



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



2025-2243
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3013 Mohawk Street,
Middletown, Ohio 45044 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sergeant Jason Wargo (W)
Date of Activity: 07/25/2025
Activity Location: Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,
Middletown, OH 45042
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On June 25, 2025, at approximately 1137 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Kenneth Smith and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police Sgt. Jason Wargo (Sgt. Wargo). The interview took place at the Middletown Police Department. Also present for the interview was Attorney Rob Stokar. The interview was audio recorded.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the key points the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in a chronology to enhance the reader's understanding of the information obtained during the interview. However, it is important to note that this may not reflect the actual order of the questions posed. Therefore, it is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Sgt. Wargo was identified as being an officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on June 13, 2025, in the City of Middletown, Butler County, Ohio. Sgt. Wargo did not discharge his firearm during this incident. The primary objective of the interview was to gather all pertinent information known or observed. He confirmed that he was providing his statement voluntarily.

Sgt. Wargo has been employed at Middletown Police Department for approximately 24.5 years and has been a Sergeant since October of 2024. He said that he was wearing a body-worn camera which was activated and recording at the time of the incident. He was in a marked patrol cruiser and was wearing the standard Middletown police uniform. Sgt. Wargo said that his regular assigned shift is [REDACTED]. He said that he worked those hours on Saturday night, July 12, 2025. He then worked again on Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 1500 hours to 2300 hours, in an overtime status. On the date of this incident, Sgt. Wargo was the on-duty road patrol supervisor.

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On July 13, 2025, Sgt. Wargo said that there was a radio dispatched call for shots fired at a residence on Mohawk Street. He heard Officer Jamie Patterson air via radio that there was a male subject in the house with a gun and that person had threatened to shoot her. Sgt. Wargo said that he heard on the radio that this person wanted "suicide by cop." Sgt. Wargo responded immediately and called Lieutenant Porter, who is in charge of the SWAT team. He told him the circumstances of the call and believed the call was going to be a SWAT call-out.

When Sgt. Wargo arrived on scene, he said that he went to the nearest officers and asked them which house they were dealing with. Sgt. Wargo said that the officers pointed out the house, and across the street from the residence was a school with a large parking lot. He saw that there were several people in the parking lot, and he believed that they could be family members or people related to the involved subject.

Sgt. Wargo went over to the group of people and spoke to one of the males there. The male said that his dad was the one inside of the house. Sgt. Wargo asked him if he could call his dad, get him on the phone, and try to talk him out of the house. Sgt. Wargo heard the male make a call and heard the son trying to convince his dad to come out of the house. There was another gentleman, believed to be a neighbor, who was also trying to talk the subject out of the house. Sgt. Wargo said that the male subject eventually hung up and stopped the conversation.

Sgt. Wargo received a call from Lieutenant Porter telling him that due to the injured female inside, that officers needed to breach the house to attempt to assist the female. He said that he immediately went over to a group of five officers, one of which was [REDACTED]. Sgt. Wargo said that he told [REDACTED] that he was taking command of the scene because he is a member of the SWAT team and has specialized tactics, training, and experience, that are better equipped to handle this type of incident.

Sgt. Wargo got a shield out of the back of his cruiser. He said that the group formed a stack, which included five officers and then himself at the back. He said that they made their way to the back of the house because trying to do an entry in the front of the house would have been extremely difficult and unsafe because of a wheelchair ramp.

Family across the street told officers that the back door was unlocked. Officers undid a strap around the gate to get to the back of the house. Sgt. Wargo said that there was a covered back porch and the entry door was to the far left. He said that the interior door was a left-hand swing inside and there was a storm door which was a right-hand swing. Sgt. Wargo said that the door was open but it would only open so far because of the railing that went around the back porch.

Officer John Harris was equipped with the shield in the front of the stack with [REDACTED] behind him. Sgt. Wargo recalled that officers opened the door and he believed that an officer up front was trying to communicate with the subject. Sgt. Wargo then heard a shot fired from inside the house. He said that this is when he tried to talk to the subject. Sgt. Wargo said that he was telling the subject that they needed to get the female inside help, but the subject refused to come out. Sgt. Wargo said that the subject inside said that he didn't want to have to shoot them but that if they came in, he was probably going to shoot them. Other officers requested that Officer Kessler respond because he is a hostage negotiator with good

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communication skills. Sgt. Wargo said that he learned that Officer Kessler had previously talked to the involved subject. Officer Kessler arrived and tried to get the subject to surrender by talking about dirt track racing. The subject still refused to come out.

At some point Sgt. Wargo observed [REDACTED] go from the right side of the door to the left side of the door and heard [REDACTED] yelling inside. Sgt. Wargo then heard and saw [REDACTED] fire shots inside the house. After the shots were fired, officers immediately rushed inside the house and observed the subject to be down. Sgt. Wargo called out on the radio that shots were fired.

Sgt. Wargo observed the subject down on the ground and officers rolled him over to place him in handcuffs. Sgt. Wargo aired via radio that the subject was down and stated Signal 39, which is requesting for medics to respond. Medics were already on scene and staged nearby. Officers cleared the residence to make sure it was safe and that no one else was inside. Eventually, all officers left the residence because the SWAT team began arriving on scene and took over the scene. Sgt. Wargo learned after the incident that [REDACTED] had fired his weapon. He had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] leave the scene and brought back to the Middletown Police Department.

