



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



2025-2243
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3013 Mohawk Street,
Middletown, Ohio 45044 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 07/25/2025
Activity Location: Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,
Middletown, OH 45042
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Friday, July 25, 2025, at approximately 0957 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Kenneth Smith conducted an interview with Middletown Police [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was accompanied by his attorney, Robb Stokar, of Front Line Advisors, LLC. The interview was held in the administrative conference room of the Middletown Police Department and was audio-recorded.

Prior to the interview, SA Seitzman read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that he understood the content of the notification form and signed it.

The following summary of the interview highlights the key points the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in a chronology to aid in the overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not reflect the actual interview sequence. For further details, please refer to the interview recording.

Preliminary Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Jason Wargo
Radio Channel Utilized: Main channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: white Ford Police Interceptor Utility with standard Middletown police decals	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: None

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Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Approximately 7 hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): n/a	Corrective Lenses: Contact Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard-issue Middletown Police Department uniform—navy blue with exterior load-bearing ballistic vest. He had MPD shoulder patches on his shirt and wore a badge and nameplate on his ballistic vest. A BCI agent photographed him in his uniform after the incident.	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: ASP baton, pepper spray, access to PepperBall
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT, evidence technician, patrol rifle training, PepperBall certification	OPOTC Certification: Butler Tech; graduated [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: OPOTA online use of force training, annual firearms training, policy reviewed periodically through Power DMS.
Prior Shooting Incidents: One prior incident in 2023, where he discharged his firearm. The incident was investigated by BCI and was presented to the Butler County Grand Jury. A No True Bill was issued by the grand jury.	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
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? Night prior to the interview at approximately 1700 hours.	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Approximately four days prior to the incident.

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

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Make: Glock	Model: 17 Gen 5 MOS (Delta Pro optic)
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: n/a
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Duty belt
Magazine Capacity: 22 (+1 in the chamber)	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 23
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 22
Discharged During Incident? No	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: All	Number of Rounds Fired: None
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: May 15, 2025	Type of Holster, if any: Safariland level III

Weapon #2

Make: HM Defense	Model: Raider MC 5.56
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 NATO/.223 Rem	Serial: n/a
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Cruiser
Magazine Capacity: 30	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 28
Extra Magazines: None	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: n/a
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 17	Number of Rounds Fired: 11
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department-owned
Last Qualification Date: May 15, 2025	Type of Holster, if any: n/a

██████████ confirmed that he prepared a typed statement prior to the interview. He reviewed the statement and confirmed it was his and signed it. He read his statement into the record, stating, in relevant part:

"Immediately prior to being dispatched to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was dispatched and on the scene of a routine call for service on Arlington Ave. I was at this call for service with Officer Kessler. At approximately 4:42 p.m. radio aired a "Signal 28," meaning a shooting had occurred, at 3013 Mohawk St. I did not hear the initial call being aired because I was engaged in a conversation with a subject on Arlington Ave. Officer Kessler advised me a "Signal 28" had been aired and I immediately left and responded to 3013 Mohawk utilizing lights and sirens, arriving at the location approximately 5 minutes after the call was aired. While enroute to the incident location, Officer Patterson aired on the radio the suspect had a firearm.

As I arrived on scene, I parked my marked patrol vehicle to the south and near the front of 3013 Mohawk St. I do not recall having previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not recall having had previous contact with the suspect or the female victim involved in this incident. After arriving on scene, I observed a white male, in a wheelchair, in the front doorway of 3013 Mohawk St., with a silver handgun in his right hand and resting on his lap. An officer advised the suspect to drop the gun, but the suspect refused. Another officer aired on the radio that a female inside the residence had suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. An officer used the cruiser PA system to engage the suspect and attempt to convince him to come to the front door, unarmed, with his hands visible. At some point when we were initially engaging the suspect, I ordered the suspect to drop the gun, but he refused and went inside the residence where he was no longer visible. Someone indicated that the suspect's son was on scene outside the residence, on the phone with the suspect, and he was attempting to convince his father to surrender to police. I believed the suspect and the victim were the only ones remaining inside the residence. At this point, officers determined this was a hostage situation, with a victim in critical condition, necessitating an immediate entry into the residence. Officer Harris retrieved a ballistic shield and I and several other officers organized into a "stack" formation with the intent of making an entry. I was positioned 2nd in line, behind Officer Harris.

