



**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:** Involved Officer Interview  
**Involves:** [REDACTED] (S)  
**Activity Date:** 11/27/2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Matthew Armstrong

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 0815 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) and SA Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) interviewed Stark County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Lathom Lipperman (Lipperman), from the law office of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman in Columbus, Ohio. The interview took place at the BCI Office located at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The interview was audio recorded and the recording has been attached to this report. [REDACTED] and Mr. Lipperman declined to have the interview video recorded.

Prior to the interview Mr. Lipperman indicated [REDACTED] had prepared a written statement. He asked if they could provide the statement In Lieu of an interview. They were asked and [REDACTED] agreed to read the statement aloud. Before [REDACTED] began, he read, indicated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

A copy of [REDACTED] written statement has been attached to this report. The statement was an 11-page document which detailed his training and experience in law enforcement, his observations during the shooting incident on November 18, 2024, and why he decided to use his firearm during the incident. After reading the statement, [REDACTED] answered follow-up questions.

This report only summarizes the information deemed most relevant to the investigation. It does not purport to contain all the information provided in the written statement or during the follow-up questions.

[REDACTED] has worked as a law enforcement officer since [REDACTED]. He worked part time for the Magnolia Police Department from [REDACTED] and then as a reserve Deputy with the Stark County Sheriff's Officer from [REDACTED]. He has worked full time with Stark County since [REDACTED]. Additionally, he has [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

His assignment at the SCSO was [REDACTED]. For the past 3 years he has served as a member of the Canton Regional SWAT Team. His patrol issued duty weapon was a Glock 22C .40 caliber handgun. He did not fire that weapon during the incident. His SWAT issued firearm was a Twisted River AR-15, 5.56 caliber rifle. It was equipped with an Aimpoint red dot sight; a Holosun green laser sight; and Reign 3.0 flashlight. Initially, that weapon was loaded with SCSO-issued ammunition. The magazine capacity was 30 rounds, but he loaded it with 29 to avoid overloading the spring. During this incident he reloaded with a magazine containing ammunition issued by the Canton Police Department. That magazine was provided by another officer, but he was not sure how many rounds it contained.

During the incident he wore jeans, a green SWAT hooded sweatshirt, an external plate carrier that stated "SHERIFF" on the front and back, and a ballistics helmet. He had no disabilities, considered himself to be in good health, was well rested at the time of the incident and was not under the influence of alcohol or any medications that could impair the performance of his duties.

[REDACTED] had watched his body worn camera recording two times after the incident. The information contained within his statement was from a combination of his memory and what he had seen on his body camera recording.

The following excerpts were copied directly from [REDACTED] written statement:

On the day of this incident, I had volunteered to help train new members of SWAT. I reported to the SWAT training center around 8:30 a.m. Around 11:00 a.m., [REDACTED] said he had gotten a call from the U.S. Marshals informing him of a barricaded suspect. The Marshals said the suspect had opened the door to his motel room and pointed a weapon at them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told me and other members of SWAT to start getting our gear together since we might be responding to that incident.

The suspect was barricaded at the Roadway Inn motel located at 6880 Sunset Strip Ave NW in Canton. [REDACTED] told me to head there before the rest of SWAT and liaison with the Marshals. I left SWAT and arrived at the motel around 11:30 a.m. The motel is made up of several buildings. All the rooms are

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accessible from the outside. The suspect was barricaded inside Room 220. That room was located in the northeastern most part of the middle building within the complex.

I parked and joined the Marshals. Their vehicle was parked parallel to and outside the suspect's room. They were covering the suspect's room from behind their vehicle. They were repeatedly ordering the suspect to come out of the room, unarmed, with his hands in the air. The Marshals told me the suspect was still barricaded in the room and had not come out since he pointed the weapon out of the door. They also told me he had multiple felony warrants for his arrest.

The door to the suspect's room appeared cracked open several inches; it seemed as if the latch was wedged between the door and the door jam, keeping it propped open. There was also a large window to the left of the door. At that time, the curtains were closed, and I could not see inside. The suspect's pickup truck was backed into a parking spot immediately in front of his room.

I let the rest of SWAT know where we were located. Not long later, several SWAT members, including Captain Marino and [REDACTED], arrived in a large, armored vehicle similar to a Bearcat (referred to by SWAT as the WYATT). I had not seen or heard the suspect since I arrived on scene. The Marshals moved their vehicle, and the WYATT was parked at a southwesterly angle, right outside and facing the suspect's room. Once on scene, Captain Marino took operational control of the barricade. The remaining SWAT members arrived at the scene a short time later.

