



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

To: Forrest Thompson, Medina County Prosecutor
Cc: SAS Charles Moran, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
From: SA Jonathan Lieber, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: February 7, 2025
Involves: David Septer
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2024-3052
Crime Scene (CSU): 2024-3052
Cyber Crime (CCU): 2024-3052
BCI Laboratory: 24-37266

Investigative Request

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, Captain Kris Conwill of the Medina County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident occurred on October 5, 2024 in the area of 10300 block of Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Medina County, Ohio 44230 and resulted in the death of David Septer (Septer).

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the October 5, 2024 officer-involved shooting in Medina County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

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Incident Summary/Overview

David Septer and Heather Septer (Heather) married in August 2005. Heather stated that David began drinking alcohol before they met. After high school, David entered the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Kosovo. Heather stated that she did not know when David started using drugs, but she estimated that David was in his early 20s. Heather stated that it started out with pain pills such as Oxycodone. It later turned to heroin and cocaine. Heather stated that David was supposed to be taking medication for his flashbacks from his time in the Marine Corps.

Heather stated that on November 6, 2023, David was in a vehicle accident where he broke his hip. Heather stated that during that time she had to take David back to the hospital because "he started going crazy." David was put on some medications, but they ultimately learned that David had relapsed, as David was also in rehab during that time.

Heather stated that when she would draw boundaries about David's drug and alcohol use and kick him out of the house, he would be gone a little while, and then he would call and say his goodbyes to everybody and apologize. Heather would then tell David to come back home, and they could figure out how to help him. Heather stated that a few months later something would happen again.

Heather stated that she and David had separated over the summer. Heather gave dissolution paperwork to David on September 26, 2024. On Thursday (October 3, 2024), David told Heather that he was not going to sign the papers. On October 5, 2024, Heather and David further discussed the dissolution. Heather stated that the conversation "...wasn't very civil." Heather then took both kids with her to take pictures for homecoming. David showed up for the pictures also. After pictures, when they were all in the parking lot getting ready to leave, David threw the dissolution papers into Heather's car and said that he wasn't going to give her anything.

Later, their daughter began to text Heather while she was at dinner for homecoming. The daughter said that David kept calling her and telling her that he loved her and that he wanted her to know that. Heather said that in the past, whenever David had been kicked out of the house, he had used suicide to get back home. Heather said that this had happened about 3 to 4 times within the last few years. Heather told her daughter to ignore the calls from David and to enjoy her evening. Ultimately, the daughter was upset, so Heather went and picked her up. During that time, Heather had 11 missed calls, but no voicemails from David. Heather then took her daughter to the homecoming dance.

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Heather stated that around 1920 hours, she received a text message from David that alluded to suicide. Heather said that because David gave her a location, she took the message seriously. Heather then informed law enforcement of the text message. Heather then sent a text message to David telling him that police were on their way to help him. David then called Heather. During this conversation, Heather told David that this isn't the way to handle things and that the police were on their way to help him. David responded by saying that he was prepared for them (police). David confirmed that he did have weapons on him. Heather then called the police back and told them that David had weapons on him and that he said that he was prepared for the police. Heather stated that this was the last communication she had with David, and she believed that it was around 2015 hours.

Heather said that the police told her and her family to lock their doors and to not let David into their houses. Heather stated that she was later informed by police that they had pinged David's phone near Wadsworth High School. Heather informed police that her daughter was at the homecoming dance at the high school. The school was then put on lockdown.

At approximately 2111 hours, Medina County Sheriff's Office [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were dispatched to assist the Wadsworth Police Department (WPD) regarding a male (David Septer), possibly driving to Wadsworth High School, that had made statements regarding suicide and suicide-by-cop. Information was also relayed that the male was possibly armed and that the male "was ready for us." Upon arrival at the school, [REDACTED] was stationed at the east entrance. [REDACTED] stated that the Wayne County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) was pinging the subject's cell phone, and those pings were showing that the subject was getting closer to the high school.

The vehicle being driven by David Septer was described as a 2014, gray in color, Ford F-150. At approximately 2206 hours, [REDACTED] located the subject vehicle on Broad Street near Silvercreek Road. [REDACTED] got behind the vehicle and verified that the registration returned to the subject (David Septer). [REDACTED] then drove down Silvercreek to locate [REDACTED] and the subject vehicle. Before initiating the traffic stop, [REDACTED] radioed that they would be doing a high-risk stop. [REDACTED] activated his emergency lights and siren. [REDACTED] activated his emergency lights. The subject continued to drive south on Silvercreek for approximately ¼ mile. [REDACTED] then activated his siren, and the subject pulled over.

[REDACTED] pulled his cruiser behind the subject vehicle while [REDACTED] pulled his vehicle alongside [REDACTED] but in the northbound lane. [REDACTED] aimed his spotlight at the driver's

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side door and window of the subject vehicle. The subject put his left leg out of the vehicle at which point [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had their handguns drawn. [REDACTED] began to give verbal commands for the subject to show his hands. [REDACTED] stated, "I heard a very distinct click noise which I assumed could possibly be a safety for a firearm and I heard a very distinct racking noise of a firearm."

As Septer exited the vehicle he could be seen holding a rifle.



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Septer then began to raise the rifle. Note that the yellow line that appears in the background image was inserted to show an approximation of level. The orange line shows an approximation of the muzzle direction of the rifle held by Septer.



█████ stated "Um, he stepped out of the vehicle, faced us with the rifle across his chest in a downward position at which point he started to raise that rifle up. I feared for both my life and my partner's life, and any public that could be behind us or other responding units. At which point I discharged my firearm until the threat was down."

█████ stated "...he stepped out with the rifle, he was facing away from me initially, gave him numerous commands to drop it, as he spun around, he was in a low ready position, he picked up the firearm and that's when I began firing." ██████ also stated, "As he's spinning, he's picking the firearm up, aiming at the both of us." ██████ stated that he had a "significant" fear for his life and those around him when the subject exited his vehicle with the gun pointed at them.

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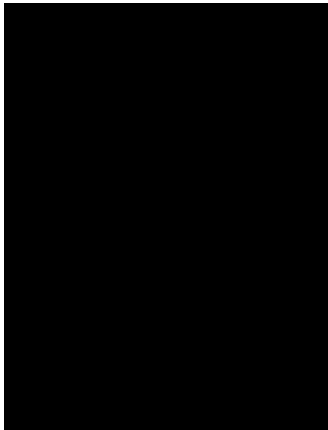


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After Septer fell to the ground, [REDACTED], MCSO Sergeant King, and Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Sergeant Gasser approached Septer and the vehicle. After verifying that there were no other occupants in the vehicle, Sergeant King and Sergeant Gasser kicked the gun away from the subject. [REDACTED] then retrieved a medical kit from his vehicle and officers rendered aid to Septer.

