



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



2024-3257

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 200 Cline Avenue,  
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Sergeant Michael Haines  
**Involves:** Sergeant Michael Haines (S)  
**Activity Date:** 11/01/2024  
**Activity Location:** Mansfield Police Department-30 N. Diamond Street,  
Mansfield, Ohio  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Cory Momchilov #64

**Narrative:**

On Friday, November 1, 2024, at 1014 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Jon Lieber (Lieber) interviewed Sergeant Michael Haines (Sergeant Haines) who was accompanied by his attorneys, Robert Sauter (Attorney Sauter) and Lane Hagar (Attorney Hagar), from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Mansfield Police Department, located at 30 North Diamond Street, Mansfield. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Prior to the interview, agents were advised by Attorney Sauter that Sergeant Haines had prepared a typed statement, which a copy was provided to agents. It was decided that Sergeant Haines would read his typed statement to investigators, and afterward agents would ask any follow-up or clarification questions.

Sergeant Haines typed statement is attached to this Investigative Report. The reader of this Investigative Report is strongly encouraged to read the typed statement in its entirety before reading the follow-up question section of this Investigative Report.

Also, prior to the interview, Sergeant Haines read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

**Follow-Up Questions**

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Haines if a specific radio channel was being used during the incident. Sergeant Haines stated that channel 4, also known as "Man-Tac" was being utilized during the incident.

SA Momchilov asked if an MDT (mobile data terminal) was used during the incident. Sergeant Haines replied, "Not by us, I'm sure patrol officers had an MDT." SA Momchilov responded, "Like, when they initially arrived and stuff?" Sergeant Haines

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stated, “Absolutely, yeah, they were dispatched with MDTs on normal patrol, so I assume someone had an MDT at some point.”

SA Momchilov stated, “Would it be fair to say that you responded to the scene in a cruiser, and you maybe didn’t go back to the cruiser again?”

Sergeant Haines stated that they didn’t go back to the cruiser until the incident ended.

SA Momchilov stated, “I’m assuming you’ve been on many SWAT call outs; would that be fair to say?”

Sergeant Haines replied, “Yes” and that he has been on the SWAT team for 9 years.

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Haines if Oswald (Michial Oswald) was acting “different” compared to other SWAT call outs. Sergeant Haines replied, “Different?” SA Momchilov responded, “More erratic?”

Sergeant Haines stated, “He was definitely erratic. It’s ahh, I don’t know how to put it. Normally, un, normally SWAT’s not in communication, you know, with somebody. This instance was unique since there was hostages involved and HNT (Hostage Negotiation Team) was already at the door so, that was a little different. Usually we’re just waiting, you know, but since we were essentially there to ensure that if he started killing the hostages, that’s the point in the QRF (Quick Reaction Force) was to respond immediately but also we were there to protect HNT who was communicating with him should he run down the stairs and try and kill them.”

SA Momchilov stated, “You made a statement that he (Oswald) was trying to convince her (Erin Brooks) to grab the kids and use them as a human shield.” Sergeant Haines responded, “Yes.” SA Momchilov asked, “Your experience as a law enforcement officer, is that? Have you seen anything like that before?”

Sergeant Haines replied, “That’s not normal, never.”

SA Momchilov stated, “You said he (Oswald) was in an attack position? Sergeant Haines replied, “Yes.” SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Haines what he meant by attack position. Sergeant Haines stated, “He had the knives raised up like this (Figure 1-14:53) by his head, like shoulder/head height like when he was walking towards us, so, they weren’t down by his side, you know, they were up so as soon as he got close enough, he could just come straight down at us.”

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Figure 1

SA Momchilov stated, “And you said that you estimated 4 to 5 feet away from you when you fired? Sergeant Haines replied, “If that, yeah, he was really close.”

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Haines if he spoke with anyone about what occurred.

Sergeant Haines stated he spoke with members of the SWAT Team about the incident, but no one has asked him to lie or otherwise try to influence his statement to investigators.

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Haines if at the time he fired, he felt that he had any other options. Sergeant Haines replied, “No.”

SA Lieber stated, “You said in your statement, I heard him making text messages.” SA Lieber asked Sergeant Haines if he could explain how he “heard him.”

