



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



2024-3649

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave
NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720

Investigative Activity: Initial Crime Scene Processing
Involves: James J. Vanset (S)
Activity Date: 11/18/2024
Activity Location: 6880 Sunset Strip Ave. NW, Room #220, Jackson, Ohio
44720 (Rodeway Inn)
Authoring Agent: SA Dan Boerner #135

Summary:

On Monday, November 18, 2024, BCI Special Agent(s) Dan Boerner, Chad Doran, Larry Hootman and Lurna McClintock assisted Chief Mark Brink and the Jackson Township Police Department with the processing of a crime scene located at 6880 Sunset Strip NW, Jackson, Ohio 44720 (Rodeway Inn) in regard to an officer-involved critical incident. The scene was photographed as it was found and evidence was collected. The scene was further documented using a Leica RTC360 laser scanner.

Narrative:

On Monday, November 18, 2024, at 1435hrs, SA Boerner was contacted by SAS Ed Lulla and was requested to assist Chief Mark Brink and the Jackson Township Police Department with the processing of a crime scene located at 6880 Sunset Strip NW, Jackson, Ohio 44720 (Rodeway Inn) in regard to an officer-involved critical incident. SA Boerner learned that members of the United States Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force attempted to arrest a male (ID to be James J. Vanest, W/M, DOB: 06/01/1956) on weapons charges. SA Boerner learned that Vanest reportedly shot at members of the task force and that a SWAT standoff ensued. SA Boerner learned that during the standoff Vanest and multiple members of the Canton Regional SWAT team exchanged gunfire. SA Boerner learned that one of the SWAT team members was shot during the exchange. SA Boerner learned that at the conclusion of the standoff Vanest was found deceased in room #220.

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On Monday, November 18, 2024, at approximately 1600hrs, SA Boerner arrived on scene and met with investigators. The scene was subsequently photographed as it was found. The scene consisted of the parking lot of 6880 Sunset Strip NW (Rodeway Inn), the interior of room #220 and a gray 2015 Ram 3500 truck bearing Ohio registration HYK6895 (reportedly used by Vanest).

Scene Examination - the parking lot of 6880 Sunset Strip NW (Rodeway Inn)

The parking lot was photographed as it was found. The parking lot scene consisted of three SWAT vehicles, three task force vehicles and the subject vehicle (Figures 1-6, Overall photographs). The parking lot scene also consisted of a portion of the adjacent parking lot of the Cracker Barrel.



Figure 1, Overall photograph

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Figure 2, Overall photograph



Figure 3, Overall photograph

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Figure 4, Overall photograph



Figure 5, Overall photograph

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Figure 6, Overall photograph

The parking lot was documented using a Leica RTC360 laser scanner. Using the scan data, an overhead diagram and panoramas were created and provided to the investigators (Figure 7, Overhead Diagram).

