



**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: 07/08/2026
Activity Location: 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047 (Ashtabula
County Sheriff's Office)
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 08, 2026, at 1417 hrs, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) and SA John Tingley (SA Tingley) interviewed Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Max Martin, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047. 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: Black van, unmarked and lights
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Detective Evan Wolff
Radio Channel Utilized: TAC-2	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: Black van, unmarked and lights	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Seven occupants
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: [REDACTED]
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: [REDACTED]
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Eight hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Black/green camo uniform, more tactical looking, with patches	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Taser on chest
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: SRT Team
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: Various SWAT trainings, Pistol/Rifle Instructor	OPOTC Certification: Yes
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
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: Colt AR style rifle with suppressor	Model: N/A
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm	Serial: N/A
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Sling
Magazine Capacity: Thirty rounds	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Approximately twenty-eight
Extra Magazines: Two magazines	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: Twenty-eight
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: N/A	Number of Rounds Fired: Between eight to ten
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: April 2026	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Narrative:

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened when they arrived at 613 Orange St., Conneaut and [REDACTED] stated the following¹:

Uh, we were second, the lead vehicle was our marked, uh, cruiser. Uh, there was two deputies in, in that first vehicle. Uh, they pulled into the driveway and we pulled in, uh, right behind them. And then we all got out of the vehicles. Uh, first person, uh, [REDACTED] he walked up to the door At that time. I don't know if, like, who else was behind him, 'cause I was starting to make my way around the side of the building. Uh, somebody came to the door, which I believe it was the brother. Uh, [REDACTED] asked, Hey, is, is, um, this male here? I I do not remember his name. Um, truthfully, I, I don't wanna remember the name. I don't want to, to live rent free in my mind. Uh, so the male with a warrant, uh, the brother said, yes, he's here.

Uh, [REDACTED] asked the male to step out, said, Hey, where is he at? Said he's in the basement. We started to walk in. So it was, uh, [REDACTED] Once we made our way into the kit, uh, the kitchen area right off of the, the front porch, uh, it was, uh, [REDACTED] Deputy Massey, Deputy Painter, and myself, we started to figure out

¹ SA Boerner provided [REDACTED] with images/diagrams of the scene to use as a source of reference during the interview.

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where the basement was. We didn't know, I believe it was the brother said, Hey, it's, it's around the corner, like through the kitchen area. Uh, as soon as we made the way to the, through the kitchen area, I believe it was [REDACTED] said, Hey, the male just ran downstairs, could hear the door shut. You can hear screeching items being pushed up against the door. At which point he said, the male's barricaded himself down in the basement.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened next and [REDACTED] stated the following:

Um, shortly after, uh, I got on the radio and I informed our dispatch. Uh, I used my, my call sign, my unit number [REDACTED]. Um, they acknowledged, I said, the male's being male's now barricading himself in the basement. Uh, just in case this went south. Uh, we needed a timeline of what's happening for them to record or take note of the incident. We let everybody else know. So that's kind of a, it's a two part. Let dispatch know what's going on. Let everybody else know that's outside. That could not hear us. Hey, he's inside. We have confirmation that he's inside. And then now he's barricading. Uh, there was a, a second door leading from, uh, the kitchen to the basement. So, there's the outside door. Uh, as soon as you open up the outside door, like from their driveway, you can look, you can see down through the steps, uh, to the basement, or you can access it through the kitchen. Um, the other three deputies, they moved outside, and then I remained inside at the kitchen area, looking down the steps.

