



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: Review of HCSO Incident Report
Involves: Harrison County Sheriff's Office (O)
Activity Date: 04/07/2026
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA John P. Tingley #154

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 07, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) reviewed the Incident Report from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) pertaining to the March 30, 2026, officer-involved critical incidents, except for any statements made by the involved officers. SA Tingley reviewed the documents and noted the following:

The incident/case number is listed as [REDACTED] and lists the Incident Date as March 30, 2026. The Incident Code is listed as "Traffic Stop" and the Offender is listed as Michael Wade Decker and the Victim is listed as [REDACTED]. The occurred time is listed as 11:37:47 for the time of the traffic stop.

The following excerpts are taken directly from the narrative section of the HCSO Incident Report, but do not include all of the information contained in the narrative section. Rather, the excerpts only include the information deemed by the author to be the most relevant and useful in obtaining an understanding of the HCSO Incident Report as it relates to the multiple OICs. The excerpts listed are a word for word translation from the HCSO incident report.

Primary Narrative by Captain John Thompson

On March 30, 2025, at approximately 1131 hours, [REDACTED] conducted a traffic stop on U.S. Route 250 near Eslick Road. At approximately 1139 hours, [REDACTED] radioed dispatch advising of shots fired.

Following the initial gunfire, the suspect entered the vehicle [REDACTED] had stopped and fled the scene eastbound on U.S. Route 250.

Myself, Sheriff Touville, and Sergeant Knight continued to [REDACTED] location... [REDACTED] was complaining of a shoulder

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injury. An ambulance was requested, and [REDACTED] was subsequently transported from the scene to Wheeling Hospital. At approximately the same time, other law enforcement agencies continued pursuing the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle was ultimately disabled utilizing tire deflation devices on U.S. Route 22 near Hopedale. The suspect fired multiple rounds at law enforcement officers and fled on foot into the woods north of U.S. Route 22.

I spoke with the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Niki Reynard. Reynard advised that she was driving the vehicle and the suspect was seated in the rear passenger seat behind her, when they were stopped by [REDACTED]. She stated she knew the suspect as Michael Brost, a friend of her husband... [REDACTED] requested consent to search the vehicle, which was granted. Reynard stated [REDACTED] then made contact with the suspect and instructed him to exit the vehicle. Once outside the vehicle, [REDACTED] and the suspect became involved in a physical struggle. Reynard stated the suspect then brandished a firearm and fired shots at [REDACTED]. She advised [REDACTED] went down an embankment and subsequently returned fire at the suspect. Reynard stated the suspect reentered her vehicle and fled the scene.

While on scene, I obtained additional information regarding the suspect's true identity. The suspect was later identified as Michael Wade Decker. His identity was confirmed through photographs by both Ms. Reynard and [REDACTED].

Supporting Narrative by Detective Sergeant Morgan Knight

March 30th, 2025, I, Detective Sergeant Morgan Knight, was traveling to Deersville Ohio along with Sheriff Mark and Captain John Thompson. While driving on Deersville Ridge we listened as [REDACTED] conducted a traffic stop on U.S. 250 near Eslick Rd and advised he had consent to search the vehicle he had stopped. Shortly after advising dispatch that he had consent to search the vehicle, [REDACTED] yelled shots fired on the radio and that he needed help.

When we arrived at the scene just west of Eslick Road on U.S. 250, [REDACTED] was shirtless talking to multiple people near his patrol

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vehicle... [REDACTED] was very distraught and immediately asked me to check him for bullet holes. I quickly looked over [REDACTED] and advised him he appeared to be okay. [REDACTED] advised his left shoulder hurt badly and he could not feel his arm.

At one point in our initial contact with [REDACTED] we gathered that the female on scene was the driver of the vehicle involved in the traffic stop and a male who had fired a handgun at [REDACTED] had fled in the vehicle and was traveling east on U.S. 250. While speaking with individuals on scene, I noticed that [REDACTED] uniform shirt was on the trunk of his cruiser and he was missing his body worn camera...we then located where it had appeared [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had fallen down the hill and his body worn camera was located stuck into the dirt in the grass. I had Trooper Bumgardner take a photograph of me pointing to the camera with [REDACTED] cruiser as reference. I then retrieved the camera, turned it off, and marked its location.

Supporting Narrative By Deputy Jason Saylor

On March 30, 2026, at approximately 11:30 a.m., I, Deputy J. Saylor, had just arrived at the Sheriff's Office when [REDACTED] conducted a traffic stop on U.S. 250 near Eslick Road involving vehicle registration JSC4504, described as a dark blue Dodge SUV. During a dispatch status check, [REDACTED] advised he had obtained consent to search the vehicle. At approximately 11:39 a.m., [REDACTED] radioed that shots had been fired and requested assistance. He further advised that the suspect had fled the scene eastbound and was likely headed toward Steubenville, Ohio.

