



**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:

Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office - 25 West Jefferson
Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

Authoring Agent:

SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, September 22, 2025, at 1256 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorneys, Dan Leffler and Amanda Hays, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA) as well as two union stewards, Detective Ryan Reece and Detective Jonelle Gerke. The interview took place at the ACSO. The interview was audio and video-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 refer to the elapsed time of the Axon video recording of the 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. Sterrick
Radio Channel Utilized: ACSO Patrol	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used
Cruiser Description: Marked Ford	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating

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Explorer	Positions: [REDACTED]
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	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: 8-9	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: Green tactical uniform with over police markings.	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Firearm, handcuffs, radio, magazine holder, [REDACTED] door popper, body camera
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: Personally owned Dash camera	Partner: [REDACTED]
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: [REDACTED] training	OPOTC Certification: Certified
Military Experience/Training: Multiple shootings during deployment.	Use-of-Force Training: Yearly CPT
Prior Shooting Incidents: None in law enforcement, multiple in [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
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? Unknown	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Unknown

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 45
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holster
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17 + 1
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 34
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Possibly 5	Number of Rounds Fired: Unknown
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown

Narrative:

████████ began his recollection of the incident with his self-initiated response to assist Dep. Michael Chicarell (Dep. Chicarell). He recalled that Dep. Chicarell was attempting to stop a motorcycle when the driver, Jerry Pegram (Pegram), fled. While fleeing, Dep. Chicarell advised over the radio that Pegram was throwing objects, which ██████████ suspected to be narcotics, from the motorcycle. When ██████████ was able to catch up to Dep. Chicarell, he took over the radio traffic about the pursuit. ██████████ ██████████ notified the dispatch center that if the driver of the motorcycle fled, he would be deploying his ██████████. During the pursuit, ██████████ activated a button that made ██████████ announcements over the loudspeaker of his cruiser. He estimated that he made 10 of those announcements with the speaker.

████████ was provided with an overhead drone photograph of the terminal point of the pursuit along with a marker. The below diagram was created by ██████████ to illustrate his approximate course of travel at the end of the pursuit and into the woods:

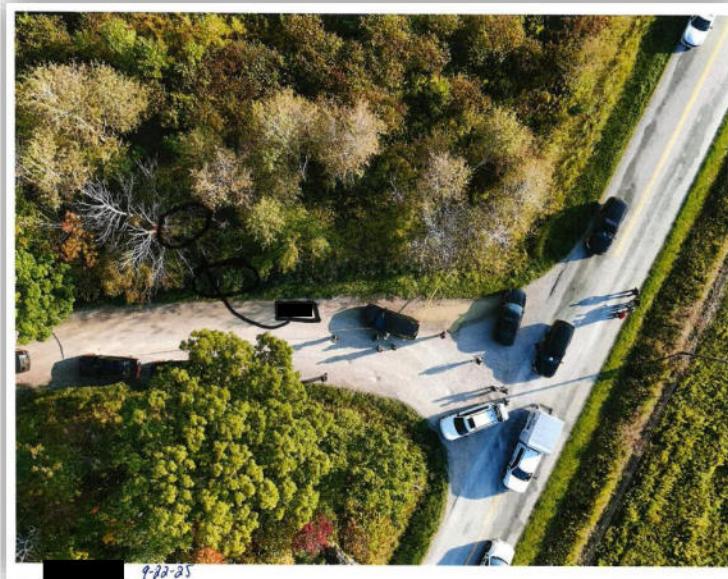


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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2025-2909

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Rd. and Anderson Rd., Denmark Township, OH 44032,
Ashtabula County



9-22-25

████████ explained that Pegram had slowed down to make a left turn from Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road to Anderson Road. Sergeant Brian Sterrick (Sgt. Sterrick) and ██████████ attempted to box in the motorcycle, at which time Pegram drove off the road and into a ditch. ██████████ reported that Pegram fled into the woods after the crash. ██████████ exited his vehicle, deployed ██████████, and gave him a command to go after Pegram. They then ran into the woods after Pegram.

████████ reported that ██████████ was able to locate Pegram in the wood line, and that when he did, he bit him on the arm. Pegram was eventually taken to the ground by ██████████. ██████████ described his attempt to physically control Pegram as follows:

While he was on the ground, I got on top of him to try to, uh, gain control of him. With the, the male [Pegram] then with his right hand was reaching somewhere in his shirt line, I don't know where he was reaching. Um, I grabbed a hold of that arm, made numerous, uh, verbal commands to stop reaching, stop reaching, he's reaching for somebody (something). That's when I heard other units coming up behind me. I then told him (them) that I think he's reaching for something. Um, ██████████ at that point, uh, I believe tased him,

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Investigative Report**



2025-2909

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Rd. and Anderson Rd., Denmark Township, OH 44032,
Ashtabula County

which then the cords tased myself, um, which I had let go of the arm. Um, at that point the male was laying on his back, still reaching. Um, he got his shirt up where you could see a holster. Um, I believe I was standing at that point was telling him, stop, reach, don't reach for the gun. I think I yelled "gun, gun, gun" to let everybody know. Um, he then put his hand on the gun and when his finger went to the trigger and started leaning back is when we fired (18:07).