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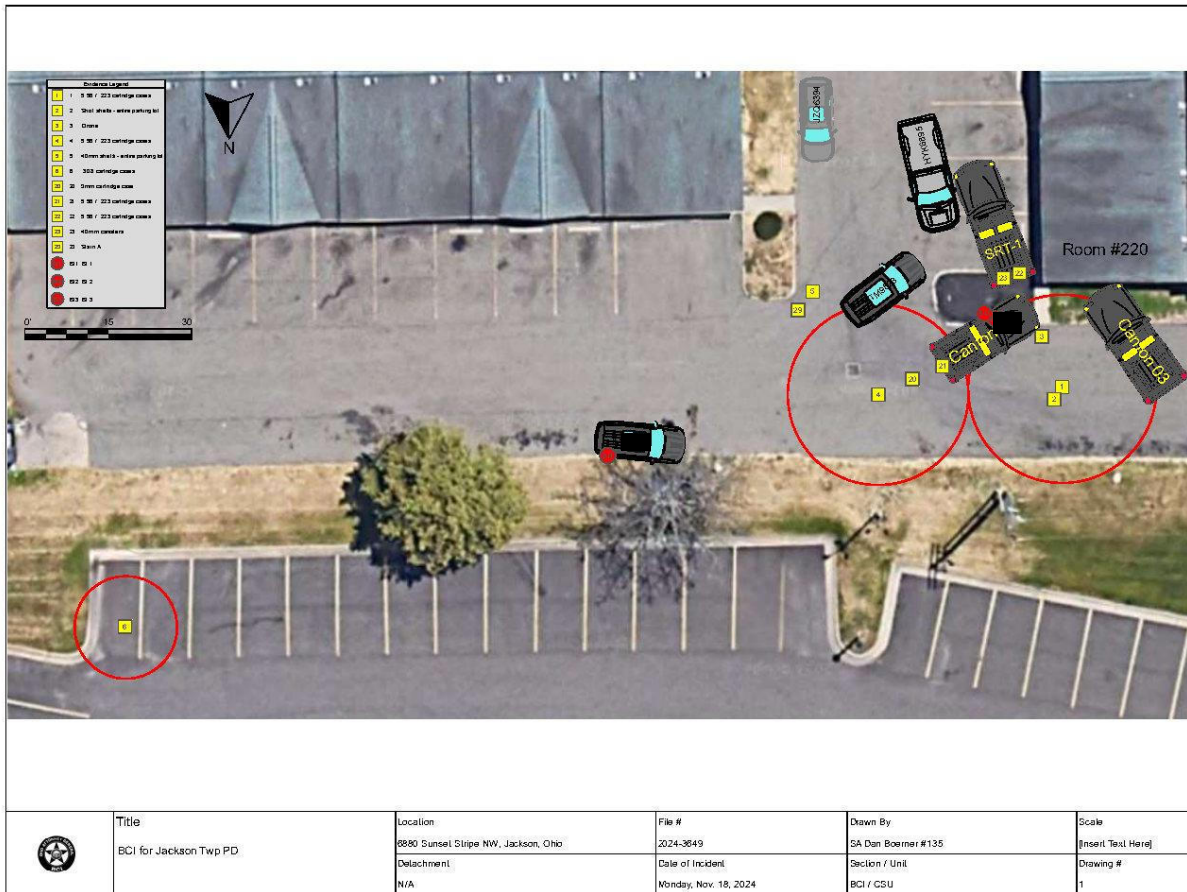


Figure 7, Overhead Diagram

The parking lot was examined for items of suspected evidence and several items of suspected evidence were located, photographed and collected (Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence – Parking Lot).

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Item #	Description	Location
1	Qty 67, 5.56 / .223 cartridge cases ¹	Near Canton Armor 03
2	Qty 10, less lethal shot shells	Parking lot
3	Blk damaged drone **released on scene** ²	Room #220
4	Qty 34, 5.56 / .223 cartridge cases	Near Canton Armor 11
5	Qty 12, 40mm canisters	Parking lot
6	Qty 4, .308 cartridge cases	Cracker Barrel parking lot
20	9mm cartridge case	Near Canton Armor 11
21	Qty 36, 5.56 / .223 cartridge cases	Inside Canton Armor 11
22	Qty 10, 5.56 / .223 cartridge cases	Inside OSP SRT-1
23	Qty 15, 40mm canisters	Inside OSP SRT-1

Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence - Parking Lot

The parking lot was examined for suspected bloodstains and one suspected bloodstain was observed in the area behind Cantor Armor [REDACTED]. The suspected bloodstain was tested with the presumptive test Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), which produced a positive result for blood. A representative swab was collected from suspected bloodstains, preserved and secured as evidence (Item 29, Stain A).

The parking lot and vehicles inside the parking lot were examined for suspected ballistic impacts and ballistic impacts were observed on two vehicles. A task force vehicle (a black Ford Explorer, bearing Ohio registration JY6545) exhibited one suspected ballistic impact on the passenger side trunk window (BI 1). At the time of the reported shooting, the driver's side front window was reportedly down. Canton Armor [REDACTED] exhibited two suspected ballistic impacts (BI 2 and BI 3). BI 2 was located on the driver's side of the hood and BI 3 was located on the driver's side front fender. No items of ballistic evidence were recovered from any of the suspected ballistic impacts.

