



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



2025-2909

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Stanhope-Kelloggsville
Rd. and Anderson Rd., Denmark Township, OH 44032,
Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Interview – [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED]
Activity Date: 09/22/2025
Activity Location: BCI Richfield – 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH
44286
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 1150 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Allison Fletcher (SA Fletcher) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Nichole Wannemacher, from the law firm Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman. The interview took place at BCI Richfield. The interview was audio recorded.

[REDACTED] was provided with, 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. Any times referenced in this report reflect the elapsed time of the audio recorded interview and not the time of day.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Bornino
Radio Channel Utilized: OSHP	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used

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Cruiser Description: Marked Dodge Charger	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: [REDACTED]
Assignment: Patrol	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
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: Unknown	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: OSHP standard uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Firearm, taser, handcuffs, radio
Ballistic Vest: Concealed Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: Unknown	Equipment Damage: Unknown
Training or Areas of Specialty: Unknown	OPOTC Certification: Certified
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Unknown
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? Unknown	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P320
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holster
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 34
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: Unknown
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown

Weapon #2

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P365
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holster
Magazine Capacity: Unknown	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Unknown
Extra Magazines: Unknown	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: Unknown
Discharged During Incident? No	Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup
Rounds Remaining After Incident: All rounds accounted for.	Number of Rounds Fired: None
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Unknown	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown

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Narrative:

██████████ arrived at the interview with a prepared written statement. He was asked to read the statement for the investigators, which he agreed to do. ██████████ started his statement by providing background information about himself that is documented in the above tables.

██████████ reported that his involvement in this incident was self-initiated when he overheard another trooper being sent to assist the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) in a motor vehicle pursuit. ██████████ advised dispatch that he would also be en route to assist. He stated that, though OSHP Troopers do not have access to the ACSO radio channels, the OSHP dispatch center was keeping the troopers up to date with information about the pursuit. Of note, he recalled that the driver of the pursued motorcycle, Jerry Pegram (Pegram) was reported to have been throwing objects from the motorcycle. He was able to catch up with the pursuit on State Route 193 where he joined in behind several ACSO units.

██████████ received an instruction from his supervisor, Sgt. Bornino, to trail the pursuit and provide assistance should the suspect eventually flee on foot. He deactivated his siren, but kept his lights on to maintain visibility, while he trailed the pursuit. ██████████ reported that the speeds of the pursuit were moderate, and he was able to trail the pursuit to the area of Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road.

Once at Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road, ██████████ observed that Pegram had crashed the motorcycle. He also observed several deputies exit their vehicles and run into the woods. ██████████ reported that he exited his vehicle, drew his service weapon, and ran into the wood line near the suspect's bike. He also recalled hearing commands from his right and making his way towards the commotion. ██████████ located several ACSO Deputies around Pegram, who was on his back. ██████████ stated that the suspect was not cooperating with the Deputies, so he holstered his firearm and drew his taser, while he navigated towards the deputies. While doing so he hear another officer deploy their taser. ██████████ recalled that the taser did not have any effect on Pegram. ██████████ provided the following statement about what happened after the taser had no effect on Pegram:

I put my taser back and unholstered my firearm, just as I heard one of the deputies yell "gun, gun!" and "don't do it" repeatedly. I quickly stepped beside one of the deputies and moved some brush away and now had a clear view of the suspect: he had a gun holster strapped

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across his chest, and one of his hands was on the grip of the gun, frantically trying to pull it from the holster. I yelled "stop!" but an instant later the suspect lifted the gun inside the holster such that it appeared the barrel was leveled at one of the deputies. I believed he intended to shoot that deputy as well as the other deputies and me and that one or more of us would be seriously injured or killed and it was at that moment I fired my weapon. One or more deputies fired their weapons at nearly the same time (7:42).

██████████ reported that he stopped shooting a moment later, when Pegram no longer appeared to be a threat. He advised over the radio that shots had been fired and then went and secured Pegram's firearm. ██████████ noted that the firearm had still been in Pegram's holster, that it was a revolver, and that it had two rounds loaded in the cylinder. He again radioed out that shots had been fired, but he did not think that his transmissions were successful. ██████████ stated that the deputies on scene rendered aid to Pegram while he went to his cruiser.

Once outside of the wood line, ██████████ observed that Pegram's motorcycle was on fire. He obtained his fire extinguisher and put the fire out. Afterwards, he contacted Sgt. Bornino to report the incident via cellphone. ██████████ then returned to Pegram's location, provided some gauze to the deputies, and then returned to his cruiser. He noted that EMS eventually arrived on scene and pronounced Pegram deceased. ██████████ was later processed by BCI agents at the Ashtabula OSHP post.

