



**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: Involved Officer Statement Review

Involves: [REDACTED] (S)

Activity Date: 06/30/2026

Activity Location: BCI – Bowling Green

Authoring Agent: SA David M. Hammond #120

Narrative:

On June 30, 2026, Special Agent David Hammond (SA Hammond) received an email from Fraternal Order of Police Union Attorney Jessica Franken (Atty. Franken). The email contained a written statement as an attachment from [REDACTED] of the Lexington Police Department. [REDACTED] was deployed as a sniper during the May 11, 2026, Officer Involved Critical Incident that took place at 905 E. Warren St. in Bucyrus, Ohio. An invitation to an in-person interview with investigators was declined through his attorney in a June 18, 2026, email from Atty. Franken.

On July 01, 2026, SA Hammond reviewed the statement from [REDACTED]. The following portions of [REDACTED] statement were deemed notable to this investigation. Some of the written statements have been compressed for ease of reading. [REDACTED] statement was attached to this report, in its entirety.

The heading of the document read:

Statement of [REDACTED] Lexington Police Department Regarding the Incident on May 11, 2026.

Prior to the Police Academy, I spent [REDACTED]

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

The most recent ASORT-related training I attended was for Sniper Training on April 30, 2026.

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I used a Tikka T3x Tac A1 .308 rifle issued to me by the Lexington Police Department. I last qualified with this weapon at the Sniper Training on April 30, 2026.

When we arrived on scene.....I was told by team leader Rod Roose to get my sniper rifle and position myself in the turret of [REDACTED] I was in this position for approximately three hours.

During that time, numerous attempts of verbal de-escalation were hailed via the speaker on [REDACTED] I overheard on the radio that the suspect would not answer phone calls from the hostage negotiators. Also, during that time, the ASORT team in the rear attempted to deploy gas into the house via 40mm grenade launcher. As they did, I heard gunfire coming from the residence, approximately one round. A short time later it was confirmed that the barricaded subject, later identified as Paul Desmarais, had shot at the rear team through the wall of the residence.

I asked my commander, Jered Kingsborough, what my rules of engagement were. He stated, "He's already shot at us once, if you see him with a weapon, don't let him do it again."

While the Rook was trying to deploy gas into the second-story window of the residence. I watched the rounds come out of the exterior all of the residence via drone live feed. There were approximately five rounds fired. This was the second time the suspect had fired at law enforcement.

I was directed by my team commander, Jered Kingsborough, to try and establish a sniper vantage point in a residence on the front side of 905 Warren but got no response from any of them. Jered (sp) directed me to hold on the residence from bearcat 182's position at the rear of the residence.

While at the rear of the residence, I observed the Rook pour more gas into the rear of the residence and the front of the residence.

ASORT operators were sent drone footage via text message from Commander Kingsborough of Mr. Desmarais sitting on the floor behind the bunk bed. Mr. Desmarais was observed to have a gas mask around his neck. On the bed in front of him were several magazines of rifle ammunition, a shield, and what looked to be a bandolier of more ammunition.

At this time, my commander, Jered Kingsborough, pulled me aside and stated that he and the other commanders had made the decision to give Mr. Desmarais

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one final opportunity to surrender. Given the longevity of the operation (10+ hours), the immediate and imminent threat of bodily harm to officers and the public, the ineffectiveness of less than lethal options, and the hours of unsuccessful hailing asking Mr. Desmarais to surrender, the commanders decided one final set of hails and if he did not surrender, I was to relieve Deputy Neyer at the rear of the residence and take the shot to end the situation.

I went to the rear of the residence with Deputies Ivy and Davis, Sergeant Stantz, and hostage negotiator Swisher. I told Deputy Neyer that I was there to relieve him and asked if he had a distance to Mr. Desmarais. He stated, "29 yards". I adjusted the elevation on my rifle's optic to the appropriate distance and placed it in the tripod that Deputy Neyer was using.

