



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



2022-1564

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH 45368

Investigative Activity: Crimes Scene Processing (*Scene #1*)
Activity Date: July 24, 2022
Activity Location: 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, OH 45368
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Chad Holcomb, #61

On July 24, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Chad Holcomb, SA Kevin Wagner, SA Aja Chung and Special Agent Supervisor Joshua Durst were assigned to assist the Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) with an officer involved critical incident. CCSO Deputy Matthew Yates responded to a shooting located at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Ohio 45368. Upon entering the trailer, it was reported that Cole White (White) shot Dep. Yates. Multiple police agencies and SWAT teams responded to the scene. Dep. Yates was later removed from inside the trailer by a SWAT team and flown by helicopter to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Shortly after Dep. Yates was removed from the trailer, the residence caught fire. Agents were informed through interviews that two bodies were believed to still be in the trailer. CCSO asked for BCI Crime Scene Unit to process the scene and the BCI Special Investigations Unit handle the officer involved critical incident investigation.

Agents began processing the scene at 1457 hours. The scene was photographed as it was upon arrival. The trailer was located on the east side of Ashwood Drive with the front door on the northern wall of the trailer. Parts of the trailer were still on fire and the local fire department was continuing to extinguish the flames. The sides and the roof of the trailer had either fallen down or been burned up from the flames of the fire. The floor of the trailer had also burned away due to the fire. Multiple police, sheriff and SWAT vehicles were located near the trailer. SA Holcomb learned the Clark County Prosecutor confirmed there was no expectation of privacy due to White being deceased. A search warrant for the White's residence or vehicle (parked in front of his trailer) was not needed.

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(Drone photo of trailer)

As the fire department extinguished the flames, SA Holcomb was made aware of multiple casings located in the roadway. SA Holcomb collected 12 Hornady .223 casings and one 9mm Hornady cartridge as item #1 which was located on the roadway near cruiser 12-24. Cruiser 12-24 was located on the west side of Ashwood Drive across from the trailer. Two 9mm Hornady Casings (item #2) were collected from the driveway of 1130 Ashwood Drive near the passenger side of a SWAT Bearcat vehicle.

The interior and exterior of cruiser 12-17, which was believed to be Dep. Yates cruiser, was photographed as it was. The cruiser was parked facing northbound approximately two houses to the north of the burned trailer. The cruiser's emergency lights were activated. No items of evidentiary value were located.

Parked in front of the burned trailer was a white, four-door, 2009 Mitsubishi Lancer with a VIN of JA3AU26U39U042049. The vehicle was registered to Cole White. SA Holcomb photographed the exterior of the vehicle. SA Holcomb forced entry through the front driver side door of the vehicle. No items of evidentiary value were located.

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Multiple items of evidence were collected from the grass to the north of the trailer. A DJI Mavic Mini drone with a microSD card (item #5) and a ballistic helmet with 'YATES' (item #14) on the back of the helmet were both collected. Seven 9mm Hornady casings (item #10), four .223 Hornady casings and one .223 Hornady cartridge (item #11) were collected from the grass.

SA Holcomb was made aware of a suspected bullet hole in the trailer located at 1129 Ashwood (to the west of White's trailer). The suspected bullet hole was labeled as BE 1.0 for documentation purposes. A projectile was wedged in the siding. The projectile was collected as item #9.

Once the fire department extinguished the fire, two bodies were observed inside the trailer and with permission from the Clark County Coroner Investigator, the bodies were removed. A body, later identified as Cole White, was found face down in the laundry room near the back door of the trailer. White was wearing a black shirt, jeans and black shoes. He had burns all over his body. Agents removed a total of 12 PMC .308 WIN cartridges (item #7) from White's pockets. White was placed in a body bag and transported to the Montgomery County Coroner's Office for an autopsy.



