



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



2024-3257

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 200 Cline Avenue,  
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer Paul Webb

**Involves:** Officer Paul Webb (S)

**Activity Date:** 11/01/2024

**Activity Location:** Mansfield Police Department-30 N. Diamond Street,  
Mansfield, Ohio

**Authoring Agent:** SA Cory Momchilov #64

**Narrative:**

On Friday, November 1, 2024, at 1058 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Jon Lieber (Lieber) interviewed Officer Paul Webb (Officer Paul Webb), who was accompanied by his attorneys, Robert Sauter (Attorney Sauter) and Lane Hagar (Attorney Hagar), from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Mansfield Police Department, located at 30 North Diamond Street, Mansfield. The interview was audio and video recorded

Prior to the interview, agents were advised by Attorney Sauter that Officer Webb had prepared a typed statement, which a copy was provided to agents. It was decided that Officer Webb would read his typed statement to investigators, and afterward agents would ask any follow-up or clarification questions.

Officer Webb's typed statement is attached to this Investigative Report. The reader of this Investigative Report is strongly encouraged to read the typed statement in its entirety before reading the follow-up question section of this Investigative Report.

Also, prior to the interview, Officer Webb read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

**Follow-Up Questions**

SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb what radio channel was utilized during the incident. Officer Webb replied, "I think it was Man-Tac."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb if he could describe where his position was during the incident in further detail.

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An exterior and interior diagram (Figure 1) was previously created by Officer Webb, prior to the interview.

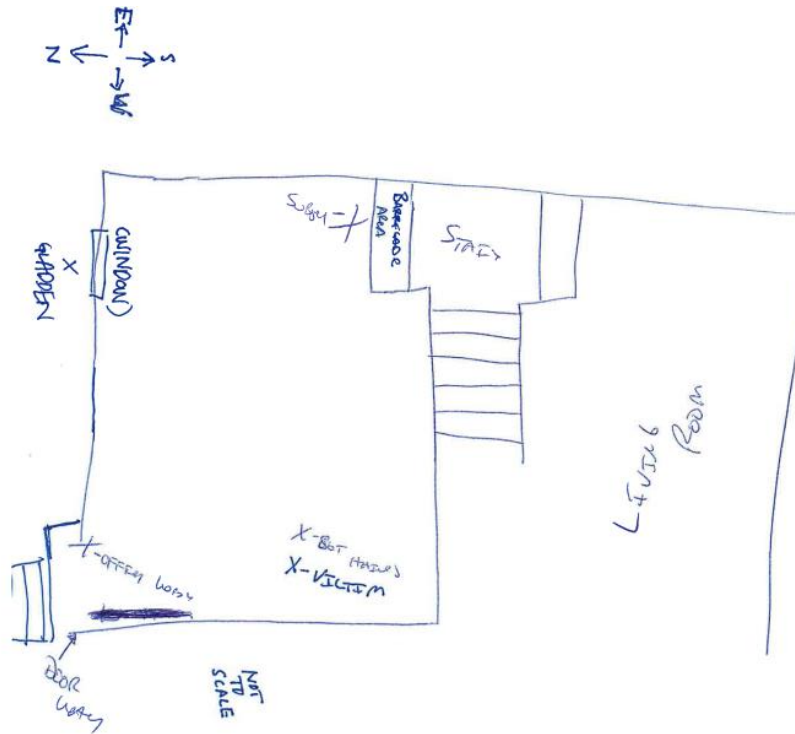


Figure 1

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During the interview, Officer Webb used the interior diagram to illustrate the layout of the residence, officer's positions, Erin Brooks' position and Michael Oswald's position (Figure 2 7:37-9:33).

Officer Webb stated, "On the east side of the door, Sergeant Haines took position (A). I took position on the west side of the door (B). The stairs were to the southeast of our position (C). We couldn't see up the stairs because there was this wall here (D) and it came down into a landing (E), the bottom of the landing, this was all barricaded with, there was at least several items thrown at the bottom (F). One was like a chair, that was thrown down here and he was throwing items down here. So, we were positioned back here (A).