As I looked through my optic, I could see Mr. Desmarais' face through the torn-out wall in the second floor of the residence. I could see and hear Mr. Desmarais responding to the hails. As I was watching him through the rifle, Hostage Negotiator Swisher, who was hailing him from the Bearcat, asked him numerous times to come out and resolve things peacefully. He stated, "I can't get up, I'm sitting on a live grenade, what don't you get you fucking dumb bitch?" Command asked her if she could ask him to put the pin back in the grenade. She did and he responded that the pin was all the way across the room.

All I could see from my vantage point was from the bottom of the suspect's chin upwards. Mr. Desmarais seemed frantic and angry; arguing with the hostage negotiator. He kept moving his hand around erratically. Jered (Kingsborough) asked Hostage Negotiator Swisher to keep trying to give as many opportunities as possible for him to come out peacefully.

After what seemed like five or ten minutes of hailing Mr. Desmarais, Jered hailed me on the radio. He asked me if I had eyes on Mr. Desmarais. I stated that I did. He stated that due to the lack of Mr. Desmarais' surrender, I was to take the shot at my convenience. Visibility was clear at all times. I fired one round into Mr. Desmarais' head. I was his head disappear and blood spatter on the wall behind him. Jered asked over the radio if the shot was out. I advised affirm. He asked for status. I stated, "He is down and he's not getting back up."

I used lethal force because I do not believe that there was any less than lethal force that I could have used that would be effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat that the suspect posed to myself and others by his actions in firing his gun at law enforcement several times throughout the incident and the threat of a live grenade with the pin pulled inside the residence. Law

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Enforcement attempted several times to use less than lethal force by deploying gas, use of a hostage negotiator, use of the rook and drones, all with no success.

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

References:

Email from J. Franken FOP on 06.18.26 Declining Interviews

Attachments:

1. Written Statements from Officers - [REDACTED] Statement

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Statement of [REDACTED] Lexington Police Department,
Regarding the Incident on May 11, 2026

I. Background:

I was first hired with the Lexington Police Department as a part-time officer on [REDACTED] and was moved to full-time with the department on [REDACTED]. I completed my Basic Officer Training at North Central State College and graduated on [REDACTED]

I graduated from high school on [REDACTED] and completed some college credits at Sienna Heights University, The Ohio State University, and North Central State College.

Prior to the Police Academy, I spent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I do not wear prescription eyeglasses, contacts, or hearing aids. I am under no physical disability. I take no prescription medications. I was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, prescription or otherwise, on the date of the incident.

My current supervisor is Lt. Brett Neuenschwander. My regularly assigned work hours are from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My current assignment with the Lexington Police Department is [REDACTED] My regularly assigned workdays are [REDACTED] and my days off are [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On the day of the incident, I was called out prior to the start of my regular shift hours.

The day prior was [REDACTED] Although I was called out in the middle of the night for this incident, I was well rested.

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

I am familiar with the Lexington Police Department Use of Force Policies, as I receive monthly Lexipol trainings. I am up to date and compliant with the monthly Lexipol trainings. The most recent ASORT-related training I attended was for Sniper Training on April 30, 2026.

On the date of the incident, I had on me my Sig P320 9mm pistol issued to me by the Lexington Police Department, three (3) 9mm magazines, and three (3) 5.56 mm magazines. I used a Tikka

T3x Tac A1 .308 Rifle issued to me by the Lexington Police Department with one magazine of ammunition, Hornady TAP AR 168 grain ELD Match .308 caliber, in it. I last qualified with this weapon at the Sniper Training on April 30, 2026.

On the date of the incident, I was dressed in BDU top and pants, base layers, a helmet, ballistic vest and Belleville shoes. My BUDs consist of multicam combat shirt. My vest and helmet are green, the back of the vest has patches visible stating "POLICE" and department patches on both sleeves of my combat shirt. I was not wearing a body worn camera, nor did I have a recording device on my person.