I traveled westbound on U.S. 250 in an attempt to locate the suspect vehicle. As I approached the intersection of U.S. 250 and Deersville Road (County Road 55), I observed a dark blue SUV traveling eastbound at a high rate of speed matching the description previously provided... I turned around and initiated pursuit. While traveling eastbound ... I observed an Ohio State Trooper turning around to respond eastbound. The suspect vehicle was observed passing other vehicles and accelerating... The Trooper had emergency blue lights

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and an audible siren activated. The Trooper and I were able to close distance with the suspect vehicle; however, the vehicle failed to stop and continued at speeds near 100 mph.

The suspect vehicle continued eastbound on U.S. 250 and entered U.S. 22 eastbound, still failing to stop. At that time, Cadiz Police officers and Sergeant T. Smith joined the pursuit in clearly marked Sheriff and Police vehicles with emergency lights and sirens activated. As we approached the U.S. 22 and Upper Clearfork Road (County Road 13) intersection, a State Trooper deployed a tire deflation device (spike strip); however, the suspect vehicle did not make contact... Continuing eastbound on U.S. 22, I observed another Trooper deploy a second tire deflation device between the State Route 151 (Jewett) and State Route 151 (Hopedale) exits. The suspect vehicle struck the device, resulting in successful tire deflation. The suspect lost control of the vehicle, entered the median, and came to rest facing eastbound in the westbound lanes of travel.

I maneuvered my patrol sedan around the deflation device while maintaining visual contact with the suspect vehicle. The lead Trooper ... was able to position his vehicle behind the suspect vehicle, also facing eastbound in the westbound lanes. As I crossed the median, the driver's door of the suspect vehicle opened and the driver exited. The driver was a white male, bald in appearance, wearing a gray hooded jacket. I observed the suspect raise his arms in a shooting stance while holding what appeared to be a pistol, which he pointed in the direction of the Trooper. As I was crossing the median, I heard what I believed to be multiple gunshots. At the same time, Sergeant T. Smith radioed "He's shooting." ... After approximately thirteen (13) seconds, I observed the suspect flee northbound, running through a ditch and jumping a fence before I lost sight of him. I immediately radioed dispatch that the suspect had fled into the woods. I remained in cover while other deputies and troopers cleared and confirmed the suspect vehicle was unoccupied...

Sergeant T. Smith requested air support via dispatch...I provided dispatch with the vehicle registration JSC4504 and verified it was the same vehicle originally stopped by [REDACTED]. An extensive manhunt ensued and continued for several hours. At approximately

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7:37 p.m., the Ohio State Highway Patrol Aviation Unit located the suspect in a wooded area near Mine Road and Sinfield Road. Prior to this, the Sheriff's Office had received a complaint from a Black Road resident stating the suspect had been observed in the area. The SRT was deployed into the woods and made contact with the suspect, who the aviation unit reported was still holding a firearm. Upon approach, a single shot was believed to have been fired by an officer. Units remained on scene to assist SRT and emergency medical personnel. All units cleared the area at approximately 10:53 p.m.

Supporting Narrative by Sergeant Thomas Smith

On 03-30-2026, at approximately 11:45 a.m., I, Sergeant Thomas Smith, was in the office of Jail Administrator Mark Smith when dispatch advised that [REDACTED] was on a traffic stop and had been shot at. I immediately exited the Jail, entered my marked patrol vehicle, and began responding with lights and siren to the area...

While responding through the Village of Cadiz, I learned via radio traffic that Deputy Jason Saylor was engaged in a pursuit with the suspect who had fired shots at [REDACTED]. Deputy J. Saylor advised over the radio that the pursuit was traveling eastbound on U.S. Route 250 and passing the County Home...

At approximately 11:49 a.m., the pursuit had reached my location. I observed a blue SUV traveling eastbound on U.S. Route 250 at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was driven by a bald white male with facial hair, who appeared to be holding a cell phone in his left hand pressed to his ear...At that time, I entered the pursuit as the fifth vehicle and continued eastbound onto U.S. Route 22 from U.S. Route 250.

Once on U.S. Route 22, the pursuit continued... As the pursuit continued eastbound on U.S. Route 22 and transitioned into a two-lane section, spike strips were deployed by an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper between County Road 51 (Bakers Ridge Road) and County Road 13 (Upper Clearfork Road); however, the deployment was unsuccessful.

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Following the failed spike strip attempt, the pursuit continued eastbound on U.S. Route 22 ...As the pursuit entered a four-lane section near State Route 151, Lieutenant Robert Bodo deployed spike strips on U.S. Route 22 East, positioned between State Route 151 and the County Road 4 (Miller Station Road) exit ramp... The suspect vehicle struck the deployed spike strips, which resulted in the driver losing control of the vehicle. The vehicle traveled off the left side of the roadway into the median and came to a final rest facing eastbound within the westbound lane of U.S. Route 22.

As I closed in on the location of the suspect vehicle, I observed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] patrol vehicle stopped in close proximity directly behind the suspect vehicle, both positioned facing eastbound within the westbound lane of U.S. Route 22. At that time, the suspect, later identified as Michael Decker, was standing outside of his vehicle firing a handgun at [REDACTED] striking [REDACTED] patrol vehicle. I immediately broadcast over the radio to dispatch, "He's shooting, he's shooting." I then positioned my patrol vehicle on U.S. Route 22, brought it to a stop in the eastbound lane, and exited my vehicle.

Upon exiting my patrol vehicle, I drew my issued service weapon and advanced to Lieutenant Carter's patrol vehicle. Lieutenant Carter's vehicle was positioned directly adjacent to my location and disabled as a result from hitting the spike strips. I utilized cover behind Lt Carter's vehicle, while maneuvering back and forth in an effort to locate the suspect and assess his actions... Moments later, I was able to visually observe the suspect fleeing the scene, running northbound up an embankment, crossing over a wire fence, and entering a wooded area. At that time, I believed the suspect to still be armed.

As I lost sight of the suspect, I observed [REDACTED] move quickly toward the rear of his patrol vehicle and take cover. [REDACTED] appeared to be uninjured and coherent at that time... At that time, I requested all available resources, including air support, Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team (SRT), unmanned aerial systems (drones), and additional units to respond and position along Giacobbi Road in an effort to establish a perimeter and contain the suspect within that area.

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After several hours, and following multiple 911 calls from the public, the suspect was located and isolated in a wooded area off Mine Road near the intersection of Sinfield Road. Utilizing the Ohio State Highway Patrol helicopter, OSP Special Response Team (SRT) ground units were able to establish communication, maneuver on the suspect's position, and eliminate the threat. Once the scene was determined to be secure, logistical operations were initiated, and responding units were systematically cleared from the scene and returned to service.

Supporting Narrative by Deputy Smokey Thomas

On, 3/30/26, I, Deputy Thomas was on duty patrolling the county... [REDACTED] was heard on radio traffic yelling for help that he was being shot at... Once on scene at [REDACTED] location I got out and made contact with Capt. Thompson... I then Walked to Capt. and asked what or where do you need me. Capt. stated get to the location of where the suspect fled... Once on scene I made contact with Sgt. Smith and Deputy Sailor. We then stood ground and started a parameter to contain the suspect.

I remained on .22 for over a hour... I then started to return closer to location of incident command on .22. I started to patrol around before going back. up, I returned to Giacobi Rd for a parameter... After about 45 mins, A 911 call came in from Black rd. Stating a white male with a gun just broke in and shoved his beard and changed his pants and then left. Multiple Officers responded to this location. I remained at mine until they could confirm. Once Air unit came back to scene, it quickly verified suspect and confirmed him and location toward Mine rd. I then left and went to Mine Rd, Black, and Sinfeild rd area. This is where I remained until final moments.

The report for HCSO Case Number [REDACTED] is attached to this investigative report. Please refer to the attachment for further details.

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References:

None

Attachments:

1. HCSO Incident Report [REDACTED]

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Harrison County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Mark Touville

978 East Market St. Cadiz, Ohio 43907
 Phone: (740)942-2197 Fax: (740)942-4159
 E-mail: Sheriff@harrisoncountyohio.gov

Case [REDACTED]

Printed on April 1, 2026

Status	Active
Report Type	Incident
Primary Officer	[REDACTED]
Reported At	03/30/26 11:31
Incident Date	03/30/26 11:31
Incident Code	TSTOP : Traffic Stop
Location	CADIZ-DENNISON RD / ESLICK RD, BOWERSTON, OH 44695
Zone	01-MONROE TWP
Beat	
Disposition	Forward to Other Agency
Disposition Date/Time	04/01/26 15:58
Review for Gang Activity	None

Case Comments

3/30/2026 @ 1131 hrs. shots were fired at a deputy during a traffic stop on Cadiz Dennison Rd. The suspect fled the scene and was pursued until the vehicle was disabled on U.S. 22 near Hopedale. Where the suspect again fired on law enforcement. A manhunt ensued for several hours until the suspect was cornered near Mine Rd. and Sinfield Rd. The suspect succumbed to his injuries following a third officer involved shooting. BCI & I is handling the investigation.

Dispatch Information

CFS # [REDACTED]
Location CADIZ-DENNISON RD / ESLICK RD
Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop
Occurred Between 03/30/26 11:31:47 and
Assigned 11:31:47 **Enroute** 11:31:47 **On Scene** 11:31:47 **Completed** 22:45:56

Offender

DECKER, MICHAEL WADE

Male, DOB 6/3/72
 2025 COMMERCIAL AVE
 MINGO JUNCTION, OH 43938

2923.02A - Attempt to Commit an Offense
 2903.02 - Murder

Victim

[REDACTED]

978 E MARKET ST
 CADIZ, OH 43907
 (740) 942-2197 Business

2923.02A - Attempt to Commit an Offense
 2903.02 - Murder

Witness

REYNARD, NIKI JO

Female, DOB 6/22/85

1257 LINCOLN AVE
STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952

[REDACTED] Cell

2923.02A - Attempt to Commit an Offense
2903.02 - Murder**Vehicles**

JSC4504 OH - (Traffic Stop)

2014 Blue, Dark Dodge

Owner BRADON LEE KELLER DELANCEY

Primary Narrative By John Thompson, 03/31/26 10:08

On March 30, 2025, at approximately 1131 hours, [REDACTED] conducted a traffic stop on U.S. Route 250 near Eslick Road. At approximately 1139 hours, [REDACTED] radioed dispatch advising of shots fired.

Myself, Captain Thompson; Sheriff Touville; and Sergeant Morgan Knight responded from Deersville. While en route, additional information regarding the incident was obtained and relayed to other Harrison County units as well as adjacent counties. Following the initial gunfire, the suspect entered the vehicle [REDACTED] had stopped and fled the scene eastbound on U.S. Route 250.

Myself, Sheriff Touville, and Sergeant Knight continued to [REDACTED] location. Upon arrival, several uninvolved individuals had stopped to assist [REDACTED] was complaining of a shoulder injury. An ambulance was requested, and [REDACTED] was subsequently transported from the scene to Wheeling Hospital.

At approximately the same time, other law enforcement agencies continued pursuing the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle was ultimately disabled utilizing tire deflation devices on U.S. Route 22 near Hopedale. The suspect fired multiple rounds at law enforcement officers and fled on foot into the woods north of U.S. Route 22.

Myself and Sheriff Touville remained at the initial incident location on U.S. Route 250, while Sergeant Knight accompanied [REDACTED] to the hospital via ambulance. I spoke with the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Niki Reynard. Reynard advised that she was driving the vehicle and the suspect was seated in the rear passenger seat behind her when they were stopped by [REDACTED]. She stated she knew the suspect as Michael Brost, a friend of her husband. Reynard further advised that the suspect paid her \$50.00 to drive him to a pest control job approximately 15 minutes west of the traffic stop location, although she could not provide an exact address. She explained that after being stopped, [REDACTED] had her exit the vehicle and stand in front of his cruiser. [REDACTED] requested consent to search the vehicle, which was granted.

Reynard stated [REDACTED] then made contact with the suspect and instructed him to exit the vehicle. Once outside the vehicle, [REDACTED] and the suspect became involved in a physical struggle. Reynard stated the suspect then brandished a firearm and fired shots at [REDACTED]. She advised [REDACTED] went down an embankment and subsequently returned fire at the suspect. Reynard stated the suspect reentered her vehicle and fled the scene.

While on scene, I obtained additional information regarding the suspect's true identity. The suspect was later identified as Michael Wade Decker. His identity was confirmed through photographs by both Ms. Reynard and [REDACTED].

At the direction of Sheriff Touville, BCI & I was requested to respond. BCI & I Agent John Tingley and additional agents responded to the scene. Due to the totality of the incident—including multiple shots fired at law enforcement, shots fired by law enforcement, and the involvement of multiple agencies—the investigation was turned over to BCI & I.

Sheriff Touville and I remained on scene on U.S. Route 250 to assist BCI. I took possession of [REDACTED] body-worn camera and the SD card from the in-car camera system. After the scene was cleared, I responded to the Sheriff's Office and provided BCI with a copy of the body-worn camera footage and relinquished the SD card to BCI. I then cleared and responded to the Hopedale area to assist with the ongoing search for the suspect.

Following an extensive ground and aerial search, the suspect was eventually surrounded in a field near the intersection of Mine Road and Sinfield Road. At approximately 2053 hours, the search concluded with the death of the suspect.

BCI & I is conducting an independent investigation into all facts and circumstances surrounding the officer-involved shooting incidents. These incidents began with the initial encounter on U.S. Route 250, continued with the second incident on U.S. Route 22, and concluded with the final incident near Mine Road and Sinfield Road in Harrison County.

Cpt. John Thompson #3404

Supporting Narrative By Morgan Knight, 03/31/26 10:37

March 30th, 2025 I, Detective Sergeant Morgan Knight, was traveling to Deersville Ohio along with Sheriff Mark and Captain John Thompson. While driving on Deersville Ridge we listened as ██████████ conducted a traffic stop on U.S. 250 near Eslick Rd and advised he had consent to search the vehicle he had stopped. Shortly after advising dispatch that he had consent to search the vehicle, ██████████ yelled shots fired on the radio and that he needed help. Sheriff Touville, Captain Thompson and I responded from Deersville running lights and sirens in Sheriff Touville's marked patrol vehicle. Attempts were made by multiple deputies and dispatch to keep radio contact with ██████████ but he never answered.

When we arrived at the scene just west of Eslick Road on U.S. 250, ██████████ was shirtless talking to multiple people near his patrol vehicle with a pickup and trailer behind his Sheriff cruiser. When we approached the individuals standing with ██████████ I recognized Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Josh Bumgardner as one of the individuals. Trooper Bumgardner was off duty at the time and stopped to render aid. ██████████ was very distraught and immediately asked me to check him for bullet holes. I quickly looked over ██████████ and advised him he appeared to be okay. ██████████ advised his left shoulder hurt badly and he could not feel his arm. Attempts were made to calm ██████████ down and gather additional information.