Approximately 4 to 5 minutes later EMS arrived on scene. Ultimately, Septer died as a result of the injuries he sustained.

Decedent



David M. Septer
DOB: 11/07/1979

Medical Records

The autopsy report for the decedent (David Septer) was obtained from the Medina County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

The cause of death for Septer was determined to be "[REDACTED]" The manner of death was [REDACTED]. The toxicology report [REDACTED]



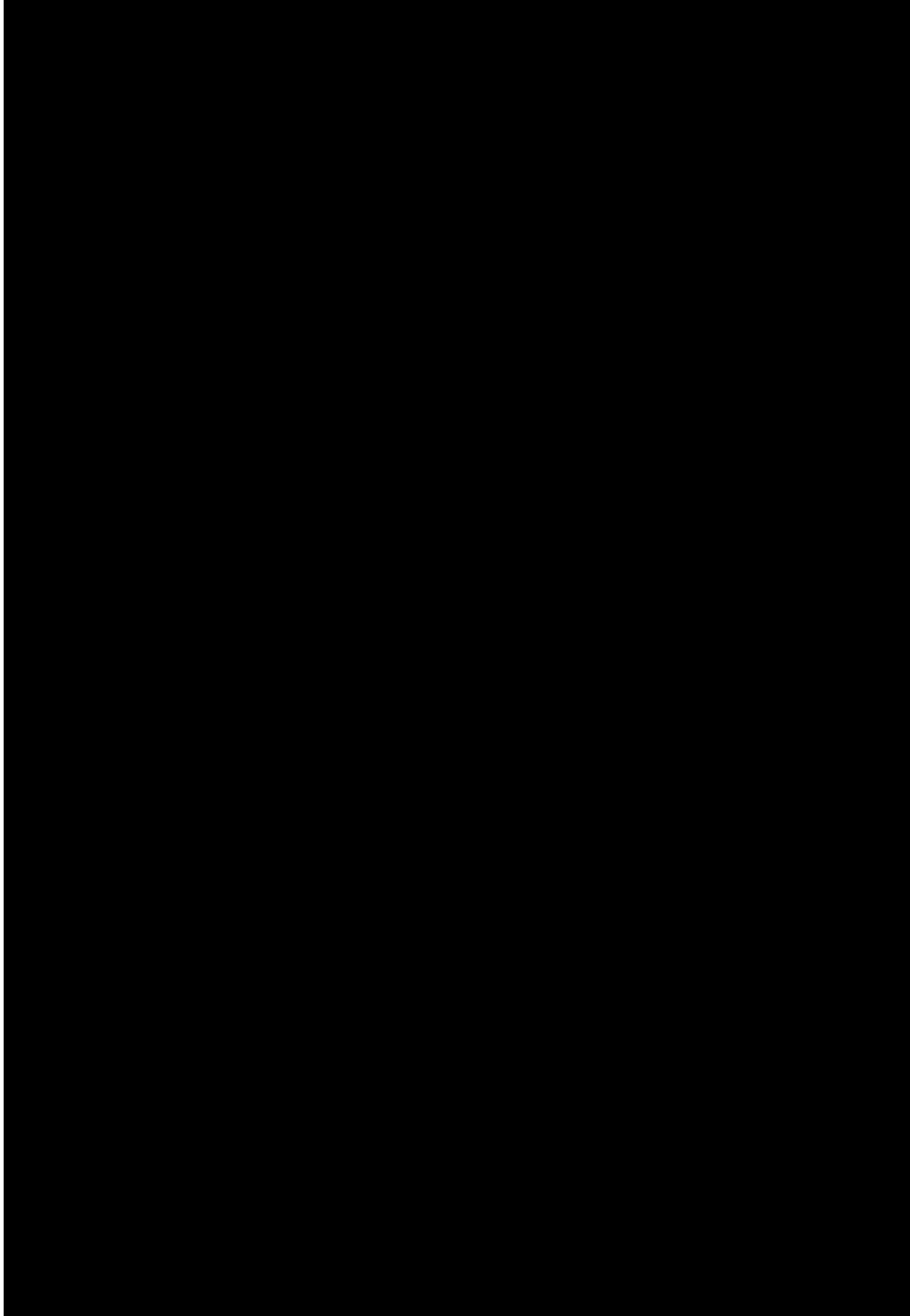
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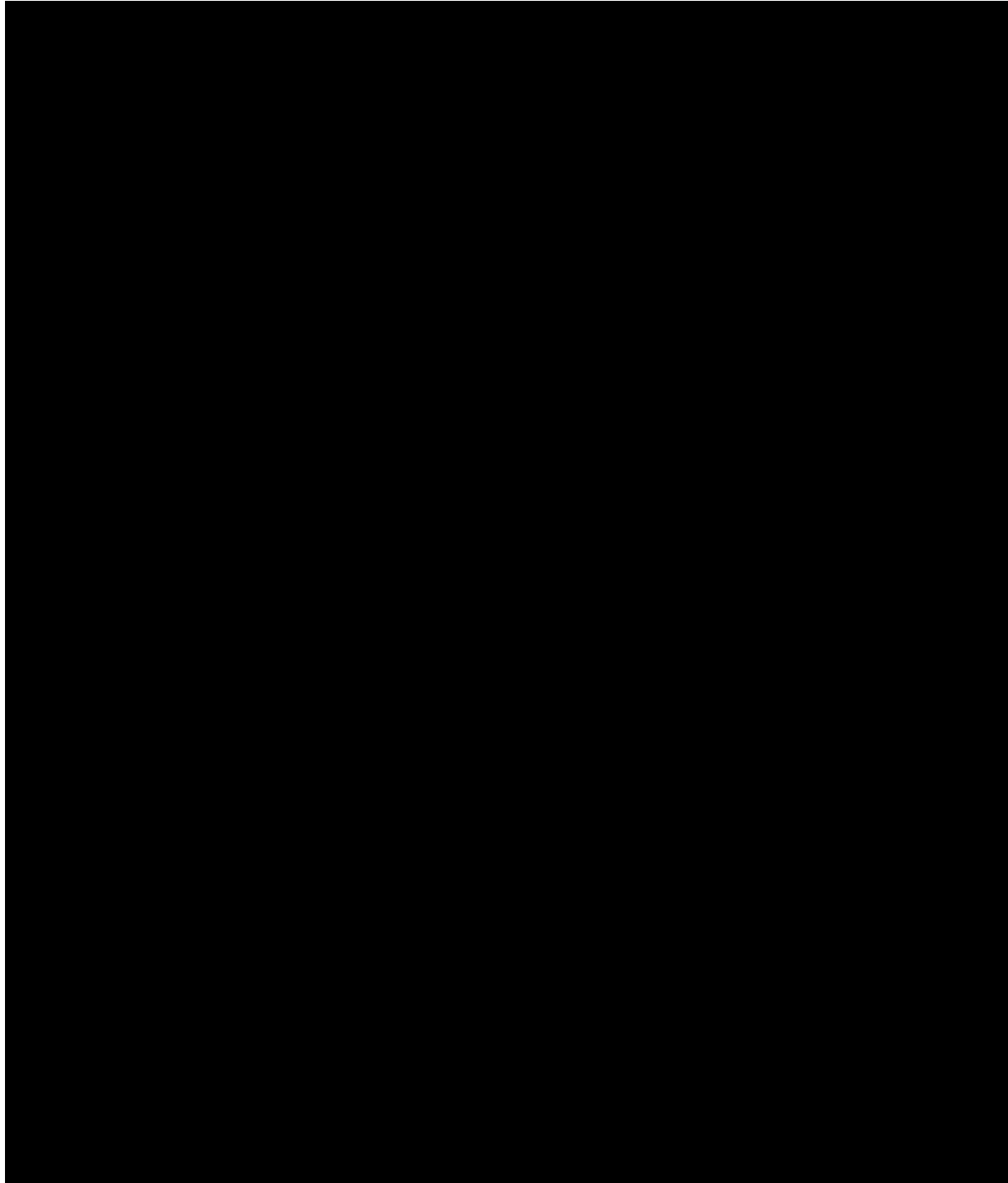
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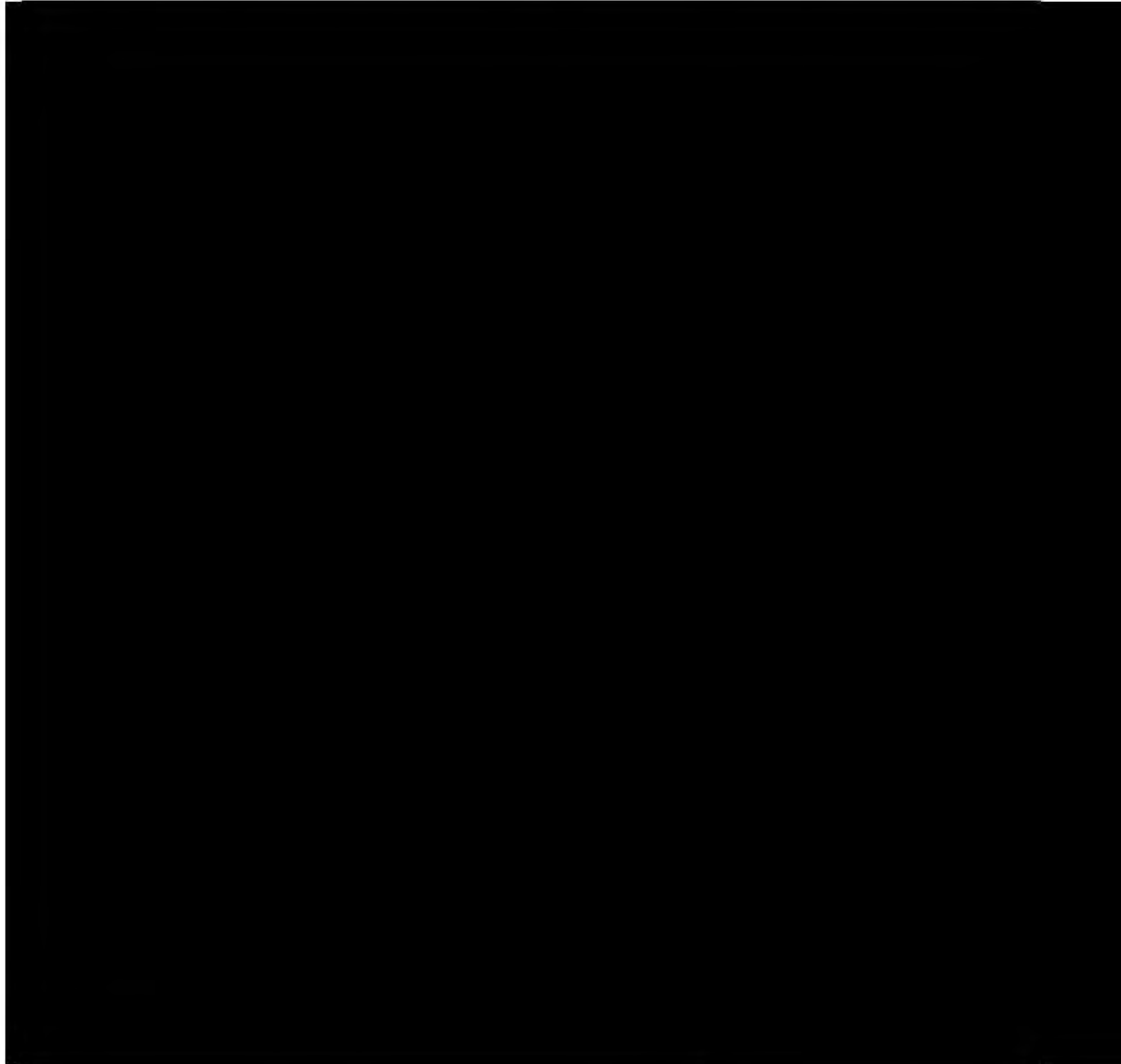
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Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation, and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 2349hrs, SA McClintock arrived at the incident scene. The scene was photographed as it was found. The scene consisted of Silvercreek Road between 10340 Silvercreek Road and Madison Trail. Septer's truck was parked in the southbound lane with Cruiser [REDACTED] parked behind it. A second cruiser, [REDACTED], was reported to be in the northbound lane facing southbound next to the Cruiser [REDACTED]. Cruiser [REDACTED] was moved after the incident to block traffic to the south.



