



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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

Investigative Activity: EMS Interview – Coty Shellenbager
Involves: Coty Shellenberger (W)
Activity Date: 06/17/2025
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriff's Office, 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road,
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 1438 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (SA Valente) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Lieutenant Coty Shellenbager (Shellenbager), of the Mount Vernon Fire Department (MVFD), relative to the officer-involved critical incident (OICI) which took place on Thursday, June 5, 2025. The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's Office, 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by Shellenbager regarding their response to the incident scene.

The interview started at 1438 hours. Schellenberg was asked to explain his involvement with the OICI that occurred at 10180 Busenburg Road, Howard, Ohio. Shellenbager explained that he was summoned to the scene as part of the Mount Vernon SWAT team to assist the Knox County Sheriff's SWAT team. Shellenbager is a SWAT team medic and also a Lieutenant at the Mount Vernon Fire Department.

Shellenbager explained the actions taken by Mount Vernon SWAT prior to making entry into the residence. A full report of Mount Vernon's actions was attached to this report.

SA Lamping asked Shellenbager if he took any action as the medic during the incident. Shellenbager stated that he pronounced the death of two individuals. He explained that as he was standing by one of the drone operators, they said that a female [Lauretta Beltz (Beltz)] in the residence appeared to be dead and may have blood pooling in her limbs. The drone operator also reported that a male [Lloyd Ray (Ray)] may have been aiming a firearm at the doorway, and they were not sure if he was alive or deceased. The SWAT team eventually made entry into the residence, and Shellenbager accompanied them. When the team secured the bedroom that Beltz and Ray were in, Shellenbager examined them. He described his interactions with Beltz as follows:

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"I followed them in and then after they, after they secured everything and said it was clear, I went up to the front and um, I could see the first, first person I saw was a female laying there. You could see, um, the gunshot wound to her abdomen and then, uh, felt for her pulse, no pulse, and she wasn't cold, but she was cool. Um, I don't, I don't know approximately how long she had been down, but I know we had been on scene for a few hours at that point. Um, so from there made my way, checked for her pulse, no pulse, no respirations, anything like that made my way to the male. (4:36)"

After checking Beltz's status, Shellenbager made his way to Ray. Shellenbager described his interactions with Ray as follows:

"I could see blood pooling out of the front of his head and the back of his head. Um, I didn't move either, either victim at all. Uh, reached down, moved some of his hair outta the way and checked for a pulse on his neck as well. Couldn't find any pulse and there was no respirations. He was also cool as well. So, I had unknown time of how long he had been, um, dead. (5:12)"

Shellenbager explained that after the examinations he that neither person had a pulse or respirations. This was relayed to the SWAT tactical command center to log the time of death. Shellenbager could not recall the precise time of death.

Prior to concluding the interview, SA Lamping asked Shellenbager if he wished to add anything, or if there was anything he thought agents would ask him that was not asked, and he stated the following:

"Um, no, not that I know of. It was pretty straightforward as far as the paramedic side of that goes. I mean, we don't usually, you know, when you have a traumatic arrest, it's usually you're not getting somebody back from that. So, and you know, they've been down long enough to where there was no benefit to doing anything to either one of them. Alright. In my opinion. (6:34)"

The interview was concluded at 1545 hours.

Two snippets from the ESU Callout Report are included below. They document the time of death that Shellenbager referenced during his interview.

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- Both the suspect and the female were confirmed deceased. Medic Coty Shellenbarger pronounced both at the scene. The entry team exited, and the scene was turned over to Knox County Detectives.
- **0530 hrs:** Suspect and deceased female located. Medic Shellenbarger pronounces both at the scene.

The interview of Shellenbarger was audio and video recorded. The recordings can be reviewed in their entirety on Axon Justice as part of Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews. The Mount Vernon SWAT Callout Report was attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews – Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. ESU (Mount Vernon SWAT) Callout Report

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The Mount Vernon Police Department
Emergency Services Unit

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Date: 06/05/2025

Time of Mission: 0200 hours

End of Mission: 0700 hours

Location: 10180 Busenburg Road, Knox County, Ohio

Type of Action: Barricaded Gunman / Officer-Involved Shooting Response

MVPD Team Members Present:

Commander: Lt. Young

Team Leader: Lt. Lewis

Team Leader: Sgt. Willis

Sgt. Collins

Sgt. Miller

Det. Arnold (Drone Operator)

Ptl. Berger

Ptl. McDonald (Less Lethal)

Ptl. Coffey

Medic Coty Shellenbarger (Less Lethal)

KCSO Personnel:

Commander: Lt. Feeney

Team Leader: Deputy Miller

Team Leader: Deputy Burgess

Deputy Ramsier

Deputy Queen

Deputy Gilbert

Deputy Feeney

Deputy Spearman

Deputy Scoles

Deputy Fritz

Deputy Wise

Summary of Mission:

- At approximately 0200 hours, Lt. Young contacted Lt. Lewis regarding an officer-involved shooting and a barricaded gunman on Busenburg Road. Deputies had taken fire from a male subject inside the residence. He also relayed information that a female might be inside the home and possibly injured, potentially from a gunshot.
- MVPD ESU members responded to the department, and departed for the scene.
- At 0316 hours, MVPD ESU arrived on scene and conducted a briefing alongside KCSO Command. A command post was established, and available intelligence was shared.
- Team members were set up on the perimeter, Sgt. Ramsier and Sgt. Miller was over watch in the bearcat turret. An arrest team was also formed and an entry team was prepared.
- The exterior of the residence was cleared by the drone and the screen door window was located closed when the drone attempted to enter the residence.
- Coty Shellenbarger deployed three rounds of 40mm foam batons through the window to port a hole for the drone to enter.
- Det. Arnold was tasked with drone deployment for interior recon.
- The male subject was observed via drone holding a rifle and inside the home. A female who appeared to be deceased and a dog that appeared to be deceased were observed in the residence. A second drone was deployed after the first was disabled by interior obstacles.
- After confirming no response from the suspect, the team prepared for entry.
- After confirming no response from the suspect, two rounds of 40mm foam batons were deployed into the west side window in the north bedroom
- The Bearcat was used to breach the north wall to better view the rifle and suspect.

- Ptl. McDonald deployed one 40mm impact round into the north bedroom and hit just above the suspect. No response was observed.
 - The entry team, composed of KCSO and MVPD, cleared the residence room by room.
 - Both the suspect and the female were confirmed deceased. Medic Coty Shellenbarger pronounced both at the scene. The entry team exited, and the scene was turned over to Knox County Detectives.
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Summary of Action:

- **0200 hrs:** Incident initiated, personnel alerted.
 - **0316 hrs:** MVPD ESU arrives on scene, gets briefed and issued Commands via PA system. Unknown if containment was broken during the initial gunfight.
 - **0341 hrs:** Front door reported wide open. Spotlight shines into residence. Thermal signature observed on the left side of the residence outside, the outside area was checked.
 - **0352 hrs:** MVPD advises intent to punch out window to deploy drone.
 - **0400 hrs:** First Impact round fired through the front door.
 - **0401 hrs:** Second and third impact rounds deployed through front entry.
 - **0415 hrs:** Vehicles around the residence cleared using aerial drone.
 - **0421 hrs:** Suspect located by drone— in rear bedroom with rifle in hand.
 - **0446 hrs:** Drone hovers over suspect; no movement observed since last drone contact.
 - **0447 hrs:** Two impact rounds deployed. Window ported. No movement from the suspect. Drone is disabled. Commands issued via PA system.
 - **0456 hrs:** ESU Team positions at the 1/2 side of the residence.
 - **0504 hrs:** From garage position, suspect is still visible. No observed movement.
 - **0505 hrs:** Suspect begins to move, it was determined that his hair was moving from a fan in the residence..
 - **0506 hrs:** Suspect on stomach, head position unchanged since wall was ported.
 - **0517 hrs:** munitions to port bedroom window deployed with no reaction.
 - **0525 hrs:** MVPD Bearcat used to breach the north wall. The entry team conducts entry and clears the home.
 - **0530 hrs:** Suspect and deceased female located. Medic Shellenbarger pronounces both at the scene.
 - **0700 hrs:** MVPD team clears the scene and returns to the city.
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List of Injuries:

None to MVPD or KCSO personnel.

Damage Caused by the MVPD Team:

- Two ported windows
- Exterior bedroom wall breached using the Bearcat ram
- A satellite dish in the front yard was removed by the Bearcat to allow access to the residence.
- Tree branches on a pine tree in the front yard were broken by the bearcat to improve visibility.

Photographs taken by Knox County Detectives.

List of Damaged Equipment:

- One MVPD drone due to collision with obstacles
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List of Items Seized:

- Evidence collected and documented by Knox County Detectives Division
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Equipment Needing Replacement:

- 5- 40mm impact munitions (\$45.00 each)
 - 1- 40mm impact munitions containing CS (\$45.00 each)
 - 1 MVPD drone (pricing TBD pending evaluation/repair estimates)
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List of Items Seized:

- Evidence collection and documentation conducted by Knox County Detectives
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Estimated Cost of Action:

Item	Quantity	Rate	Total
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June 12, 2020

MVPD Personnel	9 officers + 1 medic x 5 hrs	\$63/hr	\$3,150.00
Police Vehicles	3 vehicles x 5 hrs	\$15/hr	\$225.00
40mm Impact Munitions	6 rounds	\$45/ea	\$270.00

Total Estimated Cost to the City of Mount Vernon: \$3,645.00

Note: Does not include cost of drone repair or KCSO personnel.

Prepared by: Lt. Lewis, Team Leader

Date: 06/05/2025

Reviewed by: