



**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
Involves: Ohio State Highway Patrol (O)
Activity Date: 05/21/2025
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) began reviewing body worn camera (BWC) provided by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP). The video recordings were created from BWCs utilized by OSHP personnel during the November 18, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Jackson Township, Ohio.

Six videos were provided electronically by the OSHP on November 26, 2024, by Sergeant Chris Castellanos. The videos were added to the evidence.com case file and have been stored as Reference Item H.

The following six videos were reviewed:

Title	Officer	Recorded On	Duration	Source
OSP BWC - Canton_USMS_Shooting _Jackson_Township- 2.mp4	Trooper Mike Vitullo	11/18/2024 13:27:34	27m 24s	Axon Body 4 D01A6340C
OSP BWC - Canton_USMS_Shooting _Jackson_Township- 3.mp4	Trooper Mike Vitullo	11/18/2024 12:51:05	1h 4m	Axon Body 4 D01A6225C
OSP BWC - Canton_USMS_Shooting _Jackson_Township- 4.mp4	Trooper Hector Burgos	11/18/2024 12:51:32	1h 7m	Axon Body 4 D01A6225C

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OSP BWC - Canton_USMS_Shooting _Jackson_Township- 5.mp4	Trooper Austin Skipper	11/18/2024 12:50:29	1h 8m	Axon Body 4 D01A6850D
OSP BWC - Canton_USMS_Shooting _Jackson_Township- 6.mp4	Sergeant Chris Castellanos	11/18/2024 12:39:37	1h 11m	Axon Body 4 D01A5766Z
OSP BWC - Canton_USMS_Shooting _Jackson_Township.mp4	Trooper Justin Ross	11/18/2024 13:44:11	7m 4s	Axon Body 4 D01A6410C

The camera angle was obstructed throughout the video due to various factors including, but not limited to, vehicles, law enforcement personnel, and Trooper Vitullo's position within the armored SWAT vehicle. Room #220, where the involved subject, James Vanest (Vanest), was located, was not visible on Trooper Vitullo's BWC until after the conclusion of the shooting incident. Percussive sounds could be heard throughout the entirety of the video. The most noteworthy percussive sounds, as determined by this author, will be indicated. Additionally, various communication and tactical strategies could be heard throughout the video from various law enforcement personnel on scene. Again, the most notable statements as deemed by this author will be annotated below. The video should be reviewed in its entirety for additional information.

None of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Officer appeared to fire their firearms. Trooper Mike Vitullo fired less lethal munitions and Sergeant Christopher Castellanos deployed two flash bangs. The BWC from Sergeant Castellanos visually captured cartridge casings which appeared to be ejected from Canton Police [REDACTED] rifle at the time he was firing from inside the OSP Armored vehicle.

Trooper Mike Vitullo appeared to fire two different less-lethal devices at three separate times throughout the incident. The first time was at 13:14:41 and he appeared to fire 5 times. The second time was at 13:16:01 and he appeared to fire approximately 3 times. The third time was at 13:20:03 and he appeared to fire 8 times. His BWC did not visually capture the actions of Vanest leading up to or during the time Trooper Vitullo

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fired.

Details associated with each video were documented in the following table:

Time references made correspond with the timestamp on the body worn camera of each officer.

Title	Officer	Source	Comments
OSP BWC - Canton_USM S_Shooting_Jackson_Township-2.mp4	Trooper Mike Vitullo	Axon Body 4 D01A6340C	This video recording occurred after the final shots had been fired. No additional relevant information was observed.
OSP BWC - Canton_USM S_Shooting_Jackson_Township-3.mp4	Trooper Mike Vitullo	Axon Body 4 D01A6225C	The video began with multiple troopers and officers gathering gear and entering the OSHP armored SWAT vehicle. Trooper Vitullo took a position in the turret of the armed vehicle. At 13:13:42, Trooper Vitullo was handed a less-lethal device that was likely loaded with “wooden baton” rounds (based upon conversation audibly captured in the video). At 13:14:41 a percussive sound could be heard, and Trooper Vitullo’s body camera shook slightly. This was likely the result of recoil from the less-lethal device Trooper Vitullo deployed. Trooper Vitullo deployed three additional rounds of less lethal ammunition from the device. On the fourth shot at 13:15:20, a percussive sound could be heard, and an object could be observed moving in the direction of Room #220 at a high rate of speed (<i>OSHP – Vitullo BWC 1</i>). The object observed on camera was likely the projectile deployed from the less-lethal device. At 13:16:01 Trooper Vitullo reloaded his less-lethal device with four additional