Figure 1: Overall (North)

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Figure 2: Overall (South)

The scene was examined for items of suspected evidence. The following items of suspected evidence were located, photographed or documented and collected (Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence).

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | Southbound lane |
| 2 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | Southbound lane |
| 3 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | Southbound lane |
| 4 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 5 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 6 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 7 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 8 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 9 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |

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| | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 10 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 11 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 12 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 13 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 14 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 16 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 17 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 18 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 19 | Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing | West side of roadway |
| 20 | Rifle SN:1736836 w/ magazine and ammunition | Roadway |
| 21 | Fired projectile | Subject's Clothing |
| 22 | [REDACTED] Duty weapon (Glock 45, SN: [REDACTED]) with 6 live bullets | SIU |
| 23 | [REDACTED] Duty weapon (Glock 45, SN: [REDACTED]) with 5 live bullets | SIU |

Table 1: Items of Evidence

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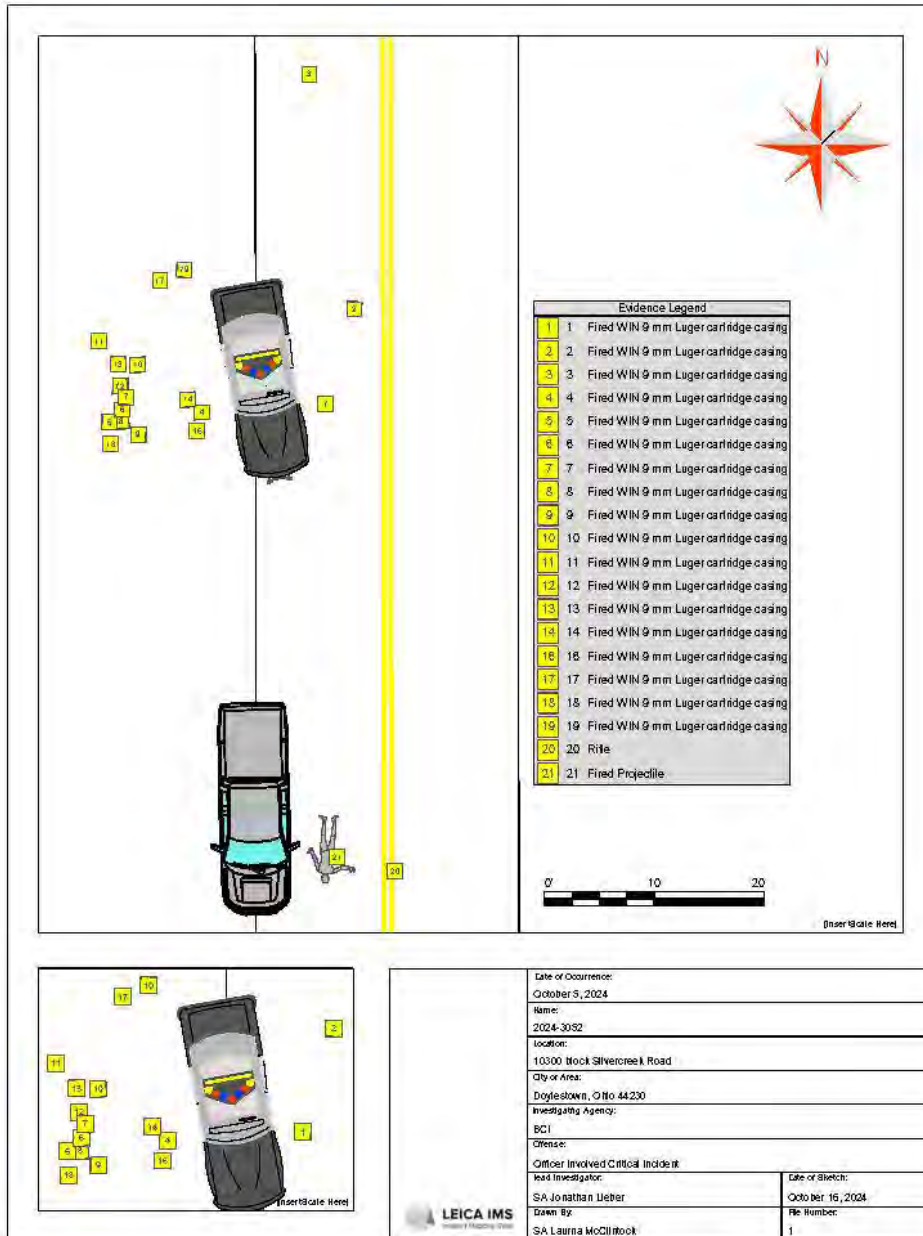


Figure 3: Overhead Diagram

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A total of 18 Fired WIN 9 mm Luger cartridge casing were located, collected and labeled **Evidence Items #1-19**. **Evidence Items #1-3** were located in the southbound lane of Silvercreek Road.



Figure 4: Evidence Items #1-3

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Evidence Items #4-19 were located to the west of the roadway. While placing placards, placard 15 was not placed. Due to the missing placard, there is no evidence item #15.



Figure 5: Evidence Items #4-19

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The rifle Septer reportedly stepped out of the vehicle with was laying in the roadway. The rifle was an unknown make with serial number #1736836. The rifle was collected and labeled **Evidence Item #20**.



Figure 6: Evidence Item #20

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Medina County Coroner Dr. Lisa M. Deranek arrived on scene. Dr. Deranek examined the body. While examining the body a fired projectile was located on the ground in the subject's clothing. The projectile was collected and labeled **Evidence Item #21**.



Figure 7: Evidence Item #21

Dr. Deranek proceeded to open the subject's truck doors and examine the inside of the vehicle. Dr. Deranek located a backpack in the vehicle and went through the contents of the backpack. Septer's truck was towed to Montville Police Department to be processed after a warrant was secured.

██████████ and ██████████ duty firearms were left on scene secured in a cruiser. The weapons were collected and labeled **Evidence Items #22-23**. ██████████ firearm contained a total of 6 bullets in the firearm. ██████████ contained at total of 5 bullets in the firearm.

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Laboratory Analysis

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Chemistry section tested an unknown powder that was obtained from a wallet recovered from David Septer's vehicle. The power was found to be less than 0.10g of cocaine.

The BCI DNA section tested swabs taken from several areas on the rifle David Septer utilized on October 5, 2024. Swabs taken from the trigger/interior of trigger guard (Lab #19.1), grip (Lab #19.2), and forend (Lab #19.3) all contained a DNA profile consistent with David Septer. The estimated frequency of occurrence of the DNA profile is rarer than 1 in 1 trillion unrelated individuals.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicle, and autopsy (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

Four fired bullets (Lab #26-29, Matrix #44-47) were found to have a source identification to the Glock pistol, serial # [REDACTED], (Lab #22, Matrix #022) belonging to Medina County Sheriff's Office [REDACTED]. The four fired bullets were recovered during the autopsy of David Septer as follows:

- Lab #26, Matrix #044, projectile recovered from right hemidiaphragm
- Lab #27, Matrix #045, projectile recovered from right elbow
- Lab #28, Matrix #046, projectile recovered from the right lung
- Lab #29, Matrix #047, projectile recovered from right hand

In addition, a fired bullet (Lab #20, Matrix #020, CS #021) located in Septer's clothing, and a fired bullet (Lab #24, Matrix #030, CS #031) recovered from the rear bench seat of the Ford F-150 driven by Septer were also found to have a source identification to the Glock pistol belonging to [REDACTED]

A bullet jacket (Lab #019) recovered from the wood stock of the Siminov rifle (Lab #019, CS #020) utilized by Septer during the October 5, 2024, incident on Silvercreek Road, was found to have a source identification to the Glock pistol, serial # [REDACTED], (Lab #21, Matrix #021, CS #022) belonging to [REDACTED]

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The rifle utilized by Septer, a Simonov 7.62x39mm semi-automatic rifle, model Type 56 SKS, serial number 1736836, was found to be operable.