Captain Marino or [REDACTED] announced that gas would be deployed into the room and for officers to put on gas masks. Initially, I put on my gas mask, but Captain Marino or [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] instructed me to cover the suspect's room from the hatch of the WYATT. To ensure I had a clear view of the suspect's room, I removed my mask.

I took a position in the hatch of the WYATT. From there, I had an elevated and clear view of the exterior of the suspect's room. Other officers covered the suspect's room from behind the WYATT; one of those officers covered the room with a sniper. Some of the SWAT trainees were inside the WYATT. I believe Captain Marino and [REDACTED] remained in the front driver and passenger seats throughout most of the incident. By that time, officers had also evacuated the motel rooms immediately surrounding the suspect's room. The Marshals believed that the suspect was alone in the room.

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I had not seen or heard the suspect since I got to the scene. Officers had tried calling the phone to the suspect's room as well as the suspect's cell phone, but he never picked up or otherwise communicated with officers. Once everyone was in position, and after the suspect had refused to come out of the room or otherwise communicate with officers, one or more officers deployed multiple glass breaking balls at the window to the suspect's room. After some of the window had been broken, suddenly the suspect fired one or more rounds from inside the room. I could not see the suspect at that time, and but it appeared he was shooting out of the front of the room. Officers yelled that the suspect was shooting, but I do not believe any officers fired back at that time.

Officers continued firing glass-breaking rounds at the window. In response, every few minutes the suspect would fire a round or two out the front of the room, but no officers had yet fired back. Once sections of the window were broken, multiple pepper balls and canisters of gas were deployed into the room. The suspect continued periodically firing out of the room.

One of the officers used a drone to nudge and prop open the suspect's door. Even once opened, though, I could not see the suspect. I could see some of the bed inside the room: The bed was positioned near the middle of the room such that the head of the bed was against the southern wall and the foot of the bed faced the northern wall. There appeared to be a large pile of clothes and other objects several feet inside the entrance to the room, on the eastern side of the bed. An officer flew the drone into the bedroom moments later, but the suspect immediately shot and disabled it.

About 30-40 minutes after glass-breaking balls were first shot at the window, the suspect again fired out the front of the room. The instant he did so, an officer loudly yelled out in pain, repeatedly yelling he was shot. (I later learned that officer was [REDACTED].) An order was given to deploy pepper balls into the room. I deployed multiple rounds of pepper balls while other officers provided aid to [REDACTED]. A brief time later, [REDACTED] gave one or more officers an order to lay down suppressive fire into the suspect's room so that [REDACTED] could safely be transported from behind cover to an ambulance. Officer(s) fired into the room and [REDACTED] was transported from the scene. After the suspect shot [REDACTED], either [REDACTED] or Captain Marino instructed me and the other officers to fire if we saw the suspect inside the room (unless, of course, the suspect was surrendering or otherwise showing signs of compliance).



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Some additional time passed. More gas may have been deployed during that time, but at one point the suspect yet again fired out of the room. A moment later I heard what sounded like him reloading his weapon and an instant later I saw him pop up in the southwestern corner of the room, by the bathroom wall. I could only see the bottom half of the suspect's torso, but I could see he was moving (north) towards the foot of the bed. I believed the suspect intended to continue his deadly attack on me and the other officers and it was then that I fired.

I stopped firing when the suspect disappeared from my view. I quickly reloaded. (I believe I dropped my spent magazine inside the WYATT and was handed another magazine by a SWAT officer.) But within minutes the suspect fired out of the room again. This time, the round penetrated the top of the door, and I felt the round pass by my head, narrowly missing me. It seemed the suspect had shot directly at me; and I believe at that time Captain Marino or [REDACTED] ordered me and the other officers to put cover fire into the room, and I fired where I had seen the suspect moments earlier near the foot of the bed.

The other officers and I stopped firing moments later. I reloaded again. I could not see the suspect at that time, and he was not presently firing his weapon. Not long later, multiple members of SRT arrived at the scene in a Bearcat. The WYATT was briefly pulled backwards to make room for the Bearcat. The Bearcat pushed the suspect's pickup truck out of the way and parked parallel to the suspect's room. Captain Marino positioned the WYATT nearer to the northern side of the suspect's room.