Sergeant Haines stated, “He was talking to Siri on his phone, so we could hear everything he was doing. So, when he was playing those songs, he was saying, ‘Siri, play fuck the police by the N.O.W.’ I forget the band. Siri, text, I don’t remember who the family member was, and he was transcribing to the phone, through his voice, so we could hear everything he was saying to his phone. At one point in time, he put his phone on do not disturb, he was like, ‘Siri, put my phone on do not disturb’ so he wasn’t doing anything that sounded like, with direct input, he was talking to his phone the whole time. That’s how we were able to hear.”

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SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Haines if he had any prior contact with the individual. Sergeant Haines stated he does not recall meeting the individual before.

Sergeant Haines' typed statement, the audio recording of the interview and the Criminal Investigation Notification form are attached to this Investigative Report.

The video recording of Sergeant Haines' interview was placed onto a portable hard drive and placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Reference Item E.

**References:**

Reference Item E-Video recording of Sergeant Haines' interview

**Attachments:**

1. Sergeant Haines' Typed Statement
2. Audio Recording of Sergeant Haines' Interview
3. Criminal Investigation Notification form signed by Sergeant Haines

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**Statement of Sergeant Michael Haines, Mansfield Police Department,**  
**Regarding Incident on October 19, 2024**

**I. Background.**

I began my full-time employment with the Mansfield Police Department ("Mansfield PD"), as a Police Officer, on August 14, 2013. I was promoted to my present rank of Sergeant in October 2019. Prior to joining the Mansfield PD, I served as a Corrections Officer for the Mansfield Correctional Institution. I completed my Basic Police Officer Training at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, graduating in December 2013.

I attended Burkburnett High School in Burkburnett, Texas, and graduated in 2000. I attained a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology at the Ohio State University, graduating in 2004. I also attended the Ohio State University for two (2) quarters for graduate school. I served in the military from June 2004 through December 2004 and received an uncharacterized discharge for [REDACTED]

My current supervisor is Lt. S. Garrick. My regularly assigned work hours are from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. I regularly work six (6) days on and two (2) days off, with my days off rotating each week.

My current assignment is as a Patrol Sergeant. I also serve as a Field Training Officer ("FTO") Supervisor, Motor Unit Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Background Investigator, as part of the Recruitment Team and as part of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team ("SWAT").

I do wear prescription glasses. I do not wear contacts or any hearing aids. I am under no physical disability. I take one (1) prescription medication, which does not impede my ability to perform my duties as a law enforcement officer. I had consumed no alcohol within eight (8) hours prior to the call-out on the date of the incident.

As a law enforcement officer, I have never received any discipline relative to use of force. I have never been the subject of any Internal Affairs investigation relative to use of force. In my law enforcement career, I have never before used lethal force.

*mf*

I am familiar with the Mansfield PD's Use of Force Policy, as I received training on this Policy in the past year by a Certified Department Instructor.

On the date of the incident, I fired a Sig MCX rifle which was issued to me by the Mansfield PD. I last qualified for this weapon on October 18, 2024. I carried two (2) magazines for this rifle, each of which holds approximately twenty-eight (28) rounds. I believe I fired three (3) rounds in the incident.

On my duty belt, I carry (clockwise): my Sig Sauer P320 handgun, which is my duty weapon and was also issued to me by the Mansfield PD and a gas mask. I last qualified for the Sig Sauer P320 handgun on October 18, 2024.

On Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18, respectively, I was scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for SWAT training. I did not work any overtime or special duty on those days.

I was well-rested at the time of the SWAT call-out on Saturday, October 19. Prior to the call-out, I had slept for approximately five (5) hours.

On the date of the incident, I was dressed in multi-camouflage BDU tops and bottoms with MPD patches on my shoulders. I also wore a green vest with "Police" written on the front and back.

I was not wearing a body camera during the incident, as we do not carry them during SWAT callouts. I carried no personal recording device.

The cruiser we used, Unit S2, did have in-dash video but it was not activated at the time of the incident. My badge number and radio designation is 261.



