



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



2024-3649

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave  
NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720

**Investigative Activity:** Video Review – Cracker Barrel Surveillance Video  
**Involves:** James Vanest (S)  
**Activity Date:** 03/10/2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Matthew Armstrong

**Narrative:**

On Friday, November 22, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) William Conn (SA Conn) received video footage from Ian Setnar of Cracker Barrel Corporate Security. The video was provided through an email link. SA Conn downloaded the video file, and it was stored as Reference Item E.

On March 10, 2025, SA Matt Armstrong (Armstrong) began reviewing the video recording.

The video file was titled *Cracker Barrel Security Video*. It contained video footage recorded by a surveillance camera mounted on the south side of Cracker Barrel. The lens of the camera faced south as depicted in *Cracker Barrel Image 1*. The video did not contain sound but visually captured some of the incident. An image depicting the view from the camera has been included in *Cracker Barrel Image 2*.

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*Cracker Barrel Image 1*

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*Cracker Barrel Image 2*

The video was 5 hours, 11 minutes, and 42 seconds in length. There was a date and time stamp on the bottom right portion of the video. At the beginning of the video, it read: 2024-11-18 09:58:22. A manual check of the frame rate revealed the video was recorded at 10 frames per second. The video provided a general overview of the incident, but the quality limited the ability to identify officers or gunshots being fired. Throughout the review, there were times when officers or agencies were identified. Those identifications were based on information learned during the investigation. References to time correlate to the time stamp on the video recording.

The details most relevant to this investigation have been included below.

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10:27:34 A Marshall's black SUV arrived and parked in a space east of Room 220.

11:06:13 Multiple unmarked law enforcement vehicles parked in front of Room 220.  
Four officers exited their vehicles and approached the door.

11:10:57 Officers quickly moved away from the door and appeared to take positions of cover.

11:23:38 Additional marked police vehicles and officers began arriving

11:52:20 The first SWAT vehicle [REDACTED]/WYATT) arrived and parked near the front of Room 220. Officers exited the vehicle and congregated near the back of it.

12:18:00 An officer (likely [REDACTED]) took up a position near Room 301.

12:22:53 The officer (likely [REDACTED]) returned to a position near the back of the Marshall's black SUV.

12:25:05 There was an abrupt movement of officers near the back of the Marshall's black SUV (likely the moment [REDACTED] was shot). Officers gathered and knelt near the officer (likely [REDACTED]) who was lying on the ground near the back of the Marshall's black SUV.

12:26:50 The officers stood up and began running north toward the Cracker Barrel parking lot. They then turned and ran west through the parking lot and out of camera view.

12:28:55 An officer (likely [REDACTED]) moved from the area where [REDACTED] was shot to the passenger side of a black SUV parked parallel to Room 301. The officer appeared to be setting up a rifle (likely a sniper set up). The officer adjusted his position several times until standing up and running to the east end of the Cracker Barrel parking lot and out of camera view.

12:47:01 The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Armored vehicle (SRT 1) arrived in the Cracker Barrel parking lot.

13:01:40 The OSP SRT-1 drove west through the Cracker Barrel parking lot and out of camera view.

13:06:21 The [REDACTED]/WYATT moved in reverse, away from Room 220 while OSP SRT-1 drove east, parallel to Room 220.

13:07:03 The OSP SRT-1 turned south and drove in front of Room 220 and pushed a light-colored pick-up truck (James Vanest's truck) away from Room 220.

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13:08:03 [REDACTED]/WYATT returned to its position in front of Room 220.

13:08:43 A second Canton armored vehicle (Canton 03) arrived and parked along the north wall of Room 220.

13:48:22 A team of officers gathered along the passenger side of [REDACTED]/WYATT and then made their way to the door of Room 220.

13:48:55 A cloud of smoke was visible near the door of Room 220. The team then appeared to enter the room.

13:49:50 Team members appeared to exit the room. The remaining officers in the area then began securing their gear and weapons.

13:56:17 Officers began securing the area with crime scene tape.

The remainder of the video depicted officers present in the area likely awaiting BCI arrival.

**References:**

Item E - Surveillance Camera Video

**Attachments:**

1. Cracker Barrel Image 1
2. Cracker Barrel Image 2

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