██████████ described his recollection of the shooting in greater detail:

I believe I fired three rounds during this incident. I fired those rounds in rapid succession, in what I would estimate was approximately one second. My target was the suspect's center mass. I fired in a downward direction such that my backdrop was the wooded ground. I believe I was facing a Southwesterly direction. I initially fired with a one handed (right) grip, then I recall transitioning to a two-handed grip. I do not recall using my gun's sights. I would estimate that I was within 2-5 feet of the suspect at the times I fired. I may have been stepping away from him as fired. The other deputies were to my right, forming a rough semicircle around the feet of the suspect (10:18).

██████████ noted that at no time were the deputies, or the police ██████████ in his backdrop during the incident. He also stated that he had a clear view of Pegram when he was abreast of the other deputies.

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██████████ continued on to explain that at no point in time did Pegram give any indication that he intended to surrender or comply with law enforcement. He recalled that after Pegram fled and a deputy deployed a taser he still didn't attempt to comply and rather:

...he continued frantically trying to pull the gun from the holster. It seemed like the gun might be snagged on something. While the gun was still in the holster, the suspect [Pegram] raised it such that I believed the barrel of the gun was levelled directly at the deputy to my right. It was apparent he was either trying to shoot the deputy while the gun was still holstered, or that he was lining up a shot once the gun was unholstered. Based on my training and experience, I know that a gun can be fired from a holster and is still a deadly threat. The other deputies and I were within several feet of the suspect at that time. None of us had any cover or concealment. I believed the suspect intended to shoot the deputy to my right, as well as the other deputies, and me, and that one or more of us would be seriously injured or killed, especially given the close distance and lack of cover (13:16).

██████████ felt that his actions were in line with his training, and that he had no other reasonable option than the use of deadly force at the time he fired his weapon. After ██████████ finished his statement, he signed it and answered several questions from SA Lamping and SA Fletcher.

SA Fletcher asked ██████████ if he reviewed his body worn camera or dash cameras since the incident occurred. ██████████ stated that he had, and that the content of the videos was in line with his recollection of the incident.

██████████ provided the investigators with consent to review any video footage that contains conversation with his supervisors.

The interview concluded at approximately 1208 hours.

The interview was audio-recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice and stored as part of Reference Item C – Involved Officer Interviews. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and ██████████ signed statement were attached to this report where they can be reviewed in their entirety.

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References:

Reference Item C - Involved Officer Interviews: Subfolder - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Interview; stored on Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification - [REDACTED]
2. Signed Statement - [REDACTED]

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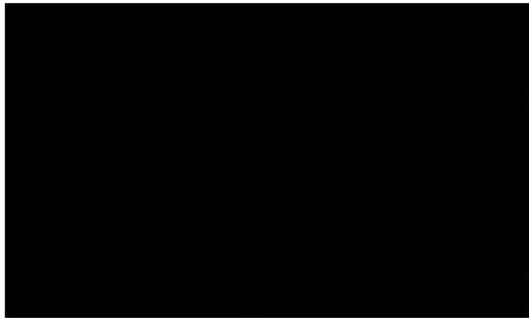



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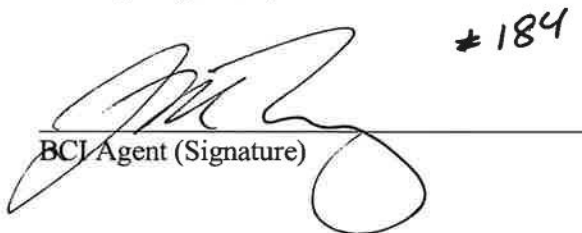
Criminal Investigation Notification

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).



 9-28-25 1151
Date / Time

 #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

 #184
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] UNIT [REDACTED]

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, September 8, 2025, between approximately 2:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) on [REDACTED]. I graduated from the police academy and received my OPOTA certification on [REDACTED]. Before I joined OSP and earned my OPOTA certification, I worked as a corrections officer for the Lake Erie Correctional Institution and the Lake County Jail. I have not worked for any other law enforcement agency. I have never been enlisted in the military. I have never had a use of force found out of policy by OSP.

I am currently assigned to Post 4 in Ashtabula. I work [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] My regular days off are [REDACTED]. On the day of this incident, I was readily identifiable as a member of law enforcement. I was wearing the uniform of the day: a Stetson hat, gray trousers, a light gray short-sleeved shirt, with my badge on the front of my shirt and the OSP patch on both shoulders. I was wearing an internal vest. I was also wearing a body worn camera (BWC) mounted to my shirt, specifically in the center of my chest. My BWC was on and recording during this incident, as was my cruiser camera.