¹ At total of 147 5.56 / .223 cartridge cases were recovered at in the parking lot scene.

² Item 3 was released to task force / SWAT team members at the scene.

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Scene Examination – Room #220 (Rodeway Inn)

The interior of room #220 was photographed as it was found (Figures 8-16, Overall photographs). The exterior / interior of room #220 exhibited multiple suspected ballistic impacts and multiple deployments of less lethal devices.



Figure 8, Overall photograph

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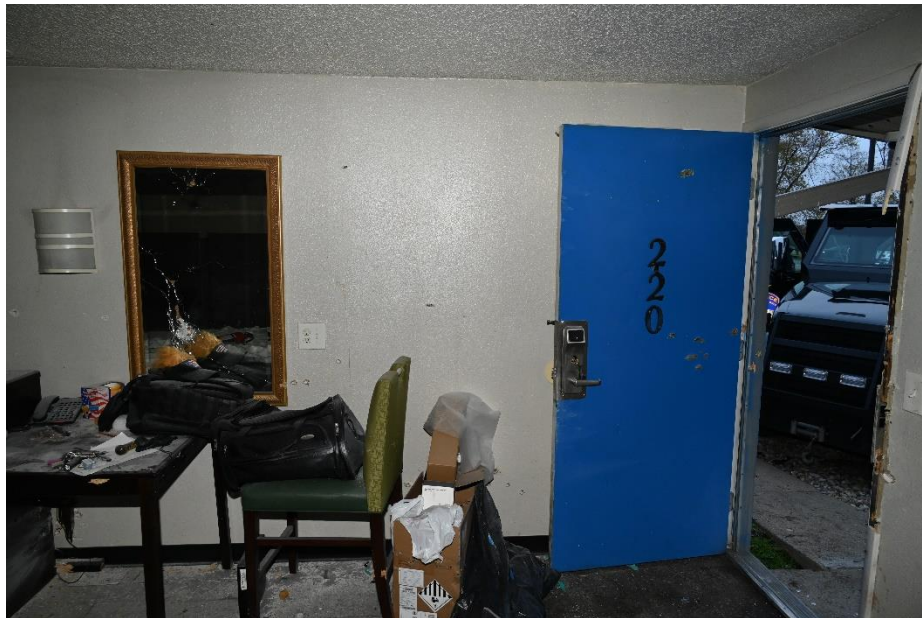