Once the WYATT was pulled forward, I left the hatch and covered the room from inside the vehicle. From my location I still had a view of the front of the room as well as through the open door. SRT deployed some type of nonlethal munitions at the window to continue breaking glass. They planned to deploy another drone into the room. In response, the suspect continued firing rounds out of the room.

Before SRT could deploy their drone, the suspect fired out of the room again. In response, one or more officers in the SRT Bearcat opened fire into the suspect's room. I could not see the suspect at that time, so I did not shoot. Once those officers stopped firing, I did not see or hear anything inside the room. Nor did the suspect shoot any more rounds.

Officers believed the suspect might be incapacitated. A robot was deployed into the room, but the clothes and objects inside the entrance blocked its path. SRT



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threw a series of flashbangs into the room which moved the clothes and freed up a path for the robot. The robot maneuvered into the room and officers could see the suspect: He did not appear to be moving and seemed unresponsive.

Captain Marino instructed me and other members of SWAT to clear the room. I put my gas mask back on since the room was filled with gas. I entered the room with the other officers. The suspect was on his side, facing the doorway in the western part of the room. He did not appear to be breathing and had multiple wounds on the lower half of his body as well as his hands. He was still holding a handgun in his (I believe) left hand. Officers also found another handgun inside his room.

One of the flashbangs had started a small fire near the head of the bed. I quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. Medics (who had been staged nearby) arrived on scene a brief time later. I left the room once medics arrived. This ended my involvement with this incident.

I was transported from the scene to the SCSO. A captain with the SCSO took photographs of me for BCI's investigation. Sgt. Lee took additional photos and collected my weapon as evidence for BCI to process.

I believe I fired approximately 40 rounds during this incident. I fired those rounds over two volleys. I believe I fired approximately 8-10 rounds during the first volley and 29-30 rounds over the second volley. I fired those rounds in rapid succession: I would estimate that about 2-3 seconds passed between the first and last shot in the first volley and approximately 5-6 seconds passed between the shots in the second volley. I fired those rounds in a southwesterly direction. I would estimate that I was about 15-20 feet from the suspect at the times I fired. I fired those rounds from the top hatch of the WYATT, which is elevated about 12 feet off the ground.

My target for the first series of shots was the suspect's center mass, though I could only see the lower half of his torso. Though I did not have a clear view of the suspect during the second volley, I fired at his last known location in the room. I believe I used my red dot sites. My backdrop was the interior of the room. By the time I fired, officers had already twice swept and evacuated the surrounding rooms; officers also believed the suspect was alone in the room. At no time did I ever see or hear anyone else inside the room. There were no civilians or officers in my line of fire.





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The incident occurred in the middle of the afternoon on an overcast day; while there was plentiful lighting outside, I believe most or all the lights were off inside the suspect's room. At times, it was also difficult to see inside due to the gas deployments. I recall my gun's flashlight being on during the incident. I fired using a two-handed grip.

I fired from a standing position. I was not moving. I fired from the left side of the WYATT hatch such that the right side of my body and lower torso had some cover and concealment; the upper left side of my body was entirely exposed. I am not certain where every officer was positioned during this incident; but I know several SWAT trainees were in the WYATT and several SWAT officers were covering the room from behind the WYATT. While the WYATT provided some cover and concealment to those officers, the suspect was still able to shoot and strike one of those officers.

At the times I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect posed a deadly threat to my life and to the lives of the other officers on scene. Before arriving on scene, U.S. Marshals reported that the suspect had presented a firearm at them. The Marshals also told me that the suspect had several felony warrants for his arrest. During the barricade, officers gave the suspect numerous loud commands to come out of the room with his hands in the air. Officers also tried calling the suspect. But he never came out of the room or, to my knowledge, communicated with officers.

In fact, as time went on the suspect only became more violent. He fired numerous rounds out the front of the room in response to the glass-breaking rounds and gas deployments. He also shot the drone deployed into the room. Even after firing multiple rounds, though, officers initially did not return fire, giving the suspect ample opportunities to surrender.

But one of the many times the suspect fired, he shot and struck one of the SWAT officers, seriously injuring him. I immediately heard that officer yell out in pain that he had been shot. I deployed numerous pepper balls into the room, and a brief time later one or more officers fired numerous rounds into the room so the officer could be transported away from cover to an ambulance. But even then the suspect did not surrender or give any signs of compliance.