The interview concluded at 1151 hours. Sgt. Wargo prepared a typed statement, which was provided to investigators. The statement was signed and dated at the conclusion of the interview. Sgt. Wargo's typed statement, and a copy of the audio recorded interview are attached to this report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-07-25 Sgt. Jason Wargo Interview

Attachment # 02: Middletown Police Sergeant Jason Wargo Signed Statement

STATEMENT OF SERGEANT JASON WARGO, BADGE NO. 478

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at approximately 4:43 p.m. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation concerning this matter.

My date of hire as a police officer with the Middletown Division of Police was [REDACTED]. My regular assignment with Middletown PD is as a Patrol supervisor, with [REDACTED] off. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on July 13, 2025, I was working overtime hours on second shift. On the day of the incident, I was working as a single unit, and my call number was 2KS9. At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing my regular duty police uniform. The uniform included a ballistic vest, badge and nameplate. I was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) which recorded the event. I was carrying a department approved Glock 17, semi-automatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department approved ammunition. I most recently qualified with my weapon in late 2024 and am current with all required qualifications. I was not carrying a secondary weapon. My uncorrected vision and hearing are good, and I was not wearing glasses or contacts. I am in good health, and I do not take any medications that would impair my ability to perform my duties. I had not consumed alcohol in the 24 hours prior to my shift. I had approximately 4 hours of sleep the night before my assigned overtime shift.

Immediately prior to being dispatched to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was performing administrative duties at police headquarters. At approximately 4:43 p.m. radio aired a "Signal 28," meaning a shooting had occurred, at 3013 Mohawk St. The call indicated a female had been shot but very little additional information was initially available. When Officer Patterson arrived and aired the suspect had a weapon, I responded utilizing lights and sirens and arrived at the location approximately 3 minutes after Officer Patterson aired. As I arrived on scene, I parked my marked patrol vehicle 2-3 houses south of 3013 Mohawk St. I observed 3013 Mohawk St. to be a yellow single-story residence. I do not recall having previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not recall having had previous contact with the suspect and the female victim involved in this incident. The weather on the day of the incident was cloudy and temperatures were moderate.

After exiting the vehicle, I approached several officers and confirmed the location of the involved residence. I then observed a small crowd of bystanders and approached them to determine if they had additional information. I was able to identify the suspect's son who stated his father was still in the residence. I asked the son to call his father on the phone, and he made contact. The son, and a neighbor and close friend of the suspect, attempted to convince the suspect to surrender and exit the front of the residence. After several minutes the father refused to surrender and disconnected the call. I updated Lt. Trey Porter by phone on the status of the situation, and he advised entry needed to be made quickly in order to provide the female victim with medical care.

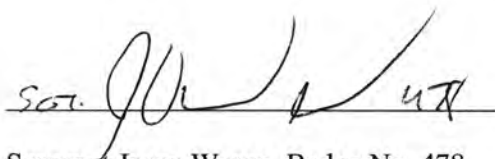
I contacted [REDACTED] a SWAT officer, and designated him as a lead as several officers assumed a "stack" formation to approach and make entry into the residence. I positioned myself in the "stack" of officers in the 6th position behind the other officers. I observed there was

a wheelchair ramp blocking the front entrance, and we were advised by a family member that the rear door was unlocked, so we approached the rear door in a stack formation. This entrance provided a better staging point for a breach entry into the residence. Once we were positioned outside the back door, Officer Harris opened the unlocked back door. The door opened inward and to the left, exposing only an outer wall of the residence. I observed the suspect was not visible from my position. We made verbal contact with the suspect, who we could hear was likely directly inside the rear of the residence, with the wall separating him from the officers in the stack formation. I advised the suspect that we wanted to provide medical aid to the victim. He replied that he did not want to hurt anyone, but he would shoot officers if they entered his house. I believed the suspect would possibly attempt a "suicide by cop" scenario. After a few minutes I heard the suspect fire a single shot in what I perceived to be the direction of the officers positioned at the back door. It was unclear if this was meant as a warning shot or if it was intended to strike officers positioned on the other side of the wall. I do not believe the round exited through the rear wall.

As I was positioned with the other officers on the rear patio area, and as the suspect fired his weapon, I was aware I had limited cover and concealment from the exterior wall of the residence. After the suspect fired upon officers, [REDACTED] who was in a position closer to the rear door of the residence, moved to the left of the open door and ordered the suspect to drop his weapon. [REDACTED] then fired several rounds striking the suspect.

After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, I fired shots. I, along with the other officers, made entry through the rear door in order to clear the residence, secure any persons inside, and render aid to the victims. Upon entry, I observed the suspect on the ground near the kitchen and ordered him to be handcuffed by the officers. I also aired for a 39 (medic) to enter the residence. I remained inside the residence when medics arrived and pronounced the female victim and the male suspect. After exiting the residence, I remained at scene until I was relieved by Sgt. Wagers.

This concludes my statement, and I am prepared to answer additional clarifying questions.

Sgt.  478

Sergeant Jason Wargo, Badge No. 478

07-25-25/1151

Date