Figure 9, Overall photograph

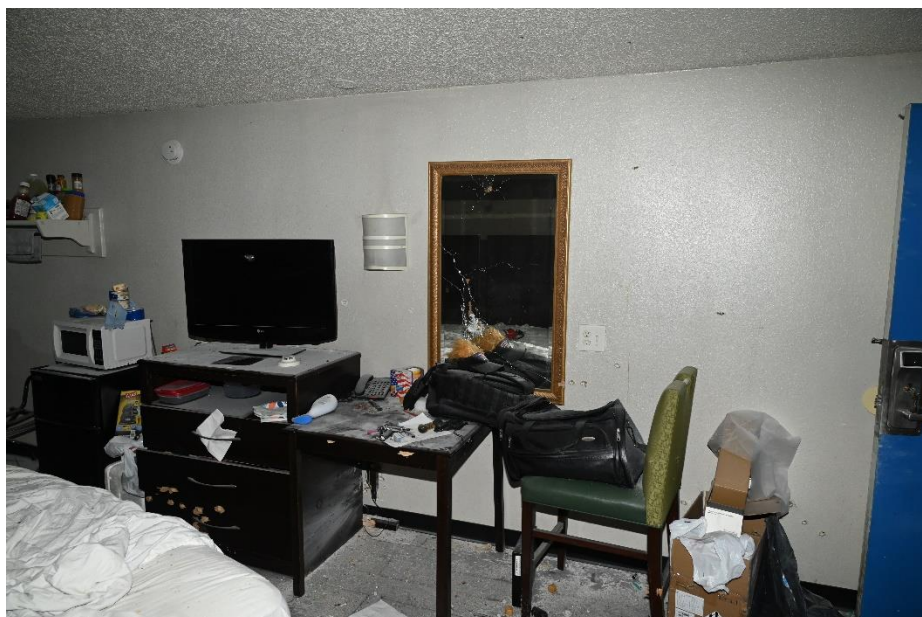


Figure 10, Overall photograph

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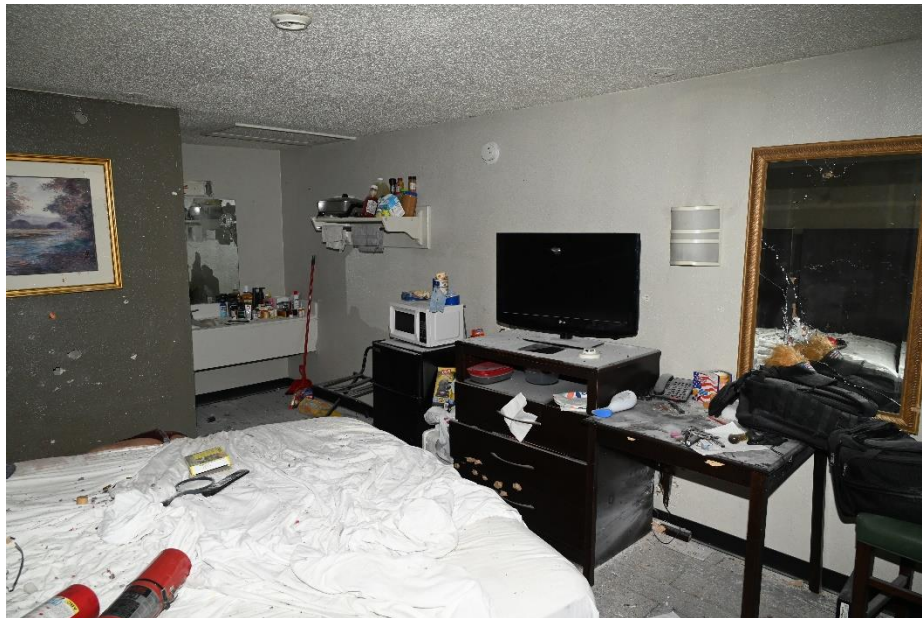