Once the officer was shot, Captain Marino or [REDACTED] instructed me and the other members of SWAT that unless the suspect surrendered we were to fire if we saw him as it was clear he intended to continue shooting at officers and the



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risk of death and/or great bodily harm had become too high. Right before I fired the first series of shots, the suspect had fired a round out of the room. I then heard what sounded like him reloading his weapon before he popped up a moment later. I believed he intended to shoot at me and/or one of the other officers, and that I and possibly others would be seriously injured or killed, and it was then that I fired.

The suspect did not give up or otherwise give any signs of compliance after I fired. In fact, only a few minutes later the suspect fired again; and this time I saw the round penetrate the top of the door to the suspect's room and felt the round whiz by my head such that I believed the suspect had just shot at me. An order for cover fire was given, and I again fired to stop the suspect's deadly attack.

At the times I fired my weapon at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the officers from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.

I might have heard the suspect's name during this incident, but I do not presently recall it. In any case, I do not believe I had ever met the suspect previously, nor do I believe I have ever encountered him before.

After [REDACTED] finished reading his statement, he was asked questions to clarify some of his observations. During that portion of the interview, he provided the following information:

When he made references to seeing or hearing the subject firing at them he differentiated that gunfire by the sound and seeing debris come from the subject's location. He explained:

So, when the suspect fired, it was muffled because he was inside the room and when he would shoot outside of the room, you could see the glass coming out towards, towards the parking lot. Um, or not, not coming inside the room to where somebody would be shooting in. Um, also he, he shot multiple rounds through the, through the roof and the side of the building and you could see the pieces of wood, um, exploding off the building coming out in the opposite direction that the suspect was in (23:04).

The commands that were initially when he first arrived were verbal from the officers present. Once the SWAT team arrived with the WYATT the commands were given over a public address system.

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When [REDACTED] deployed pepper balls, he fired them in rapid succession from the hatch on the top of the WYATT. He explained the pepper ball gun was comparable to a paint ball gun and it was operated with compressed air.

Most of his observations throughout the incident were from his position in the turret at the top of the Wyatt. Since [REDACTED] was positioned behind him, [REDACTED] was unaware of [REDACTED] location when [REDACTED] was shot.

[REDACTED] had not been involved in any other law enforcement related shootings. He did not believe he had previously encountered the involved subject.

The interview concluded at approximately 0844 hours.

**References:**

None

**Attachments:**

1. 2024-11-27 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form - [REDACTED]
2. 2024-11-27 Audio Recorded Interview - [REDACTED]
3. 2024-11-27 Written Statement - [REDACTED]

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## Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted]

11-27-24 0819hrs  
Date / Time

[Redacted]

Nick VALENTE

BCI Agent (Printed)

J. M. VALENTE #139

BCI Agent (Signature)

**STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]**

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, November 18, 2024, between approximately 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Stark County Sheriff's Office ("SCSO") is [REDACTED]. I worked for the SCSO in a reserve capacity from [REDACTED]. I also worked part time for the Magnolia Police Department from [REDACTED]. I received my OPOTA certification in [REDACTED]. I do not have experience with any other law enforcement agency.

Concurrent with my law enforcement employment, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

My regular assignment at the SCSO is [REDACTED]. My duty hours are from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I did not work any special duty or overtime on the day of or the day before this incident. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I did not work my shift from [REDACTED] [REDACTED], though, and I got plenty of rest before this incident.

For about three years, I have also been a member of the Canton Regional SWAT Team ("SWAT"). SWAT is made up of several different police agencies including the Carrol County Sheriff's Office, the North Canton Police Department, the Jackson Police Department, the Perry Police Department, the Massillon Police Department, and the SCSO. While SWAT is comprised

of several law enforcement agencies, the host agency is the Canton Police Department. SWAT is led by Canton Captain Lester Marino, and the Assistant SWAT Commander is Canton [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While SWAT has several functions, one of its primary responsibilities is responding to barricaded and/or dangerous suspects.

My primary service weapon (that I use while on patrol) is an SCSO-issued Glock 22C .40 caliber handgun. I did not fire or otherwise use that weapon during this incident. Instead, I was carrying and used my SCSO-issued SWAT weapon: a Twisted River AR-15. That weapon uses 5.56 ammunition and was equipped with an Aimpoint red dot sight; a Holosun green laser sight; and Reign 3.0 flashlight. Initially, that weapon was loaded with SCSO-issued ammunition. That magazine holds 30 rounds, but I only load it with 29 (to avoid overloading the spring). During this incident I reloaded with a magazine containing ammunition issued by the Canton Police Department. As that magazine was given to me by another officer, I am not sure how many rounds it contained.