██████████ noted that Pegram had been making some sort of comments directed towards the deputies when they initially attempted to gain control of him in the wood line. He could not recall the exact statement, but recollected the following:

on the ground when we were fighting, uh, trying to get to his hand. Um, he just said something in the lines of, you guys are gonna get it. Or there was, it's something in those lines. I mean, don't quote me, that's exactly what he said, but it was somewhere in those lines (27:56).

██████████ reported being nervous when Pegram began to reach for an object while ██████████ was on him. He also felt that Pegram must have been reaching for a weapon, due to his persistent attempts to grab the object. ██████████ also noted that Pegram's actions were not in line with someone being ██████████ by a ██████████ He described his actions as follows:

So normally when the ██████████ you, they, they're, they're kind of yelling and, and pain compliance. Um, and they kind of will do what you're in instructing them to do so you can get them secured and get the ██████████ off. With the ██████████ tugging on his left arm, you know, protecting us. He, he wasn't feeling the pain. I mean, he was still, uh, resisting and, and trying to get to whatever he was trying to get to (20:11).

SA Lamping asked ██████████ what the usual reaction would be from a person being ██████████ and he stated that a normal reaction would be for the person being ██████████ to attempt to push the ██████████ off of themselves.

██████████ reported that he did not feel that there was any other option than deadly force when shots were fired. He explained that officers had already attempted to use alternate methods to apprehend Pegram including the deployment of ██████████ as well as the use of a taser.

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Investigative Report**



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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] why he fired his weapon, and he provided the following response:

So, uh, weapon was fired, um, due to the, the subject, uh, putting his hand on a firearm, pulling, pointing his finger towards the trigger and aiming up toward, like leaning back to aim it towards, uh, deputies. Um, so, you know, with him doing that, my life and their life was in danger, so I fired to stop the threat (17:18).

[REDACTED] stated that when he fired at Pegram, the shots were angled down because he was standing and Pegram was on the ground. He recalled aiming at Pegram's center mass and estimated that he fired between seven and eight rounds. [REDACTED] stated that he felt that his rounds would have impacted Pegram's center mass. When asked about the distance of the engagement when shots were fired, [REDACTED] indicated the distance between himself and the investigators, a distance of roughly five to seven feet. SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to describe Pegram's position at the time that he fired his weapon, and [REDACTED] provided the following response:

Uh, so he was on his back, um, below us. Um, the, at the time we fired, his right hand was on the pistol. His back was arched and the pistol and holster was kind of facing towards [REDACTED] (22:27).

[REDACTED] continued to state that he observed the firearm moving up towards [REDACTED] during the encounter. He advised that this created an imminent danger to the officers on scene. SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he was concerned about Pegram's firearm going off while still holstered, and he stated, "Or, uh, yes, because, uh, I mean with, if you can get to that trigger, uh, trigger and fire, I mean, a round can go through, through a holster" (23:00).

Prior to discharging his firearm, [REDACTED] reported that he provided several verbal commands to Pegram. He recalled telling Pegram to "quit reaching" and something along the lines of "drop the gun." SA Lamping asked if Pegram ever gave any indication that he was going to comply with the orders of the officers on scene. [REDACTED] said:

I mean, from the moment of the traffic stop to the moment of, of the running the canine commands to the [REDACTED] him, to the don't reach to the laying on the ground to the don't, don't do that. No. I mean, he had plenty of opportunity to comply and he never did (23:51).

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After the shooting [REDACTED] checked on the other officers, secured [REDACTED] in his patrol vehicle, and then moved the vehicle away from Pegram's motorcycle, which was on fire, to avoid any injuries to [REDACTED] grabbed a medical bag from his patrol vehicle and returned to Pegram's location. He described rendering aid to Pegram as follows:

I ran into the woods, um, handed it [medical bag] to [REDACTED] who then started, uh, rendering first aid. I pulled the trauma scissors out, was able to cut off his [Pegram's], uh, clothes, line up so we can see any of the wounds. Um, I then had, uh, [REDACTED] remove his mask to make sure he, there was no head injuries and we could do that. And then we ran outta medical supply. So, I ran back to the car, grabbed my secondary medical bag, brought it back, and, uh, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] then continued to, uh, render first aid on him (24:44).

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to describe Pegram's overall actions after the crash, and he described them as follows, "I mean, I would say reckless and homicidal. I mean for if he's gonna point a gun at law enforcement and, and attempt to shoot them" (28:16).

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if there was a point in which his thoughts on the situation changed from Pegram trying to escape from officers to Pegram attempting to harm officers [REDACTED] explained his thoughts:

Um, that would be right when we were on the ground and he kept trying to reach. Um, I think that's when all those thoughts started coming through as to man, I think he was trying to get in the wood line and wait for us. Um, what is he reaching for? I think, you know, thinking that he might have had a weapon at that point was right when I figured that this wasn't a simple fleeing (28:36).