I was carrying my primary duty weapon: a SIG Sauer P320 9mm handgun, loaded with OSP-issued ammunition. The magazine for that weapon holds 17 rounds. I do not think I had an additional round loaded in the chamber. That weapon is equipped with an OSP-issued flashlight mounted to the underside of the frame. My range qualifications were current. I was also carrying

my OSP-issued backup firearm, a SIG Sauer 365 9mm. I did not unholster that weapon during this incident.

I was not assigned a partner on this day. There were at least three members of the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) present when this incident occurred, as well as others who were involved in the pursuit. Trooper Garrhett Wheatley arrived right after the suspect crashed his motorcycle, but I do not believe he was present when the incident occurred. I was driving a marked OSP cruiser (a Dodge Charger), Ca [REDACTED]

I do not need glasses/contacts or hearing aids as I have good vision and hearing. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I did not work any overtime in the 24 hours before my shift, nor had I drunk any alcohol. I was not taking any medication that could interfere with the performance of my duties. I arrived for my shift well rested and in good spirits.

Around 2:45 p.m. on the day of this incident, I was completing paperwork in my cruiser at mile marker 22 on US-20 in Conneaut (in the northeastern part of Ashtabula County). At that time, dispatch marked Trooper Wheatley on a pursuit initiated by the ACSO. I did not know the reason for the initial stop. The pursuit was currently southbound on State Road. I aired for dispatch to mark me on the run. I activated my lights and sirens and began driving towards the pursuit. Initially, I did not recognize the side streets, but I quickly accessed a map and realized the suspect was moving southeast.

OSP does not have access to the ACSO radio channel, but dispatch does. Dispatch was continuously airing the location of the pursuit and relaying information from the ACSO. I learned the suspect was driving a red motorcycle. Several times dispatch aired that the suspect was tossing baggies. I caught up to the pursuit within about 5-10 minutes, just as it turned south onto SR-193. I fell in behind approximately three ACSO cruisers. While I had not been given a

suspect description, from my vantage point I could see that the suspect appeared to be a white male. He was wearing dark clothes and a ski mask. He also had a duffel bag strapped over his shoulder.

Shortly after I caught up to the pursuit, OSP Sgt. Bornino aired for me to trail behind and not actively pursue since there were already several deputies involved. Sgt. Bornino said that I could provide aid if the suspect fled on foot. I turned off my sirens (but kept my lights activated to maintain visibility to traffic) and trailed the pursuit. A few other deputies from the ACSO joined the pursuit a short time later.

After a few minutes, the suspect turned south onto Stanhope-Kellogsville Road. While I maintained distance from the pursuit, I was able to keep pace as the suspect was traveling at only moderate speeds. He continued south then cut left/east onto Anderson Road. As I turned onto that road moments later, I saw a cloud of dust and heard the engine of the suspect's bike throttling as though he had wrecked. I stopped a short distance later behind several ACSO cruisers. Those deputies were out of their cruisers. I got out and unholstered my weapon. I saw the suspect's bike on its side on the southern side of the road, just at the entrance to a heavily wooded area, but I did not see the suspect.

Several of the deputies ran south into the woods, near the suspect's bike. I ran past the bike then cut south into the woods. I heard commands being given to my right. I cut west through the thicket and saw several deputies standing near one another. From between them, I saw the suspect on the ground, on his back, though I did not have a clear view of him through the deputies and the brush. Those deputies were repeatedly ordering the suspect to get onto his stomach.

The suspect was not getting onto his stomach, but I did not see a weapon in his hands. I holstered my gun and grabbed my taser and approached from behind the deputies. A moment later, I thought I heard the “pop” of a taser discharge from one of the deputies, but it had no effect on the suspect. I put my taser back and unholstered my firearm, just as I heard one of the deputies yell “gun, gun!” and “don’t do it!” repeatedly. I quickly stepped beside one of the deputies and moved some brush away, and now had a clear view of the suspect: He had a gun holster strapped across his chest, and one of his hands was on the grip of the gun, frantically trying to pull it from the holster. I yelled “stop!” but an instant later the suspect lifted the gun inside the holster such that it appeared the barrel was leveled at one of the deputies. I believed he intended to shoot that deputy as well as the other deputies and me and that one or more of us would be seriously injured or killed and it was at that moment I fired my weapon. One or more deputies fired their weapons at nearly the same time.

I stopped firing a moment later, as the suspect’s body and arms slumped and he no longer appeared to be an imminent threat. The other deputies stopped firing at nearly the same time. I fired shots and grabbed the gun from the suspect. It was a black revolver, still inside the holster on the suspect’s chest. I unloaded the gun solely to prevent further harm; there were two cartridges in the cylinder. I placed the gun and rounds on the ground, several feet from the suspect. I did not touch the gun again, and I told the deputies where it was. I also told them to handcuff the suspect. He was not moving, but he seemed to be faintly breathing.