Figure 10, Overall photograph

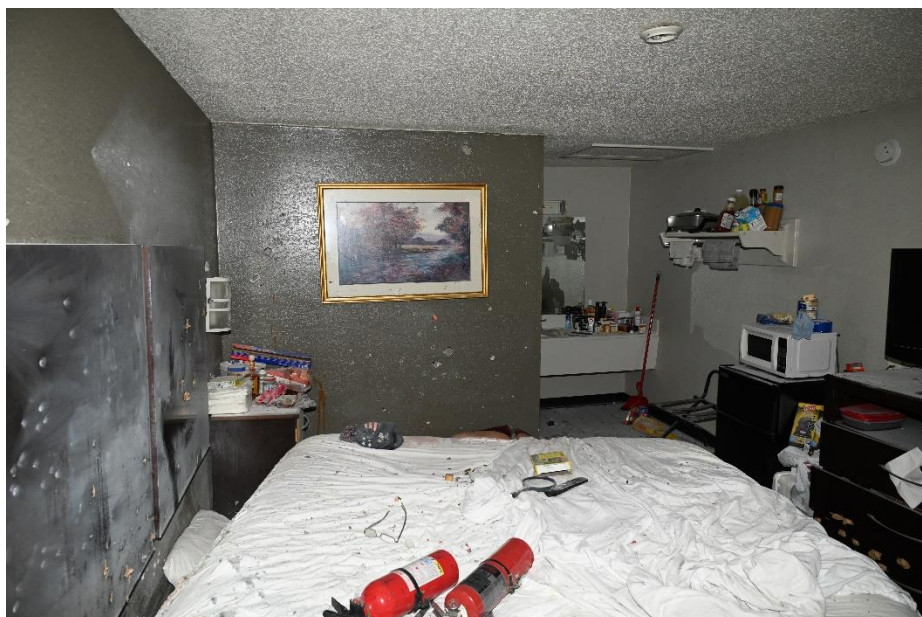


Figure 11, Overall photograph

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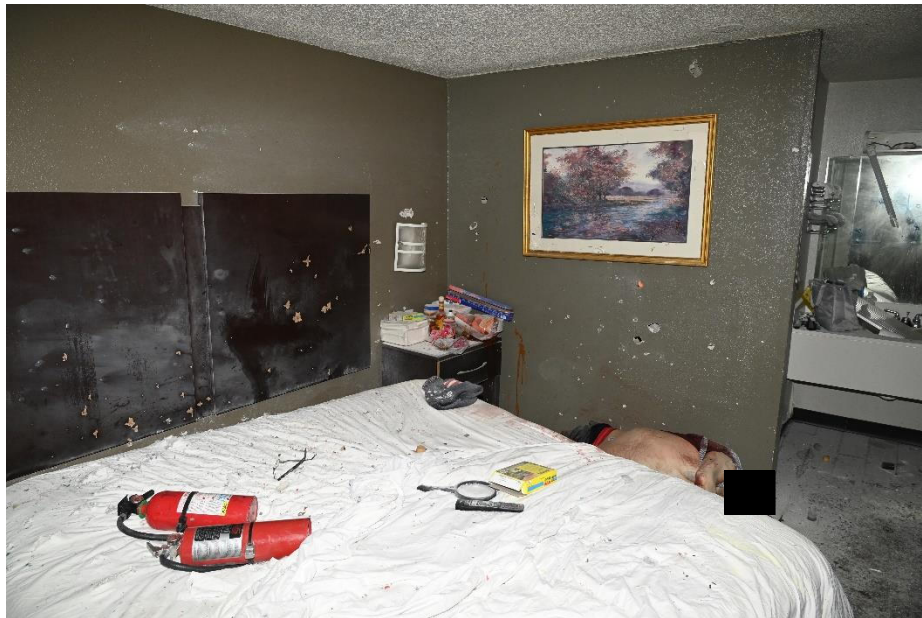


Figure 12, Overall photograph

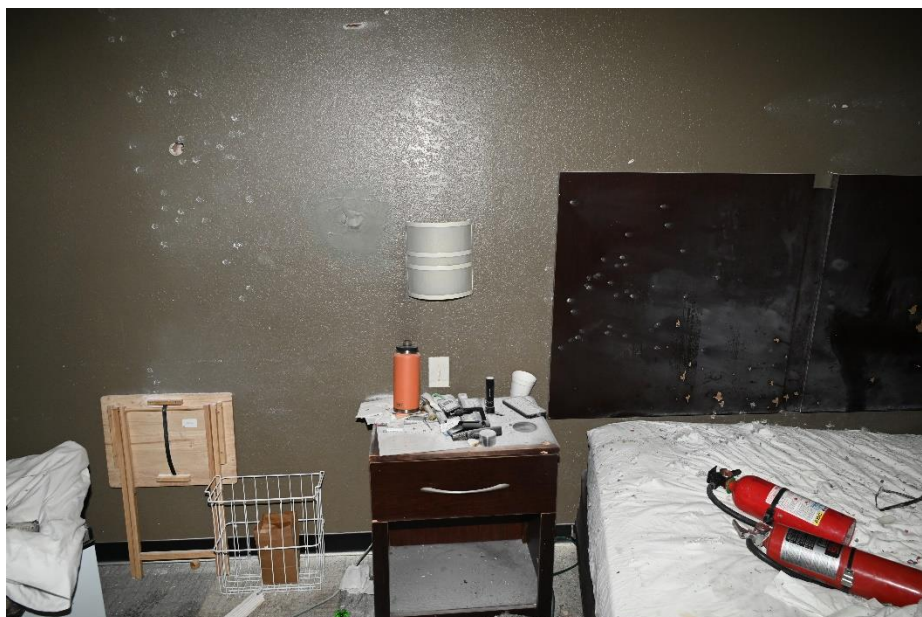


Figure 13, Overall photograph

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Figure 14, Overall photograph

