



**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: Video Review
Involves: Rodeway Inn Motel (O)
Activity Date: 07/19/2025
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Friday, November 22, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) received video footage from Rodeway Inn. SA Armstrong was informed that the videos contained footage from the surveillance cameras recorded by the Rodeway Inn.

The videos provided were previously concatenated by SA Andrew Harasimchuk utilizing Amped Replay. Two different cameras were provided: Camera 22 and Camera 26. Neither video captured any sound.

Any time references made will correspond with the time stamp on the video recording. When possible, the author will note specific officers and/or vehicles based upon information learned throughout the duration of the investigation.

Below is a depiction of the camera angles in relation to Room #220 (*Map Figure 1*).

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Map Figure 1

SA Allison Fletcher reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Through the process of combining the video recordings, portions of the videos may appear to “jump” or have objects move/disappear/appear. Simultaneously, the video timestamp will also jump ahead for approximately 3 seconds. The “jumping” appeared to be the moments between video recordings that were ultimately combined.

Camera 22 - Amped Replay - Concatenated Video

The video was 3 hours, 35 minutes, and 5 seconds in length. The camera was located at the opposite end of the building from Room #220 (See - *Map Figure 1*). The beginning timestamp was 10:07:02 AM. James Vanest's gray Dodge truck was parked

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in a parking spot in front of Room #220. The doorway to Room #220 was not visible. During the first few minutes of the recording, a black Ford Explorer could be observed driving through the parking lot near Room #220.

At 11:06:23 the black Ford SUV parked in front of Vanest's truck, and a male exited the vehicle with a ballistic shield. A silver Subaru SUV also pulled up and parked near the Ford SUV. A male exited the vehicle with what appeared to be a rifle.

At 11:06:57 three subjects could be observed approaching Room #220. One of the subjects had a ballistic shield. This was likely the moment when United States Marshal Service (USMS) Deputy Marshal Christopher Alstrom and USMS task force officers approached Room #220.

The three officers could be observed moving near the general area of Room #220. Officers then appeared to move behind a black vehicle parked adjacent to Room #220.

At 11:20:08 an officer could be observed with a rifle standing behind a small gray SUV parked near the opposite end of the building where Room #220 was located. Multiple officers then began arriving on scene and created a perimeter around Room #220.

At 11:52:19 an armored vehicle entered the parking lot and parked in the area in front of Room #220. Once the vehicle parked, multiple officers could be observed exiting the rear of the vehicle. This was likely Canton 11, used by the Canton Regional SWAT team.

At 12:05:28 three officers could be observed on the side of the black Ford SUV advancing towards Room #220. One of the officers appeared to raise a long gun. This was likely the moment when Canton Police Department (CPD) Sergeant Eric Lee (Lee) began deploying less lethal and chemical munitions into Room #220. The officers then returned to a position behind the black Ford SUV and Canton 11.

At 12:10:53 three officers could be observed approaching Room #220 and deploying less lethal rounds. For the next several minutes, officers continued to deploy less lethal rounds from the side of the black Ford SUV and the front of Canton 11 (*Camera 22 - Screenshot 1*).

At 12:22:57 an officer could be observed approaching the rear of the black Ford SUV. This was likely North Canton Police Department (NCPD) [REDACTED] when he was setting up his tripod and rifle.

At 12:25:36 multiple officers could be observed helping [REDACTED] after he was shot by Vanest. The recording did not capture the moment [REDACTED] was shot. Two

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minutes appeared to have elapsed that were not recorded based upon the timestamp on the video.

Throughout the next several minutes, small gray clouds of smoke could be observed near Canton 11. This was likely the deployment of chemical munitions by officers on scene. During that time, [REDACTED] was removed from the area by other officers.

At 12:46:56 a second armored vehicle could be observed moving in the parking lot of Cracker Barrel. After parking for a period of time, the vehicle left the area. This was likely the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) armored vehicle arriving on scene.

At 01:06:44 an armored vehicle could be observed driving into the parking lot. The vehicle parked near the front of Canton 11, which was also adjacent to Room #220.

At 01:07:05 the OSHP armored vehicle could be observed pushing Vanest's gray Dodge truck. The armored vehicle then parked in front of Room #220.

At 01:08:52 a third armored vehicle could be observed parking near the front corner of the building where Room #220 was located. This was likely the second Canton SWAT vehicle.

At 01:43:27 a gray cloud could be observed near the entrance to Room #220. This was likely the moment when OSHP Sergeant Castellanos deployed a flashbang into Room #220.

At 01:48:23 multiple officers could be observed approaching Room #220 with shields. The officers then appeared to enter Room #220.

At 01:50:32 an officer could be observed retrieving a fire extinguisher that was located next to Room #227.