(White's body located in the laundry room)

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Agents located a female body, later identified as Jodie Arbuckle (Arbuckle), in the master bedroom located on the east side of the trailer. Any clothing she wore was burned from the fire. She had extensive burns over her entire body. She had a ring on her left ring finger. She was placed in a body bag and transported to the Montgomery County Coroner's Office for an autopsy.

As the fire department conducted a search for fire hotspots, multiple firearms were located. A DPMS, LR308, .308 rifle with a serial number of FFK051850 was recovered in the laundry room. The rifle had a cartridge in the chamber and a seated magazine containing nine cartridges. The firearm would have been located in the area under White's body. The firearm, cartridge and magazine were all collected as item #3. A Remington, RM380, .380 semi-automatic handgun with a serial number of RM024081C was recovered in the laundry room. The handgun had one cartridge in the chamber and six cartridges in the magazine. The handgun, magazine and cartridges were all collected as item #4.

SA Holcomb collected a Remington Police Magnum 870, 12-gauge shotgun with a serial number of RS67069K (item #6) with extensive fire damage near the front door with a broken slide (item #6). Agents had to remove the barrel of the firearm to render it safe. A fired shotshell was located in the shotgun, however the shotshell was fired due to the heat of the fire (no primer strike present). Nine 9mm Hornady casings, two burned magazines and suspected body camera parts were all collected as item #8 near the front door of the trailer.

While on scene, CCSO Detective Crews provided agents with Dep. Yates exterior vest carrier and duty belt. The exterior vest carrier had a Velcro name plate that said 'YATES'. There were no signs that a bullet struck the ballistic vest. The exterior vest carrier and ballistic vest were collected as item #12. The duty belt had been cut into multiple pieces. A radio, taser, gun holster, keys and an ear piece were all collected as item #13. Dep. Yates' firearm was still in the holster. SA Holcomb removed the Glock 19, 9mm semi-automatic handgun that had a serial number of BGVA346. The firearm had one cartridge in the chamber and a full magazine of 15 cartridges. The firearm, magazine and cartridges were all collected as item #13.1.

Due to limited light at the scene, BCI Agents and the State Fire Marshal's Office decided to suspend the search for evidence in the trailer for the evening. Examination of the scene ended at 2100 hours. Springfield Police Department secured the scene overnight.

At 2153 hours, SA Holcomb placed items #1-14 in the BCI temporary evidence locker in the BCI CSU room located in London, Ohio.

On July 25, 2022 at 0900 hours, BCI Agents and the State Fire Marshal's (STM) office resumed examination of the scene and the trailer. SA Holcomb photographed the trailer as it was upon arrival.

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The State Fire Marshal's office collected remnants from inside the trailer and took them outside where SFM investigators and BCI agents sifted through the property. A Taurus, 410 Judge with a serial number of FP585166 with five cartridges (item #15) was collected near the area of White's body in the laundry room.

In the master bedroom, near where Arbuckle's body was located, an Apple iPhone was located. The phone case contained ID cards (item #16) belonging to Arbuckle. The phone was still powered on. The cell phone was released to BCI Cyber Crimes Unit Special Agent Supervisor Justin Root at 1321 hours.

Agents collected multiple fire damaged bullets, cartridges, casings and a cardboard box of ammo from the master bedroom. All fire damaged ammunition was collected as item #17. Agents located two .308 weapon fired casings and one .380 weapon fired casing (primer strike present) from the master bedroom. The three casings were collected as item #18.

Agents located two .223 casings and a magazine containing 17 9mm cartridges under the siding on the north side of the trailer. The casings, magazine and cartridges were all collected as item #19.

No additional items of evidentiary value were located inside or outside of the residence. Agents finished their examination of the scene at 1545 hours.

At 1453 hours, SA Holcomb submitted items #1-4, 8-11, 18 and 19 to the BCI laboratory for examination. The remaining evidence was placed in the BCI temporary evidence locker to be submitted to the BCI major crimes evidence vault.