At one point in our initial contact with ██████████ we gathered that the female on scene was the driver of the vehicle involved in the traffic stop and a male who had fired a handgun at ██████████ had fled in the vehicle and was traveling east on U.S. 250. EMTs from Bowerston Fire Department arrived on scene and began to examine ██████████ for injuries. While speaking with individuals on scene, I noticed that ██████████ uniform shirt was on the trunk of his cruiser and he was missing his body worn camera. I put on a pair of nitrile gloves to prepare to look for any possible evidence. While on scene I surveyed the bank below where the traffic stop was conducted. A Ohio registration belonging to the suspect vehicle had blown down the bank from the traffic stop site. I retrieved it and we then located where it had appeared ██████████ had fallen down the hill and his body worn camera was located stuck into the dirt in the grass. I had Trooper Bumgardner take a photograph of me pointing to the camera with ██████████ cruiser as reference. I then retrieved the camera, turned it off, and marked its location.

After it was determined that BCI would be called to investigate the shooting, I left the scene and rode with ██████████ to Wheeling Hospital for treatment.

Detective Sergeant Morgan Knight
Harrison County Sheriff's Office

Supporting Narrative By Jason Saylor, 03/31/26 14:19

On March 30, 2026, at approximately 11:30 a.m., I, Deputy J. Saylor, had just arrived at the Sheriff's Office when ██████████ conducted a traffic stop on U.S. 250 near Eslick Road involving vehicle registration JSC4504, described as a dark blue Dodge SUV. During a dispatch status check, ██████████ advised he had obtained consent to search the vehicle. At approximately 11:39 a.m., ██████████ radioed that shots had been fired and requested assistance. He further advised that the suspect had fled the scene eastbound and was likely headed toward Steubenville, Ohio.

Upon hearing that shots had been fired, I immediately exited the Sheriff's Office, entered my marked "Sheriff" patrol sedan, and began responding with emergency red and blue lights and siren activated. While responding, Captain J. Thompson advised that he, Sheriff M. Touville, and Sergeant M. Knight were responding from the Deersville area. Deputy S. Thomas also advised he was responding from Jewett.

I traveled westbound on U.S. 250 in an attempt to locate the suspect vehicle. As I approached the intersection of U.S. 250 and Deersville Road (County Road 55), I observed a dark blue SUV traveling eastbound at a high rate of speed matching the description previously provided. I advised dispatch of the encounter, as well as Sergeant F. Valesko, who was a short distance behind me. I turned around and initiated pursuit. While traveling eastbound near Addy Road and Mizer Road, I observed an Ohio State Trooper turning around to respond eastbound. The suspect vehicle was observed passing other vehicles and accelerating. I updated dispatch on the pursuit and advised our speed was approximately 113 mph. The Trooper had emergency blue lights and an audible siren activated. The Trooper and I were able to close distance with the suspect vehicle; however, the vehicle failed to stop and continued at speeds near 100 mph.

The suspect vehicle continued eastbound on U.S. 250 and entered U.S. 22 eastbound, still failing to stop. At that time, Cadiz Police officers and Sergeant T. Smith joined the pursuit in clearly marked Sheriff and Police vehicles with emergency lights and sirens activated. As we approached the U.S. 22 and Upper Clearfork Road (County Road 13) intersection, a State Trooper deployed a tire deflation device (spike strip); however, the suspect vehicle did not make contact. This information was relayed to dispatch. Continuing eastbound on U.S. 22, I observed another Trooper deploy a second tire deflation device between the State Route 151 (Jewett) and State Route 151 (Hopedale) exits. The suspect vehicle struck the device, resulting in successful tire deflation. Dispatch was advised accordingly. The suspect lost control of the vehicle, entered the median, and came to rest facing eastbound in the westbound lanes of travel.

I maneuvered my patrol sedan around the deflation device while maintaining visual contact with the suspect vehicle. The lead Trooper struck the spike strip but was able to position his vehicle behind the suspect vehicle, also facing eastbound in the westbound lanes. As I crossed the median, the driver's door of the suspect vehicle opened and the driver exited. The driver was a white male, bald in appearance, wearing a gray hooded jacket. I observed the suspect raise his arms in a shooting stance while holding what appeared to be a pistol, which he pointed in the direction of the Trooper. As I was crossing the median, I heard what I believed to be multiple gunshots. At the same time, Sergeant T. Smith radioed "He's shooting." I attempted to advise dispatch of "shots fired," but my radio transmission did not go through. To avoid potential crossfire, I reversed my patrol sedan, positioning the rear of the vehicle near the median, and exited. I took cover behind the trunk area of my patrol sedan while drawing my issued service pistol. From behind cover, I maintained visual on the suspect and the vehicle. After approximately thirteen (13) seconds, I observed the suspect flee northbound, running through a ditch and jumping a fence before I lost sight of him. I immediately radioed dispatch that the suspect had fled into the woods. I remained in cover while other deputies and troopers cleared and confirmed the suspect vehicle was unoccupied. I briefly scanned the hillside area and repositioned my patrol sedan to block a lane of travel.