The front door to the residence was equipped with a wheelchair ramp that made entry by multiple officers impractical, and we proceeded to the back door where someone had advised the door was unlocked. Officer Harris, the first person in the "stack" because he had the ballistic shield, confirmed the back door was unlocked. The door opened inward and left. Officer Harris opened the door and announced, "Middletown Police." The suspect responded by yelling he would shoot if officers entered the residence. I then heard what sounded like a round being chambered in a semi-automatic gun. The suspect was positioned somewhere inside the rear door, and I could hear sound and movement indicating he was towards the rear of the house. Sgt. Wargo and Officer Kessler again attempted to negotiate with the suspect to convince him to surrender so we could provide medical aid to the female victim inside. The suspect refused to comply and then fired a single round in what I perceived to be the direction of the rear of the house where officers were positioned. Officer Kessler and Sgt. Wargo continued to attempt to negotiate a surrender. I then heard what sounded like a pop or beer can being opened inside the residence, indicating the suspect was

immediately inside the rear of the residence.

Realizing I needed to gain a better view of the interior of the residence, and believing the victim inside needed immediate medical attention, I moved to the left of the doorway with my rifle trained on the interior of the residence. This position left me partially exposed but permitted a vantage point into the interior of the residence where I believed the suspect was positioned. I did not immediately see the suspect in the kitchen area and scanned the small area utilizing my light on the weapon. The only other access point near the door was a hallway off the kitchen. As I scanned across, I observed the suspect in the doorway of the kitchen and I gave the suspect a verbal command to not move. I observed the suspect had a silver gun pointed at me with his arm raised and I quickly fired several rounds from my rifle at the suspect, aiming for his upper body and head. At the time, I believed I fired 10-15 rounds, in rapid succession, until the suspect was no longer visible. I stopped firing when I could no longer see the threat and I believed the suspect was down. The backdrop behind the suspect appeared to be an interior wall. I fired my weapon because I was under an imminent threat of serious physical harm, and the suspect posed a deadly threat to the other officers positioned outside the door.

After I fired my weapon, I made entry into the rear of the residence, followed by the other officers. I entered in order to secure the residence and ensure the threat from the suspect had been eliminated, as well as to render aid to the victims. Upon entry, I observed the suspect lying on the floor next to his wheelchair. I observed a handgun on the floor next to the suspect and I kicked it away from the suspect before the suspect was secured in handcuffs. I advised Officer Harris not to touch the weapon. I assisted other officers with clearing the residence and then exited the residence. Following the incident, another officer drove me to the police station.

At the time I fired my weapon, the suspect was seated inside the rear hallway of 3013 Mohawk St. approximately 10-12 feet from my position at the rear door of the residence. The suspect was pointing a silver handgun directly at me. I had very limited cover and no concealment from the threat. At the time of the incident, I believed I fired 10-15 shots in rapid succession from my patrol rifle. I now believe I fired 11 rounds from my rifle. My target was the upper body, extended arm and head. The backdrop for my shots was the interior wall of the residence. I was in a standing position when I fired my weapon. At the time I fired my weapon, I was responding to an immediate and deadly threat of serious physical harm to myself and to the other officers immediately outside the doorway. I fired my weapon to protect myself, other officers and to gain access to the female victim inside the residence. At the time I fired my weapon, I believed that an immediate response was the only means to stop an imminent threat of death or serious injury to myself or others."

Following [REDACTED] statement, SA Seitzman conducted a series of follow-up inquiries. SA Seitzman inquired whether the involved subject exhibited any signs of surrender throughout the incident, to which [REDACTED] answered in the negative.

SA Seitzman then inquired about [REDACTED] thought process during the final moments

of the incident. He recalled that immediately after the involved subject presented himself, he brandished a silver gun, which was pointed directly at him. He expressed that he was in fear for his life and acknowledged that a fellow officer, Officer John Harris, was holding a shield, providing limited cover. [REDACTED] indicated he had no alternative but to discharge his firearm. SA Seitzman inquired about the condition of the involved subject when he entered the residence. [REDACTED] observed that the subject appeared obviously deceased, and any medical assistance would have been futile. He further stated that Middletown Fire Department paramedics were positioned near the scene at the outset of the incident and promptly responded inside the residence after the scene was secured.

SA Seitzman inquired if [REDACTED] believed he followed his training and applicable laws. He answered in the affirmative. SA Seitzman asked if he observed any officers act in a manner that he believed to be unlawful or improper, to which he answered in the negative.

The interview was concluded at 1040 hours. The audio recording, signed statement, and signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form are attached to this investigative report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 2025-07-25 Interview of [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 02: Middletown Police [REDACTED] Signed Statement
- Attachment # 03: BCI Criminal Notification Form – [REDACTED]

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at approximately 4:42 p.m. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation concerning this matter.