Witnesses

Heather Septer

On Sunday, October 06, 2024, at 0054 hours, SA Lieber interviewed Heather Septer (Heather), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The interview took place via telephone.

Heather stated that she and David Septer had separated over the summer. David had a drug and alcohol addiction. Heather stated that she finally decided to end the relationship. Heather gave dissolution paperwork to David on September 26, 2024. On Thursday (October 3, 2024) David told Heather that he was not going to sign the papers. On October 5, 2024, Heather and David further discussed the dissolution. Heather stated that the conversation "...wasn't very civil" [3:11]. Heather then took both kids with her to take pictures for homecoming. David showed up for the pictures also. After pictures, when they were all in the parking lot getting ready to leave, David threw the dissolution papers into Heather's car and said that he wasn't going to give her anything.

Later, their daughter began to text Heather while she was at dinner for homecoming. The daughter said that David kept calling her and telling her that he loved her and that he wanted her to know that. Heather said that in the past, whenever David had been kicked out of the house, he had used suicide to get back home. Heather said that this had happened about 3 to 4 times within the last few years. Heather told her daughter to ignore the calls from David and to enjoy her evening. Ultimately, the daughter was upset, so Heather went and picked her up. During that time, Heather had 11 missed calls, but no voicemails, from David. Heather then took her daughter to the homecoming dance.

Heather stated that around 1920 hours, she received a text message from David that alluded to suicide. Heather said that because David gave her a location, she took the message seriously. Heather then informed law enforcement of the text message. Heather then sent a text message to David telling him that police were on their way to help him. David then called Heather. During this conversation, Heather told David that this isn't the way to handle things and that the police were on their way to help him. David responded by saying that he was prepared for them (police). David confirmed that he did have weapons on him. Heather then called the police back and told them

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that David had weapons on him and that he said that he was prepared for the police. Heather stated that this was the last communication she had with David, and she believed that it was around 2015 hours.

Heather said that the police told her and her family to lock their doors and to not let David into their houses. Heather stated that she was later informed by police that they had pinged David's phone near Wadsworth High School. Heather informed police that her daughter was at the homecoming dance at the high school. The school was then put on lockdown.

SA Lieber asked how long David has had an alcohol and drug addiction. Heather stated that David began drinking alcohol before they met. Heather stated that they have been together for 23 years and were married in August 2005. After high school, David entered the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Kosovo. Heather stated that she did not know when David started using drugs, but she estimated that David was in his early 20s. Heather stated that she was under the impression that David's drug use had stopped for some time. Heather stated that at one point she found drugs and David said that he was quitting. David went to counseling and outpatient rehab. David never thought that he needed help and, as a result, David would stop going to counseling. SA Lieber asked what type of drugs David would use. Heather stated that it started out with pain pills such as Oxycodone. It later turned to heroin and cocaine. Heather stated that David was supposed to be taking medication for his flashbacks from his time in the Marine Corps.

Heather stated that on November 6, 2023, David was in a vehicle accident where he broke his hip. Heather stated that during that time she had to take David back to the hospital because "he started going crazy" [12:46]. David was put on some medications, but they ultimately learned that David had relapsed, as David was also in rehab during that time.

David worked in heating and cooling. David and Heather have 2 children, a 16-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son.

Heather stated that when she would draw boundaries about David's drug and alcohol use and kick him out of the house, he would be gone a little while and then he would call and say his goodbyes to everybody and apologize. Heather would then tell David to come back home, and they could figure out how to help him. Heather stated that few months later something would happen again.

SA Lieber asked if David was a gun owner. Heather stated that David owned "longer guns" [15:08]. Heather said that to her knowledge David did not own any pistols.

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Heather stated that their son was at David's parents' house earlier in the evening on Saturday, October 5th. The son told Heather that he overheard his grandfather telling other family members that David had taken the guns out of the house. Heather said that her son is 12 years old with ADHD (Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder) and he doesn't always hear clearly. Heather said that David normally kept the guns in a safe in their marital home. However, after David was kicked out of the house he took the guns to his parents' home.

Heather stated that David was on probation for possession of fentanyl. Heather stated that the fentanyl was found when David got into the accident in Creston, Ohio (November 6, 2023). Heather stated that the fentanyl wasn't in David's system but it was found in his work vehicle. A couple days after the accident, David's supervisor found the fentanyl in the work truck that David was driving. At the time of the accident David was working for a company named CKP Heating and Cooling.

SA Lieber asked about the text message that Heather received at 1920 hours. SA Lieber asked if Heather could screenshot and send any messages from October 5th to SA Lieber. Heather stated that there was just one message. At 0122 hours, on October 6, 2024, SA Lieber received a screenshot image via text message. A copy of the message can be seen below.

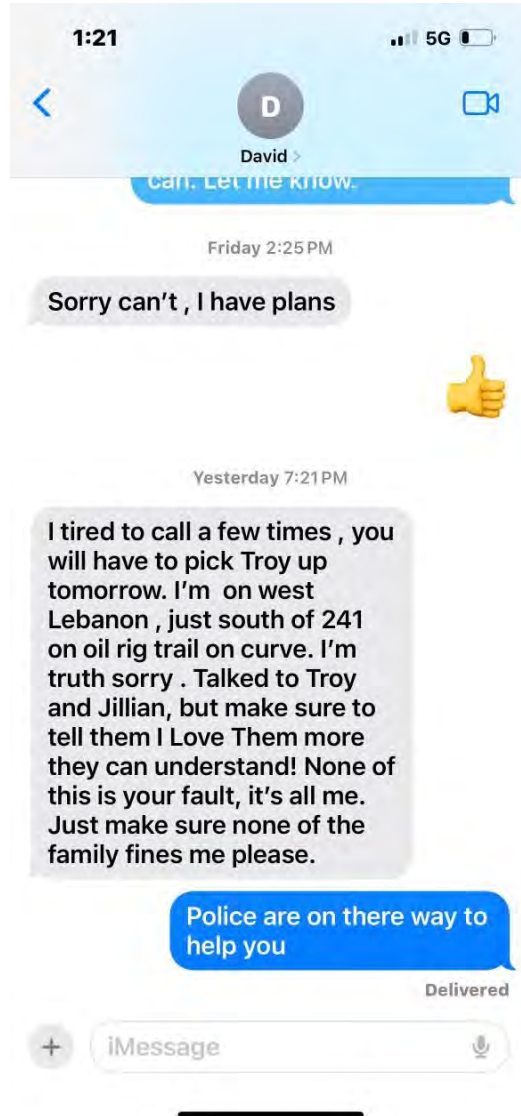
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Heather stated that police would inform her of various locations where they were able to ping David's phone. Heather later was told that David was pronounced dead.

Heather said that since May (2024) she has tried to limit her contact with David to things about the sports games of their children and schedules.

