



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



2025-1603

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Scene Processing

**Involves:** Columbus Division of Police  
Jerry D. Smith

**Activity Date:** 05/20/2025

**Activity Location:** 4482 Hampton Woods Ct., Columbus, OH

**Authoring Agent:** Special Agent Aja Chung, #86

**Narrative:**

On May 20, 2025, the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) requested assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) regarding an officer-involved critical incident. It was reported by multiple 911 callers that a domestic assault was in progress at the above listed activity location. Upon CPD patrol units' arrival, they were reportedly shot at by a subject inside the residence. The subject, Jerry D. Smith (Smith) allegedly held his girlfriend, Mary Bright (Bright) hostage and CPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) responded for negotiations. During negotiations, Smith discharged his pistol at CPD SWAT officers who returned fire, striking and killing Smith. The BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) responded to process the scene and the BCI Force Investigations Unit (FIU) responded to conduct the investigation.

At 0140 hours, Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) arrived at the scene and made contact with CPD Lieutenant Truax who provided her with information necessary to start processing the scene. SA Chung requested SA Brittney VanBibber to respond to CPD SWAT offices on McKinley Avenue to process the involved and witnessing officers.

At approximately 0230 hours, SA Chung documented the scene through photography and 3D scans. The scene extended from the residence to the parking lot directly located in front of the residence. The structure contained multiple single family attached condominiums. The residence consisted of one bedroom, one bathroom, a living room and kitchen area. The windows and front door of the residence faced a north-westerly direction, towards the parking lot.

In the parking lot directly outside the front door to the residence were two (2) CPD SWAT armored vehicles, identified as ARV1 and ARV2. Both SWAT armored vehicles were photographed. ARV2 was parked directly in front of the residence with its front breaching arm extended. ARV1 was parked in front of 4480 Hampton Woods Ct. No damage to either armored vehicle was observed.

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Located on the sidewalk in front of 4483 Hampton Woods Ct., was a sniper rifle secured on top of a tripod. The tripod was measured at 4.35 feet from the ground. The rifle and tripod were positioned behind a dark gray Mitsubishi SUV and the rifle's carrying case was located on the grass nearby. The rifle was an Accuracy International .308 caliber rifle with serial number: [REDACTED]. The magazine was seated and contained eight .308 cartridges, and one cartridge was removed from the chamber. There was a Nightforce scope, and a tan silencer affixed to it. The rifle and nine (9) cartridges were packaged together as item 1. Near the rifle, an orange cone was placed over a .308 Hornady rifle casing by CPD units. The casing was collected as item 2. The rifle's carrying case and tripod were turned over to CPD SWAT Lieutenant Hargus. Near 4486 Hampton Woods Court, behind a gold minivan (OH/KNP 8006), a .223 Hornady rifle casing (item 2) was located. The casing was first identified by CPD units, who placed an orange cone over it.

Inside the residence SA Chung located the following evidentiary items and labeled them as follows:

Item #	Description	Location found
4	9mm STR ammo magazine with eleven cartridges	Front porch
5	Casing: 9mm FC headstamp	Front door threshold
6	Pistol: Stoeger, 9mm semi-automatic, STR-9, no magazine, one cartridge removed from the chamber, S/N: T6429-24U09779	Next to decedent in living room
7	Casing: 9mm FC headstamp	Living room
8	Casing: 9mm FC headstamp	Near bathroom
9	Cartridges: 17 Hornady and FC headstamps	Living room and kitchen
10	Casing: 9mm Hornady headstamp	Bedroom
11	Cell phone: black Apple product	Kitchen table/bar

SA Chung observed ballistic events (BE) in the bedroom and front storm door. For documentation purposes, the BE defects were labeled as BE 1.0 through BE 6.0 and they are described as follows. No projectiles were recovered from any of the ballistic defects.

- **BE 1.0** - Located on the interior west wall of the bedroom. The projectile created a perforating round hole. No corresponding bullet defects were located on the exterior side of the wall. The projectile traveled from interior to exterior.

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- **BE 2.0** - Located on the bedroom's interior window. The projectile created perforating holes in the cloth window shade, metal blinds, window, and screen that created misshaped holes with each target the projectile struck. The projectile displayed a direction from interior to exterior. The window defect was observed to have radial and concentric fractures, and the beveling was smooth on the interior side of the window. The defect on the screen (BE 2.2), located on the exterior side of the residence had material that was pushed outward. A search for corresponding ballistic events was conducted with negative results.
- **BE 3.0 & BE 4.0** - Located on the exterior front storm door. The small round defects were on the screen portion and the direction of the projectiles could not be deciphered. The projectile perforated the screen portion only and no corresponding ballistic defects were located in the interior or exterior surrounding areas.
- **BE 5.0** - Located on the storm door screen area. The perforating projectile created a misshaped hole that was pushed inward on the interior side of the door and outward on the exterior side, indicating a travel path of interior to exterior. A search for corresponding ballistic defects was conducted with negative results.
- **BE 6.0** - Located on the metal portion of the storm door between the screen and window areas. A projectile perforated the metal, pushing the metal inward and created a round misshaped hole. The projectile traveled from exterior to interior. No corresponding defects were located inside or outside of the residence.

Ballistic events BE 3.0 through BE 6.0 do not account for any angle the storm door position was in at the time the projectile struck the aforementioned areas.

Franklin County Coroner's Office (FCCO) Investigator Emily Wallis responded to the scene, and SA Chung documented Smith's body with her assistance. Smith's body was located on the living room floor near the front door. He was found on his back with his right hand on his torso and his left arm extended to his side. Smith's left leg was bent, and his right leg was straight. He was wearing black pants and black tennis shoes. Smith's wallet and cash were located in his left pants pocket. Smith had multiple tattoos on both arms and chest. SA Chung observed a large wound on the inside of Smith's elbow/lower upper arm area. A large wound, suspected to have been caused by a gunshot was located underneath Smith's left armpit. No gunshot wounds were located on his back. Smith was placed in a body bag and transported to FCCO for an autopsy.

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During SA Chung's scene processing, BCI FIU SA Chad Holcomb turned over Mary Bright's clothing that was collected at Grant Medical Center. For ease of documentation, the clothing was documented under 'Scene 3.'

The clothing, jeans, t-shirt, bra, underwear, pair of socks, pair of tennis shoes and a blanket were documented through photography, packaged together and labeled as item 1. Mary Bright's phone was collected, and she signed a consent form. SA Chung secured the phone in a clear bag and turned it over to BCI Cyber Unit upon her arrival at BCI offices later in the morning.

No other items of evidentiary value were located, and SA Chung concluded her investigation at approximately 0645 hours. An evidence receipt was left inside the residence and the scene on Hampton Woods Court was turned over to BCI FIU to continue their investigation.

SA Chung then drove to CPD SWAT offices on McKinley Ave. and arrived at approximately 0715 hours to further assist CSU SA Brittney VanBibber. SA Chung received the involved CPD officers' firearms that were discharged during the incident.

SA Chung then BCI London offices and placed the evidence in temporary evidence locker at 0845 hours.

All photographs were uploaded to Evidence.com.

On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, SA Chung retrieved the items she secured in the temporary locker and did the following:

**BCI Lab submission:**

Items 1-8, 10

**BCI Major Crimes evidence locker:**

Items 9 and 11.

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