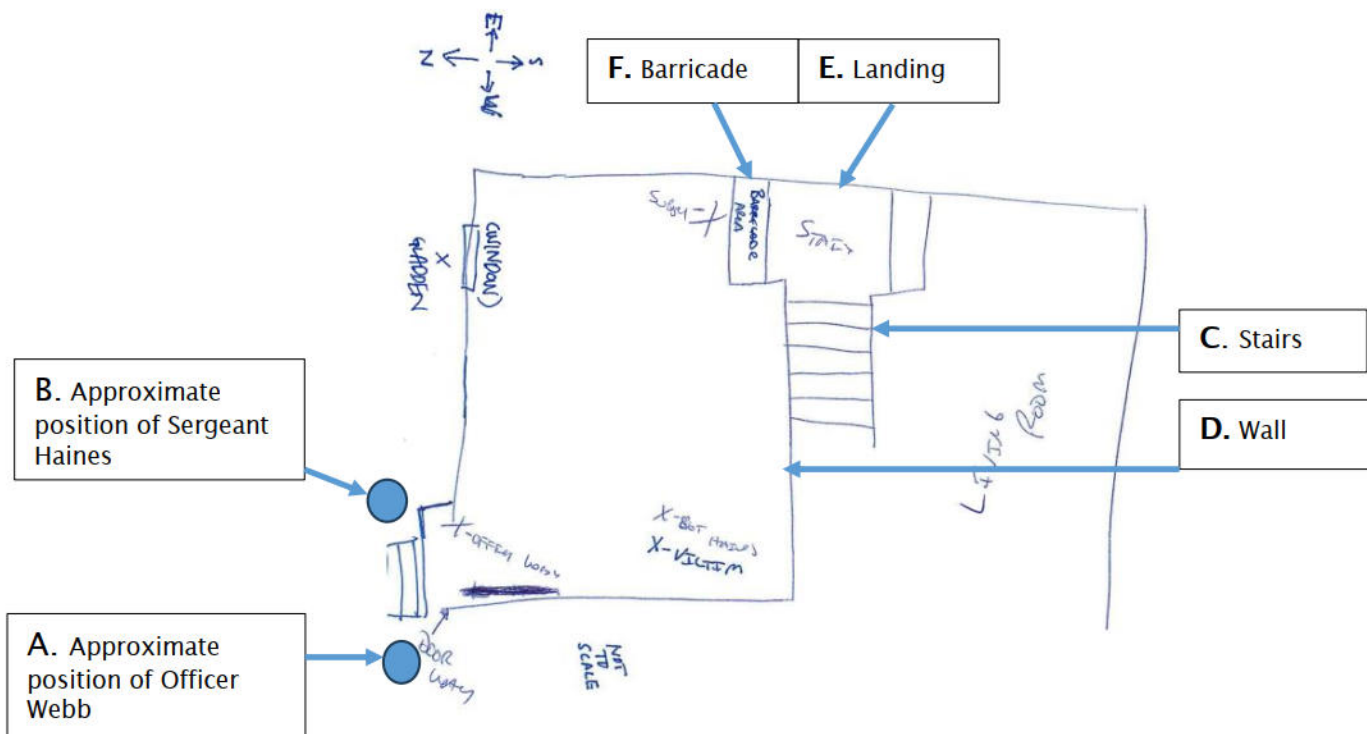


Figure 2

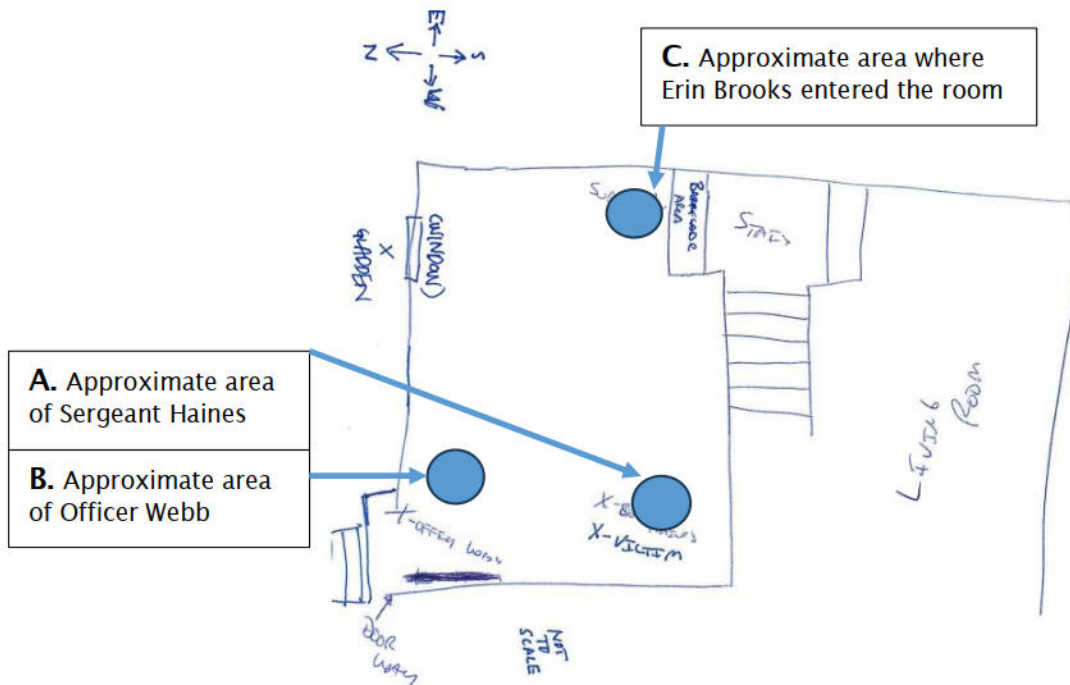
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Officer Webb continued, "The only time we entered is when she, I entered for a few moments to move some items out of the way, so that way we could maneuver if we need to, but that was just for a few seconds to move a chair out of the way. When she ran down the stairs, is at what point we entered the kitchen. Sergeant Haines entered and sat on the west side of the room (A). I just was maybe 3 or 4 feet inside on the east side (B). As she entered here (C), that's where we were positioned (Figure 3).