Sergeant T. Smith requested air support via dispatch. I requested that ODOT be contacted to shut down U.S. 22. Multiple additional resources from surrounding agencies were requested, including drone units and a Special Response Team (SRT). I provided dispatch with the vehicle registration JSC4504 and verified it was the same vehicle originally stopped by [REDACTED]. An extensive manhunt ensued and continued for several hours. At approximately 7:37 p.m., the Ohio State Highway Patrol Aviation Unit located the suspect in a wooded area near Mine Road and Sinfield Road. Prior to this, the Sheriff's Office had received a complaint from a Black Road resident stating the suspect had been observed in the area. The SRT was deployed into the woods and made contact with the suspect, who the aviation unit reported was still holding a firearm. Upon approach, a single shot was believed to have been fired by an officer. Units remained on scene to assist SRT and emergency medical personnel. All units cleared the area at approximately 10:53 p.m. All incidents are being investigated by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

End of Report
Deputy J. Saylor/3416
Harrison County Sheriff's Office

Supporting Narrative By Thomas Smith, 04/01/26 08:55

On 03-30-2026, at approximately 11:45 a.m., I, Sergeant Thomas Smith, was in the office of Jail Administrator Mark Smith when dispatch advised that [REDACTED] was on a traffic stop and had been shot at. I immediately exited the Jail, entered my marked patrol vehicle, and began responding with lights and siren to the area of U.S. Route

250 and Eslick Road.

While responding through the Village of Cadiz, I learned via radio traffic that Deputy Jason Saylor was engaged in a pursuit with the suspect who had fired shots at [REDACTED]. Deputy J. Saylor advised over the radio that the pursuit was traveling eastbound on U.S. Route 250 and passing the County Home. At that time, I was closing distance with the pursuit and positioned my patrol vehicle at the intersection of County Road 11 and U.S. Route 250. I staged at that location as a deterrent, with the intent of maintaining the pursuit on U.S. Route 250 toward U.S. Route 22 and preventing the suspect from entering the Village of Cadiz.

At approximately 11:49 a.m., the pursuit had reached my location. I observed a blue SUV traveling eastbound on U.S. Route 250 at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was driven by a bald white male with facial hair, who appeared to be holding a cell phone in his left hand pressed to his ear.

The pursuit vehicle order behind the suspect consisted of Ohio State Highway Patrol [REDACTED] followed by Deputy Jason Saylor, Lieutenant Carter, and Officer Sweeney. At that time, I entered the pursuit as the fifth vehicle and continued eastbound onto U.S. Route 22 from U.S. Route 250.

Once on U.S. Route 22, the pursuit continued at speeds ranging from approximately 90 mph to 115 mph with light traffic present across all four lanes. As the pursuit continued eastbound on U.S. Route 22 and transitioned into a two-lane section, spike strips were deployed by an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper between County Road 51 (Bakers Ridge Road) and County Road 13 (Upper Clearfork Road); however, the deployment was unsuccessful.

Following the failed spike strip attempt, the pursuit continued eastbound on U.S. Route 22 while maintaining speeds between 90 mph and 115 mph. As the pursuit entered a four-lane section near State Route 151, Lieutenant Robert Bodo deployed spike strips on U.S. Route 22 East, positioned between State Route 151 and the County Road 4 (Miller Station Road) exit ramp. The spike strips were set on the U.S. Route 22 East bridge, utilizing the bridge as a choke point in an attempt to bring the pursuit to a safe conclusion.

The suspect vehicle struck the deployed spike strips, which resulted in the driver losing control of the vehicle. The vehicle traveled off the left side of the roadway into the median and came to a final rest facing eastbound within the westbound lane of U.S. Route 22.

As I closed in on the location of the suspect vehicle, I observed [REDACTED] patrol vehicle stopped in close proximity directly behind the suspect vehicle, both positioned facing eastbound within the westbound lane of U.S. Route 22. At that time, the suspect, later identified as Michael Decker, was standing outside of his vehicle firing a handgun at [REDACTED], striking [REDACTED] patrol vehicle. I immediately broadcast over the radio to dispatch, "He's shooting, he's shooting." I then positioned my patrol vehicle on U.S. Route 22, brought it to a stop in the eastbound lane, and exited my vehicle.

Upon exiting my patrol vehicle, I drew my issued service weapon and advanced to Lieutenant Carter's patrol vehicle. Lieutenant Carter's vehicle was positioned directly adjacent to my location and disabled as a result from hitting the spike strips. I utilized cover behind Lt Carter's vehicle, while maneuvering back and forth in an effort to locate the suspect and assess his actions, I attempted to maintain visual awareness of the scene. At that time, I was unaware of Trooper Anderson's condition or status. Moments later, I was able to visually observe the suspect fleeing the scene, running northbound up an embankment, crossing over a wire fence, and entering a wooded area. At that time, I believed the suspect to still be armed.

As I lost sight of the suspect, I observed [REDACTED] move quickly toward the rear of his patrol vehicle and take cover. [REDACTED] appeared to be uninjured and coherent at that time. I then retrieved my patrol rifle and advanced toward [REDACTED] position while providing security. At that time, I requested all available resources, including air support, Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team (SRT), unmanned aerial systems (drones), and additional units to respond and position along Giacobbi Road in an effort to establish a perimeter and contain the suspect within that area.

