



**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: Involved Officer Interview
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 11/27/2024
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 0918 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) interviewed Canton Police Department (CPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Ty Graham, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at BCI - Richfield located at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

| | |
|---|--|
| Name: [REDACTED] | Rank: [REDACTED] |
| Badge Number: [REDACTED] | Cruiser/Vehicle Number: N/A |
| Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED] | Immediate Supervisor: Captain Marino |
| Radio Channel Utilized: Spec OPS Channel through Canton PD | Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present |
| Cruiser Description: OSHP armored vehicle | Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: multiple occupants in armored |

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| | |
|--|---|
| | vehicle |
| Assignment: [REDACTED] | Normal Shift: [REDACTED] |
| In-Car Camera: Not Present | Spotlight: Present; Not utilized |
| Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized | Siren: Present; Not Used |
| Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED] | Duty Status: Special Duty Detail |
| Days Off: [REDACTED] | Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None |
| Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8 | Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes |
| Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED] | Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED] |
| Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None | Corrective Lenses: Contact Lenses |
| Uniform Worn: Tactical SWAT uniform OD green, BDU pants, plate carrier, helmet, boots | Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: no less lethal on his person, less lethal shotgun available, gas launchers, pepper balls |
| Ballistic Vest: Tactical Armor | Body Worn Camera: Present & Used |
| Other Recording Devices: None on his person | Partner: N/A |
| Injuries: None | Equipment Damage: None |
| Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT training minimum 16 hours a month, FTO, CIT | OPOTC Certification: Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy |
| Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED] | Use-of-Force Training: In-service defensive tactics training at CPD, every time they train firearms or taser they review the use of force policy |
| Prior Shooting Incidents: [REDACTED] | Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None |
| Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None | Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None |

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

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| | |
|---|--|
| Make: Daniel Defense | Model: DDM 4 |
| Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm | Serial: Unknown |
| Type: Rifle | Method of Carry: Sling |
| Magazine Capacity: 30 | Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 28 |
| Extra Magazines: 3 magazines total | Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 56 |
| Discharged During Incident? Yes | Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup |
| Rounds Remaining After Incident: 19 | Number of Rounds Fired: 7-9 |
| Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed | Ownership: Department Owned |
| Last Qualification Date: Unknown date in October | Type of Holster, if any: N/A |

Narrative:

██████████ watched his BWC footage approximately one time prior to the interview. What he observed in the video footage is primarily what he recalls happening.

After obtaining the preliminary and demographic information, ██████████ provided the following information related to the incident on November 18, 2024:

██████████ was a member of the Canton Regional SWAT team (Canton SWAT). He has been a member of the team for ██████████. He explained for any SWAT call-outs, or what he referred to as "full team activation", he received a page on his phone providing a brief summary of the incident and where to respond.

On November 18, 2024, ██████████ received a "full team activation" page requesting that he respond to 6880 Sunset Strip Avenue in North Canton, Ohio. Additional information stated there was a barricaded subject who had engaged in gunfire with other officers already on scene.

When ██████████ arrived on scene, he gathered his equipment and was instructed to get inside the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) armored vehicle parked at the rear of the Rodeway Inn.

Inside the OSHP armored vehicle was ██████████, CPD ██████████, Jackson Township Police Department (JTPD) Officer Weber (also a Canton SWAT team member), two OSHP SRT troopers, and a U.S. Marshal.

Once ██████████ entered the armored vehicle, they were immediately given orders to move the subject's vehicle away from the front of the motel Room #220. ██████████

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██████████ said the driver of the armored vehicle maneuvered the vehicle through the parking lot of the Rodeway Inn and eventually pushed the subject's vehicle out of the way. During that time, ██████████ said none of the officers inside the vehicle opened the small ports on the side of the vehicle. These small ports were described 5-6" holes that SWAT officers could use to aim their firearms through. These ports provided a means to operate, but also a point of vulnerability should the subject have fired at the vehicle.

Once the armored vehicle repositioned itself in front of Room #220, ██████████ said it was difficult to see inside due to the window glare on the large window of Room #220. To solve this issue, one of the OSHP SRT team members inside the armored vehicle began firing less lethal rounds to knock out the window.

The window took some time to break. During that time, ██████████ was aiming his rifle through the center port of the armored vehicle. As the window slowly broke apart, he was able to see more and more of the interior of Room #220. First, he was able to see a bed with a large mound of blankets and pillows lying on top of it. He then began seeing small amounts of movement that appeared to be a person moving behind the bed.

The OSHP trooper continued to shoot out the window with the less-lethal rounds. Eventually, the entire window was shattered, and ██████████ could clearly see inside. He noticed the bathroom light on, but did not recall any other lighting inside.

Officers on scene were given the command by Canton Regional SWAT Commander Captain Marino to shoot whenever they had a line of sight.

██████████ continued to aim his rifle through the center port of the armored vehicle. He was aiming in the general direction of Room #220. He then saw the left hand of the subject come over the mound of blankets and pillows on the bed pointing a gun in the direction of ██████████. ██████████ began firing his rifle in the general area of the bed/mound of blankets and pillows. This was the area where he believed the subject to be based upon the location of the subject's arm and a small portion of his head. After ██████████ fired his weapon, he recalled announcing it to the other officers inside the armored vehicle. ██████████ believed he fired his rifle approximately 7-9 times.

Other officers on scene stated that they believed they saw a portion of the subject's body on the ground near the foot of the bed. The SWAT team then began formulating a plan to launch their ground drone to enter the room first. ██████████ said the ground drone became stuck, so a few flash bangs were utilized in an effort to gain a

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response from the subject. Eventually, the ground drone was able to navigate into the room and confirmed the subject was down on the ground and no longer a threat.

A few members of the Canton SWAT team entered the room to detain the subject and render first aid. [REDACTED] remained in the armored vehicle during the entirety of the incident.

[REDACTED] feared for his safety and the safety of other officers on scene. Although [REDACTED] was behind cover in the armored vehicle, he was still exposed in the area of the open port. He stated, "I was concerned, I was definitely worried... I don't know how good of a shot this guy is... you can hit a five inch hole pretty far out" [29:00]. He did not learn that another officer had been shot until after the shooting incident occurred.

[REDACTED] was unsure how many rounds in total were fired during the incident. He explained that it was difficult to hear from inside the armored vehicle. [REDACTED] also did not provide any commands to the subject prior to firing his weapon. He again explained that any command he could have given would have been muffled by the armored vehicle and would not have been heard by the subject or anyone else on the outside of the vehicle.

[REDACTED] had no previous encounters with the subject, nor had he ever responded to the location before. He indicated the Rodeway Inn was not in his normal area of jurisdiction.

The interview concluded at approximately 0955 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

Reference Item I – Officer Interview – Evidence.com

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-27 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form - [REDACTED]
2. 2024-11-27 Audio Recorded Interview - [REDACTED]

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DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of Interviewee

11-27-24

0915

Date / Time

[Redacted]

Signature of Interviewee

Nick Valente

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)