[REDACTED] stated that they gave commands to Butts to exit the basement and that Butts stated that he was not coming out. SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he could describe the conversation and [REDACTED] stated:

Uh, I'm not coming out. Fuck you. Lot of swearing, uh, yelling at us. I'm not coming out, leave, get off my property. Um, just throughout the whole thing, I am not leaving. Uh, I'm gonna kill myself. I'm not leaving. That was the first part of, of his back-and-forth communication. So, he knew we were law enforcement. We clearly told him, we're the sheriff's office, you have a warrant. Um, please come up. No, fuck you. Um, I'm not going anywhere. And then we just tried to keep going from there. Uh, just try to keep an open line of communication and we're, we're judging what he's doing right now,

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what he is going to do, projected to do, and then how we're gonna react from there.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened next and [REDACTED] stated:

He is, he's, he's yelling at us. I'm not going anywhere. Uh, he made it perfectly clear at, at one point it, first, I believe it first started off with [REDACTED] trying to give him the commands. Come on out, come on out. It, it wasn't working. Um, whether or not he needed a break, uh, I started, I started giving commands as well. Um, around that time, only one person was giving commands to best that way. Uh, so they could hear and understand one person talking versus everybody yelling. It's complete chaos. So, one person was talking at this particular point I was talking, I was giving him commands. Uh, I was yelling. I wasn't talking. I, I was yelling, um, yelling downstairs. He had the door all the way down here, the line that I'm gonna draw. Sorry, I'm butchering your, your paper. Um, he had that door shut. Um, he had items that we could hear being placed up upon that door. Um, so we don't know if, if he had stuff like leaning up on the door or if items were on the bottom of the door to not, um, allow us to open the door. So that's why I was yelling so he could hear us clearly and understand us. You have a warrant, please come up, um, if you're gonna be under arrest.

[REDACTED] stated that as the incident went on members of the Conneaut Police Department arrived on scene and deployed pepper balls into the basement. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that Butts responded with "A lot of fuck yous." (32:40 mark).

[REDACTED] indicated that at some point he determined that there was a female in the basement with Butts. SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what he observed/heard and [REDACTED] stated:

At the time? No. Uh, presumed. Hi, his girlfriend. All I know is her name now is Heather. Um, so once I knew that we have a female downstairs, told everybody, Hey, we have somebody else downstairs with us. Um, I yelled out, I'm like, Hey, let the female go. Uh, she has no part of this. She's not in any trouble. Just let her go. Um, he starts yelling, yelling back, no, fuck you. She is not going anywhere. Uh, then I knew this is getting more serious. He is now keeping her captive. Uh, he is refusing to let her go. She is coughing as well. Um, and they are

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arguing back and forth. The argument is, was strictly between those two.

So, I look back at our guys, uh, outside, and we were like, Hey, we have a hostage situation. We need to, uh, get her out of, of the basement. Uh, at that particular time, the two of them were just arguing back and forth. Uh, he was yelling, uh, at her, this is all your fault, uh, that the cops are here. No, it's not. Let me go. You're not going anywhere. And they're just, just bickering back and forth. Um, at that time, we did not make it a point to do a, uh, a complete hostage rescue, um, minus the fact that pepper ball was being introduced into a lot of the basement. Um, at that particular point, besides him saying, you are not fucking going anywhere, um, he was not attacking her.

██████████ stated that at some point Deputy Massey and Deputy Warsing forced open the basement door and rescued the female from the basement. ██████████ indicated that he was unable to see much of the basement but did observe that there were items stacked up on the ground.

██████████ recalled that after the female was rescued from the basement he received information that Butts had a firearm.

SA Boerner ██████████ to describe what happened after the female was rescued from the basement and ██████████ stated the following:

Um, whole bunch of yelling, uh, back and forth from us to him. Come out of the house, I'm not going anywhere. Um, I'm not going back to prison. Um, I'm gonna, I'm gonna shoot you and I'm gonna kill myself. So, his statement was kind of like, he was on repeat, I'm not going anywhere. I'm gonna shoot you. I'm gonna kill myself. Was just kind of on his repeated loop.