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Ohio State Highway Patrol Sergeant Maynard Gasser

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 2342 hours, SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum) and Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Charles Moran (Moran) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Sergeant Maynard Gasser (Gasser), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The interview took place on the roadway near the scene.

OSHP Sergeant Gasser stated that he was around Wadsworth High School when it had been put on lockdown and met with a Medina County Deputy that was parked at the entrance to the school. Sergeant Gasser was given a description of the vehicle driven by a person that was suspected of making a threat to shoot up the homecoming dance. Sergeant Gasser stated that he saw the silver truck travel past him and by the time he turned around and caught up, Medina County Sheriff's Office Deputies had the silver Ford truck stopped, and a male was exiting the driver's side holding a rifle in a low ready type of position. As Sergeant Gasser was exiting his cruiser, shots were fired. Sergeant Gasser then explained that he and MCSO Deputies cleared the vehicle for additional occupants and then began rendering medical aid. Sergeant Gasser stated that he heard yelling prior to the gunshots but was unable to tell what was being said. Sergeant Gasser stated that he had a body camera and dash camera on during the incident and was in car SP196. Sergeant Gasser stated that he has seen the subject in the past at high school football games but has not interacted with him professionally or otherwise.

On Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 1444 hours, SAS Moran received a phone call from Sergeant Gasser. Sergeant Gasser said he initially believed the male subject was holding the rifle as if he was a left-handed shooter. Sergeant Gasser said he now recalled the male subject holding the rifle as if he was a right-handed shooter and the rifle was at a low ready position when he saw the male subject exit the truck.

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Officer Interviews

The following paragraphs are abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

██████████

██████████ stated that on October 5, 2024, Wadsworth Police Department (WPD) dispatch contacted the MCSO dispatch asking for assistance with a male, possibly driving to Wadsworth High School, that had made statements regarding suicide and suicide-by-cop. ██████ stated that homecoming was going on at the high school, so several hundred kids would be there. Information was also relayed that the male was possibly armed and that the male "was ready for us." ██████ stated that WPD had 4 officers working and they were requesting additional officers. ██████ estimated that he was dispatched to the high school shortly after 2100 hours. ██████ was stationed at the east entrance. ██████ stated that at around 2200 hours, parents were showing up to pick up their kids, but due to the school being on lockdown, parents were told that they would have to wait nearby. ██████ stated that the Wayne County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) was pinging the subject's cell phone, and those pings were showing that the subject was getting closer to the high school.

Approximately 20 minutes later, MCSO ██████ located the subject vehicle on Broad Street near Silvercreek Road. At that time, ██████ was on Silvercreek Road and Grizzly Way. ██████ got behind the vehicle and verified that the registration returned to the subject (David Septer). ██████ stated that an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper (Sergeant Gasser) was heading to work and saw ██████ at the high school. Sergeant Gasser stopped and ██████ asked him to stay at the school while ██████ went to back up ██████.

██████████ then drove down Silvercreek to locate ██████ and the subject vehicle. ██████ located them on Silvercreek just south of Johnson Road. ██████ then stated that they would be doing a high risk stop. ██████ activated his emergency lights and siren. ██████ activated his emergency lights. The subject continued to drive south on Silvercreek for approximately ¼ mile. ██████ then activated his siren, and the subject pulled over.

██████████ pulled his cruiser behind the subject vehicle while ██████ pulled his vehicle alongside ██████ but in the northbound lane. ██████ aimed his spotlight at the driver's side door and window of the subject vehicle. The subject put his left leg out of the vehicle, at which point ██████ and ██████ had their handguns drawn. ██████ began to give

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verbal commands for the subject to show his hands. [REDACTED] stated "I heard a very distinct click noise which I assumed could possibly be a safety for a firearm and I heard a very distinct racking noise of a firearm. At which point I vocalized 'He's racking something' um, hoping that my partner would hear that. Um, he stepped out of the vehicle, faced us with the rifle across his chest in a downward position, at which point he started to raise that rifle up. I feared for both my life and my partner's life, and any public that could be behind us or other responding units. At which point, I discharged my firearm until the threat was down. Um, He fell, the gun fell. Sergeant King and Sergeant Gasser, I guess, were right behind us when this occurred, um, running up to us. Sergeant King vocalized, er, [REDACTED] vocalized 'Shots fired' to dispatch, and then Sergeant King also told dispatch "shots fired, standby" [13:39]. After verifying that there were no other occupants in the subject vehicle, Sergeant King and Sergeant Gasser kicked the gun away from the subject. [REDACTED] then retrieved a medical kit from his vehicle and began to render aid to the subject. [REDACTED] stated that he and Sergeant Gasser put 3 chest seals on the subject. EMS arrived on scene 2 to 3 minutes later and worked on the subject for approximately 30 minutes until he was pronounced dead. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were separated and taken back to the MCSO.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that he received a phone call from his supervisor, Sergeant David King (King), in which he told [REDACTED] about a male that was threatening suicide by cop. Sergeant King also told [REDACTED] that the male was said to be headed toward the Wadsworth High School. [REDACTED] responded to the area of School Street and Sterling. [REDACTED] said that during that time, they were receiving phone pings from the subject indicating his location. [REDACTED] said that the description of the vehicle he received was a 2014, gray in color, Ford F-150. [REDACTED] was asked by Sergeant King to drive by the subject's house to see if the truck was at his residence.

As [REDACTED] made his way towards the residence, he observed the truck at the intersection of Broad and Hartman. When [REDACTED] caught up to the subject's vehicle, he confirmed the registration and asked for another unit to assist. A short time later, [REDACTED] was joined by [REDACTED] said that when he activated his overhead emergency lights, the vehicle proceeded for a period of time before stopping.

After the vehicle came to a stop, [REDACTED] said that he and [REDACTED] conducted a high risk stop on the subject's vehicle. [REDACTED] said that he positioned his car directly behind the subject's vehicle, while [REDACTED] positioned his vehicle to his immediate left, in the northbound lane of Silvercreek road. As they exited their vehicles, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

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drew their firearms. ██████ said, "I started giving him verbal commands to come out with his hands up or to stick his hands out of the vehicle" [19:12].

At this time, ██████ continued by saying the subject opened the door and had his foot outside the door. ██████ said that the subject was not listening to his commands. ██████ said he was not sure if the subject was trying to grab something from inside the truck. ██████ said:

...he stepped out with the rifle, he was facing away from me initially, gave him numerous commands to drop it, as he spun around, he was in a low ready position, he picked up the firearm and that's when I began firing [19:37].

██████ described the motion made by the subject, "as he rotates towards the both of us, I mean technically, he faced ██████ first" [21:40]. ██████ was asked to elaborate more about the subject's handling of the firearm, he stated, "As he's spinning, he's picking the firearm up, aiming at the both of us" [21:55]. ██████ ended by saying, he had a "significant" fear for his life and those around him when the subject exited his vehicle with the gun pointed at them.