II. Incident Narrative:

On Monday May 11, 2026, at approximately 1:28am I received an Everbridge alert via cellphone asking for a SWAT response for a barricaded male in Bucyrus. I got dressed and responded to Mansfield Police Department, which is our normal rally point. We gathered all of our gear and departed for Bucyrus. I rode in [REDACTED]

When we arrived on scene, we were approximately 200-300 yards from the residence, 905 Warren Street. I was told by team leader Rod Roose to get my sniper rifle and position myself in the turret of [REDACTED]. Once in the turret, the bearcat positioned in front of the residence while a team in bearcat 182 positioned in the rear of the residence. I was in this position for approximately three hours.

During that time, numerous attempts of verbal de-escalation were hailed via the speaker on [REDACTED]. I overheard on the radio that the suspect would not answer phone calls from the hostage negotiators. Also, during that time, the ASORT team in the rear attempted to deploy gas into the house via 40mm grenade launcher. As they did, I heard gunfire coming from the residence, approximately one round. A short time later it was confirmed that the barricaded subject, later identified as Paul Desmarais, had shot at the rear team through the wall of the residence.

Shortly after the shot was heard, I observed movement in a bedroom on the second floor. I observed a door open and shut several times, but never saw a person. After seeing the movement, I asked my commander, Jered Kingsborough, what my rules for engagement were. He stated, "He's already shot at us once, if you see him with a weapon, don't let him do it again." Several more rounds of CS gas were lobbed into the house via 40mm launcher, both upstairs and downstairs. A drone was inserted through a first floor window to clear the residence, but at some point went out of service.

Approximately three to three and a half hours into ASORT being on scene, my team was relieved by Crawford County's SRT. I went to the command post and watched live drone footage of the residence. Hostage negotiators were still unsuccessful in contacting Mr. Desmarais by phone and they could get no response from him while hailing from the bearcat.

A short time later, Ohio State Highway Patrol's SRT arrived with their bearcat and rook. After what seemed like an hour of them being on scene, the rook was deployed to the rear of the residence to pour gas into the residence. From the Command Post via live drone footage, I watched the rook approach the residence and pour gas into a second floor window. While the rook was approaching, OSHP's commander requested that Crawford County SRT deploy flash bangs in the front of the residence as a distraction. Crawford County did not get the chance to deploy the flash bangs before the suspect started firing rounds. This was happening while the rook was trying to deploy gas to the second-story window of the residence. I watched the rounds come out of the exterior wall of the residence via drone live feed. There were approximately five rounds fired. This was the second time the suspect had fired at law enforcement. OSHP's commander was visibly upset and concerned for his team's safety. The rook fell back to a place of cover as the team commanders discussed further tactics.

At this time, I was directed by my team commander, Jered Kingsborough, to try and establish a sniper vantage point in a residence on the front side of 905 Warren. I went with Deputy Ivy to five or six residences across the street from 905 Warren, but got no response at any of them. This information was relayed to Jered. He then directed me to try and establish a sniper vantage point on the rear of the residence. I attempted several houses, but again got no response. At this time, Jered directed me to hold on the residence from bearcat 182's position at the rear of the residence.

While at the rear of the residence, I observed the rook pour more gas into the rear of the residence and the front of the residence. Given the amount of gas that was inserted to the house via launcher and rook, and knowing the gas's effectiveness, I wondered how anyone could still be inside the residence. After letting the residence "air out," I observed the rook to rip out the upstairs exterior wall and downstairs wall of the rear of the residence. I couldn't see Mr. Desmarais, but I did observe numerous bullet holes in the walls of the residence.

A short time later, my team was again relieved by Crawford County SRT. I went back to the command post and got water and a breakfast sandwich from Burger King. During my time at the command post, while watching the drone live feed, I observed [REDACTED] tear out a wall on the front of the residence while the rook tore out more of the wall on the rear. After tearing the walls out, a drone was again inserted into the residence. A short time after, ASORT operators were sent drone footage via text message from ASORT Commander Kingsborough of Mr. Desmarais sitting on the floor behind a bunk bed. Mr. Desmarais was observed to have a gas mask around his neck. On the bed in front of him were several magazines of rifle ammunition, a shield, and what looked to be a bandolier of more ammunition.