SA Boerner asked ██████████ if Butts approached the door to the basement, exited the basement, or approached them at any point during the incident and ██████████ stated the following:

I, I don't remember what he, what all he was yelling at that time, but having knowledge that he had a gun. He's, he's by himself, um, he's starting to make the movement that he is going to produce a hand. Um, as I am on the steps, looking down, I flipped my switch from my rifle. I flipped it off of safety, uh, to a single shot. Very quickly, he

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extends his hand. When he did that, I put my finger on the trigger. I was like, he's going to present a firearm and try to shoot us that particular point. Uh, it was like a flashlight. I mean, as far as just physical characteristics or, yes. Uh, phy, I, I, I don't know if he turned it on. Uh, I could tell that it was not a firearm.

So, um, through my, like the threat assessment, I was like, that's a not a gun. Took my finger off the trigger, flipped it back on safe, uh, the, the, the rifle back on safe, and we continued to yell at him. Um, and he, he's going back and forth. Um, just the same stuff he kept repeating. So, um, I don't know if more, uh, pepper ball was being deployed into the basement or not. Uh, he keeps, he kept yelling, you know, fuck you, I'm gonna shoot you. I'm gonna kill myself. Then he like opened the door a couple times and shut it. He opens the door, and then now he completely stepped out from the basement onto, if he wasn't on the steps, he would've been at the bottom landing, like where the, the door opened to the steps. He had a, uh, a long gun. It wasn't a, like, um, arm alike AR 15. It wasn't one of those. Um, but it was a long barrel hunting rifle style, uh, gun. Uh, he had it completely tucked up under his chin and his thumb was on the trigger (Figure 1 [REDACTED] demonstrating position of the firearm, 00:47:21 mark). Uh, he stepped out and he kept saying, I'm gonna shoot myself. I'm gonna shoot myself. I'm not going to jail. I'm not going back to prison.



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Figure 1 [REDACTED] demonstrating position of the firearm, 00:47:21 mark

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened next and [REDACTED] recalled:

He kept saying, um, his, his his repeat, um, I'm gonna shoot you. I'm gonna kill myself. And then he closed the door, and then he was like, Nope, nope. I'm gonna kill myself. I'm, I'm, I'm gonna do it right now. Nope. I'm gonna kill myself right now. Uh, which, which just how he said it was really just stuck out in my mind. People, um, as he is alert, as, as he's yelling at us, like he, his demeanor changed. I dunno, it's hard to explain.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if Butts seemed calm or agitated and [REDACTED] stated:

Calm or? It, it seemed like from before, he's completely agitated to now. He went down to a low of, he's a little bit more calm, but, nope, I'm gonna, I'm gonna kill myself. I'm gonna, I'm gonna do it right now. Okay. Uh, then he, uh, opened the door again. Now, at this point, he has both hands on the rifle. His hand is off of the trigger. Uh, we had [REDACTED] uh, [REDACTED] we were calling her up. She had a 40 millimeter less lethal, uh, gun. The 40 millimeter, uh, projectile was a foam round that got shot out. So, it is less lethal. We called her up, um,

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when he was standing in the, the doorway. Um, she took the shot with the less lethal, I thought he got hit. Uh, how he reacted, he like kind of crouched down, like he just took around to the chest, uh, or abdomen area. Um, but I later found out she, uh, hit the wall instead of hitting him. So, whether it was the, the sound either way couldn't tell you what he was thinking. Uh, he reacted and he started yelling back at her, um, whoever just shot me, I'm gonna fucking kill you. I'm gonna kill you. I'm gonna shoot you. Then he switched. At one point he thought, uh, one of the Conneaut officers, uh, John Ball was there, um, and he started addressing him, which he was. John. Officer Ball was not on scene. So, he starts addressing him, you know, are you here? Was that you, did you just fucking shoot me? Uh, I'm gonna shoot you. Whoever just shot me, I'm gonna fucking shoot you. He presents himself again, still with the barrel underneath his chin. Um, uh, [REDACTED], she reloaded the less lethal. The second time she shot, uh, she got him in the abdomen. Um, he reacted appropriately again. He kind of crouched down. Uh, that made him more mad again, fuck you. Whoever's going to who, whoever just shot, I'm gonna fucking kill you. Was a lot of his statements. Uh, he retreated in, shut the door.