My date of hire as a police officer with the Middletown Division of Police was [REDACTED]. My regular assignment with Middletown PD is as a [REDACTED], with [REDACTED] off. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on July 13, 2025, I was working my regular hours. On the day of the incident, I was working as a single-officer unit, and my call number was [REDACTED] operating car [REDACTED]. I have been involved in two prior police involved shootings with Middletown Police, on April 24, 2023, and December 24, 2024. I fired my weapon in the 2023 incident and did not fire my weapon in the 2024 incident.

At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing my regular duty, dark blue police uniform. The uniform included Middletown Police patches on the sleeves, an outer ballistic vest, badge, nameplate, and a fully equipped police duty belt. I was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) which recorded the event. I was carrying a department approved Glock 17, gen 5 MOS, with a Delta Point Pro optic. This semi-automatic 9mm pistol was loaded with department approved ammunition. I was also equipped with an HM Defense Raider MC556, loaded with department approved ammunition. My rifle was also fitted with a suppressor. This was the weapon I fired on the date of the incident. I most recently qualified with both weapons on May 15, 2025, and am current with all required qualifications. I was not carrying a secondary back-up handgun. My corrected vision is good, and I was wearing my contacts. My uncorrected hearing is good. I am in good health, and I do not take any medications that would impair my ability to perform my duties. I had not consumed alcohol in the 24 hours prior to my shift. I had not worked any overtime or extra details within the 48 hours prior to my shift on the day of the incident. I had approximately 7 hours of sleep the night before my assigned shift and was well rested.

Immediately prior to being dispatched to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was dispatched and on the scene of a routine call for service on Arlington Ave. I was at this call for service with Officer Kessler. At approximately 4:42 p.m. radio aired a "Signal 28," meaning a shooting had occurred, at 3013 Mohawk St. I did not hear the initial call being aired because I was engaged in a conversation with a subject on Arlington Ave. Officer Kessler advised me a "Signal 28" had been aired and I immediately left and responded to 3013 Mohawk utilizing lights and sirens, arriving at the location approximately 5 minutes after the call was aired. While enroute to the incident location, Officer Patterson aired on the radio the suspect had a firearm.

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convince him to come to the front door, unarmed, with his hands visible. At some point when we were initially engaging the suspect, I ordered the suspect to drop the gun, but he refused and went inside the residence where he was no longer visible. Someone indicated that the suspect's son was on scene outside the residence, on the phone with the suspect, and he was attempting to convince his father to surrender to police. I believed the suspect and the victim were the only ones remaining inside the residence. At this point, officers determined this was a hostage situation, with a victim in critical condition, necessitating an immediate entry into the residence. Officer Harris retrieved a ballistic shield and I and several other officers organized into a "stack" formation with the intent of making an entry. I was positioned 2nd in line, behind Officer Harris.

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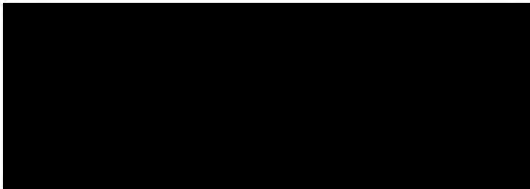
Realizing I needed to gain a better view of the interior of the residence, and believing the victim inside needed immediate medical attention, I moved to the left of the doorway with my rifle trained on the interior of the residence. This position left me partially exposed but permitted a vantage point into the interior of the residence where I believed the suspect was positioned. I did not immediately see the suspect in the kitchen area and scanned the small area utilizing my light on the weapon. The only other access point near the door was a hallway off the kitchen. As I scanned across, I observed the suspect in the doorway of the kitchen and I gave the suspect a verbal command to not move. I observed the suspect had a silver gun pointed at me with his arm raised and I quickly fired several rounds from my rifle at the suspect, aiming for his upper body and head. At the time, I believed I fired 10-15 rounds, in rapid succession, until the suspect was no longer visible. I stopped firing when I could no longer see the threat and I believed the suspect was down. The backdrop behind the suspect appeared to be an interior wall. I fired my weapon because I was under an imminent threat of serious physical harm, and the suspect posed a deadly threat to the other officers positioned outside the door.

After I fired my weapon, I made entry into the rear of the residence, followed by the other officers. I entered in order to secure the residence and ensure the threat from the suspect had been eliminated, as well as to render aid to the victims. Upon entry, I observed the suspect lying on the floor next to his wheelchair. I observed a handgun on the floor next to the suspect and I kicked it away from the suspect before the suspect was secured in handcuffs. I advised Officer Harris not to

touch the weapon. I assisted other officers with clearing the residence and then exited the residence. Following the incident, another officer drove me to the police station.

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This concludes my statement, and I am prepared to answer additional clarifying questions.



7/25/25

Date



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



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

7/25/22 0958
Date / Time

STEVEN D. SEITZMAN
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)