More gas was inserted into the residence via 40mm launcher, however the team at the rear stated they watched Mr. Desmarais put his gas mask on and stay barricaded behind the bunk bed.

At this time, my commander, Jered Kingsborough, pulled me aside and stated that he and the other commanders had made the decision to give Mr. Desmarais one final opportunity to surrender. Given the longevity of the operation (10+ hours), the immediate and imminent threat of bodily harm to officers and the public, the ineffectiveness of less lethal options, and the hours of unsuccessful hailing asking Mr. Desmarais to surrender, the commanders decided one final set of hails and if he did not surrender, I was to relieve Deputy Neyer at the rear of the residence and take the shot to end the incident.

I went to the rear of the residence with Deputies Ivy and Davis, Sergeant Stantz, and hostage negotiator Swisher. I told Deputy Neyer that I was there to relieve him and asked if he had a distance to Mr. Desmarais. He stated, "29 yards." I adjusted the elevation on my rifle's optic to the appropriate distance and placed it in the tripod that Deputy Neyer was using. Deputy Neyer asked if he could set up beside me with his rifle and I agreed. Deputy Neyer noticed a glare from the sun, so he put a sweatshirt over my head and rifle optic to reduce the glare.

As I looked through my optic, I could see Mr. Desmarais's face through the torn-out wall in the second floor of the residence. I could see and hear Mr. Desmarais responding to the hails. As I was watching him through the scope of the rifle, Hostage Negotiator Swisher, who was hailing him from the bearcat, asked him numerous times to come out and resolve things peacefully. He stated, "I can't get up, I'm sitting on a live grenade, what don't you get you fucking dumb bitch?" Command asked her if she could ask him to put the pin back in the grenade. She did and he responded that the pin was all the way across the room.

All I could see from my vantage point was from the bottom of suspect's chin upwards. Mr. Desmarais seemed frantic and angry; arguing with the hostage negotiator. He kept moving his hands around erratically. Jered asked Hostage Negotiator Swisher to keep trying to give as many opportunities as possible for him to come out peacefully.

After what seemed like five or ten minutes of hailing Mr. Desmarais, Jered hailed me on the radio. He asked if I had eyes on Mr. Desmarais. I stated I did. He stated that due to the lack of Mr. Desmarais's surrender, I was to take the shot at my convenience. Visibility was clear at all times. I fired one round into Mr. Desmarais's head. I saw his head disappear and blood spatter on the wall behind him. Jered asked over the radio if the shot was out. I advised affirm. He asked for status. I stated, "He is down and he's not getting back up."

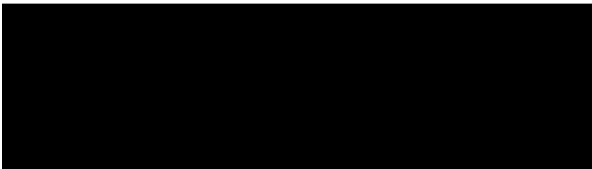
I used lethal force because I do not believe that there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would be effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat that the suspect posed to myself and others by his actions in firing his gun at law enforcement several times throughout the incident, and the threat of a live grenade with the pin pulled inside the residence. Law Enforcement attempted several times to use less than lethal force by deploying gas, use of a hostage negotiator, use of the rook and drones, all with no success. My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer.

A short time later OSHP sent a drone into the residence. They showed the feed to our TEMS Zach Smith who confirmed that Mr. Desmarais was deceased.

A short time later, commander Kingsborough, Mansfield Police Chief Bamman and my Chief Weaver came to where I was and escorted me off the scene. I sat at the command post for a short time before going to Crawford County Sheriff's Office with other officers to debrief. After the debrief, photos of me were taken by Commander Jered Kingsborough. Then I went with Chief Weaver to Avita in Ontario for a drug and alcohol screening. After the screening, I went back to Mansfield Police Department, gathered my things, and secured for the day.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident on May 11, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Lexington Police Department

30 JUN 2026
Date