### Figure 3

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Officer Webb continued, “She ran behind Sergeant Haines to begin with (A), and that’s what time, at what time, the suspect, Mr. Oswald appeared (B). Once he appeared, we began to back out (Figure 4).

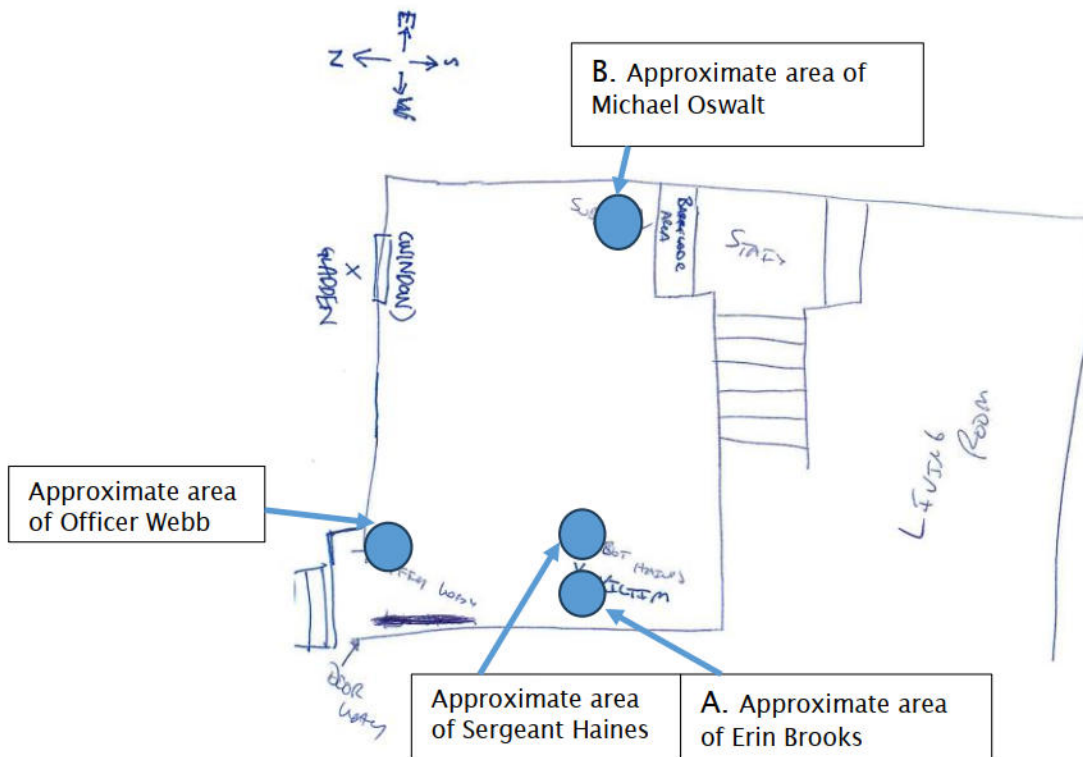


Figure 4

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Officer Webb replied, "The entire time."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb to describe what he mean by that.

Officer Webb stated, "What I mean is they were in an attack position, is what we been referring to it as. They were up high like this (Figure 6 9:58), just above his head and continued to walk at us, continued until he was about 5 or 6 feet away."



Figure 6

SA Momchilov stated, "You said you heard simultaneous gunfire or simultaneous gunfire took place."

Officer Webb replied, "Yes, sir."

SA Momchilov then asked, "Was your decision to fire based on what you observed or was it based on the.."

Officer Webb replied, "It was based on what I observed."

SA Momchilov stated, "So the other officers actions had no.."

Officer Webb replied, "No sir."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb if he could hear what the individual (Oswalt) was saying during the incident. Officer Webb stated the individual was "threatening to kill

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us, making death playlists, if you will, texting, texting through Siri that it would be his last night to his mom type stuff.”

SA Momchilov asked, “Did at some point during the incident did he mention or did you overhear something about using the kids as human shield.”

Officer Webb replied, “Absolutely, yes sir.”

SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb if he could describe that.

Officer Webb stated, “We could hear him talking about and it wasn’t, it wasn’t real clear but me and Sergeant Haines both heard of, you know, ‘you take one and I’ll take the other, we’ll go down,’ at that time we took that as that he’s talking about getting the children, using them as human shields. That’s when we started devising what we were going to do if in fact he presented himself with a, you know, a child hostage in that way or a knife to a child’s throat.”

Officer Webb explained that there was another time when, he (Oswalt) thought she (Brooks) spent too much time downstairs and Oswalt ran into the children’s room and Brooks “took off after.” Officer Webb stated that team members thought they were going to have to go up the stairs. Officer Webb further stated he interpreted those actions of Oswalt as he was going to go and hurt the children because Brooks was taking too long downstairs.

SA Lieber asked Officer Webb if Brooks climbed over the barricade when she came downstairs. Officer Webb explained that initially he felt that the barricade was going to be a big hinderance for team members to climb over if Oswalt began hurting the children upstairs. Officer Webb further explained that the barricade ended up being “helpful for us in the end.” When Brooks came down the stairs, motivated to get away from Oswalt, she was able to get through the barricade much easier the Oswalt. Officer Webb stated, “When he came down, he was coming after her but he got a little bit hung up on those items because he was a bigger guy and he had both hands above his head, so he struggled to get over those items, with the way he was. She got over them fairly easy compared to him.”

SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb if he has heard the term, “Suicide by cop.” Officer Webb stated that he had. SA Momchilov asked Officer Webb if he thought this was an instance of “suicide by cop.”

Officer Webb replied, “I don’t know. I mean, I don’t know. He stated several times he didn’t want to go, he wasn’t going back to prison. I think, I think he planned on dying but I also think he planned on hurting someone. I think he would of, he got any closer

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he was definitely at least take a swipe at us and try and take one of us with him. So, in a way yes, I mean, I think he thought he was going to die but I think he was going to attempt to injure someone and take them with him.”

Officer Webb advised that no one has asked him to lie or otherwise tried to influence his statement to investigators.

After the interview, Attorney Sauter, Attorney Hagar and Officer Webb walked into the hallway. Moments later, they re-entered the room and stated that they wished to clarify one matter.

Officer Webb stated, “The only thing I want to clarify is when I stated, when he got close to us, if he was going to take one of us with us or injure us. He was definitely going to try to kill one of us. I don’t want to say take one of us with, whatever you think that means. I just want to be obvious that he had stated he was going to stab us in the throat, he was going to cut between our vests. I have no doubt that was his goal when he got to us was to try and kill one of us.”

Officer Webb’s typed statement, the audio recording of the interview, the Criminal Investigation Notification form, and the diagrams created by Officer Webb are attached to this Investigative Report.

The video recording of Officer Webb’s interview was placed onto a portable hard drive and placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Reference Item E.

**References:**

Reference Item E-Video recording of Officer Webb’s interview

**Attachments:**

1. Officer Webb’s Typed Statement
2. Audio Recordings of Officer Webb’s Interview
3. Criminal Investigation Notification form signed by Officer Webb
4. Diagrams created by Officer Webb

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**Statement of Officer Paul Webb, Mansfield Police Department,**  
**Regarding Incident on October 19, 2024**

**I. Background.**

I began my full-time employment with the Mansfield Police Department ("Mansfield PD"), as a Police Officer, on August 14, 2013. Prior to joining the Mansfield PD, I served as a Corrections Officer for the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility. I completed my Basic Police Officer Training at the Ohio State Patrol Academy, graduating in December 2013.

I attended Ontario High School, and graduated in 2005. I attained a Bachelor's Degree at Shawnee State University, graduating in 2010. I have no prior military service.

My current supervisor is Sgt. Nicole Gearhart. My regularly assigned work hours are from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. I regularly work six (6) days on and two (2) days off, with my days off rotating.

My current assignment is as a Patrol Officer. I also serve as a Field Training Officer ("FTO") Firearm Instructor, Less Lethal Instructor and as part of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team ("SWAT").

