



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



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Interview with [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 07/10/2026
Activity Location: 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047 (Ashtabula
County Sheriff's Office)
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Friday, July 10, 2026, at 1047 hrs, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Dominic Vitantonio, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047 (Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office). The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not intend to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

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Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Detective Evan Wolff
Radio Channel Utilized: TAC-2	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Marked unit	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: [REDACTED]
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational, But Not Used	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: N/A
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Seven hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: SRT uniform, black camo, tactical shirt, patches	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Taser
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT training, Hostage Rescue	OPOTC Certification: Yes
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: UOF simulator
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Make: Like an M-4, AR platform	Model: N/A
Caliber/Gauge: Choose an item.	Serial: N/A
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Sling
Magazine Capacity: Thirty rounds	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Click here to enter text.
Extra Magazines: Four	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: Between twenty-three and twenty-seven
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Do not know	Number of Rounds Fired: Do not know
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Springtime, 2026	Type of Holster, if any: None

Narrative:

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened when he first arrived on scene and [REDACTED] stated the following¹:

So, I pulled up to the residence in the driveway with my marked cruiser. I, I got out and I walked to the, um, front door. Which is facing the roadway. Um, walked up to the door. Uh, the interior main door was open, the exterior was closed, and I think the, there was a screen, um, as as my approach, I was met at the door by a male. Um, he asked, uh, what was going on. I, I identified myself as, as [REDACTED] with the sheriff's office. And that, um, I was looking for Brandon Butts. Um, he told me that Brandon's bedroom's downstairs and that he was here. Um, at that point I asked him the male to step out of the house, which he did. Um, in that process, he asked me what was happening, what was going on. I informed him that Brandon has warrants for the arrest.

Um, I then came into the, came into the house. Um, the kitchen was on my right. Um, we kind of stalled there for a minute 'cause we didn't know where Brandon if he, where, where he was. Um, so I found the stairwell very shortly after that. I rounded the stairwell and as soon as

¹ SA Boerner provided [REDACTED] with images/diagrams to reference during his interview. This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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I looked down the stairwell, I see, uh, the backside of a male, uh, a white male with dark hair fleeing into the basement through the door and slamming it. Um, I then heard items being thrown in front of the door, uh, barricading it. Um, I could hear him dragging, dragging items in front of it, um, throwing stuff. I stayed at the top of the stairs and started making announcements that, you know, that [REDACTED] with the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office. Uh, Brandon Butts. you have a warrant for your arrest? Please come upstairs. Um, I've made this announcement several times. Um, I was getting no response from him. He was just, uh, sounded like he was still barricading the door.

[REDACTED] continued stating:

Um, I gave several commands down the stairs. Um, you know, Brandon, don't make this a big deal, you just have a couple warrants for the rest. We'll get it taken care of. Just come upstairs. Um, we were getting no, no response from him. So, um, I had a whole, the whole team of guys was, um, in that general area on outside, inside. Um, I opted to roll out of that spot and go, um, see if I could get intel from the mother. Um, so I, I take myself out of the house and then everyone else kind of filled into hold. Um, I then go out and I began speaking with the, the female that I believe to be his mother. Um, I asked her if, well, Detective Wolff was speaking with her, and then once they kind of paused for a minute, I asked her if, if he had any access to weapons.

Um, she told me he always carries knives on him. Um, and she could, said it was possible that he has a gun. She couldn't confirm or deny. Um, and then right around that time, um, we, I heard, I, I could audibly hear Intel that there was a female downstairs. Um, and the, I believe around that time as well, uh, I saw Conneaut, um, officer start putting pepper ball into the basement windows. I then, um, went to my cruiser because I didn't have my rifle at the time. Um, I go to my cruiser, uh, grab my rifle, load it, and then come back to, um, start trying to work the problem and, and get this solved peacefully. I came back to the door, um, I was stacked.

[REDACTED] stated that he could hear Butts yelling at a female in the basement. [REDACTED] recalled that the Butts stated, "You're the reason the, the, you're the reason they're here." (16:40 mark).

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██████████ stated the following:

Um, we were, I was getting concerned, um, that this is gonna become a, a hostage situation. Um, I mean, and I was just believing it probably, obviously already was. Um, so while I was stacked on the door, I remember looking and I saw a Conneaut officer saying to us, I'm on the phone with her. So, they got her on the phone, um, and I, I could hear him saying that she wants to come out and she can't get out. Um, and then very shortly after that, I remember hearing a female's voice at the bottom of the stairs banging at the door and screaming, help me. I need out. Help me get out.

