



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



2025-3488
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe,
OH 45601 (L)

Investigative Activity: Non-involved BWC Review
Involves: Deputy Blake Weaver and Deputy Joshua Sears
Activity Date: 01/26/2026
Authoring Agent: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Monday, January 26, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) reviewed video footage from Ross County Sheriff's Office SA Poole was informed that the videos contained footage from the body worn cameras recorded by Deputy Blake Weaver (Deputy Weaver) and Deputy Joshua Shears (Deputy Shears).

SA Poole reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

SA Poole reviewed the following video from Deputy Weaver's BWC under BlakeWeaver_202510261513_BWL7040810-0 and the following was observed:

- The video begins with Deputy Weaver arriving on scene in his marked patrol cruiser.
- Deputy Weaver is seen asking a female, later identified as Debra Arthurs (Debra), what happened; Debra explained the situation.
- Deputy Weaver is then seen talking to [REDACTED] and Anthony Arthurs (Anthony).
- At the 03:40 minute marker, Deputy Weaver is seen trying to help find a pair of glasses in the shrubbery.
- At the 05:45 minute marker, Deputy Weaver is seen telling several individuals to move away in order to stop them from making threats at the other party.
- Deputy Weaver obtains Taryn Rothe (Taryn) and Wesley Rothe's (Wesley) information and their side of the story.
- At the 09:50 minute marker, both parties begin to argue again, and Deputy Weaver tries to deescalate the situation. During the conversation at the 10:26 minute marker, radio traffic is heard, and Deputy Weaver is seen running in the direction of [REDACTED]

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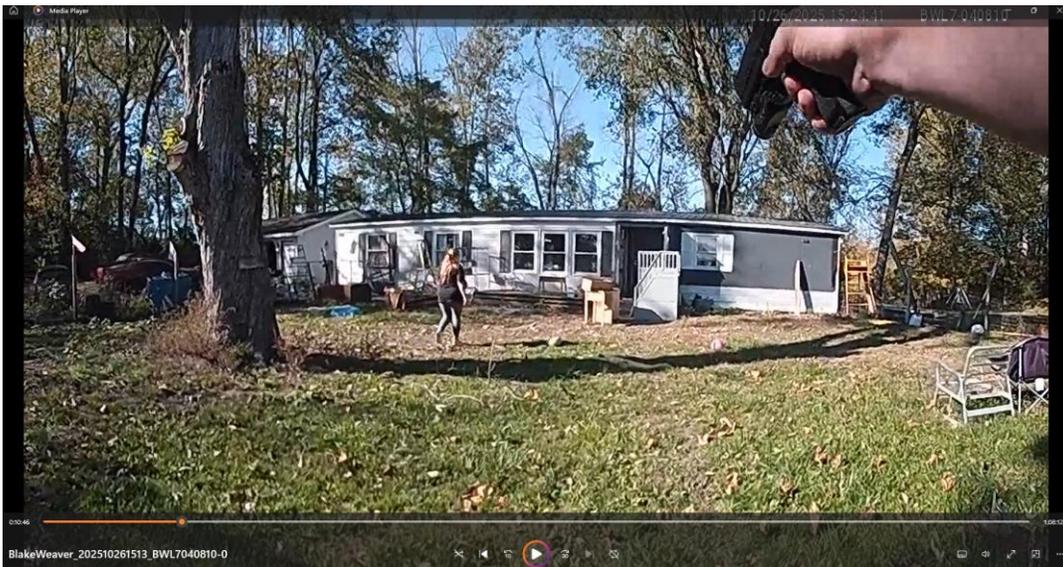


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- At the 10:27 minute marker, several sounds of gunfire can be heard coming from the direction that Deputy Weaver is running towards.
- At the 10:35 minute marker, the sounds of gunfire end.



- [REDACTED] can be seen with their weapons out and drawn on the front door of the residence.



- At the 10:46 minute marker, Deputy Weaver is taking out his weapon and drawing it towards the front door. Sounds of groaning can be heard. Deputy

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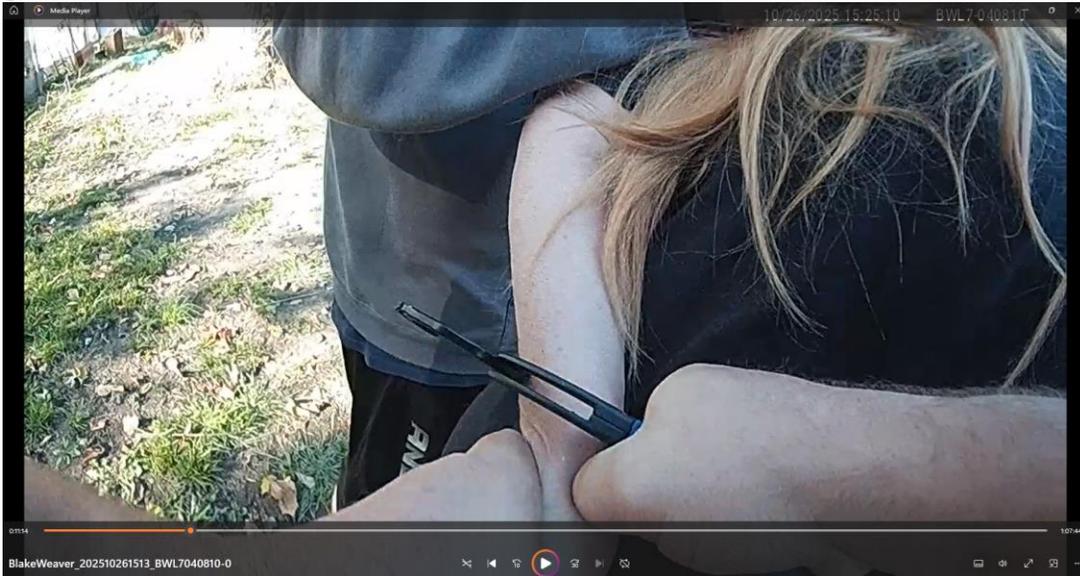


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Weaver is heard ordering the female, later identified as Tonya Rothe (Tonya), to get back.



