



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



2026-1239
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 31000 Block U.S. Route
 250, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, Harrison County

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 04/14/2026
Activity Location: Harrison County Sheriff's Office - 978 East Market Street,
 Cadiz, OH 43907
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 1010 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Jackie Tipton. The interview took place at the Harrison County Sheriff's Office. The interview was audio recorded.

[REDACTED] was provided with the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form. Upon reviewing the form, he signed it and agreed to participate in the interview.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not intend 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: Trooper
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Lieutenant Bodo
Radio Channel Utilized: Post 41	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: OSHP marked Durango	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: [REDACTED] - Driver
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized

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Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Seven	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard OSHP uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: ASP baton, taser, pepper spray, handcuffs.
Ballistic Vest: Concealed Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: Bullet holes to cruiser.
Training or Areas of Specialty: Mobile Field Force	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Annual updates
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	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
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None

Officer's Firearm:

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P320
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: Unknown at time of interview
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holstered
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17+1
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 13	Number of Rounds Fired: 5
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown at time	Type of Holster, if any: Retention holster

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of interview	
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Narrative:

██████████ prepared a written statement which he agreed to read. ██████████
 ██████████ signed written statement was attached to this report.

██████████ recalled that at roughly 1140 hours, he was notified by radio that
 Harrison County Deputies had been shot at near US 250 and Eslick Road. ██████████
 ██████████ made his way towards the area of the shooting, while watching for the
 suspect vehicle: a blue Dodge Journey. While on the way towards the Harrison County
 Deputy, he located the involved vehicle:

*... as I was traveling west on US 250, I saw the suspect vehicle
 traveling Eastbound between mile post 12 and 13. Harrison County
 Sheriff's Cruisers appeared to be approximately a quarter mile behind
 the suspect's vehicle. I crossed the center and continued East behind
 the suspect vehicle. I was the lead law enforcement vehicle behind the
 suspect. I observed suspect commit multiple lane violations and, and
 drive at speeds between 70 and a hundred miles an hour. The speed
 limit on that road was 55 miles per hour. (11:16)*

██████████ continued to detail his actions during the pursuit. He noted that the
 subject made his way to US 22. While on US 22, OSHP Trooper Jeremy Grubb attempted
 to deploy stop sticks near mile marker 19. The first set of stop sticks were ineffective.
 Shortly after, at mile marker 23, OSHP Lieutenant Robert Bodo deployed stop sticks.
 The second set of stop sticks were effective. However, ██████████ stated that he
 also struck the stop sticks. After the subject hit the stop sticks, he travelled into the
 Westbound lanes and came to a rest while facing East. ██████████ maneuvered
 his vehicle behind the subject vehicle and recalled the following:

*After my cruiser came to rest, I began to open my, my driver side
 cruiser door. I unholstered my duty weapon as I opened the door.
 Simultaneously, I could see the suspect ex... exiting the vehicle and
 moving on foot with a black handgun pointed in my direction. I yelled
 to the effect of, let me see your hands. I fired at the suspect who
 returned fire. The suspect fired three to four rounds in my direction
 from the, from standing position on the driver's side of the, of his
 vehicle. I fired five rounds at the suspect. My gun jammed as I
 reloaded. I saw the suspect who was wearing a dark... was wearing*

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dark clothing, run north over the fence into the a wooded area. I aired shots had been fired. I also heard OSP, Lieutenant Bodo air that shots had been fired. OSP Trooper Grubb and I walked north and checked the tree line for the suspect. The suspect had advanced into the woods and was not able to be located. I aired a description of the suspect to be a white male around age 50. I returned to my cruiser. I heard someone radio for air support. I retrieved my rifle and took a defensive position behind my cruiser. I noticed damage to my cruiser consistent with the suspect's gunfire striking... the... above the driver's side door. (13:18)

██████████ explained the events that occurred on scene after the shooting occurred. OSHP Special Response Team (SRT) and other agencies were requested on scene. ██████████ also retrieved his rifle and plate carrier from his vehicle while he maintained a position on the perimeter. After roughly one hour, ██████████ was relieved of his duties on the perimeter and was transported to OSHP post 41 by OSHP Lieutenant Hawkins.