Uh, shortly after that, he opened the door and then there was like a silence. And then from the basement door, he stuck the barrel of the gun out. So, he stuck it like out and up, and that's exactly where we were (Figure 2, [REDACTED] demonstrating position of firearm, 00:51:28 mark). Uh, human nature. I had a startle flinch. Unfortunately, I, I, I jerked back into the kitchen, uh, slightly came back out and, um, fixated on this gun distance from the steps. Um, guesstimating twelve feet, if that's a, a standard, um, distance of steps. So, twelve feet, if, if, if he was at about that landing at the bottom. Let's say fifteen, let's say even just, we'll go back to the twelve feet. Uh, that rifle sticking out was enhanced. It was like, it was right in front of my face.



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Figure 2, [REDACTED] demonstrating position of firearm, 00:51:28 mark

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he recalled if Butts stepped out of the basement doorway or if he presented just the barrel of the firearm and [REDACTED] stated, "Just the gun." (00:52:34 mark).

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened after Butts presented the firearm and [REDACTED] stated:

He, he pulled the gun back out. Um, tunnel vision went away, and people on the outside, uh, I don't know who it was, but the statement was made. He is not going to point that gun at us again. Um, which whoever said that also helped pull me out of like, the, the tunnel vision of, of that. And yes, he just pointed a gun at me and the rest of my, my team.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened after that and [REDACTED] stated the following:

I don't know who else was yelling what all he yelled. Um, I know that at one particular, something caught my attention. ADHD I don't know. Not diagnosed, I'm just saying. Uh, so I look over at them, and then soon as I looked back, um, I seen the, the barrel was already presented

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up to us. So, I don't know how he lowered it or, or raised it to us, but the gun was, was pointed at us and we were, we shot the, we shot to stop the threat of him shooting and killing us (Figure 3, [REDACTED] demonstrating position of firearm, 00:54:09 mark).



Figure 3, [REDACTED] demonstrating position of firearm, 00:54:09 mark

SA Boerner asked how [REDACTED] felt when he observed the barrel of the firearm and [REDACTED] stated:

Uh, I was scared. Um, I knew that from previous we had the intel that he had the gun. He's saying that he is not leaving the basement. He did not want to go back to jail or prison. He kept his girlfriend down in the basement. He would not let her leave. He restricted her from, from freedom basically, uh, to showing us that he had a, a gun to more threats of trying to kill us, wanting to kill us. I am going to fucking shoot you to presenting the, the threat the first time and to the last time until we stopped the threat.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if there were any other options available to him to end the situation and [REDACTED] stated:

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There, there was no other option. We've already introduced everything else, just shy of the taser. Um, he was committed that he was not leaving the basement, and he was committed of the verbal threats. I'm gonna kill you to showing us the gun, to pointing the gun at us. And at that point, we had no other option that we had to stop the continuation of threats.

██████████ stated that after the shooting Sgt. Dean called out to Butts and received no response. ██████████ recalled we deployed our drone and confirmed that Butts was no longer a threat. ██████████ stated that members of the sheriff's office went downstairs to render aid. ██████████ indicated that Dep. Painter and he searched the basement for additional individuals and did not locate any. ██████████ indicated that Fire/EMS entered the basement and declared Butts to be deceased.

██████████ stated that after the shooting he was transported to a medical facility for drug testing. ██████████ stated that after submitting to a drug test, he was transported to the sheriff's office.

The interview concluded at approximately 1533 hrs.

The interview was audio/video recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item J – ACSO Deputy Interviews > Involved Deputy Interviews. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. A copy of the diagrams/images used as reference material for the interview was uploaded to Matrix and attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

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

Attachments:

1. 2026-07-08 ██████████ 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

7/8/2026
Date / Time

[Redacted]
Signature of Interviewee

SA Dan Boulware
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Dan Boulware
BCI Agent (Signature)



7/2/26, 6:37 AM

Mail - Michael Sullivan - Outlook



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7/8/26