I was wearing jeans; a green SWAT hooded sweatshirt; an external plate carrier that stated "SHERIFF" on the front and back; and a ballistics helmet. I was also equipped with a body worn camera (BWC). My BWC was on and recording during this incident. Initially, my BWC was mounted to my external vest; but I realized that from my vantage point, the BWC did not have a view of the suspect's location, so I placed my BWC on the exterior hatch of the WYATT. From there, the BWC had a clear vantage point to the suspect's room. During this incident, the WYATT was moved to make room for another armored vehicle, which required me to move the BWC so it did not fall. I realized after this incident that I forgot to place the BWC back on the exterior hatch once the WYATT was moved back into place. As the suspect was continuously firing at me and the other officers during this incident, my focus was on him.

There were several other members of SWAT present when this incident occurred as well as members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team (SRT). Finally, there were also several deputy U.S. Marshals on scene. I was operating in Cruiser [REDACTED], a marked Ford Explorer.

I do not suffer from any disabilities, and I am in good health. I occasionally wear reading glasses, but I otherwise do not need corrective lenses or eyeglasses. I do not need hearing aids as I have good hearing. I was not under the influence of alcohol or any medications that could impair the performance of my duties. I was well rested when I arrived at this incident.

On the day of this incident, I had volunteered to help train new members of SWAT. I reported to the SWAT training center around 8:30 a.m. Around 11:00 a.m., [REDACTED] said he had gotten a call from the U.S. Marshals informing him of a barricaded suspect. The Marshals said the suspect had opened the door to his motel room and pointed a weapon at them. [REDACTED] told me and other members of SWAT to start getting our gear together since we might be responding to that incident.

The suspect was barricaded at the Roadway Inn motel located at 6880 Sunset Strip Ave NW in Canton. [REDACTED] told me to head there before the rest of SWAT and liaison with the Marshals. I left SWAT and arrived at the motel around 11:30 a.m. The motel is made up of several buildings. All the rooms are accessible from the outside. The suspect was barricaded inside Room 220. That room was located in the northeastern most part of the middle building within the complex.

I parked and joined the Marshals. Their vehicle was parked parallel to and outside the suspect's room. They were covering the suspect's room from behind their vehicle. They were repeatedly ordering the suspect to come out of the room, unarmed, with his hands in the air. The

Marshals told me the suspect was still barricaded in the room and had not come out since he pointed the weapon out of the door. They also told me he had multiple felony warrants for his arrest.

The door to the suspect's room appeared cracked open several inches; it seemed as if the latch was wedged between the door and the door jam, keeping it propped open. There was also a large window to the left of the door. At that time, the curtains were closed, and I could not see inside. The suspect's pickup truck was backed into a parking spot immediately in front of his room.

I let the rest of SWAT know where we were located. Not long later, several SWAT members, including Captain Marino and [REDACTED], arrived in a large armored vehicle similar to a Bearcat (referred to by SWAT as the WYATT). I had not seen or heard the suspect since I arrived on scene. The Marshals moved their vehicle, and the WYATT was parked at a southwesterly angle, right outside and facing the suspect's room. Once on scene, Captain Marino took operational control of the barricade. The remaining SWAT members arrived at the scene a short time later.

Captain Marino or [REDACTED] announced that gas would be deployed into the room and for officers to put on gas masks. Initially, I put on my gas mask, but Captain Marino or [REDACTED] instructed me to cover the suspect's room from the hatch of the WYATT. To ensure I had a clear view of the suspect's room, I removed my mask.

I took a position in the hatch of the WYATT. From there, I had an elevated and clear view of the exterior of the suspect's room. Other officers covered the suspect's room from behind the WYATT; one of those officers covered the room with a sniper. Some of the SWAT trainees were inside the WYATT. I believe Captain Marino and [REDACTED] remained in the front



driver and passenger seats throughout most of the incident. By that time, officers had also evacuated the motel rooms immediately surrounding the suspect's room. The Marshals believed that the suspect was alone in the room.

