



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



2025-1603
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods
Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Witnessing Officer Interview
Involves: CPD SWAT Officer Scott Branch, #2483
Activity Date: 05/20/2025
Activity Location: Columbus Division of Police SWAT Headquarters
Authoring Agent: SA David Wieging

Narrative:

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at approximately 0440 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent David Wieging (SA Wieging) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) SWAT Officer Scott Branch (SWAT Officer Branch). The interview took place at CPD SWAT Headquarters. Prior to the interview, SWAT Officer Branch was informed that his statement was voluntary and that he could stop answering SA Wieging's questions at any time. SWAT Officer Branch agreed to speak with SA Wieging.

SWAT Officer Branch was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 19, 2025 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 4482 Hampton Woods Court, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, SWAT Officer Branch did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

SWAT Officer Branch is a member of SWAT's gold team. He said he was off duty but was called in for an all-call barricade. He had heard on the radio that shots were fired at officers. On his way to the scene and when he arrived, SWAT Officer Branch stated radio traffic from SWAT officers indicated that a male suspect had come to the door several times and was armed. SWAT Officer Branch proceeded to BearCat 1 to provide ballistic cover. He was then asked to relieve the BearCat driver because the driver was on the entry team.

Once inside the BearCat, SWAT Officer Branch had a visual of the front of the residence and could monitor radio traffic as well. He observed the male suspect come to the door armed and manipulating a handgun. He also heard radio traffic whereby negotiators reported that the male suspect had said "he wasn't going to jail" and "wasn't going in any handcuffs." SWAT Officer Branch said he could hear gunshots distinctly come from the residence. BearCat 1 was positioned on the 1/4 corner of the

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residence.

The male suspect presented himself multiple times at the door with a firearm. The final time he presented himself, it appeared to SWAT Officer Branch that he "leveled off the handgun" and attempted to clear a malfunction. At that point, SWAT Officer Branch heard gunfire from SWAT with the male suspect retreating inside the residence. SWAT Officer Branch did not see the male suspect again and remained inside the BearCat. Once the residence was cleared, medics were called in.

SWAT Officer Branch last said that the male suspect's behavior was "erratic" and with his training and experience with firearms, it looked to him like the male suspect was presenting and attempting to fire his weapon, but there was a malfunction that he was trying to correct with the weapon leveled off at officers.

The interview concluded at approximately 0448 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

None

Attachments:

Audio Interview with CPD SWAT Officer Scott Branch 5.20.2025

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