The remainder of the video appeared to be scene management after Vanest was located deceased in Room #220.

Camera 26 – Amped Replay – Concatenated Video

The video was 3 hours, 36 minutes, and 59 seconds in length. The camera was positioned at the far end of the building that sat perpendicular to the building where #220 was located (See – *Map Figure 1*). The entry door to Room #220 and Vanest's gray Dodge truck were visible. The beginning time stamp was 10:07:09 AM.

At 10:19:01 a black Ford Explorer could be observed driving through the parking lot on the right side of the building where Room #220 was located. The black Ford SUV continued through the parking lot after making a right turn. Eventually, the vehicle

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went out of view from Camera 26. Approximately 7 minutes later, the vehicle could be observed driving past Room #220 then making a left turn towards the rear of the building. Approximately one minute later, the vehicle returned to the parking lot and parked in a parking stall in front of the building where Camera 26 was positioned.

At 10:46:14 the black SUV began to move and drove towards the rear of the building where Room #220 was located. Approximately 3 minutes later, the black SUV returned and returned to the same parking stall.

At 11:06:16 A second black Ford SUV could be observed on the right side of the building where Room #220 was located. Additionally, the original black SUV backed out of the parking stall and both vehicles parked in the area near Room #220 and Vanest's gray dodge truck. Officers began exiting the vehicles with rifles and ballistic shields. The officers then appeared to move towards the entry door of Room #220.

The officers moved through the area near Room #220 and eventually appeared to take a position of cover behind one of the black SUVs. Over the course of the next several minutes, additional officers began arriving on scene.

At 11:52:13 an armored SWAT vehicle (Canton 11) arrived on scene and positioned itself near the front of Room #220. Once the vehicle was parked, multiple officers exited the rear of the vehicle.

Officers could be observed moving through the area. Some officers appeared to move towards the left side of Vanest's gray Dodge truck. This was likely when less-lethal munitions were deployed based upon the grey-like clouds of smoke that corresponded with the movement. Officers could also be observed moving between vehicles, likely trying to find positions of cover.

At 12:26:12 an officer could be observed on the ground behind one of the black Ford SUVs. This was likely after NCPD [REDACTED] was shot in the arm. Moments later [REDACTED] was moved by other officers to a safe location.

At 12:47:07 a second armored SWAT vehicle arrived on scene. This was likely the OSHP armored bearcat.

At 11:07:03 the OSHP armored bearcat could be observed pushing Vanest's gray truck. The open doorway to Room #220 could briefly be observed.

Officers continued to move through the area next to Room #220. Armored vehicles could also be observed repositioning themselves at various points in time.

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At 01:53:18 an ambulance could be observed on the right side of the armored vehicles near Room #220. This was likely after officers made entry into Room #220 and found Vanest deceased.

At 01:57:03 officers could be observed forming a perimeter around the crime scene using yellow police tape. The remainder of the video appeared to be the management of the scene, which included the arrival of agents from BCI.



Camera 22 - Screenshot 1

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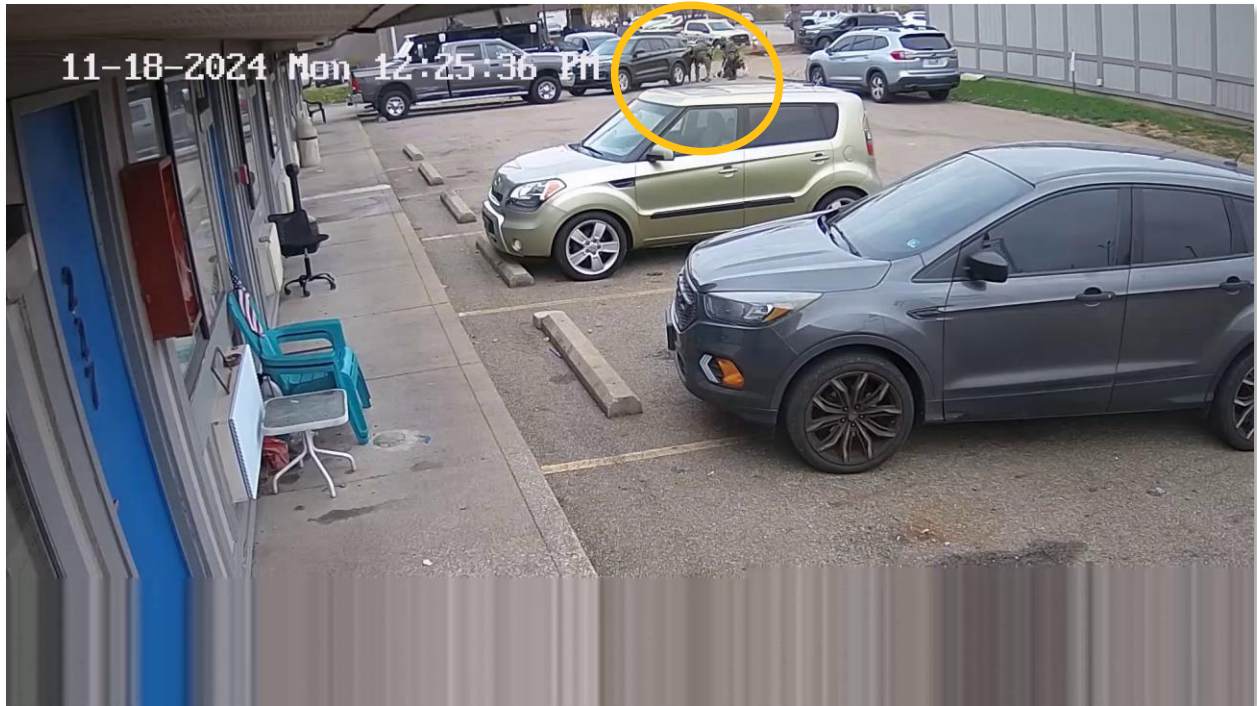