I had not seen or heard the suspect since I got to the scene. Officers had tried calling the phone to the suspect's room as well as the suspect's cell phone, but he never picked up or otherwise communicated with officers. Once everyone was in position, and after the suspect had refused to come out of the room or otherwise communicate with officers, one or more officers deployed multiple glass breaking balls at the window to the suspect's room. After some of the window had been broken, suddenly the suspect fired one or more rounds from inside the room. I could not see the suspect at that time, and but it appeared he was shooting out of the front of the room. Officers yelled that the suspect was shooting, but I do not believe any officers fired back at that time.

Officers continued firing glass-breaking rounds at the window. In response, every few minutes the suspect would fire a round or two out the front of the room, but no officers had yet fired back. Once sections of the window were broken, multiple pepper balls and canisters of gas were deployed into the room. The suspect continued periodically firing out of the room.

One of the officers used a drone to nudge and prop open the suspect's door. Even once opened, though, I could not see the suspect. I could see some of the bed inside the room: The bed was positioned near the middle of the room such that the head of the bed was against the southern wall and the foot of the bed faced the northern wall. There appeared to be a large pile of clothes and other objects several feet inside the entrance to the room, on the eastern side of the bed. An officer flew the drone into the bedroom moments later, but the suspect immediately shot and disabled it.

About 30-40 minutes after glass-breaking balls were first shot at the window, the suspect again fired out the front of the room. The instant he did so, an officer loudly yelled out in pain, repeatedly yelling he was shot. (I later learned that officer was [REDACTED].) An order was given to deploy pepper balls into the room. I deployed multiple rounds of pepper balls while other officers provided aid to [REDACTED]. A brief time later, [REDACTED] gave one or more officers an order to lay down suppressive fire into the suspect's room so that [REDACTED] could safely be transported from behind cover to an ambulance. Officer(s) fired into the room and [REDACTED] was transported from the scene. After the suspect shot [REDACTED], either [REDACTED] or Captain Marino instructed me and the other officers to fire if we saw the suspect inside the room (unless, of course, the suspect was surrendering or otherwise showing signs of compliance).

Some additional time passed. More gas may have been deployed during that time, but at one point the suspect yet again fired out of the room. A moment later I heard what sounded like him reloading his weapon and an instant later I saw him pop up in the southwestern corner of the room, by the bathroom wall. I could only see the bottom half of the suspect's torso, but I could see he was moving (north) towards the foot of the bed. I believed the suspect intended to continue his deadly attack on me and the other officers and it was then that I fired.

I stopped firing when the suspect disappeared from my view. I quickly reloaded. (I believe I dropped my spent magazine inside the WYATT and was handed another magazine by a SWAT officer.) But within minutes the suspect fired out of the room again. This time, the round penetrated the top of the door, and I felt the round pass by my head, narrowly missing me. It seemed the suspect had shot directly at me; and I believe at that time Captain Marino or [REDACTED]

██████ ordered me and the other officers to put cover fire into the room, and I fired where I had seen the suspect moments earlier near the foot of the bed.

The other officers and I stopped firing moments later. I reloaded again. I could not see the suspect at that time, and he was not presently firing his weapon. Not long later, multiple members of SRT arrived at the scene in a Bearcat. The WYATT was briefly pulled backwards to make room for the Bearcat. The Bearcat pushed the suspect's pickup truck out of the way and parked parallel to the suspect's room. Captain Marino positioned the WYATT nearer to the northern side of the suspect's room.

Once the WYATT was pulled forward, I left the hatch and covered the room from inside the vehicle. From my location I still had a view of the front of the room as well as through the open door. SRT deployed some type of nonlethal munitions at the window to continue breaking glass. They planned to deploy another drone into the room. In response, the suspect continued firing rounds out of the room.

Before SRT could deploy their drone, the suspect fired out of the room again. In response, one or more officers in the SRT Bearcat opened fire into the suspect's room. I could not see the suspect at that time, so I did not shoot. Once those officers stopped firing, I did not see or hear anything inside the room. Nor did the suspect shoot any more rounds.

Officers believed the suspect might be incapacitated. A robot was deployed into the room, but the clothes and objects inside the entrance blocked its path. SRT threw a series of flashbangs into the room which moved the clothes and freed up a path for the robot. The robot maneuvered into the room and officers could see the suspect: He did not appear to be moving and seemed unresponsive.

