACTED] would've acknowledged [REDACTED] to Jared Kingsborough, and Jared Kingsborough would've said, Jared Kingsborough, [REDACTED] copy command to fire. [REDACTED] would've said copy command to fire. And then at his, once he felt, you know, stable enough to take that position, he would've taken the shot."*

Dep. Neyer then reported hearing and seeing [REDACTED] take the shot. During this time, he was standing behind [REDACTED] Dep. Neyer stated that shortly after, the OSHP Troopers advised that the shot was effective. He then secured from the scene with the other members of his Tactical Team.

In follow-up questions, Dep. Neyer provided additional details and clarification about the incident.

*At the 44:03 mark, "While I actually could see him and was looking at him through my scope, uh, he was, he was saying that he was sitting on a live grenade and that the pin had been pulled."*

*At the 45:30 mark, "He was incredibly agitated. Um, almost annoyed that it was not, uh, it was, it was angry, agitated, annoyed that every time the, the negotiator, whoever was on the PA system was attempting to talk to him, it was just, it was becoming increasingly more agitated as this was going on."*

Dep. Neyer was asked if he thought that there was an effort on the part of law enforcement to bring this incident to a peaceful conclusion:

*At the 46:58 mark, "Absolutely, yes, sir."*

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Dep. Neyer was asked what level of danger the tactical members faced if they had been forced to enter the home to confront Desmarais. He was also asked what posed the most significant risk.

At the 47:33 mark, *"Extremely high."*

At the 48:01 mark, *"The presence of the explosives. Um, and then also, you know, he's, he's already fired at us multiple times. He's not complying with the negotiators. He still has various amounts of weapons directly next to him. Um, you know, I, I believe that his intention was to try to draw us in closer, um, with the intention of harming officers."*

The interview concluded at approximately 1147 hours. A copy of the recording was uploaded to Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interviews>Richland County Deputies - Int w Dep Neyer in Axon Justice.

**References:**

Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interviews - Richland County Deputies - Int w Dep Neyer - stored in Axon Justice

**Attachments:**

None

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