[REDACTED] reported that he and [REDACTED] are up to date on all required certifications. He also noted that [REDACTED] is trained in narcotic detection and apprehension.

[REDACTED] provided the investigators with consent to review any reports he may be required to complete in relation to this incident, the drug screen results he was compelled to take per ACSO policy, and any body worn camera footage that captured his conversations with supervisors.

The interview concluded at approximately 1331 hours.

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Ashtabula County

The interview was audio and video-recorded. The recordings were uploaded to Axon Justice and stored as part of Reference Item C - Involved Officer Interviews. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and the diagram created by [REDACTED] were attached to this report where they can be reviewed in their entirety.

References:

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

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification – [REDACTED]
2. Diagram - [REDACTED]

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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).

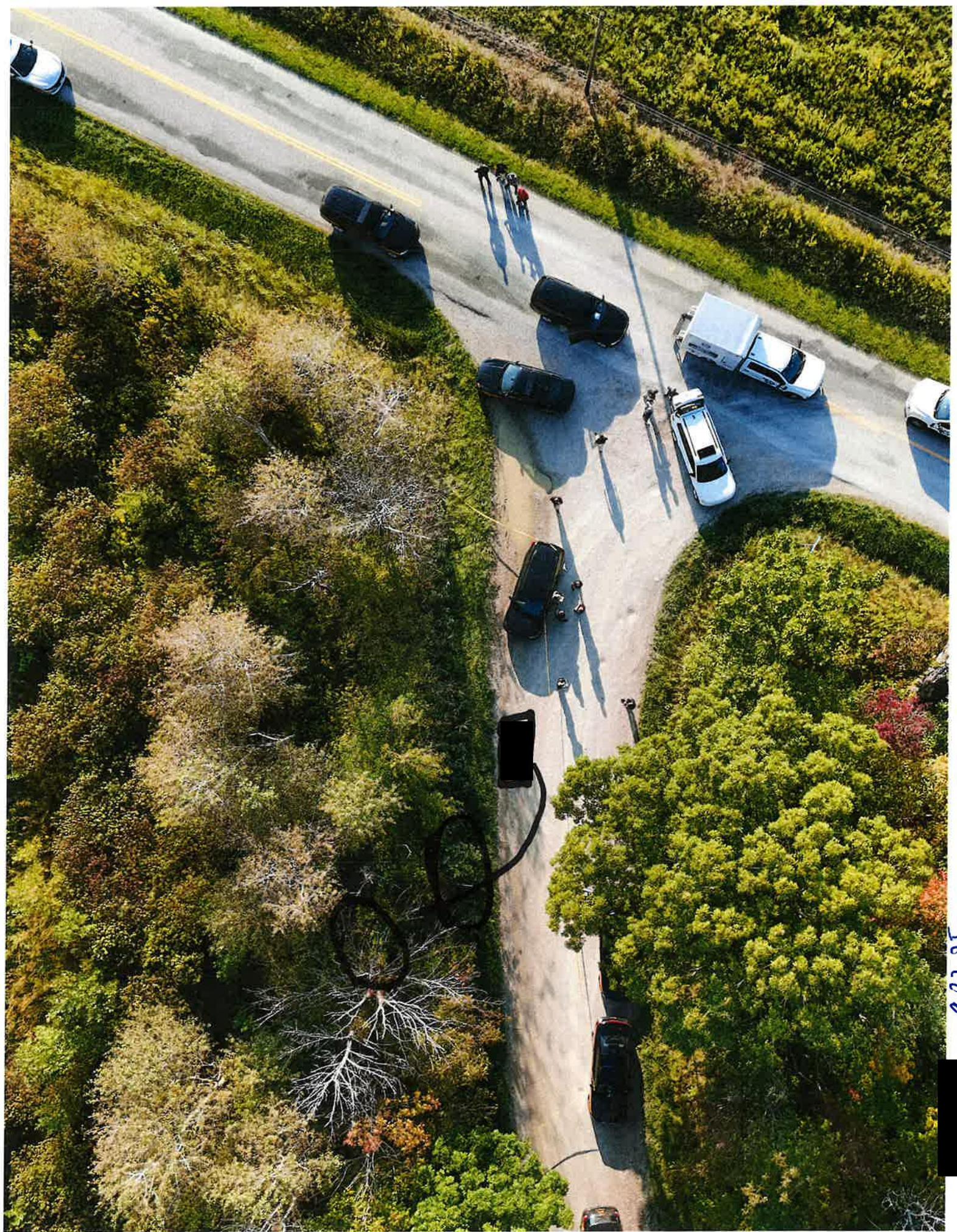


Signature of Interviewee

(X) 9-22-25 1257hrs
Date / Time

JOE WAMPERS #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

JRW #184
BCI Agent (Signature)



9-02-25