Captain Marino instructed me and other members of SWAT to clear the room. I put my gas mask back on since the room was filled with gas. I entered the room with the other officers. The suspect was on his side, facing the doorway in the western part of the room. He did not appear to be breathing and had multiple wounds on the lower half of his body as well as his hands. He was still holding a handgun in his (I believe) left hand. Officers also found another handgun inside his room.

One of the flashbangs had started a small fire near the head of the bed. I quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. Medics (who had been staged nearby) arrived on scene a brief time later. I left the room once medics arrived. This ended my involvement with this incident.

I was transported from the scene to the SCSO. A captain with the SCSO took photographs of me for BCI's investigation. Sgt. Lee took additional photos and collected my weapon as evidence for BCI to process.

I believe I fired approximately 40 rounds during this incident. I fired those rounds over two volleys. I believe I fired approximately 8-10 rounds during the first volley and 29-30 rounds over the second volley. I fired those rounds in rapid succession: I would estimate that about 2-3 seconds passed between the first and last shot in the first volley and approximately 5-6 seconds passed between the shots in the second volley. I fired those rounds in a southwesterly direction. I would estimate that I was about 15-20 feet from the suspect at the times I fired. I fired those rounds from the top hatch of the WYATT, which is elevated about 12 feet off the ground.

My target for the first series of shots was the suspect's center mass, though I could only see the lower half of his torso. Though I did not have a clear view of the suspect during the second volley, I fired at his last known location in the room. I believe I used my red dot sites. My

backdrop was the interior of the room. By the time I fired, officers had already twice swept and evacuated the surrounding rooms; officers also believed the suspect was alone in the room. At no time did I ever see or hear anyone else inside the room. There were no civilians or officers in my line of fire.

The incident occurred in the middle of the afternoon on an overcast day; while there was plentiful lighting outside, I believe most or all the lights were off inside the suspect's room. At times, it was also difficult to see inside due to the gas deployments. I recall my gun's flashlight being on during the incident. I fired using a two handed grip.

I fired from a standing position. I was not moving. I fired from the left side of the WYATT hatch such that the right side of my body and lower torso had some cover and concealment; the upper left side of my body was entirely exposed. I am not certain where every officer was positioned during this incident; but I know several SWAT trainees were in the WYATT and several SWAT officers were covering the room from behind the WYATT. While the WYATT provided some cover and concealment to those officers, the suspect was still able to shoot and strike one of those officers.

At the times I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect posed a deadly threat to my life and to the lives of the other officers on scene. Before arriving on scene, U.S. Marshals reported that the suspect had presented a firearm at them. The Marshals also told me that the suspect had several felony warrants for his arrest. During the barricade, officers gave the suspect numerous loud commands to come out of the room with his hands in the air. Officers also tried calling the suspect. But he never came out of the room or, to my knowledge, communicated with officers.

In fact, as time went on the suspect only became more violent. He fired numerous rounds out the front of the room in response to the glass-breaking rounds and gas deployments. He also

shot the drone deployed into the room. Even after firing multiple rounds, though, officers initially did not return fire, giving the suspect ample opportunities to surrender.

But one of the many times the suspect fired, he shot and struck one of the SWAT officers, seriously injuring him. I immediately heard that officer yell out in pain that he had been shot. I deployed numerous pepper balls into the room, and a brief time later one or more officers fired numerous rounds into the room so the officer could be transported away from cover to an ambulance. But even then the suspect did not surrender or give any signs of compliance.

Once the officer was shot, Captain Marino or [REDACTED] instructed me and the other members of SWAT that unless the suspect surrendered we were to fire if we saw him as it was clear he intended to continue shooting at officers and the risk of death and/or great bodily harm had become too high. Right before I fired the first series of shots, the suspect had fired a round out of the room. I then heard what sounded like him reloading his weapon before he popped up a moment later. I believed he intended to shoot at me and/or one of the other officers, and that I and possibly others would be seriously injured or killed, and it was then that I fired.

The suspect did not give up or otherwise give any signs of compliance after I fired. In fact, only a few minutes later the suspect fired again; and this time I saw the round penetrate the top of the door to the suspect's room and felt the round whiz by my head such that I believed the suspect had just shot at me. An order for cover fire was given, and I again fired to stop the suspect's deadly attack.

At the times I fired my weapon at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the officers from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.



I might have heard the suspect's name during this incident, but I do not presently recall it. In any case, I do not believe I had ever met the suspect previously, nor do I believe I have ever encountered him before.

This concludes my statement.

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██████████, Badge # █████