I do not wear prescription glasses, contacts or any hearing aids. I am under no physical disability. I take no prescription medications. I was not under the influence of alcohol or any drug, prescription or otherwise, on the date of the incident.

As a law enforcement officer, I have never received any discipline relative to use of force. I have never been the subject of any Internal Affairs investigation relative to use of force. Prior to the incident on October 19, 2024, I used lethal force twice. Both uses of lethal force were investigated by BCI and presented to the Richland County Grand Jury. I was cleared with no indictment for both instances.

I am familiar with the Mansfield PD's Use of Force Policy, as I received training on this Policy in the past year by Lt. Shane Gearhart.



On the date of the incident, I fired a Sig MCX rifle which was issued to me by the Mansfield PD. I last qualified for this weapon on October 18, 2024. I had two (2) magazines for the rifle, but do not recall the number of rounds in each magazine as I retrieved them from the cruiser we took to the scene of the incident. I believe I fired two (2) to three (3) rounds in the incident.

On my duty belt, I only carry my Sig Sauer P320 handgun, which is my duty weapon and was also issued to me by the Mansfield PD. I qualified for this weapon on October 8, 2024.

On Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18, respectively, I was scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for SWAT training. I worked no special duty or overtime on those days.

I was well-rested at the time of the SWAT call-out on Saturday, October 19. Prior to the call-out, I had slept for approximately four (4) hours.

On the date of the incident, I was dressed in multi-camouflage BDU tops and bottoms with MPD patches on my arms. I also wore a green vest with "Police" written on the front and back.

I was not wearing a body camera during the incident, as we do not carry them during SWAT callouts. I carried no personal recording device.

The cruiser we used, Unit S2, did have in-dash video but it was not activated at the time of the incident. My badge number is 263 and radio designation is 23.

## **II. Incident Narrative.**

On October 19, 2024, we were called out to a standoff with a male, later identified as Michael Oswald, who had his girlfriend, and two (2) children held hostage. I responded to MPD and quickly responded to the scene as a Quick Reaction Force member. I responded to the back door of the residence, 200 Cline Avenue, that was open with Sgt. Haines on one side of the door and myself on the other side.

The Hostage Negotiation Team ("HNT") was on scene attempting to communicate with Mr. Oswald. He was continually threatening officers, stating, among other things, that he would stab us in the throat. He further advised he had been a butcher, and he would cut between our vests and ribs to ensure he killed us. Mr. Oswald advised that we were going to have to kill him because he was going to prison. I had very little contact with Mr. Oswald.

Officers were pleading with Mr. Oswald to release the children. After about two (2) hours, he did. A short time after the children were released, I heard someone running down the stairs, who ended up being the female victim. As she ran down the stairs, she screamed that he was going to kill her and asked for help. At this time, Sgt. Haines and I entered just inside the threshold of the kitchen.

The female made it down the stairs and over the barricade of several items and ran behind officers. At this time, Mr. Oswald appeared at the bottom of the stairs with one (1) knife visible in each hand, both of which were raised above his head. Mr. Oswald was ordered to stop and put the weapons down by myself and other officers. Mr. Oswald disregarded these commands and continued to advance on us.

Sgt. Haines and I exited the kitchen with the female victim behind us. We stopped at the doorway and again ordered Mr. Oswald to stop and put down the knives. Mr. Oswald continued to advance toward us. Mr. Oswald got around five (5) to six (6) feet away from us, at which time simultaneous gunfire took place. I fired between two (2) and three (3) rounds, striking Mr. Oswald. I know that Sgt. Haines also fired when I did. At this time, Mr. Oswald fell to the floor and I advanced on him. Sgt. Gess placed him in handcuffs, and I called for a Tactical Emergency Medical Services ("TEMS") medic to come in and deliver immediate medical aid. At this time, I took Sgt. Haines and myself outside of the residence and let the rest of our SWAT team clear the residence and take control of the scene.

The weather on the date of the incident was clear and there was no significant change in the weather during the time of the incident. At the time of the incident, it was nighttime and dark outside, but the interior of the house was well-lit by the kitchen light.



The backdrop when I fired my weapon was the wall of the kitchen.

I had no prior contact with Mr. Oswalt before the incident.

I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe that there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been as effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat that Mr. Oswalt posed to myself, other officers and the female victim by continuing towards us with his knives raised in an attack position.

My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident on October 19, 2024.

I wish to cooperate with this investigation and am prepared to answer any questions which you might have.

Respectfully submitted,



Officer Paul Webb

11-1-24

Date



## 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).

Paul Webb

Printed Name of Interviewee

11-1-24- 1057

Date / Time

[Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

Cory Monchilew

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)




200 Cline Ave




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