## **II. Incident Narrative.**

I received a notification for a SWAT call-out, as I am part of the Richland County Allied Special Operations Response Team ("ASORT"), due to a hostage situation at 2:46 a.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2024. The notification stated a male was barricaded inside a home with a female and children hostages threatening suicide by cop.

I responded to the Mansfield Police Station and was given more information. I was advised that the male was out on bond for pretrial release. I was told he recently got into a standoff with Columbus Police and during that he injured two (2) officers. I was also advised that the male had his wife (who turned out to be a girlfriend) and their two (2) young children hostage. I was told he was armed with a knife. I was also advised he was high on drugs and/or alcohol.

I was assigned to be a Quick Reaction Force ("QRF") member with three (3) other officers (Sgt. Gess, Sgt. Gladden, and Ofc. Webb) to respond directly to the scene via the S2 cruiser before the main team was ready. I drove the cruiser. When we arrived, Sgt. Kingsborough, ASORT commander, advised us that patrol and Hostage Negotiation Team ("HNT") officers were communicating with the suspect through a back door. We were ordered to relieve patrol at the door. The four (4) of us made our way to the rear of the house.

I was the most senior SWAT operator, so I took the number one position in the doorway. I told the patrol officers they were relieved. Once at the doorway, there were two (2) HNT officers. They stated the suspect was being uncooperative, telling us mostly to "suck his dick." They said his name was Shane Oswalt. One (1) HNT officer, Burt Skeen, was primarily attempting to speak with Mr. Oswalt and the other HNT officer, Brad Henderson, was communicating with Ofc. Skeen and reporting back to the Command Post ("CP").

HNT was having little effect with yelling over us to Mr. Oswalt. We were at the back door to the kitchen. Mr. Oswalt was upstairs. There was a staircase on the opposite side of the kitchen leading to where Mr. Oswalt and the hostages were. The adult female, known to us as Erin, came down to

retrieve cigarettes. HNT told me she was not free to leave because if she did not take the cigarettes back upstairs to Mr. Oswald, he would kill the children.

Since HNT was not having much success communicating with Mr. Oswald, I asked if I was able to attempt to communicate with him since I was in the best position to do so. I began to yell and make contact with him. He told me he was not going to give up. He stated the only way the situation would be resolved was if we came to the bottom of the staircase and shot him. He said he would either start killing the children or kill one (1) of us. He told me he worked as a butcher and was very skilled with knives. He told me that he knew I was wearing body armor. He stated he would stab me in the neck or stab me in the side of my vest, where the plates did not protect me, stabbing me in the ribs. I told him, multiple times, that I wanted everyone to exit the house safely. I asked multiple times for him to release the children. We wanted all hostages out of the house, but the children were our immediate concern.

During the encounter, Mr. Oswald stated he had a 161 IQ and was smarter than all of us. He stated he knew our tricks and would not fall for any of them. He attempted to taunt us and continued to threaten both us and the hostages numerous times. He played "Fuck the Police" and "Fuck It" via Siri numerous times on a speaker. I heard him making text messages to people stating this was his final night alive. He also titled the playlist of songs he was playing his "funeral playlist." At one point, Ofc. Webb and I heard him attempt to coerce his girlfriend into helping him shut the back door that we were standing at. He was trying to convince her to have each of them grab one (1) of the children and use them as human shields. I checked with Ofc. Webb that I heard that correctly and he advised the same thing. We stated under no circumstances was this allowable.

There was lots of back and forth between Mr. Oswald and me. He stated he knew he was going to go to prison for the rest of his life. I told him nothing was certain and attempted to connect with him as I used to be a former Corrections Officer at the Mansfield Correctional Institution. He responded by making a crass joke. This went on for what felt like hours. Mr. Oswald then demanded more cigarettes. HNT allowed us to pass two (2) or three (3) cigarettes to the female. When she came down to get them, he shut the music off so he could hear us and told her not to speak with us. I threw the cigarettes on the floor. He also told her to bring water back.



HNT attempted to speak with her when she was next to us at the kitchen sink. She motioned that she couldn't talk. I whispered to her just to nod "yes" or "no." HNT asked her if she was "free to leave" and she shook her head "no." Mr. Oswalt then started yelling that she wasn't to communicate with us, and he started to make loud noises upstairs. She then ran back upstairs as one of the children screamed "I didn't do anything." Ofc. Webb and I almost ran upstairs thinking he was killing the children. I screamed to Erin asking if the children were "okay." She stated they were. So, we continued to hold at the door.

After approximately two (2) hours, Mr. Oswalt stated he was going to release the children. He sent them down the staircase by themselves, which was quasi-barricaded with items at the bottom, and he told them to go to the front door. We attempted to have the children come to us as we could not see the other side of the house. When he told them to go to the front, we radioed what was happening and other SWAT members safely retrieved the children. We were advised they were safe on the radio.

At the back door, we attempted to have the female come back downstairs to collect more cigarettes. We tried to use our previous "good will" of letting her return to show we would do it again. That was not our intent. If she were to come downstairs without him, we were going to grab her and remove her from the home. I assigned myself and Ofc. Webb as lethal cover to protect her. Sgt. Gess, who was assigned a less lethal 40mm launcher with foam baton rounds, was the "hands" officer who would take custody of her and safely get her from the home. There was a chair in the middle of the kitchen. I stepped inside with Ofc. Webb to remove the chair so there would be no obstructions should an opportunity present itself to save the last hostage. However, Mr. Oswalt did not release the female.

What seemed like shortly after that, the female began to run down the stairs heading to us screaming something like "HELP ME, HE'S TRYING [or going] TO KILL ME!" She ran down the stairs and came into the kitchen. I stepped into the kitchen and pulled her behind me. I heard Mr. Oswalt running or coming down the stairs after her. She was scared and began to hide behind

me. As I heard him coming, I pushed her away from me to the other officers near the door to get her out of the kitchen. I yelled something to the effect of "get her out of here."

What seemed like immediately after that, Mr. Oswald came around the corner from the barricade and stairs with two (2) knives, one (1) in each hand, held up at shoulder/head height. I yelled orders to stop and to drop the knives. He said he wasn't going to stop. I retreated several feet from my spot in the kitchen back to the doorway. Once there, I could not move back anymore. I believed the female hostage was still on the porch behind us. My impression was that Mr. Oswald was coming after her. The porch was small. One side had the wall from the kitchen, my left side was blocked by a railing and behind me was also blocked by a railing. Only my right side was open, which caused us to get caught up together. I ordered Mr. Oswald to stop and to drop the weapons again several times. He continued to come towards me.

I waited until he was what seemed like four (4) or five (5) feet from me. He still kept advancing with both knives raised in an attack position. At that point, I was in immediate fear for my life and those around me. He already stated he was going to kill me. I then fired what I believe were three (3) rounds from my department-issued rifle, which struck Mr. Oswald. As I fired, I believed Ofc. Webb also fired his weapon, but my attention was completely focused on Mr. Oswald. Once struck, he immediately stopped, turned around, and fell face down on the floor.

I stepped into the room, stepping across Mr. Oswald and using my foot to move a knife away that was next to his hand on his left side. I then yelled for the SWAT Medic that was at the rear of the house to come inside to start immediate medical attention. The medic came in as Sgt. Gess was handcuffing Mr. Oswald. Immediately after that, other SWAT members showed up. I was told to exit the house. I then left the house and responded to the CP.

The weather on the date of the incident was clear and mild and there was no significant change in the weather during the time of the incident. At the time of the incident, it was nighttime and dark outside as we disabled the porch light. However, the interior of the house was well lit.

The backdrop when I fired my weapon was the interior back wall of the house.

To the best of my recollection, I do not believe I had any prior contact with Mr. Oswald before the incident.

I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe that there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been as effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat that Mr. Oswald posed to myself, the other officers and the female hostage (who I believed was still with us) by continuing towards us with his knives raised in an attack position.

My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident on October 19, 2024.

I wish to cooperate with this investigation and am prepared to answer any questions which you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sergeant Michael Haines

11-1-24  
Date



## 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).

Michael Hayes

Printed Name of Interviewee

11/1/21 10/2

Date / Time

[Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

Cory Momchilov

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature] #64

BCI Agent (Signature)