

Investigative Report



Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720



Involves: Canton Police Department (O)

Activity Date: 05/28/2025 **Activity Location:** BCI - Richfield

Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Wednesday May 28, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) began reviewing drone video provided by the Canton Police Department (CPD). The video recording was created with a drone that was deployed by CPD SWAT personnel during the November 18, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Jackson Township, Ohio.

One video was provided electronically by the CPD on December 19, 2024, by Officer Mike Volpe. The video was added to the evidence com case file and has been stored as Reference Item P.

The following video was reviewed:

| Title | Recorded On | Duration | Source |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|--------------------------|
| ae3aa3d0-9820- | 11/18/2024 | 2h 4m | Brinc Drone Flight Video |
| 49b2-abd7- | | | |
| d5610a64b3bd- | | | |
| video-0001.h264 | | | |

No audio was captured throughout the duration of the video.

The video began with the doorway of Room #220 visible, and the door was closed. The drone then appeared to push the door to Room #220 open and the interior of the room became visible. The drone then entered Room #220.

Inside the room there appeared to be a bed on the left wall. The bed had white sheets and there was a pile of pillows stacked up on the edge of the bed near the back wall.



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- At 00:00:35 the camera angle became briefly blurred while the camera angle quickly shifted. This was likely when Vanest shot at the drone. Numerous small figures could be observed travelling throughout the room.
- At 00:00:40 a small shift could be observed on the right side of the stack of pillows. This was likely the result of Vanest firing his gun.
- At 00:42 a small portion of Vanest's body became visible on the right side of the pillow stack. At 00:00:43 a large flash could be observed, which was likely the result of Vanest firing his gun (Drone 1).
- At 00:00:44 Vanest could be observed behind the bed/stack of pillows (Drone 2). The drone camera angle briefly shifted, likely as a result of Vanest shooting at the drone.
- At 00:00:55 Vanest's head could be observed behind the stack of pillows. He appeared to be holding a firearm in his hands based upon the repeated muzzle flash that could be observed (Drone 3).
- At 00:00:56 Vanest could be observed pointing his firearm in the direction of the drone (Drone 4). Moments later, muzzle flash could be observed.
- After the muzzle flash, the drone shifted, and the camera angle appeared to capture the ceiling, a window, and various items on the ground. This was likely when the drone was shot down by Vanest.
- At 01:54:21, a light could be observed in what appeared to be the doorway of Room #220. An object could be observed moving and then a flash occurred. This was likely a flashbang deployed by officers.
- Moments later, a shield then became visible with the word "police" marked on it. This was the moment when officers entered into Room #220.
- At 01:56:34, the camera angle began to shift rapidly. It appeared as though someone had picked the camera up. Nothing of value was observed for the remainder of the video.

After the drone was shot down by Vanest, the camera angle remained fairly steady throughout the remainder of the video. It appeared as though a few times the drone was attempting to move without success. Large clouds of smoke could be observed at various points throughout the duration of the video. This was likely the chemical munitions deployed by Canton SWAT officers.

Small figures travelling throughout the room were visibly captured. These were likely projectiles fired by both Vanest and officers. However, due to the lack of percussive sounds, it could not be said with certainty what figures were projectiles and who was firing them.



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Near the end of the video, an armored SWAT vehicle became visible through the window of Room #220. A small porthole appeared to open on the side of a vehicle. This was likely when officers were firing from the armored SWAT vehicle. Due to the structure of the vehicle, no officers could be observed inside the vehicle.

Vanest's entire body was not captured in the video. It was determined that Vanest was the figure observed behind the pillows based upon the totality of information learned throughout the investigation.



Drone 1



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Drone 2



Drone 3



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Drone 4

References:

Reference Item P - Drone Video - in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Drone 1-4