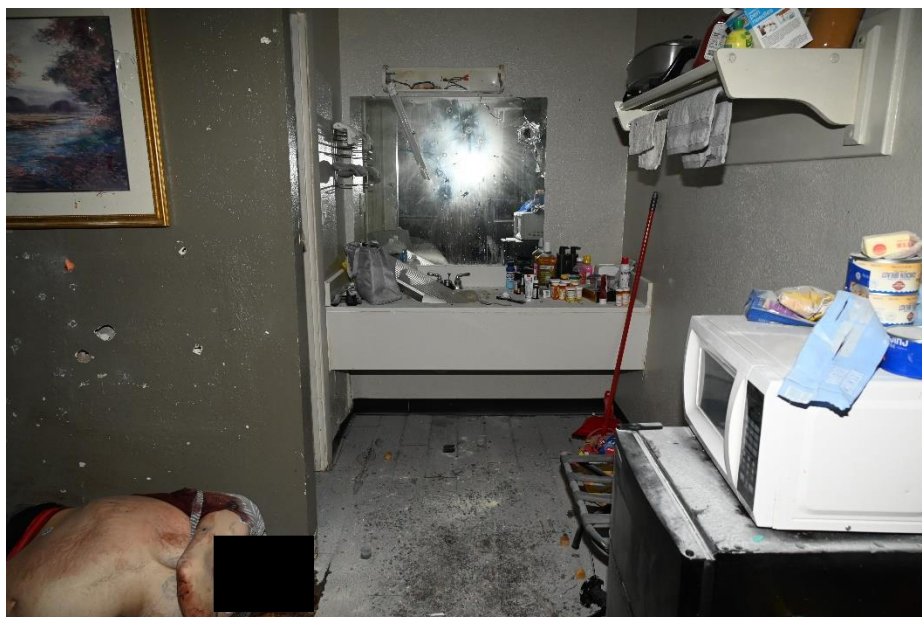


Figure 15, Overall photograph

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Figure 16, Overall photograph

The interior of room #220 was examined for items of suspected evidence and several items of suspected evidence were located, photographed and collected (Table 2, Items of Suspected Evidence – Interior #220).

Item #	Description	Location
7	Qty 2, Flash bang device	Room #220
8	Qty 1, Paper bag containing several less lethal devices	Room #220
9	Revolver – a black Ruger LCR .38 special, SN: 540-45090, w/5 cartridges and suspected bloodstains	Near window, Room #220
10	Handgun – a tan Springfield Armory, 10mm, SN: BE277600, w/1 cartridge in chamber and magazine ³	Near window, Room #220

³ Firearm is damaged and magazine could not be removed. Firearm was dismantled for packaging purposes. This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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11	Qty 2, set of vehicle keys **released on scene** ⁴	Room #220
12	Wood firearm stock	Black bookbag, Room #220
13	Black firearm stock	Black bookbag, Room #220
14	Qty 2, 10mm cartridge cases	Foot of bed, Room #220
15	Qty 2, 10mm magazines	Near body of Vanset, Room #220
16	10mm cartridge cases	Nightstand near body of Vanset, Room #220
17	Qty 5, .38 special cartridges	On bed, Room #220
18	Black Motorola cell phone	Nightstand, Room #220
19	SWAT recon robot **released on scene** ⁵	Under luggage rack, Room #220
24	Qty 1, 10mm cartridge case	Nightstand near body of Vanset, Room #220
25	Qty 5, 10mm cartridge cases	Near body of Vanset, Room #220
26	10mm cartridge	Near body of Vanset, Room #220
27	Black wallet with ID of Vanset, misc. cards and \$19.00	Jeans near the door of Room #220
28	Qty 2, 10mm magazines	Jeans near the door of Room #220

Table 2, Items of Suspected Evidence – Interior #220

The interior of room #220 was further documented using a Leica RTC360 laser scanner. Using the scan data, an overhead diagram and panoramas were created and provided to the investigators (Figure 19, Overhead Diagram – Interior).

⁴ The keys were released to the tow truck driver, via Jackson Twp PD.