Dispatch-Related Information

SA Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) reviewed the files and recordings provided and noted the following:

Audio Recorded Phone Calls to Wadsworth Police Department

There were twenty-three (23) files containing recorded audio of phone calls made to the WPD prior to the officer-involved shooting incident on October 5, 2024. Each recording was titled with the date and time of the phone call. It appeared some of the files provided were duplicate files of the same phone call. All files were reviewed, and a summary of the phone calls that were deemed relevant by the author have been summarized below:

- *381_Dispatch_Pos__1_Ext__3721_2024_10_05_19_55_07_by_Source_Name_asc*

The recording was 3 minutes and 22 seconds in length. A female contacted dispatch and requested a "well check" for her husband who she had "separated from" had sent a text to her stating he was going to commit suicide. The husband provided the location of "West Lebanon just south of 241 on Oil Rig Trail on curve" in Ohio.

The female caller was unable to provide additional information and seemed confused about the location.

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After some discussion about the husband's prior location, it was believed he was possibly in Millersburg, Ohio which was in Wayne County.

- *398_Dispatch_Pos__2_Ext__3723_2024_10_05_21_06_31_by_Source_Name_asc*
The recording was 8 minutes and 16 seconds, and the time of call was 21:06:31 hours. A Deputy from Wayne County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) contacted WPD to update them with information on the suicidal male. The deputy stated the male (David Septer) had guns on him and he was currently traveling on Wadsworth Road according to a ping on his phone. It was also noted the subject's daughter was at Wadsworth High School for a dance and the original caller was concerned about the daughter's safety. Based on the male's last known location it was believed he was travelling towards the high school.

The deputy also mentioned the male had threatened "suicide by cop" and he would be driving a dark-gray F-150. Personal identifying information for the male was provided by the deputy.

The deputy believed the incident began due to a pending divorce. He also stated the male was a former marine.

The male was said to be off his prescribed medication for five months. The male was last seen wearing an Ohio State t-shirt and shorts.

The male also made statements to his wife that he had a rifle on him, and he was ready to use it on law enforcement if he was caught.

There were no updated pings by the end of the phone call.

- *407_Dispatch_Pos__1_Ext__3721_2024_10_05_21_11_13_by_Source_Name_asc*
The recording was 26 seconds, and the time of call was 21:11:13 hours. WPD requested additional officers from an unknown sheriff's office. This was likely when they requested officers from the Medina County Sheriff's Office.

- *465_Dispatch_Pos__2_Ext__3723_2024_10_05_21_45_34_by_Source_Name_asc*
The recording was 1 minute and 17 seconds, and the time of the call was 21:45:34. The dispatcher called Medina County dispatch and provided the address of the wife's parent's (his in-laws) residence in Seville, Ohio. The address was 33 Milton Street. An updated ping of the male's phone showed him in the area near their residence.

- *496_Dispatch_Pos__1_Ext__3721_2024_10_05_22_06_15_by_Source_Name_asc*

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The recording was 20 seconds, and the time of the call was 22:06:15. Medina County dispatch called and stated MCSO deputies located the vehicle on “Silvercreek south of Silver Crest” and were about to conduct a traffic stop.

- *500_Dispatch_Pos__2_Ext__3723_2024_10_05_22_07_27_by_Source_Name_asc*

The recording was 2 minutes and 23 seconds, and the time of call was 22:07:27. WPD dispatch contacted Wayne county dispatch to update them on the location of the vehicle. During the phone conversation, radio traffic could be heard in the background and an officer could be heard stating “shots fired, shots fired.” The dispatcher reiterated the information.

- *507_Dispatch_Pos__2_Ext__3723_2024_10_05_22_09_51_by_Source_Name_asc*

The recording was 19 seconds, and the time of the call was 22:09:51. Someone called into dispatch to request a squad to the location of the shooting incident. The address provided was 10340 Silvercreek Road.

Audio Recorded Police Radio Traffic – Medina County Sheriff's Office

The table below contains the radio data and content of the radio traffic for the transmissions believed to be most relevant to the actual shooting incident.

| Transmission # | Date & Time | Duration | Radio Channel | Officer Name |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 109 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:04:05 | Dur: 00:04 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| I got a gray Ford that just passed me, turned around [unintelligible]. | | | | |
| 110 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:04:29 | Dur: 00:05 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| He is southbound passing Circle K. I don't have a 7 yet. | | | | |
| 115 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:05:23 | Dur: 00:09 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| KHN9669, I got it in front of me. Southbound on Silvercreek passing Robin Drive. | | | | |
| 120 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:06:14 | Dur: 00:06 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| Passing public storage, 660 Silvercreek, coming up to Johnson. | | | | |

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|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|
| 133 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:08:03 | Dur: 00:08 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| Alright 40 [unintelligible] traffic stop, Silvercreek and Madison Trail. High-risk stop, high-risk stop. | | | | |
| 137 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:08:30 | Dur: 00:03 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| I think we're stopping [sirens in the background]. | | | | |
| 138 | Start: 2024-10-05 22:08:58 | Dur: 00:02 | SO_DISP | Unknown Deputy |
| Shots fired, Shots fired! | | | | |

Audio Recorded Police Radio Traffic - Wadsworth Police Department

The table below contains the radio data and content of the radio traffic for the transmissions believed to be most relevant to the actual shooting incident.

| Transmission # | Date & Time | Duration | Radio Channel | Officer Name |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 4 | Start: 2024-10-05 21:09:09 | Dur: 00:33 | Police Main | Unknown Officer |
| [Unintelligible] he retrieved several firearms from his parents' house earlier today. The names going to be David Septer... It's going to be a dark-gray 4-door Ford pick-up truck, unknown exact make or model. It's going to be a newer model truck. | | | | |
| 6 | Start: 2024-10-05 21:11:15 | Dur: 00:56 | Police Main | Dispatch |
| MCSOs enroute, per Wayne County he has a rifle maybe a handgun, 24A history, and he last advised he is ready to use them on law enforcement. He has been off his meds for five months. | | | | |

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All other radio transmissions contained radio traffic of WPD coordinating the lockdown of the high school for the safety of students, the check of the surrounding area for Septer, and response to assist MCSO after the shooting incident occurred.

Audio Recorded Fire/EMS Radio Traffic - Wadsworth Fire Department

Each of the radio transmissions were reviewed. They contained radio traffic relevant to the emergency response of Wadsworth fire and EMS personnel after the shooting incident. The response location was 10340 Silvercreek Road.

Audio Recorded Phone Calls to Wayne County Sheriff's Office

- *Wayne County Dispatch 20-24-11627*

The recording was 11 minutes and 8 seconds, and the time was 20:03:53 hours. A female dispatcher answered the phone and a female responded by stating she received a text from her husband indicating he wanted to commit suicide. The husband (Septer) provided the female caller with a location of "West Lebanon, just south of 241, on Oil Rig Trail, on curve."