Um, and we could hear her trying to get the door, but she couldn't get it open. So, I then, um, observed Deputy Warsing and Deputy Massey sprint down the stairwell. Warsing breached the door. Massey was behind him. Um, we left the stairwell open so they could egress with her, or if it turned bad, they could egress. And, um, Deputy Warsing grabs her once the door's breached, pulls her out and hands her in front of him to cover her. And then Deputy Massey helped her get up the stairs, and then they, they extracted from there. Um, at this time the pepper was getting, uh, pretty, uh, like we were feeling the effects of the pepper. So I opted to roll out and go back to my car to get my gas mask. Okay. Um, while I was back at my car, I heard the female, um, talking something about a gun.

██████████ stated that during this time period, Dep. Warsing attempted to negotiate with Butts without success. ██████████ recalled that Butts stated that he was not going back to jail. ██████████ stated that during the back-and-forth conversation he overheard Butts stated that he had a firearm.

██████████ stated the following:

He, Brandon would peek or, uh, in the crack, uh, like in the crack of, in the crack of the door. With what he was claiming was a gun. Um, and he did this several times. Um, uh, I observed that it, what I could see did not look like a gun at that time. Um, it looked like a flashlight to me. Um, so we kind of just, I mean, it was dicey for a second.

██████████ continued stating:

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Then, uh, Deputy Warsing, I remember told, was telling him, listen, that is a flashlight. Just put it down. We don't want this to escalate and get worse. Just put it down and come up. Um, that made him upset. He then leaves and he, I heard him audibly say, fine, I will go get a gun. And then he left. Uh, well, he left my view. Um, I don't know which way he went or where he went from there. Just back into the basement. Um, it was very dark. I could see just what my, what, what my light could get a little illumination in there. So, um, I heard him yelling. I could hear him ripping out, um, stuff downstairs. It was, uh, relayed at points because we had units around the surrounding the house. Um, it was relayed to me that, um, he had a metal rod and that he was punching out windows, trying to get fresh air, um, from the pepper. Um, then the...

██████████ recalled that Dep. Warsing continued to negotiate with Butts and that Butts stated that "He had the gun, he's going to kill us." (23:25 mark).

██████████ indicated the following:

I could hear Brandon moving behind somewhere closer to the door now. And while I was prepped on the door, I saw a metal object come out of the door, just the end of it, um, very briefly, by the time I could get light onto the object and see what it was, I very quickly saw that it was not a metal rod. And that he just pointed a, a, a gun at me.

SA Boerner asked ██████████ if he could describe what the firearm looked like and ██████████ stated "Um, I could see, I could see the maybe six inches of the barrel. Um, I, as, as soon as I illuminated my, my weapon light, I could see into the barrel. I could see it was hollow. Um, that's part of that I could see." (23:49 mark).

██████████ stated the following:

Um, and then the next, he, shortly later, he then comes back to the door. Brandon comes back to the door. He comes out of the, he comes through the opening. Okay. Um, I'm just trying to think of the best way to show here. Um, he has the gun under his chin.

Um, but it's like, uh, floating under his chin (Figure 1, 00:25:41 mark). It's, I, I fixated, I was like tunnel visioned on this very much when he did this. Um, he came through the door, and he was standing at the

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base of the stairs, so, right. He was right here. Um, and I could see his full body head to toe. Uh, and I could observe that it was a long gun. Um, I think with a polymer, uh, stock. I don't, I don't remember the color. Um, and he was holding it, kind of floating it under his chin, and he was yelling that I'm gonna kill myself. And you, you're, you're gonna watch, I'm gonna do it right now. Um, we were obviously on him.



Figure 1, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of the firearm, 00:25:41 mark

[REDACTED] stated that at this time less lethal was deployed. [REDACTED] stated that the less lethal option missed and that Butts went back into the basement bedroom.

[REDACTED] recalled that:

And he, Brandon came back into the apartment whichever way he went. Um, and he was yelling, I'm gonna fucking kill you guys at that point. Um, he then shortly after that, he comes back again through this door. And this time the gun is pressed very hard under his chin, uh, in line with like Adam's apple, just pushing it very hard up under (Figure 2, 00:27:56 mark). Um, and he takes two or three, somewhere between here, steps towards us with him here. And at this point, everyone, I, it was just everyone drop the gun, drop the gun, put it

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down, like, do not do this. Um, and he was yelling something, I don't remember what, um, and less lethal came up.



Figure 2, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of the firearm, 00:27:56 mark
[REDACTED] continued stating:

He paused, I believe at this step, the last step. And less lethal came up again, body blocked off of me and deployed a 40 and struck him in the torso that time, which then sent him back down the stairs and he, as he ran away, yelled "You Fucking Bitch". Or something along those lines that I remember. Um, and then shortly after that, that in interaction with him, I hear him moving closer to the door and I heard, "I'm gonna shoot you in the face." And next thing I see through the opening of the door is the barrel of the gun. The long gun pointed directly at me, I could see into the barrel. Um, and then I was in obvious fear that I was about to be shot. Um, and I shot to stop the threat.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] why he did not shoot the first two times that Butts came out with the firearm underneath his chin and [REDACTED] explained that Butts did not threaten him with or point the firearm at him.