⁵ Item 19 was released to task force / SWAT team members at the scene.

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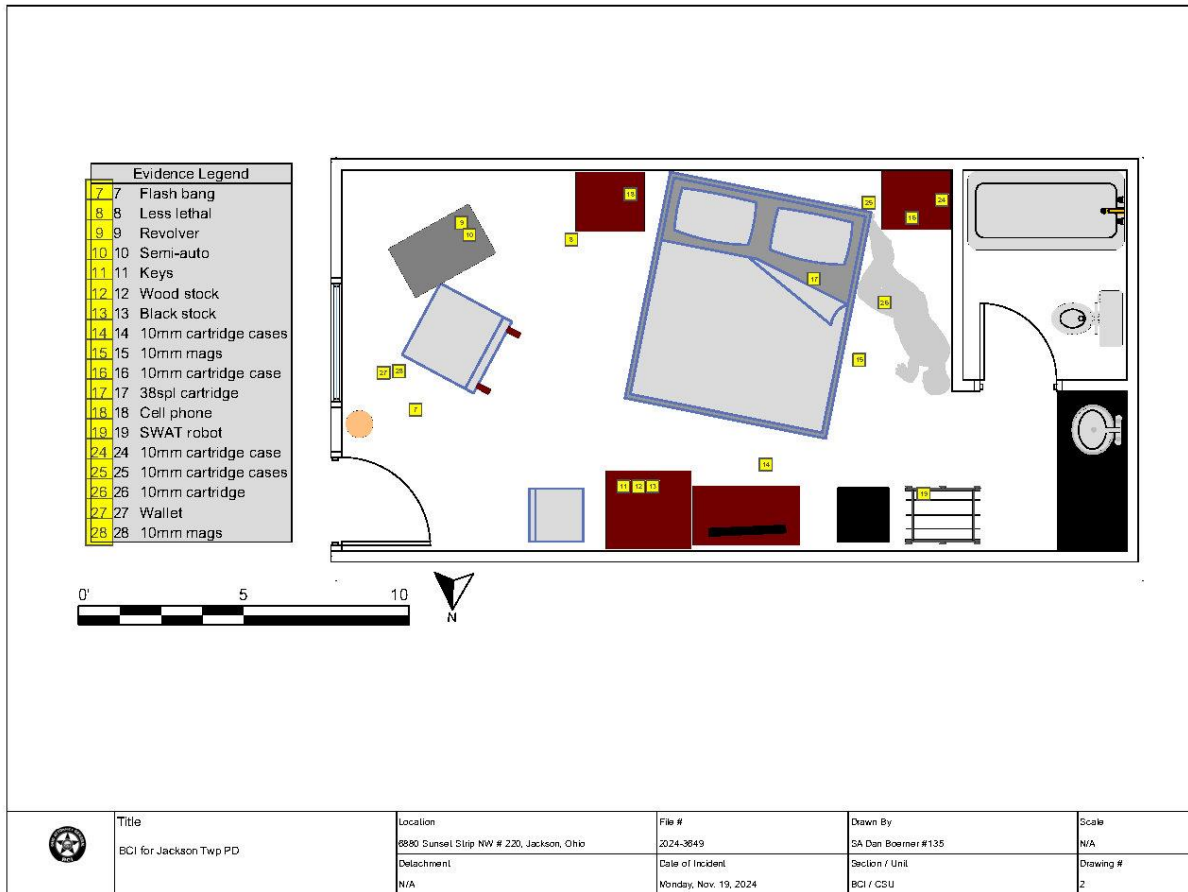


Figure 19, Overhead Diagram – Interior

The body of Vanset was photographed as it was found and examined by an investigator from the Stark County Coroner's Office (Figures 20-22, Overall photographs). The body of Vanset was subsequently transported from the scene by the Stark County Coroner's Office transport service.

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Figure 20, Overall photograph



Figure 21, Overall photograph

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Figure 22, Overall photograph

**Scene Examination – a gray 2015 Ram 3500 truck bearing Ohio registration
HYK6895 (reportedly used by Vanest)**

The subject vehicle was photographed as it was found. The vehicle was forcibly moved during the standoff and exhibited damage suffered during the same.

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Subject Vehicle

Make	Ram - 3500
Model	TK
Year	2015
Color	Gray
VIN	3C63R3GJ4FG590637
License State/Number	OH/HYK6895
Owner	[REDACTED]

The interior of the vehicle was examined for items of suspected evidence and several items of suspected evidence were located, photographed and collected (Table 3, Items of Suspected Evidence - Subject Vehicle).

Item #	Description	Location
48	Rifle - WASR-10, 7.62x39, SN: A1-33596-15 RO, 1 cartridge in chamber, 1 magazine	Gray 2015 Ram 3500
49	Rifle - CVA Scout, SN: 61-06-133257-23, 1 cartridge in chamber	Gray 2015 Ram 3500
50	Shotgun - Dickinson semi-auto XXPA, SN: 204216591, 1 shot shell, 3 magazines	Gray 2015 Ram 3500
51	Cardboard box containing Qty 4, 7.62 magazines	Gray 2015 Ram 3500
52	Qty 3, 10mm magazines	Gray 2015 Ram 3500
53	Green ammo box with misc. ammo / magazines	Gray 2015 Ram 3500

Table 3, Items of Suspected Evidence - Subject Vehicle

⁶ [REDACTED] in OHLEG.

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Officers' Firearm Examination

The firearms of the officers who reportedly fired their firearms during the incident were collected by members of the Canton Regional SWAT team and provided to SA Hootman and SAS Ed Lulla. The firearms and magazines were photographed as they were found and collected as evidence (Table 4, Officers' Firearms).

Item #	Description	Officer
30	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Aero Precision - Freedom; .223; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
31	Paper Bag containing Magazine — Quantity: 4; [REDACTED]; 1 cartridge	[REDACTED]
32	Paper Bag containing Rifle — Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Stolle Atlas - Kelby's Inc. - Envy Pro; .308; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
33	Paper Bag containing Magazine — Quantity: 2; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
34	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Rock River Arms - LAR-15; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
35	Paper Bag containing Magazine — Quantity: 5; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
36	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Daniel Defense - DDM4; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
37	Paper Bag containing Magazine — Quantity: 4; [REDACTED]; one cartridge	[REDACTED]
38	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle -- Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Daniel Defense - DDM4; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
39	Cardboard Box containing Magazine -- Quantity: 3; [REDACTED]; 1 cartridge	[REDACTED]
40	Cardboard Box containing Rifle -- Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Bravo Company MFG - BCM4; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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41	Paper Bag containing Magazine -- Quantity: 4; [REDACTED], 1 cartridge	[REDACTED]
42	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle -- Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Daniel Defense - DDM4; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
43	Paper Bag containing Magazine -- Quantity: 3; [REDACTED], 1 cartridge	[REDACTED]
44	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle -- Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Twisted River Rifle; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
45	Paper Bag containing Magazine -- Quantity: 3; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
46	Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle -- Quantity: 1; Serial Number: [REDACTED]; Daniel Defense - DDM4; 5.56; [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
47	Paper Bag containing Magazine -- Quantity: 3; [REDACTED], 1 cartridge	[REDACTED]

Table 4, Officers' Firearms

All items of evidence were transported to the Ohio BCI Richfield Office to be held as evidence. An Inventory / Receipt Attachment form was filled out and signed by SA Boerner, SA Allison Fletcher (Items 1-29) and SA Matthew Armstrong (Items 30-53), a copy of the form was left with the investigators for their records.

The photographs are to be uploaded into Matrix. A copy of the photographs was made and provided to the agency. A copy of the Leica RTC360 scanner data is to be placed on in the "BCI Scanner" folder on the shared directory.

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A copy of this report should be sent to:

Ohio BCI Richfield Office

Attn: Special Agent Matthew Armstrong

Email: Matthew.Armstrong@OhioAGO.gov

References:

- N/A

Attachments:

- 2024-11-18 Evidence Receipt - Crime Scene
- 2024-3649 Overhead Diagram - Exterior
- 2024-3649 Overhead Diagram - Interior

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