The second recorded phone call was a continuation of the first. The dispatcher was attempting to verify the location of Septer. The female caller then read the text messages she received by Septer. She also indicated Septer has threatened suicide multiple times in the past and he was on probation.

The female caller stated she received the text from Septer at 1921 hours on October 5, 2024. Septer also called her multiple times. She finally answered the phone and spoke to him at 1953 hours.

Septer had allegedly been off his prescribed medication for the last five months. The female caller also indicated Septer had never been "this specific" in his previous threats of suicide.

The female caller stated she would send Septer a text to let him know "police were on their way" to him.

During the recording, Septer called the female caller.

At 20:18:10 hours the female called back and said her husband (Septer) "has weapons" and he made statements that he was "ready for them" when referring to police response. The call ended.

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- *Wayne County Dispatch 20-24-11627 phone*

The recording was 24 minutes and 58 seconds, and the recording contained multiple phone calls.

The first recorded phone call was at 20:10:41 hours. The dispatcher began speaking about a suicidal male at "430" (incomplete address). The call relayed the initial information given by Septer's wife. New information learned included Septer mentioned wanting "someone else to find him" rather than his family.

The second phone call was likely Septer's wife providing updated information on texts she received from her husband (Septer). She also provided personal identifying information to the dispatcher.

The remainder of the phone calls included identifying information for Septer and updated information on his whereabouts.

At 20:50:20 a phone call was made to Verizon Wireless to request a ping on Septer's cellphone.

The remainder of the phone calls include duplicate information and information being exchanged between agencies.

- *Wayne County Dispatch 20-24-11627 phone II*

The recording was 23 minutes and 27 seconds, and the recording contained multiple phone calls involving Wayne County dispatchers. Phone calls were made to various involved agencies including Medina County Sheriff's Office and Wadsworth Police Department. The information being exchanged included information about the involved subject, David Septer, and updated locations of the phone pings being conducted.

Many of the phone calls were duplicated files provided by the other associated agencies.

The recording concluded with a phone call to Verizon Wireless to cancel the ping on Septer's phone. The case number associated with the cellphone ping request was [REDACTED].

Audio Recorded Police Radio Traffic - Wayne County Sheriff's Office

File titled: Wayne County Dispatch 20-24-11627 RADIO TRAFFIC I and was 5 minutes and 40 seconds. Radio transmissions included information for the initial dispatch of the suicidal male call for service. Information about Septer was relayed to officers.

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Medina County Sheriff's Office CAD Reports

Two CAD reports were provided by the MCSO with the first one detailing the initial call for service and the second one detailing the traffic stop and officer-involved shooting incident. Each report contained the dispatch, en route and arrival times of the officers/deputies who responded to the incident.

- CFS # [REDACTED]
The call was initiated at 21:11:22 hours and the call type was entered as "assist other agency." David Septer and his registered vehicle were listed in the call details.
- CFS # [REDACTED]
The call was initiated at 22:08:31 hours and the call type was entered as "traffic stop."

Video Recordings

Video review reports were written covering the in-car dash cameras and body-worn cameras of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Additional video review reports were written for MCSO Sergeant King and OSHP Sergeant Gasser, as well as other law enforcement officers that arrived after the shooting incident. The video review summarized below utilizes [REDACTED] in-car camera video.

Processing - Bookmarked Images

SAS Moran used Amped Replay to bookmark multiple images (frames) from the processed video file. It should be noted that the yellow color line in the background images was added to show an approximation of level. The orange color line/arrow was added to show an approximation of the muzzle direction of the rifle held by David Septer. The following frames and activity were noted:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 6320 |
| Activity/Notes | Approximate first frame when [REDACTED] emergency lights were activated on his police vehicle. Septer was driving south on Silvercreek Road. |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7046 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer stopped his vehicle on the side of the road. [REDACTED] stopped his police vehicle on the side of the road behind Septer's |

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| | |
|--|----------|
| | vehicle. |
|--|----------|

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7137 |
| Activity/Notes | Approximate first frame when the brake lights on Septer's vehicle dimmed (likely indicating Septer removed his foot from the brake pedal). |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7191 |
| Activity/Notes | A spotlight from a police vehicle illuminated the driver's side of Septer's vehicle. |

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Frame | 7223 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer started to open his door. |



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| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Frame | 7493 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer started to exit his vehicle. |



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| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7528 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer exited his vehicle and looked in the direction of the deputies. Septer held his rifle at an angle similar to "low ready" in a right-handed carry. |



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| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7534 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer moved his rifle to his right and slightly upward. |



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| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7540 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer moved his rifle upward. Septer continued looking in the direction of the deputies. |



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| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7545 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer raised his rifle upward and it was nearly level. Septer continued looking in the direction of the deputies. |



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| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7550 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer continued holding his rifle level while looking in the direction of the deputies. |



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| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7553 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer continued holding his rifle nearly level while looking in the direction of the deputies. |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7558 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer lowered his rifle slightly (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). His rifle was still in a position similar to "low ready." |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7563 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer lowered his rifle slightly (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). His rifle was still in a position similar to "low ready." |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7568 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer lowered his rifle slightly (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). His rifle was still in a position similar to "low ready." |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
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Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7578 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer lowered his rifle slightly (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). His rifle was still in a position similar to "low ready." |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7583 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer lowered his rifle slightly (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). His rifle was still in a position similar to "low ready." |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7588 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer raised his rifle to near level as he stepped forward with his left foot (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7593 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer raised his rifle upward to near above level as he stepped forward with his left foot (likely due to reacting to being shot by the deputies). |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7617 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer fell to the ground on his knees with his rifle in front of him. |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Frame | 7645 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer fell to the ground on his right side with his rifle in front of him. |



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Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Frame | 7670 |
| Activity/Notes | Septer rolled to his left and onto his back. His rifle was next to his right hand/arm. |



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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 10300 block Silvercreek Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230, Medina County

Conclusion

David Septer refused to sign dissolution paperwork that was previously provided to him by his wife, Heather Septer. After taking homecoming pictures with their daughter, David began to call his daughter to tell her how much he loved her. David later sent a text message to Heather that alluded to suicide. Heather informed law enforcement of this message along with information that she received from David that he possibly had a firearm and was ready for the police.

Law enforcement pinged David's cell phone. Location data indicated that David was in the area of Wadsworth High School, where David's daughter was at homecoming. The school was put on lockdown and additional law enforcement officers were called in to provide security around the school. MCSO [REDACTED] located David's vehicle driving near the area of the school. A short time later, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] initiated a traffic stop on David's vehicle.

After stopping the vehicle, David exited the vehicle holding a semi-automatic rifle and raised the rifle toward deputies. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fired several shots striking David. Ultimately, David died of his injuries.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Jon Lieber. SA Lieber can be reached via email at Jonathan.Lieber@OhioAGO.gov.

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