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██████████ stated that after the shooting he moved away from the doorway and completed a reload. ██████████ recalled taking off his gas mask and giving it to Dep. Massey. ██████████ stated that he remained in the driveway until he was transported for drug testing. ██████████ stated that ultimately, he was transported back to the sheriff's office.

SA Boerner asked ██████████ once presented with the firearm were there any other options that he had available to him and ██████████ stated, "No, no, I, I, as soon as I saw it, I thought I was not making it home." (00:41:41 mark).

The interview concluded at approximately 1130 hrs.

The interview was audio/video recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item J – ACSO Deputy Interviews > Involved Deputies Interview. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

- Reference Item J – ACSO Deputy Interviews > Involved Deputy Interviews

Attachments:

1. 2026-07-10 ██████████ CIN and Interview Diagrams

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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]

Printed Name of Interviewee

7-10-2026/1035

Date / Time

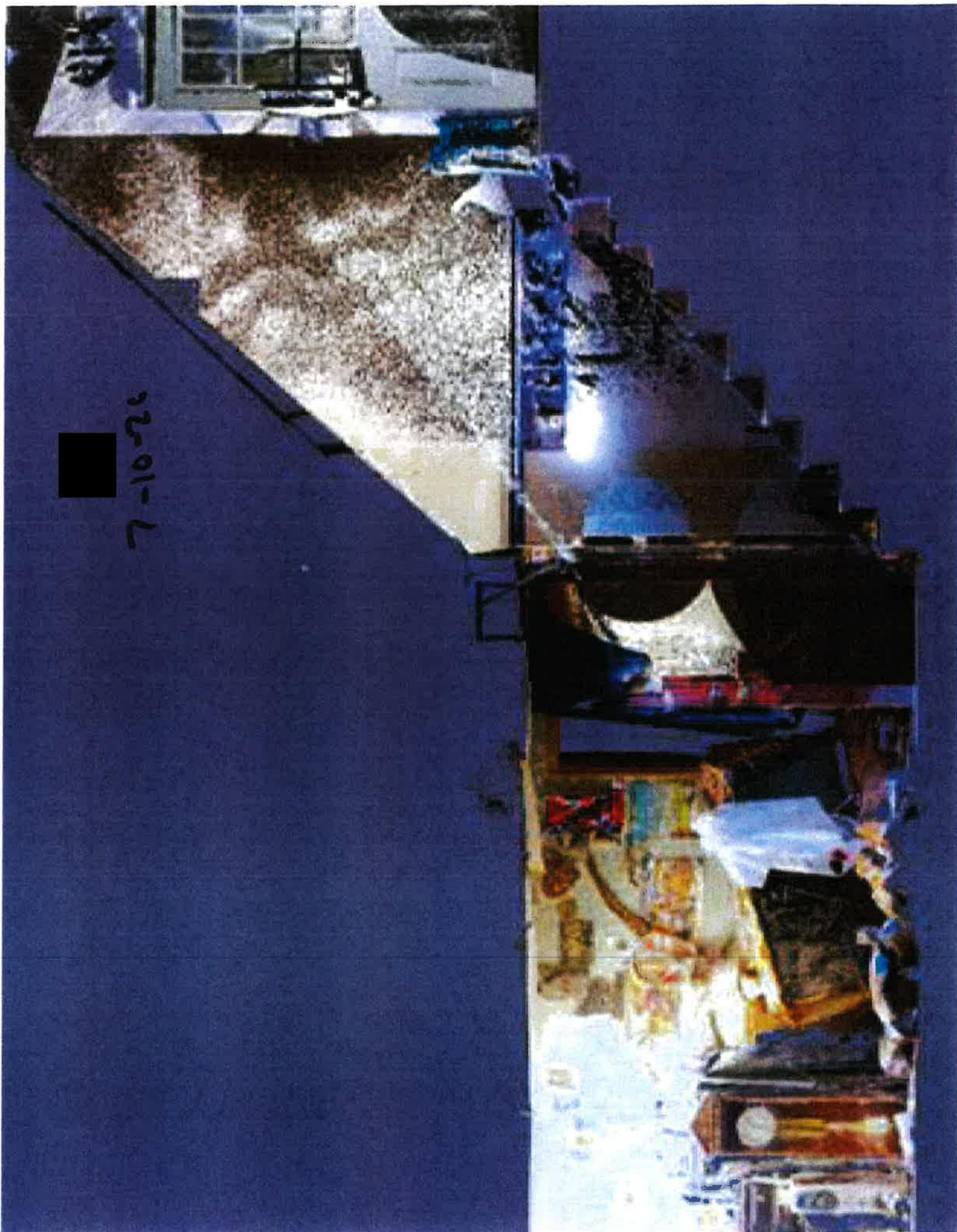
[Redacted]
[Redacted] e of Interviewee

SA DAN BOEHM

BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)



7-10-26







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