



**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:** Initial USMS BWC Review  
**Involves:** James Vanest (S); Deputy Marshal Christopher Alstrom  
**Activity Date:** 12/03/2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Matthew Armstrong

**Narrative:**

On Monday, December 02, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Armstrong (SA Armstrong) received body worn camera (BWC) video footage from United States Marshal Service Senior Program Analyst Brian Renzi via a link through evidence.com. SA Armstrong was informed that access to view the unblurred and unredacted footage was only provided for three days and the video was considered a federal record which was prohibited from being recorded or shared. The video recording was created from the BWC utilized by Deputy Marshal Christopher Alstrom (Alstrom) during the November 18, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Jackson Township, Ohio.

SA Armstrong was informed that the unredacted video could be reviewed to identify relevant portions of the video. Once the specific portions of video needed were identified a request could be made to obtain those portions, but they would be provided in a redacted form. The following video was reviewed:

United States Marshalls Serve BWC Video		
Video Title	Officer	Time
UNBLUR - OGC - (Clip 1) - VANEST, JAMES	Deputy Marshall Christopher Alstrom	11:06:12 hrs. - 13:50:00 hrs. (2:43:48)

Upon completing the initial review, the following portions of video were requested:

- 00:00:13 – 00:06:18 (Time Stamp in Video 11:06:25 - 11:12:30)
- 01:07:33 – 01:08:18 (Time Stamp in Video 12:13:45 - 12:14:30)
- 01:10:25 – 01:10:36 (Time Stamp in Video 12:16:37 - 12:16:48)
- 01:19:12 – 01:21:38 (Time Stamp in Video 12:25:25 - 12:27:50)
- 02:10:16 – 02:14:09 (Time Stamp in Video 13:16:28 - 13:20:21)
- 02:21:10 – 02:21:11 (Time Stamp in Video 13:27:22 - 13:27:23)



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In addition to identifying relevant portions of video needed, information outlining the events which occurred during the incident was documented. As a result, the following timeline of the incident was established. Although the below timeline provides an overview of the incident, it was limited to the events captured on Deputy Marshal Alstrom's BWC video.

The time stamp on the video indicated it began on November 18, 2024, at 11:06:12 hours. It ended at 13:50:00 hours. The following timeline was documented:

- 11:06:24 – Alstrom exited his vehicle and approached room 220
- 11:07:09 – Alstrom knocked on the door, waited a brief time and then knocked again.
- 11:07:34 – Alstrom knocked a third time and announced “Police! US Marshalls with a warrant. Come to the door. Do it now!” He then knocked again and repeated the announcement.
- 11:07:56 – Alstrom attempted to open door with an electronic motel room key, but it did not work.
- 11:10:41 – Alstrom utilized a physical motel key to open room 220.
- 11:10:47 – the door partially opened but was stopped by a security latch on the inside of the door.
- 11:10:51 – Alstrom quickly moved away from the door while he said “Shit! Get back. He’s got a gun!”
- 11:10:57 – after moving away from the door, Alstrom said “He’s pointing a gun at us.” Another officer told a Jackson Township Police Officer to call for SWAT and they began commanding James Vanest exit the room.
- 11:11:46 – Alstrom asked another officer if he had the pepper ball launcher.
- 11:12:22 – another officer said “I didn’t even see him. Where’s was he at?” Alstrom responded saying “He’s laying in the bed with a pistol pointed right at us.”
- 11:12:34 – Alstrom announced they were going to be deploying pepper gas. He then instructed another officer to deploy it.
- 11:12:50 – eight repetitive percussive sounds were captured. Although not visually captured, it appeared that the percussive sounds were the deployment of pepper gas.
- 11:22:00 – a Jackson Township officer said, “Negotiator’s here.” Alstrom then began speaking with Jackson Twp. PD Det. Aynes, while the remaining officers maintained cover on the room.



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- 11:23:04 – Det. Aynes began trying to establish verbal contact with Vanest. Det. Aynes continued attempting verbal contact with Vanest by yelling his name and instructing him to come out of the room.
- 11:23:57 – Det. Aynes warned more gas was going to be deployed into the room. He provided this warning twice while asking Vanest to come to the door.
- 11:24:15 – approximately 15 repetitive percussive sounds were captured. Although not visually captured it appeared that the percussive sounds were the deployment of pepper gas.
- 11:28:23 – Det. Aynes attempted to contact Vanest by phone in the motel room. The attempt was not successful.
- 11:29:04 – while trying to call Vanest a second time, Det. Aynes yelled to Vanest another warning that more pepper gas would be deployed if he didn't answer the phone.
- 11:32:18 – approximately 17 repetitive percussive sounds were captured. Although not visually captured, it appeared that the percussive sounds were the deployment of pepper gas.
- 11:52:01 – the Canton Region SWAT team arrived with an armored vehicle.
- 11:58:53 – the first PA announcements were made. Officers called for the subject to come out with his hands up or tear gas would be deployed into the room.
- 12:02:25 – another PA announcement was made instructing Vanest to come out of the room.
- 12:05:54 – there were four percussive sounds captured, likely the deployment of less lethal munitions.
- 12:06:50 – another percussive sound was captured, likely the deployment of less lethal munitions.
- 12:08:38 – another PA announcement was made directing the subject to come out of the room.
- 12:11:03 – approximately 19 percussive sounds were captured over a two-minute period, likely the deployment of less lethal munitions.
- 12:13:13 – a drone was deployed by the Canton Regional SWAT Team.
- 12:13:54 – seven percussive sounds were captured. Alstrom said he thought it was gunfire. Another voice could be heard yelling “get back”. Alstrom and another officer moved behind a vehicle in the Cracker Barrel parking lot.
- 12:14:26 another officer said “He’s shooting through the walls. I saw it coming out the side.”
- 12:16:38 – Alstrom and another officer talked about the shots coming through the north side motel wall.



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- 12:19:00 – SWAT officers told the US Marshals to evacuate Cracker Barrel, and they began that process.
- 12:22:35 – an officer with the USMS Task Force retrieved a pepper ball gun from a Jackson Township Police truck. He and Alstrom then joined the SWAT Team. Det. Aynes reloaded the pepper ball gun. Numerous percussive sounds (likely the deployment of less lethal munitions) were captured in the background.
- 12:24:07 – officers discussed the deployment of a robot.
- 12:25:30 – a percussive sound was captured followed by an officer yelling “Aww Fuck!” Alstrom then said “Shit! Somebody got hit!” Multiple officers could be heard talking and organizing an extraction plan for the injured officer.
- 12:26:13 – numerous percussive sounds could be heard, which continued for approximately 45 seconds. An officer asked about flooding the place with gas. It appeared the percussive sounds were likely the deployment of gas or pepper balls.
- 12:27:21 – numerous percussive sounds were captured followed by an Officer saying “Shot’s fired. Shots fired.”
- 12:28:19 – an officer said something about suppressive fire.
- 12:39:51 – an officer yelled there was movement inside the room.
- 12:41:15 – an officer explained that the last place he saw the subject was behind the bed.
- 12:45:10 – OSP’s armored vehicle arrived.
- 12:51:10 – approximately 10 repetitive percussive sounds were captured which appeared consistent with the sound of gunfire.
- 12:51:25 – approximately 12 repetitive percussive sounds were captured which appeared consistent with the sound of gunfire.
- 12:52:12 – two percussive sounds were captured which appeared consistent with the sound of gunfire.
- 12:53:44 – numerous percussive sounds were captured. Officers referred to it as gunfire. It was repetitive and continued for approximately 22 seconds.
- 12:56:20 – multiple officers entered the OSP armored vehicle. The armored vehicle was then moved to the front of Room 220. The officers discussed using the armored vehicle to push the involved subject’s truck out of the way and it appeared that did occur. Officers then appeared to hold cover from windows and ports on the passenger side of the armored vehicle.
- 13:14:37 – percussive sounds were captured. Officers were talking about breaking out the glass window of the motel room with wooden batons. Percussive sounds followed by the sound of glass breaking was captured.



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Although not visually captured, it appeared an officer was firing less lethal rounds into the glass window from the turret of OSP's armored vehicle.

- 13:16:31 – an officer inside OSP armored vehicle announced there was movement behind the bed on the west side of the room. He then added the subject was rolling to the right and crawling around on the ground.
- 13:18:27 – an officer announced there was movement again and that the subject was still crawling around on the west side. Another officer then said "There he is. He just popped his head up. [unintelligible] If you got the shot you can take it"
- 13:19:37 – a percussive sound was captured followed by the sound of glass breaking. An officer asked for them to take out more of the glass. Someone then said, "wooden baton". An officer then said "I have a shot. I have a shot." Another percussive sound was captured followed by the sound of more glass breaking.
- 13:20:01 – nine repetitive percussive sounds consistent with the sound of gunfire were captured. An officer then said, "Alright. He just pointed a gun at me through the port I engaged him, multiple rounds. It looked like a pistol." Officers then discuss taking out more glass. Percussive sounds (Likely wooden batons being fired) then continued, followed by the sound of glass breaking.
- 13:26:43 – an officer announced he believed the subject was down and that he could see the subject's head. Another officer then said the head was face down at the foot of the bed.
- 13:40:50 – an officer deployed a double flash bang into the room from the rear of OSP's armored vehicle. Two percussive sounds were captured and afterward officers stated there was no movement and the head was still in the same position.
- 13:43:05 – officers stated that the body part had not moved, and it remained where it was before the double flash bang was deployed.
- 13:43:32 – a percussive sound was captured and an officer said, "Bang out". Smoke was then visually captured blowing out and past room 220.
- 13:48:32 – Officers approached the entry door of room 220. A flash inside of the room followed by a percussive sound was captured before officers entered the room.
- 13:49:46 – an officer confirmed the subject was down.

**References:**

1. None

**Attachments:**



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1. None