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			<p>rounds of "wooden baton" (OSHP – Vitullo BWC 2). Trooper Vitullo fired one additional round of the "wooden baton" munition and then appeared to have a malfunction with his less lethal device. Trooper Vitullo appeared to switch to a different less-lethal device and proceeded to fire two additional "wooden baton" rounds. At 13:20:03 multiple percussive sounds could be heard in rapid succession. This was likely when Canton Police Department [REDACTED] fired his rifle from his position inside the OSHP armored SWAT vehicle. Trooper Vitullo then proceeded to fire eight additional "wooden baton" rounds. At 13:25:40 Trooper Vitullo appeared to place a drone on the roof of the OSHP armored vehicle. Trooper Vitullo exited the armored vehicle and at 13:53:26 his body cam audio was muted. The video ended approximately two minutes later.</p>
OSP BWC - Canton_USM S_Shooting_Jackson_Township-4.mp4	Trooper Hector Burgos	Axon Body 4 D01A6225C	<p>The video began with Trooper Burgos at a perimeter position. At 12:52:16 percussive sounds could be heard and then someone said "hey, he's shooting at the sniper, get out of there." In the minutes to follow numerous percussive sounds could be heard. Multiple troopers and officers then appeared to enter the OSHP armored SWAT vehicle. At 13:13:23 someone could be heard saying "wooden baton" four times in a row and Trooper Burgos could be observed handing what appeared to be less-lethal ammunition to another officer inside the armored SWAT vehicle. At 13:20:00 an officer could be heard stating "I have a shot, I have a shot" followed by multiple percussive sounds. This was likely</p>

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			<p>when [REDACTED] of the Canton Police Department fired his gun. At 13:21:35 a percussive sound could be heard and an officer standing in the turret could be observed. The officer's right arm appeared to recoil at the same time as the percussive sound. Trooper Burgos could then be observed handing additional "wooden baton" rounds to the officer standing in the turret. Someone also could be heard saying "wooden baton." At 13:27:06 someone could be heard saying "let them know we got a head down." At 13:40:45 someone could be heard saying "bang out" followed by two percussive sounds. Someone then could be heard saying "I have no movement on my end" (likely referring to Vanest not reacting to the flashbang that was deployed). Trooper Burgos remained in the armored SWAT vehicle for majority of the video. After exiting the vehicle, entry to Room #220 had already been made, and scene management was taking place.</p>
OSP BWC - Canton_USM S_Shooting_Jackson_Township-5.mp4	Trooper Austin Skipper	Axon Body 4 D01A6850D	Numerous percussive sounds could be heard throughout the duration of the video. At 12:52:27, percussive sounds could be heard and Trooper Burgos said "Hey! He's shooting at the sniper." At 13:07:05, Trooper Skipper utilized the armored vehicle Bear One to contact the subject's pick-up truck and push it away from the front of Room #220. At 13:14:33, radio confirmation was given to discharge wooden batons for the purpose of breaking out the subject motel room window. At 13:16:34, an officer can be heard saying,

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			<p>there was movement behind the bed. The officer then said the subject was crawling. At 13:19:48, an officer said "Hey. You said our guys have already engaged too, correct?". An officer said "I got movement...behind those pillows. I have a shot. I have a shot." At 13:20:03, an officer then fired 9 times. After the gunshots an officer said " Alright. He just pointed a gun at me through the port I engaged him [unintelligible] more rounds. It looked like a pistol." Trooper Vitullo then continued firing wooden batons. At 13:40:42, Sergeant Castellanos deployed a flash bang to assess whether the subject responded to it. At 13:43:36 Sergeant Castellanos deployed another flashbang. At 13:48:38 a percussive sound could be heard and a bright light could be observed in the window of Room #220. Someone could also be heard stating "they're making entry." The remainder of the video included scene management after entry into Room #220 was made.</p>
OSP BWC - Canton_USM S_Shooting_Jackson_Township-6.mp4	Sergeant Chris Castellanos	Axon Body 4 D01A5766Z	<p>The video began with Sergeant Castellanos arriving on scene at a perimeter location. At 12:44:00 Sergeant Castellanos began gathering information from officers who were already on scene. One officer could be heard saying "he [Vanest] was firing at us through that wall." The officer appeared to be pointing in the direction of the outside wall of Room #220. At 13:07:05 a gray truck became visible from the front windshield of the OSHP armored vehicle. The driver of the armored vehicle (Trooper Austin Skipper) began driving the armored SWAT vehicle and made contact with the gray truck ultimately</p>

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			<p>pushing it away from the front of Room #220. At 13:13:21 Trooper Hector Burgos could be observed handing Sergeant Castellanos less-lethal ammunition while also saying "wooden baton" multiple times. At 13:20:04 multiple percussive sounds could be heard. Ejected cartridge casings could be observed coming from the area where [REDACTED] was positioned. This was likely the moment [REDACTED] fired his gun. At 14:40:53 Sergeant Castellanos appeared to throw a flashbang from the rear of the OSHP armored SWAT vehicle. Moments after, two percussive sounds could be heard. At 13:41:26 an alarm could be heard in the background. At 13:43:33 Sergeant Castellanos appeared to throw another flashbang from the rear of the OSHP armored SWAT vehicle. At 13:48:24 officers could be observed moving outside the OSHP armored SWAT vehicle. The officers appeared to be approaching Room #220. The video ended with Sergeant Castellanos exiting the armored SWAT vehicle.</p>
OSP BWC - Canton_USM S_Shooting_Jackson_Township.mp4	Trooper Justin Ross	Axon Body 4 D01A6410C	This video recording occurred after the final shots had been fired. No additional relevant information was observed

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OSHP - Vitullo BWC 1

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OSHP - Vitullo BWC 2

References:

Reference Item H - BWC Video OSP - in Axon Justice/Evidence.com

Attachments:

1. OSHP - Vitullo BWC 1-2

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