



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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Detective Zachary Miller
Involves: Zachary Miller (O)
Activity Date: 06/05/2025
Activity Location: 10180 Busenburg Road, Howard, OH 43028
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Thursday, June 05, 2025, at 1044 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Nick Valente (SA Valente) interviewed Detective Zachary Miller (Det. Miller), of the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Thursday, June 05, 2025. The interview took place at 10180 Busenburg Road, Howard, Ohio 43028. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual regarding their response to the incident scene.

Det. Miller is part of the KCSO SWAT team, and as part of his duties he responded to the call-out in the early morning hours on June 5, 2025. Det. Miller reported that the team arrived with a bearcat (armored vehicle) and established a perimeter around the residence. The SWAT team had been advised by the responding deputy that the individual in the residence had shot at him.

The SWAT team negotiator then attempted to make contact with anyone in the residence without success. Several sponge rounds were fired at the front glass storm door to allow a drone to be deployed into the residence. The drone operator was able to clear the residence with the drone and enter the bedroom where he located a female lying on the floor and appearing to be unresponsive. The first drone went down, and a second drone was deployed. The drone operator also located a male. Det. Miller described the information provided to the team as follows:

"The operator said that he could see a male in between the wall and the bed, and it looked like he was proned out and on scope, like he was laying down ready to shoot, but he wasn't moving. Uh, the operator said he didn't know if he was playing "possum with us." Um, even though the drone was hovering over him, uh, he said, I can see his hair

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moving, but I don't have any movement from him. Um, that drone failed too, it crashed out and we couldn't recover it." (2:53)

After the drone operator observed the male in what the team perceived might be an ambush position, they formulated a plan to make entry into the residence. The team attempted to port the window in the bedroom with a sponge round; however, it was unsuccessful. It was then decided that the bearcat would be used to port the window in the bedroom and create a point of entry. The bearcat operator was able to use a ram attachment to pull a small section of the residence out to create a door-sized entry point. Det. Miller said that members of the SWAT team had an angle on the opening and reported that they could see something in the residence, but it was not moving. One CS gas sponge round was deployed, but no response was observed in the residence. A slow search team was formed with shields to clear the residence. Det. Miller described the search as follows:

"After that we backed the bearcat out, put together a slow search team with shields, made entry through the front door. Uh, they, we cleared the bedroom to the right first. Team, made their way through the residence, got back to the bedroom, uh, saw the female down. Uh, guys were relaying to me that they were gonna pin the male's arm that had the, uh, rifle in it. Uh, just pin it for safety reasons. So, they pinned it and waited on our SWAT medic to come up from, uh, our team has a SWAT medic with us, so he's from Mount Vernon Fire. He came up and called the time of death on that. So once that was done, uh, we all backed out and everything stayed the way it was." (4:51)

After Det. Miller's statement, SA Lamping and SA Valente asked him several questions. SA Lamping asked if any of the SWAT team members fired any ammunition aside from less-lethal rounds, and Det. Miller reported that they did not. SA Valente asked Det. Miller if a shield was used to pin the male's arm, and he said it was. He further explained that this was done as the SWAT medic would not have any defense while attempting to render aide and the male still had the firearm in his hands. Det. Miller also reported that the gunfire had all ceased prior to the arrival of the SWAT team.

The interview concluded at approximately 1050 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as part of reference item D. Please see the full recording for further details.

References:

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Reference Item D - Witness Officer Interviews

Attachments:

None

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