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Camera 22 - Screenshot 2

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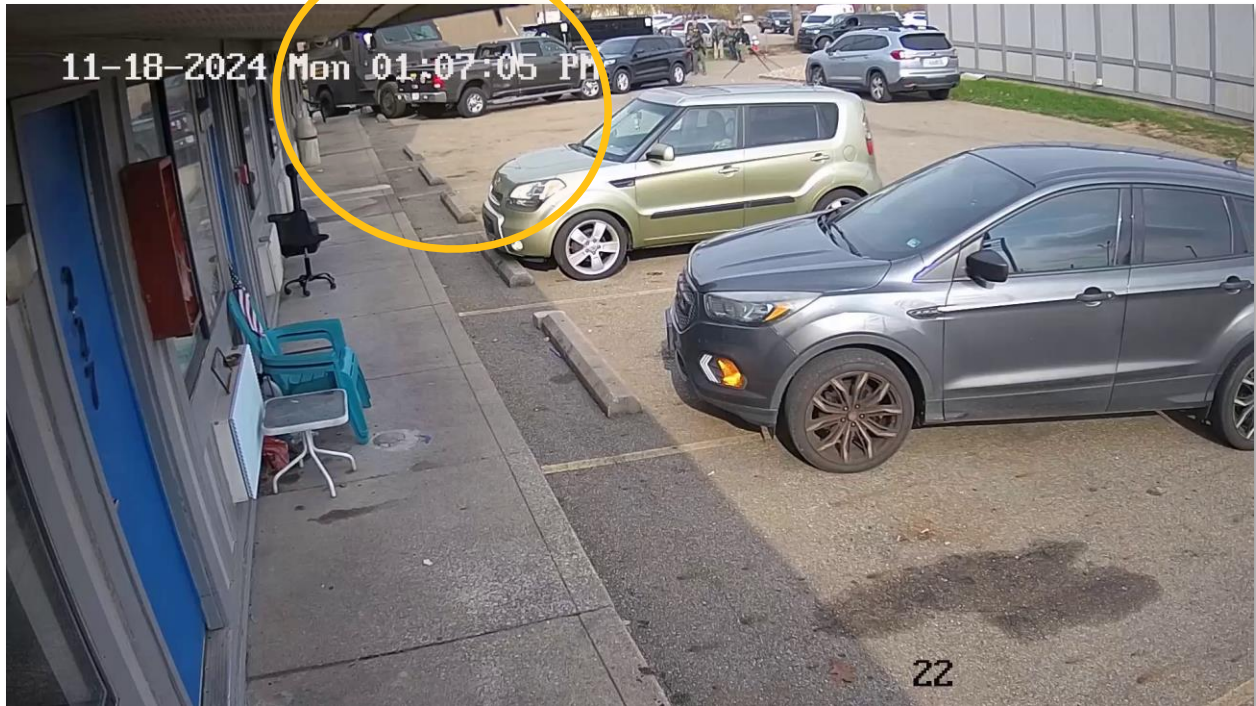


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Camera 22 - Screenshot 3

The thumb drive containing the original video footage has been stored in the physical BCI case file as Reference Item E. The Amped Replay concatenated video was saved as Reference Item N.

References:

Reference Item E - Surveillance Video

Reference Item N - Surveillance Camera Video - Rodeway Inn - Amped Replay

Attachments:

1. Camera 22 - Screenshot 1-3

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11-18-2024 Mon 12:19:38 PM



11-18-2024 Mon 12:25:36 PM



11-18-2024 Mon 01:07:05 PM

