



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



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer [REDACTED]
Activity Date: December 12, 2023
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On December 12, 2023, at approximately 0927 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Joseph Goudy (Goudy) interviewed Youngstown Police Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Dan Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at Youngstown Police Department. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Prior to the interview, Officer [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 purport 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.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: Officer
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: Drove to scene in unmarked cruiser
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: SWAT Commander John Elberty
Radio Channel Utilized: CRT All and CRT Talk	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: Unmarked	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: N/A
Assignment: Patrolman-Neighborhood Response Unit (NRU) at Youngstown Police-SWAT Team Member for Mahoning Valley Crisis Response Team	Normal Shift: 0900-1700 hours
In-Car Camera: No	Spotlight: N/A

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Emergency Lights: Activated while responding to scene	Siren: Activated while responding to scene
Shift Day of Incident: 0900-2100 hours	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Sunday, Monday	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: 1700-2100 day of callout
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8 hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 7 years	Length at Current Agency: 7 years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Olive Drab Green (OD) shirt, OD Green BDU Pants, Duty Belt	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: During standoff- Rifle, helmet, Magazines, pistol- During the entry-Ram and Pistol
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: N/A
Injuries: No	Equipment Damage: No
Training or Areas of Specialty: Basic and Advanced SWAT Training-Multiple other SWAT Courses	OPOTC Certification: Youngstown State University Academy
Military Experience/Training: 4 years- Navy	Use-of-Force Training: Regularly Reviews Use of Force Policy
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Did not recall

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P320
Caliber/Gauge: 7.62 mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Round in Chamber
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including

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	chamber): 52
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 47	Number of Rounds Fired: Officer ██████ believed he fired 8 rounds, however, if Officer ██████ was carrying his magazine to capacity and 1 round in the chamber, only 5 rounds are missing,
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Within last year	Type of Holster, if any: Safariland-Level III

SA Momchilov asked Officer ██████ if he could explain how he became involved in the incident and what actions he took.

Officer ██████ received a SWAT alert advising the SWAT Team was being activated. The alert gave a “basic description on what’s going on” and a location. Officer ██████ responded to the scene where he was briefed further.

Initially, Officer ██████ was assigned to the rear perimeter of the residence. During that time, team members were “doing basic, you know, callouts to the guy, you know, he was aware that we were there. They were making contact with him via the phone. They did say that they had contact with one of the people inside the house, which was a female, I believe it was the girlfriend of the, his brother. She was upstairs, continued for hours of, you know calling on the megaphone or the P.A. system, trying to get him to just, you know, come out and surrender to us so we can kind of figure out what is going on. Hitting the sirens, lights that whole down the list of things we need to do when we get there.”

Officer ██████ advised that a couple hours before the SWAT Team breached the residence, “they” lost contact with the female upstairs. According to Officer ██████ “She said that she was having trouble breathing and it sounded like she was kind of having a panic attack and then her phone died. So that kind of ramped things up a little bit because, you know, we have a person there with a gun and essentially holding hostages at that point. Then we lose contact with our only person that we had inside and he kind of wasn’t willing to talk to us, willing to communicate with anybody.”

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Officer [REDACTED] explained that the Ohio State Highway Patrol sent out two troopers who had the capability to use explosives to breach the residence. It was then decided that the team would breach the residence using explosives.

Officer [REDACTED] stated, "So once we kind of briefed up on what we were going to do there, on how that was going to go. We got stacked up on the side of the house while they set the breach. Then, once they got the execute order, they blew the door, we had two shield guys and like I said, I had a ram. Because if the explosive breach failed, we were going to have to go do the manual breach with the ram and pry."

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "We get up there, and what had happened was, when they blew the door, there was like a flimsy screen door. The way that the guys described it to us, from the Highway Patrol was like, because of that gap between the door and the screen, it twisted the screen door, so it was still kind of on the frame a little bit. So, as we made our way up, we started working that and that's when the suspect was in the kitchen and the first guy with the shield kind of saw him and called out, 'gun, gun, gun' they started giving him commands at the door to, and as we finally got the screen door pulled off and went to go make it in, he shot the first round and that struck the right side of the guy with the shield and then the person behind him, so, both of them got hit with the first blast and then he kept backing up and that's when we kind of we, the other two shield, the shield guy and the guy with him moved in, I kind of moved on to his side and he fired another round at use and the shield guy, other shield, Sergeant [REDACTED] who was there and myself, we opened fire on him, he dropped and then as we moved up we saw the gun was sittin' there, he was kind of sitting Indian style, kind of slumped over Indian style in the living room. I moved the gun away from him and then as they, as Sergeant [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got the shield and they kind of held him and myself and Officer Wharry we peeled back and went upstairs and got the girl out that was up under a bed, on the second floor."

At this point in the interview, SA Momchilov began asking follow-up questions.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he remembered what specific information, he received in the initial SWAT activation alert. Officer [REDACTED] advised that there was a male with a gun inside a house with two females and another male.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he received any further information when he arrived on scene. Officer [REDACTED] advised that the additional information he received was that the subject was observed with a long gun and that the subject's brother and mother were on the first floor and another female was upstairs.

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SA Momchilov stated, "So, an individual in the house, armed, with three individuals in the house."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he observed anything when he was assigned the perimeter to the rear of the house. Officer [REDACTED] stated he observed the subject pace back in forth from the living room to the kitchen area multiple times. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could tell if the subject was armed. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "From back there, no."

SA Momchilov stated, "You said the decision was made to breach based on losing contact with the female. Was there a long duration that happened in between, what's the timeframe?"

Officer [REDACTED] advised that the decision to breach was made around 0600 hours. Officer [REDACTED] further advised, "We were there for a decent amount of time before, so like, we were kind of, I don't want to say exhausted but we kind of were at a point of like, he's not making contact with us, cause obviously when you go into a situation like that, you're whole plan is like, get him to surrender peacefully, just come out so we can go get him help that he needs and get those other people out of the house, make sure everyone's like, safely. So, once you get past a certain point, of like, we're trying to make contact, like he's not answering, because usually we'll try to make contact on the phone or we do the P.A. announcements, like, lights, sirens, like trying to get his attention, like hey, the police are out here, we're trying to just talk to you, you pick the phone up we'll kind of, we can hash this all out and kind of move about it so. Like I said, once you get to that point of exhausting all those measures then you reach that point of where, again, when well lost contact with the female, that was kind of like, I think that extra, extra thing, expedited it a little bit, just as far as that you know, want to make sure that the other people are safe as well."

SA Momchilov asked, "In your opinion, would it be fair to say that he knew that there were officers outside?" Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Oh, absolutely."

SA Momchilov stated, "I believe you said you, somebody started yelling 'shotgun' or something along those lines (once the door was breached)." Officer [REDACTED] stated that Officer [REDACTED] was the individual who yelled gun and that he was the "shield guy" on the left-hand side. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he observed the individual holding a gun at this point. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he did not and his view was obstructed by the two shields as he was coming up the rear steps.

SA Momchilov stated, "And I believe you said you heard him (subject) fire?" Officer [REDACTED] advised that was correct. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] how he knew it was the

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subject who fired. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "Ah, just kind of a shotgun blast I think sounds a little bit different than a rifle or pistol going off."

SA Momchilov stated, "So, the shotgun blast goes off and I think you said you heard officers return fire?"

Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Not after the initial blast, so you had the initial blast and then we continued to give, as we we're coming in, we continued to give, like commands, like 'drop the gun, drop the gun' throughout the whole thing was, 'drop the gun' like, and as he's backing up and lets off the second blast is when they, we returned fire on him."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could observe the individual when that was going on. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Yeah."

SA Momchilov then asked, "Did you see him fire the second?" Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Yeah, so as like, that's as I came in. So, like, the first blast hit the first, two guys on the right-hand side which was ah, Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] was the other shield guy, Officer [REDACTED] was his cover, so, once those two got hit and kind of rolled out that's when I kind of backfilled in where they were, were they were at."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he viewed any body-worn camera footage from the incident. Officer [REDACTED] advised he had watched Officer [REDACTED]'s body-worn camera footage. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] how many times he viewed it. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he watched the footage one time. SA Momchilov then asked if he is basing his version of events from the body-worn camera footage or off his recollection. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Off of recollection."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he had spoken to any other officers about the shooting. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he did, and it was "like a little bit of a debrief." Officer [REDACTED] advised that no one has asked him to lie or otherwise try to influence his statement to investigators.

The interview with Officer [REDACTED] was recorded via audio and video. The audio recording is attached to this Investigative Report. The video was placed onto a DVD, the DVD was placed into the item section of the physical case file labeled as, Item D.

The Ohio BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form signed by Officer [REDACTED] is attached to this Investigative report.

Attachments

- Audio interview of Officer [REDACTED]

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- Ohio BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form-Signed by Officer [REDACTED]

Items

- D-Video Recording of Officer [REDACTED] s Interview

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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).


Printed Name of Interviewee

12/12/25 0925
Date / Time



 # 64
BCI Agent (Printed)

CORY Momchilov
BCI Agent (Signature)