



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



2026-1831

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 E. Warren St.,
Bucyrus, OH 44820, Crawford County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Trooper Brett Hannum (W)
Activity Date: 06/15/2026
Activity Location: 3617 State Route 4, Bucyrus, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond #120

Narrative:

WARNING – This report includes a graphic image on page 5.

On Monday, June 15, 2026, at 954 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper (Trp.) Brett Hannum (Trp. Hannum). The interview took place at 3617 State Route 4, Bucyrus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Trp. Hannum was identified as being as a Trooper and member of the Tactical Team who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 10, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred at 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, Ohio. Reportedly, Trp. Hannum did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this Trooper. He was not represented by union representation during the interview.

The following is a summary of 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. The information 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

Trp. Hannum stated his radio call sign on May 11, 2026, was Hannum. He has been employed by OSHP for about fifteen years. He has been a law enforcement officer for a total of eighteen years. During the incident, Trp. Hannum wore his OSHP tactical uniform with a fabric police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove an unmarked Ford truck equipped with emergency lights to the

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scene. He considered himself to be well-represented as an OSHP Trooper during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

A body worn camera was used by Trp. Hannum during the active portions of the incident. He also stated that he utilized a state issued phone to photograph aspects of the incident. He stated that those photographs were uploaded to the data storage server.

Trp. Hannum advised that he had viewed his body worn camera footage to tag critical points in the footage. He stated that he believed that he watched it one time. He stated that his memory was not different than the video footage that he watched.

Trp. Hannum related that his workday started at [REDACTED]. He stated that he was aware of the Tactical Team call out, so he responded to Alum Creek in Columbus to retrieve more gas and equipment for the armored vehicle. Trp. Hannum described his response to the scene as self-initiated.

During his response to the scene, Trp. Hannum listened to the radio traffic at the scene.

At the 07:12 mark, "They were going to start, um, introducing gas and stuff like that. I did hear radio calls of, um, the suspect was shooting out of the building and kind of just those calls of what they're doing where the rook was going to introduce more gas, come back and get more. And then also when there were shots fired, it was, um, transmitted on the radio."

Trp. Hannum stated that the travel time from Alum Creek to Bucyrus was approximately one hour. He stated that he did not remember what time he arrived at the scene. He contacted Sergeant (Sgt.) Lofland and was directed to the back of the home to assist with launching into the home from the back or side three.

At the 09:34 mark, "They had carved a, a hole in the wall, uh, with the Rook and that's where the suspect was. I could not visibly see the suspect from where I stood. Uh, both times then pretty much Sgt. Lofland notified me via radio that they were set, and I was set in the go ahead and introduce gas. I fired four gas rounds into the structure; the room I believe the room the suspect was in."

At the 10:59 mark, "I launched the gas from the front driver's side of the Bear, Bearcat."

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Trp. Hannum described what he heard after the gas rounds were fired into the home. This information was obtained from other SWAT Operators.

At the 11:26 mark, "We launched gas. Um, they had some observers and SWAT operators out that had eyes on the suspect. Um, when the gas was launched into the house, he put a gas mask on."

Trp. Hannum further related:

At the 12:16 mark, "Pretty much from what we could see is he was like in a well-prepared position. So, uh, he put a gas mask on right away. Um, he had what appeared to be like a homemade shield, handheld shield in front of him, and he would just yell at us. Okay. Um, when he would take the gas mask off, he would yell at us that he was sitting on a grenade."

After the placement of gas into the home, Trp. Hannum described some of the planning information that was related to him through OSHP Sgt. Lofland.

At the 14:22 mark, "Sgt. Lofland notifies me that pretty much they're going, um, I don't know what team was going to send additional personnel and another negotiator. They were going to try and negotiate with him. If he did not surrender or continue to become agitated that they were going to do a sniper initiated. Um, I, I don't want to call it assault because he was saying he had explosives, but they were going to have a sniper initiate a shot and then to make plans on how to move up to the structure. And that's what I kind of did with, uh, Trp. Ross. And we kind of ran through, um, the other SWAT team how to, what to do and what to look for on the shield of the rook, like if they needed to open up any of the ports or anything."

Trp. Hannum described the interaction between Paul Desmarais (Desmarais) and the negotiator.

At the 16:03 mark, "As the negotiator talked to him, he continuously said he was sitting on a grenade. He couldn't move. He couldn't put the pin back in it. Um, we also got reports that the family said there are, there was explosives in the house."

Trp. Hannum stated that he was around the white Ford truck when the sniper fired the shot. He then described deploying with the Bomb Team into the home to determine what dangers existed. He described his role as a medic. He stated that he inserted into the home via a platform attached to the Rook. They were raised to the opening on the

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second floor. He described photographing the point of entry and the location of the subject.

Trp. Hannum described the search of the home by Bomb Team Members and the materials that were located.

At the 19:22 mark, "EOD guys found a bunch of powder or powder in a, in a room and didn't feel comfortable us continuously continuing to clear until they tested that powder. So, they eventually, so they made the decision to move all of us, but two SWAT members out of the structure, and pretty much I then went to the Bearcat and held there until the structure was clear."

Trp. Hannum was asked about the potential risks that Tactical Team members would have faced if they had to enter the home to apprehend the subject.

At the 20:30 mark, "I would say extremely high that several SWAT members would be injured if we had to assault that structure."

At the 23:59 mark, "The only option really was to move up with the rook. And that's only rated to, I believe 306. So even moving up and with the rook put us at an even more kind, of in a serious kind of danger position of a SWAT operator getting hurt or injured."

Trp. Hannum described the risks that Tactical Team members took to determine if the hand grenade was functional.

At the 21:24 mark, "So to mitigate even that risk, we moved into the structure. We had to attach a lanyard. He was wearing a, like bulletproof vest. The EOD attached a lanyard to him. We got in the Rook and backed up, um, halfway between the house and the garage to at least get us some distance. Even with the armor, we didn't know if it was live. That was a better standoff distance for us. And then we, we pulled the suspect off the bucket and what was determined to be the inert grenade."

Trp. Hannum stated that he observed Desmarais while he was inside the home. He described what he was wearing and the items nearby. See figure 1, Reference Item R - OSHP Created Photographs and Videos. - IMG_0577 .

At the 22:50 mark, "He had a, like a bulletproof vest on. He had an AR rifle in his lap. On the bed next to him was a, like homemade, it looked like a steel shield. Um, he had an AR rifle propped up against the wall and then a, like M1 grand rifle on the floor. Um, so he was, and he was sitting back in the corner kind of, in like a well-prepared like, fighting position. Like, it was my impression

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that he was not going to give up. He was trying to bait us to come in so he could shoot it out with us.



Figure 1 - IMG_0577 - OSHP

Trp. Hannum stated that he feared for his safety and the safety of others during the incident. The interview concluded at approximately 1021 hours. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interview - OSHP - OSHP Brett Hannum.

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References:

Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interview – OSHP – OSHP Brett Hannum. Axon Justice.

Reference Item R - OSHP Created Photographs and Videos. – IMG_0577

Attachments:

None

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