- At the 11:06 minute marker, [REDACTED] orders for someone to cuff Tonya. Deputy Weaver follows the orders and places Tonya in handcuffs.



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- After handcuffing Tonya, Deputy Weaver rejoins [REDACTED] with his weapon out. Several commands can be heard to see if the deputies can get a response from within the building.
- At the 12:17 minute marker, Deputy Weaver is heard stating he sees a gun laying on the ground facing him in the doorway and moves positions. Deputy Weaver states the gun isn't in his hands and moves inside with [REDACTED].
- At the 13:46 minute marker, [REDACTED] and Deputy Weaver are seen making entry and find, who's later identified as Bryan Rothe (Rothe) not responding lying on the ground.



- At the 13:55 minute marker, [REDACTED] is seen picking up a purple rifle from the doorway and moves it outside.

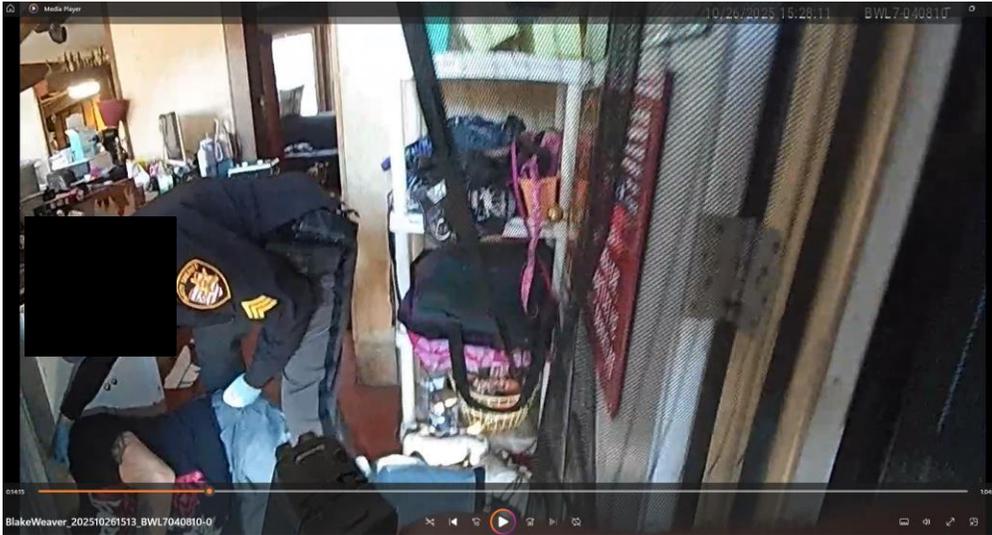
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- Deputy Weaver is seen running to his cruiser to get an IFAK to treat Rothe for his injuries.
- Deputy Weaver is seen making his way back to the scene.
- At the 18:50 minute marker, Medics arrive on scene.
- At the 28:50 minute marker, Deputy weaver is seen clearing the garage of the residence.
- Deputy Weaver is seen trying to coordinate traffic, scene security, moving vehicles, and logistics.
- Deputy Weaver is then seen following [REDACTED] in the sheriff's office and waiting with him until it is turned off.

SA Poole reviewed the following video from Deputy Shears BWC under JoshuaShears_202510270121_BWL7040728-0 and the following was observed:

- The video shows Deputy Shears in a cruiser, possibly holding security on the scene or blocking the roadway.
- At the 07:30 minute marker, Deputy Shears makes contact with Rothe's family and explains they are allowed back into the residence.
- The video concludes with Deputy Shears driving away from the scene.

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ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR EVALUATING THE VIDEO RECORDINGS

There are numerous other factors that need to be considered when reviewing and evaluating the videos and audio recordings of this incident. Those factors are:

A. Video recording devices record within the video and sound capabilities available, and they record objectively. Video recordings lack the history, perspective, and interest of the people involved. The positions, angles, obstacles, lighting, and distance from the incident are also factors that need serious consideration.

B. Video recording devices also record more information about a particular scene or incident than the person(s) involved in the incident can process during the critical incident. Video recording devices rarely record an event from the same perspective of the officer. It captures the action but not the perception, decision making, focus, or intent of the officer. Video recordings often miss tactile cues or other actions of a subject.

C. The speed of the incident is remarkable. The speed and complexity of rapidly evolving situation(s) that occur during use of force encounters are difficult concepts to comprehend by only watching the video.

The following videos are uploaded and saved under Evidence.com under BWC Videos. Please review the videos for more detail.

References:

JoshuaShears_202510270121_BWL7040728-0

BlakeWeaver_202510261513_BWL7040810-0

Attachments:

N/A

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