Deputies began rendering aid. I re-fired shots since I did not think my transmissions were going out. I ran back to my cruiser and saw the suspect’s motorcycle was on fire. I grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the flames. Since my radio did not seem to be working, I called Sgt. Bornino and reported what happened. I returned to the deputies to make sure they did not

need any help. One of them requested gauze, which I quickly grabbed from another deputy. As those deputies continued rendering aid, I returned to my cruiser and helped manage traffic. At one point, I counted the rounds remaining in my weapon. Medics arrived and declared the suspect was deceased.

I waited at the scene until OSP supervisors arrived. Initially, BCI requested that I remain at the scene. Eventually I was released and transported back to the Ashtabula Post. There I met with investigators from BCI who took photos and processed my weapon as part of their investigation. This ended my involvement in this matter.

I believe I fired three rounds during this incident. I fired those rounds in rapid succession, in what I would estimate was approximately one second. My target was the suspect's center mass. I fired in a downward direction such that my backdrop was the wooded ground. I believe I was facing a southwesterly direction. I initially fired with a one-handed (right) grip, then I recall transitioning to a two-handed grip. I do not recall using my gun's sights. I would estimate that I was within 2-5 feet of the suspect at the times I fired. I may have been stepping away from him as I fired. The other deputies were to my right, forming a rough semicircle around the feet of the suspect. I also saw a [REDACTED] somewhere to my right. At no time was any deputy or the [REDACTED] within my backdrop or line of fire. I did not have any cover or concealment, and I do not believe the other deputies did either. While this incident took place in a fairly dense thicket of brush, there was plentiful natural light, and I had a clear view of the suspect once I stepped beside the other deputies.

At the times I fired my weapon, the suspect was presenting an imminent deadly threat to my life and to the lives of the other deputies. Before the suspect fled on foot, he engaged in a lengthy, felonious pursuit with multiple members of law enforcement lasting about 15-20

minutes. At no time did dispatch relay that the suspect appeared to be surrendering or giving any signs of compliance. Neither did I see any indications of such once I caught up to the pursuit. Dispatch did relay that the suspect tossed multiple baggies during the pursuit. I did not get a description of the contents, but it is not uncommon based on my training and experience for suspects to ditch contraband during a pursuit. Even after ditching the baggies, he refused to surrender. He also refused to give up once he crashed. Instead, he fled into the wooded area on foot.

This incident unfolded very quickly once I entered the wooded area. Before I saw the suspect had a firearm, I grabbed my taser since the suspect was refusing deputies' commands to get on his stomach. I did not have a full view of the suspect when I heard another taser deploy, but the suspect did not verbally react, and I did not see his body tighten, leading me to believe the taser was not effective. In any case, right after I grabbed my firearm, the deputies yelled "gun!" and "don't do it!" repeatedly. One of the deputies and some brush were still obstructing my full view of the suspect, but once I stepped to the side, it was clear he was trying to draw a firearm from a holster: One of the suspect's hands was on the grip of the handgun and the other was on the holster. It appeared to be a fanny pack type holster and was strapped across his torso.

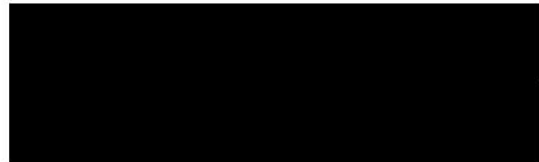
Instead of surrendering or complying with our repeated commands, he continued frantically trying to pull the gun from the holster. It seemed like the gun might be snagged on something. While the gun was still in the holster, the suspect raised it such that I believed the barrel of the gun was levelled directly at the deputy to my right. It was apparent he was either trying to shoot the deputy while the gun was still holstered, or that he was lining up a shot once the gun was unholstered. Based on my training and experience, I know that a gun can be fired from a holster and is still a deadly threat. The other deputies and I were within several feet of the

suspect at that time. None of us had any cover or concealment. I believed the suspect intended to shoot the deputy to my right, as well as the other deputies and me, and that one or more of us would be seriously injured or killed, especially given the close distance and lack of cover.

At the times I fired at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life or the life of the other deputies and stop the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions. The use of a taser in response to a deadly threat would not be appropriate or consistent with my training. The same is true for any other less-lethal alternative. I believe my actions were consistent with my training, Ohio law, and the Constitution.

After this incident, I learned the suspect's name is Jerry Pegrem. I do not know the suspect, and I do not believe I have ever encountered him before. I did not hear the suspect say anything during this incident.

This concludes my statement.



9.23-25
1205