██████████ provided further details in regard to the shots that he fired:

I fired five rounds at the suspect. My shots were fired from a seated position between my... be... between the open door and the A pillar of the cruiser. I fired with two hand grip, uh, with my right hand as my strong hand. I believe I used my sights when I fired. My shots were fired in the Northeastern direction. I believe I was approximately 15 to 20 feet, 25 feet from the suspect at the time that I fired. There were approximately two to four seconds between my first and last shot. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop of my shots was an embankment in a wooded area. I had cover/concealment from my cruiser. I was in, uh, I was daylight. It was daylight and the lighting was good. I stopped firing because my gun jammed. And by the time I reloaded, the suspect had fled into the wooded area at the time I fired my, uh, my weapon at the suspect. I do not, I do not believe I had any responsible alternatives to protect my life and the lives of other officers in the area. I did not have a taser. You did <interjection by Attorney Tipton>. Uh, I did have a taser with me. However, given the fact that the suspect had fired his gun at myself and other law enforcement officers, I didn't, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser. (16:09)

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██████████ also reported that he learned that the subject's name was Michael Decker (Decker). He could not recall any interaction he had with Decker in the past. ██████████ had reviewed his body worn camera footage and noted that the only major difference from his recollection of the incident was related to Cadiz Police Department's attempt to deploy stop sticks on Decker's vehicle. He also noted that after his firearm jammed, he retrieved his backup firearm from his ankle. ██████████ backup firearm, a Sig Sauer P365, was not fired during the incident.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if he or Decker fired first. ██████████ stated that he fired first since Decker was pointing a gun at him.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if Decker was in a stance to take aimed shots or more along the lines of someone trying to flee from officers. ██████████ said that Decker was taking aimed shots at him. SA Lamping asked ██████████ if he was in fear of the seemingly well-placed shots fired by Decker and he agreed that he was.

The interview concluded at approximately 1031 hours.

It should also be noted that ██████████ turned over his victim's rights request form. He appointed Attorney Tipton as his victim's representative. ██████████ completed victim's rights paperwork is attached to this report.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as part of Reference Item E - Recorded Interviews. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item E - Recorded Interviews: Subfolder - Law Enforcement Witnesses:
File - 2026-04-14: Involved Officer Interview - ██████████ stored on
Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. 2026-04-14 - Criminal Investigation Notification - ██████████
2. 2026-04-14 - ██████████ Written Statement
3. ██████████ VRR Paperwork

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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).

X [Redacted]
Printed Name of Interviewee

X 4.14.26 1012
Date / Time

[Redacted]

SA John Tingey
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE # [REDACTED]

This statement is in regards to my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, March 30, 2026, between approximately 11:40 a.m. and 1:10 p.m. near mile post 23 on U.S. Route 22, near Hopedale Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI).

My date of hire with the Ohio State Highway Patrol is [REDACTED] I completed the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy (OHSP) on [REDACTED] I do not have any prior police or military experience. I have never had a use of force determined to be outside of policy. My regular assignment is [REDACTED] off. My assigned post is post 41; Steubenville. On the day of the incident, I was driving cruiser [REDACTED] a Dodge Durango, which is my regularly assigned cruiser. I was not working with a partner. I was wearing my uniform, consisting of a long sleeve light gray shirt and dark gray pants with a black stripe down the side. My Body Worn Camera (BWC) was mounted in the middle of my chest. I was not wearing a hat or gloves. I was clearly identifiable as a law enforcement officer

I was armed with an OSP-issued Sig Saur 320 which was loaded with OSP-issued ammunition. I had my OSP-issued Sig Saur 365 holstered at my left ankle. My OSP-issued aero precision M4 rifle was in sealed compartment in the rear of my cruiser. I was current on my range qualifications on all weapons. I was carrying a taser. I was not taking any medication that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a law enforcement officer. I was well rested at the start of my regular shift. I had not consumed any alcohol in the 24 hours prior to the start of my shift. I do not wear glasses or contact lenses and my vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any

disabilities that would impair my ability to perform my responsibilities as a law enforcement officer.

On March 30, 2026 I was working my regularly scheduled shift. I was performing a traffic stop near mile post 22 on U.S. 22 at approximately 11:40 when I heard via 911 radio that shots had been fired with Harrison County Deputies. I radioed dispatch to confirm, and confirmed that Harrison County Deputies had been in a shooting near the intersection of Eslick Road and U.S. Route 250. I immediately activated my lights and sirens and drove in that direction. My body worn camera remained activated from my previous traffic stop. The suspect vehicle was described as a blue Dodge Journey SUV, traveling eastbound on U.S. Route 250. I traveled west on U.S. 22 and then turned west on U.S. 250. Traffic was light. Approximately 6-8 minutes later, as I was traveling west on U.S. 250, I saw the suspect vehicle traveling eastbound between mile posts 12 and 13. Harrison County Sheriff's cruisers appeared to be approximately a quarter mile behind the suspect vehicle. I crossed the center and continued east behind the suspect vehicle. I was the lead law enforcement vehicle behind the suspect.

