



**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: Trooper Stephen Gillum
Activity Date: 06/15/2026
Activity Location: 3617 State Route 4, Bucyrus, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond

Narrative:

On Monday, June 15, 2026, at 1144 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper (Trp.) Stephen Gillum (Trp. Gillum). The interview took place at 3617 State Route 4, Bucyrus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Trp. Gillum was identified as being a Trooper who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 11, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, Ohio. Reportedly, Trp. Gillum 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. He was not represented by union representation during the interview.

The following is 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.

Trp. Gillum stated his radio call sign on May 11, 2026, was Steve or Gillum. He has been employed by the OSHP for about sixteen years. He has been a law enforcement officer for a total of sixteen years. During the incident, Trp. Gillum wore his OSHP tactical uniform with a fabric police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove an unmarked truck and trailer with the Rook to the scene. He considered himself to be well-represented as an OSHP Trooper.

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He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. Trp. Gillum advised that he utilized his issued body-worn camera while working in active areas of the scene. He stated that he had not watched his camera footage.

Trp. Gillum provided a description of the Rook that was utilized during the incident.

At the 3:55 mark, "The Rook is a, uh, at the base of it, it is a tracked, um, Caterpillar skid steer. Okay. Uh, that then a company, uh, that is, uh, called Ring Power, um, goes in and up armors it similar to a, uh, armored, um, Bearcat or a Bear armored traditional SWAT vehicle where they go in, they take an existing vehicle and then they build onto that. So this skid loader has an armored cab, um, armored plating, protecting the engine, armored protecting the tracks, and then it has, uh, several attachments, one, uh, shield that you can put operators on to either move them close to the structure or, uh, take them up to a door frame or something like that. And then, uh, it has a hydraulic ram, which would be used to push open doors, break windows. Uh, it also has forks for, uh, bigger pallet forks, uh, intended for moving vehicles."

At the 05:02 mark, "It's mainly used, uh, in the SWAT uh, lingo to induce tactical damage to a house, to take away an avenue for suspects to use. So, whether that's, if somebody's in a basement, you can barricade a basement window so they cannot shoot at you through the basement window. If they're upstairs, you can induce gas or break out a window from the upstairs to maybe force them to go downstairs. Um, and, uh, it just gives you a lot of options to safely, um, obtain compliance from a suspect."

Trp. Gillum advised that the Rook was equipped with a camera recording device. He stated that they are having a difficult time accessing and downloading video footage.

Trp. Gillum stated that he was dispatched to the scene at approximately 0500 hours. He responded to Ashland where he picked up the Rook and responded to the scene. He advised that he arrived at the scene at approximately 0600 hours.

Upon arrival, Trp. Gillum deployed the Rook to the rear of the house. He removed a portion of the fence along the alley to gain access to the rear yard. He then moved into the rear yard and pulled a Ford truck from the back yard, positioning it along the alley, close to the car port. This was completed to gain access to the rear of the house so that gas could be introduced into the home, via the Rook's gas inducing attachment.

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At the 11:11 mark, *"I went back, I put the, uh, ram on. Um, and then we have a gas inducing, um, attachment to, uh, in introduce CS gas or OC gas, uh, depending on what we choose, uh, into a structure. So, it has a probe that'll go through a wall or a window. And so I attach that to the Rook, uh, put the ram on the Rook and then put the gas inducer on, and then, uh, brought that towards the rear of the house where we set up to induce, um, uh, CS gas into the, to the structure."*

Trp. Gillum stated that he began to introduce gas into the second-floor window at the rear of the home. When he did this, he heard gunfire coming from the home. At the time, he described being five to six feet from the back of the home.

At the 12:08 mark, *"As the gas canister popped off and started inducing gas, uh, I can't tell you how many shots were fired, but the suspect started shooting out of the house. Um, I could see, uh, from my position, uh, new holes in the siding, um, but I wasn't sure directly where the rounds were going, whether they were being directed straight at me or just back into the yard. Um, but there were holes coming through the side of the house. New holes that weren't there before."*

Trp. Gillum described the risks that existed at the time of the shooting.

At the 13:03 mark, *"I was told, prior to arriving on scene, that they, uh, thought the suspect had an M1 grand 30-06. Um, and a lot of our armor, uh, there is a round for a 30-06, uh, black tipped armor piercing round, not that common, but it does exist. So that's a very, very lethal round. So, when he was shooting, I'm not sure what he was shooting at us with, um, because he was shooting inside the house. So, all you hear kind of is a pop. And, uh, obviously any rounds, like I said, on armor, it's supposed to stop it, but there are no guarantees that it will."*

Trp. Gillum advised that two additional Troopers, Trp. Shearer and Trp. Robinson, were acting as overwatch as he worked in the Rook. When the shots occurred, Trp. Gillum stated that he thought:

At the 14:25 mark, *"you know, hopefully, uh, nobody behind me is getting hit. Um, because, uh, they did say he had fired in that out of that direction earlier, and there was a, uh, car parked at the back of the residence that took, that was hit. So, the fence that I tore down the gate and then a vehicle back there had already been hit by rounds. So obviously, uh, those rounds were somewhat in the direction of officers. And so, my first thought was, you know, I obviously, I hope those rounds aren't hitting anybody behind me."*

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After the canister was emptied, the Rook was backed out to the alley way, and a new canister was loaded. Trp. Gillum advised that the Rook was reintroduced to that same area and he began to induce a second round of gas to the area of the rear, second floor window. He reported that he heard a second round of gunshots at that time.

At the 15:49 mark, "I backed out and we went back, uh, behind, um, the neighbor's garage. We reloaded the canister, and then I went back up and deployed a second, uh, can in that same window. Uh, with the same result of multiple rounds, uh, being fired. At that time, again, I'm not sure how many rounds, but there were multiple rounds shot again."

Trp. Gillum explained that at time of the shots, flashbangs were being deployed at the front of the home. He had a difficult time distinguishing the gunfire from the flash bangs with the noise created by the Rook's motor. He stated that he noticed new holes in the siding, near the upstairs window, making him think that additional rounds had been fired out of the home.

At the 17:33 mark, "I'd say three to four. Three to four, possibly four. Yes. Not, not like a hole 30 round mag or anything, but a, a couple."

Trp. Gillum stated that he then deployed gas into the basement to take away a position for the subject to move to. The Rook was then redeployed to the front of the home to attempt to deploy gas into the second story.

The Rook was then used to open up portions of the home. A window air-conditioner was pushed in on the front side of the home. The Rook was redeployed to the back of the house. He then used the Rook to open areas of the wall, near the window. While this was occurring, Trp. Gillum stated that he was alerted that the subject was attempting to communicate with Tactical Team Members. Trp. Gillum then backed the Rook into the alleyway to eliminate the engine noise and better enhance communication.

Trp. Gillum described the efforts to establish communication and negotiate with Desmarais.

At the 22:22 mark, "They, uh, began to, uh, attempt to establish a line of communication with him. Um, I know that Richland County had a negotiator on scene. Uh, he began setting up, um, a phone, uh, a tethered phone to have a direct line of communication with, with the suspect. Um, and then at that point, he was saying something about not wanting to comply."

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Trp. Gillum stated that a Tactical Team Member then introduced additional rounds of gas into the home, around the subject, with a 40mm launcher.

At the 22:52 mark, "We launched a couple, um, I call them ferret rounds. So, it's a barrier round made to penetrate the side of a house with a 40 millimeter, uh, launcher. It's a less lethal round, uh, to deploy gas, uh, in and around the suspect. Um, so obviously made to go through windows or siding, but not necessarily be a lethal round. It's not intended to shoot people with. Um, but to introduce more gas directly around him. Uh, and I know when, when we did that, they had, um, flown a drone up and had eyes on, on, on him. I don't know if it's exact at that exact moment, but they were able to get drone footage of him, um, while we were, I guess, around the same time as doing that. Um, again, didn't get any compliance from him.

Trp. Gillum then described the process repurposing the equipment on the Rook, to either assist the subject out of the house or to introduce Tactical Team Members into the home. He stated that he was sitting inside the Rook, when he heard a member of the ASORT team fire a shot from a position in front of the Rook. He was advised that the subject was no longer a threat.

During the incident, Desmarais advised that he was unable to surrender because he was sitting on a live grenade. For this reason, the Ashland Bomb Squad would enter the home and attach a lanyard and rope to the subject so that he could be moved off his position, allowing the grenade to detonate with the Tactical Team a safe distance away. Trp. Gillum utilized the Rook to move the Ashland Bomb Squad and Tactical Team Member into the home. After the rope was attached, he utilized the Rook to assist with pulling the subject off his position via rope. Trp. Gillum then assisted with assisting Bomb Squad and Tactical Team Members with entering and exiting the home.

The interview concluded at approximately 1216 hours. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interview - OSHP - OSHP Stephen Gillum.

References:

Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interview - OSHP - OSHP Stephen Gillum stored in Axon Justice.

Attachments:

None

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