I observed suspect commit multiple lane violations and drive at speeds between 70 and 100 miles per hour; the speed limit on that road is 55 miles per hour. I continued to air direction of travel, speed, and license plate information for the suspect's vehicle. The suspect proceeded eastbound on U.S. 22 from U.S. 250. Near mile post 19, Ohio State Patrol Trooper Jeremy Grubb attempted to deploy stop sticks, but was unsuccessful. At mile post 23, OSP Lieutenant Bodo deployed stop sticks successfully in front of the suspect's vehicle. I also hit the stop sticks, as did a Cadiz Police cruiser. I believe I was approximately 3-4 car lengths behind the suspect when the stop sticks were successfully deployed.

After striking the stop sticks, I my cruiser crossed the median and came to rest at mile post 23, facing east in the westbound lane of travel. The suspect vehicle came to rest east of me, facing eastbound; approximately 15-25 feet away. From the suspect's rear-view mirror, I could see that the suspect was an older white male with a beard. After my cruiser came to rest, I began to open my driver's side cruiser door. I unholstered my duty weapon as I opened the door. Simultaneously, I could see the suspect exit his vehicle and moving on foot with a black handgun pointed in my direction. I yelled commands to the effect of "let me see your hands". I fired at the suspect, who returned fire. The suspect fired 3-4 rounds in my direction from a standing position on the driver's side of his vehicle.

I fired five rounds at the suspect. My gun jammed. As I reloaded, I saw the suspect, who was wearing dark clothing, run north, over a fence and into a wooded area. I aired that shots had been fired. I also heard OSP Lieutenant Bodo air that shots had been fired. OSP Trooper Grubb and I walked north and checked the treeline for the suspect. The suspect had advanced into the woods and was not able to be located. I aired a description of the suspect as being a white male, around age 50. I returned to my cruiser. I heard someone radio for air support. I retrieved my rifle and took a defensive position behind my cruiser. I noticed damage to the cruiser consistent with the suspect's gunfire striking above the driver's side door. Law enforcement from multiple agencies had arrived on the scene, including Cadiz Police Department, who had K9s present, Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Steubenville Police Department, and other OSP units. Lt. Bodo radioed to coordinate with Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team (SRT). A Cadiz officer stated that he was going to mark where the suspect's casings were. Lt. Bodo instructed me to put on my tactical vest, which I did. I

maintained my defensive position behind my cruiser for approximately an hour while drones and air support were deployed to search the wooded area for the suspect.

I left the scene with Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Hawkins and was taken to Ohio State Highway Patrol Post 41 in Steubenville. This ended my involvement with the incident.

I fired five rounds at the suspect. My shots were fired from a seated position, between the open door and the A pillar of the cruiser. I fired with a two handed grip, with my right hand as my strong hand. I believe I used my sights when I fired. My shots were fired in a northeastern direction. I believe I was approximately 15-25 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. There were approximately 2-4 seconds between my first and last shot. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop for my shots was an embankment and a wooded area. I had cover/concealment from my cruiser. It was daylight and lighting was good. I stopped firing because my gun jammed and by the time I reloaded, the suspect had fled into the wooded area. At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the other officers in the area. I did have a taser with me, however, given the fact that the suspect had fired his gun at myself and other law enforcement officers, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser.

I now know the suspect's name is Michael Decker. To my knowledge, I have had no previous personal or professional interactions with Mr. Decker.

I have now had an opportunity to review my body worn camera and cruiser footage of this incident. After reviewing the footage, I now recall that Cadiz Police Officers had intended to deploy stop sticks near the Harrison County Home, however the suspect passed the County Home prior to the officers being able to do so. I now know that I was approximately one tenth of a mile behind the suspect's vehicle when I struck the stop sticks. I now recall that I retrieved my

back up firearm from my ankle when my gun jammed. I left my backup firearm in my cruiser after I was able to re-load my duty weapon.

This concludes my statement.

[REDACTED]

4.14.20 1030
HRS

[REDACTED]

Badge

[REDACTED]