After several hours, and following multiple 911 calls from the public, the suspect was located and isolated in a wooded area off Mine Road near the intersection of Sinfield Road. Utilizing the Ohio State Highway Patrol helicopter, OSP Special Response Team (SRT) ground units were able to establish communication, maneuver on the suspect's position, and eliminate the threat. Once the scene was determined to be secure, logistical operations were initiated, and responding units were systematically cleared from the scene and returned to service. A report was generated for investigative purposes and future reference.

End Of Report.
Sergeant Thomas Smith #3405.
Harrison County Sheriff's Office.

Supporting Narrative By Smokey Thomas, 04/01/26 10:57

On, 3/30/26, I, Deputy Thomas was on duty patrolling the county. I had stopped by my residence for lunch. Approximately 10mins into my lunch, [REDACTED] was heard on radio traffic yelling for help that he was being shot at. I immediately ran out of my residence and got into my patrol unit and activated my emergency lights and siren. I informed dispatch I was headed to [REDACTED] location.

Once on scene at [REDACTED] location I got out and made contact with Capt. Thompson. I then walked past Capt. and made contact with [REDACTED] was already being looked at by EMS. I then tried to reassure [REDACTED] and walked with him to the Squad. Once in the Squad and [REDACTED] sat down, I went in with him. [REDACTED] then wanted to get fresh air and walked out. I stood with him for couple minutes while EMT's wrapped his arm. They then got him to reenter the squad. I then Walked to Capt. and asked what or where do you need me. Capt. stated get to the location of where the suspect fled. I then left and activated my emergency lights and siren and went to the location of state route .22 east bound just west of Hopedale. Once on scene I made contact with Sgt. Smith and Deputy Sailor. We then stood ground and started a parameter to contain the suspect.

I remained on .22 for over a hour, until dispatch informed a 911 call of someone on a woods line on Sinfeild rd. I then went to that location along with other units to check this. Once on scene it turned out to be a false call. I then started to return closer to location of incident command on .22. I started to patrol around before going back. I was then advised of another call, which also turned out to be false, of the suspect stealing a truck and shooting his gun. Once all this got cleared up, I returned to Giacobi Rd for a parameter . I stood there while 21 Officers walked through the woods toward Giacobi. After about 45 mins, A 911 call came in from Black rd. Stating a white male with a gun just broke in and shoved his beard and changed his pants and then left. Multiple Officers responded to this location. I remained at mine until they could confirm. Once Air unit came back to scene, it quickly verified suspect and confirmed him and location toward Mine rd. I then left and went to Mine Rd, Black, and Sinfeild rd area. This is where I remained until final moments. Suspect was terminated.

///End Report//3413

Case Forms

Attached Document 3/31/26 - Jefferson Co. Warrant

Attached Document 3/31/26 - BCI Inventory Receipt

Primary Narrative 3/31/26 by John Thompson

Supporting Narrative 3/31/26 by Morgan Knight

Attached Document 3/31/26 - BCI & I request to investigate

Supporting Narrative 3/31/26 by Jason Saylor

Supporting Narrative 4/1/26 by Thomas Smith

Supporting Narrative 4/1/26 by Smokey Thomas

Use of Force 4/1/26

Use of Force - Subject for DECKER, MICHAEL WADE

Victim Form for [REDACTED]



Harrison County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mark Touville

978 East Market St. Cadiz, Ohio 43907
Phone: (740)-942-2197 Fax: (740)-942-4159
E-mail: Sheriff@harrisoncountyohio.gov

Victim Form - [REDACTED]

Printed on April 1, 2026

[REDACTED]

Case Information

Case # [REDACTED]
Primary Officer [REDACTED]
Time 03/30/26 11:31

Victim of Offenses

2923.02A 2923.02A - Attempt to Commit an Offense
2903.02 2903.02 - Murder

Relationships to Offenders

DECKER, MICHAEL WADE is the victim's *Stranger*
DECKER, MICHAEL WADE is the victim's *Stranger*

Injuries Sustained

Victim Referred To

Additional Details

Residence Status Resident
Domestic Violence No
Assault Assault / Homicide Circumstances 1 Assault on Law Enforcement Officer(s)
Assault Assault / Homicide Circumstances 2
Justifiable Homicide Circumstances



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Sheriff Mark Touville

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E-mail: Sheriff@harrisoncountyohio.gov

Use of Force - Subject

Printed on April 1, 2026

Case Information

Incident #	██████████
Primary Officer	██████████
Time	03/30/26 11:31
Initial Contact Type	Traffic Stop
NIBRS Location	STREET
Did Officer Approach	Yes
Ambushed	No
Senior Officer Present	No
Total officers known	Known
Total Agency officers known	Known
Total subjects known	Known

Subject: DECKER, MICHAEL WADE

Armed	Yes
Threat Direct At	Law Enforcement

Impairments:
Unknown and is unlikely to ever be known

Force used:

Injuries:
None

Resisted:
Firearm fired at an officer or another
Failing to comply to verbal commands

Officer: ██████████

Agency	Harrison County Sheriff's Office
Full Time	Yes (law enforcement officer)
Years of Service	█
Officer Identifiable	Yes
On Duty	Yes
Fired Shots	Yes

Injuries:
Other Major Injury

Force Used:
Handgun Fired



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E-mail: Sheriff@harrisoncountyoohio.gov

Use of Force

Printed on April 1, 2026

Incident Date/Time
03/30/26 11:31

Case Number

Involved Officer

Incident Type
TSTOP

Location
CADIZ-DENNISON RD / ESLICK
RD, BOWERSTON, OH 44695

Beat

Officer Injured - If yes, add details

Yes

Suspect Injured - If yes, add details

No

Narrative

On March 30, 2025, at approximately 1131 hours, [REDACTED] conducted a traffic stop on U.S. Route 250 near Eslick Road. At approximately 1139 hours, [REDACTED] radioed dispatch advising of shots fired.

Myself, Captain Thompson; Sheriff Touville; and Sergeant Morgan Knight responded from Deersville. While en route, additional information regarding the incident was obtained and relayed to other Harrison County units as well as adjacent counties. Following the initial gunfire, the suspect entered the vehicle [REDACTED] had stopped and fled the scene eastbound on U.S. Route 250.

Myself, Sheriff Touville, and Sergeant Knight continued to [REDACTED] location. Upon arrival, several uninvolved individuals had stopped to assist [REDACTED] was complaining of a shoulder injury. An ambulance was requested, and [REDACTED] was subsequently transported from the scene to Wheeling Hospital.

At approximately the same time, other law enforcement agencies continued pursuing the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle was ultimately disabled utilizing tire deflation devices on U.S. Route 22 near Hopedale. The suspect fired multiple rounds at law enforcement officers and fled on foot into the woods north of U.S. Route 22.

Myself and Sheriff Touville remained at the initial incident location on U.S. Route 250, while Sergeant Knight accompanied [REDACTED] to the hospital via ambulance. I spoke with the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Niki Reynard. Reynard advised that she was driving the vehicle and the suspect was seated in the rear passenger seat behind her when they were stopped by [REDACTED]. She stated she knew the suspect as Michael Brost, a friend of her husband. Reynard further advised that the suspect paid her \$50.00 to drive him to a pest control job approximately 15 minutes west of the traffic stop location, although she could not provide an exact address. She explained that after being stopped, [REDACTED] had her exit the vehicle and stand in front of his cruiser. [REDACTED] requested consent to search the vehicle, which was granted.

Reynard stated [REDACTED] then made contact with the suspect and instructed him to exit the vehicle. Once outside the vehicle, [REDACTED] and the suspect became involved in a physical struggle. Reynard stated the suspect then brandished a firearm and fired shots at [REDACTED]. She advised [REDACTED] went down an embankment and subsequently returned fire at the suspect. Reynard stated the suspect reentered her vehicle and fled the scene.

While on scene, I obtained additional information regarding the suspect's true identity. The suspect was later identified as Michael Wade Decker. His identity was confirmed through photographs by both Ms. Reynard and [REDACTED].

At the direction of Sheriff Touville, BCI & I was requested to respond. BCI & I Agent John Tingley and additional agents responded to the scene. Due to the totality of the incident-including multiple shots fired at law enforcement, shots fired by law enforcement, and the involvement of multiple agencies-the investigation was turned over to BCI & I.

Sheriff Touville and I remained on scene on U.S. Route 250 to assist BCI. I took possession of [REDACTED] body-worn camera and the SD card from the in-car camera system. After the scene was cleared, I responded to the Sheriff's Office and provided BCI with a copy of the body-worn camera footage and relinquished the SD card to BCI. I then cleared and responded to the Hopedale area to assist with the ongoing search for the suspect.

Following an extensive ground and aerial search, the suspect was eventually surrounded in a field near the intersection of Mine Road and Sinfield Road. At approximately 2053 hours, the search concluded with the death of the suspect.

BCI & I is conducting an independent investigation into all facts and circumstances surrounding the officer-involved shooting incidents. These incidents began with the initial encounter on U.S. Route 250, continued with the second incident on U.S. Route 22, and concluded with the final incident near Mine Road and Sinfield Road in Harrison County.

Cpt. John Thompson #3404

Signed _____ **Date / Time** _____
Officer Signature



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Sheriff Mark Touville

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 E-mail: Sheriff@harrisoncountyohio.gov

DECKER, MICHAEL WADE

No Picture	Sex	Male	Race	White
	DOB	6/3/72	Ethnicity	Not Specified
	Current Age	53	Eye Color	Unknown
	Height		Hair Color	Gray or Partially Gray
	Weight	lbs	Build	
	Deceased	Yes	Complexion	
	Distinctive Markings			
	None			

Contact Information

Street Address 2025 COMMERCIAL AVE, MINGO JUNCTION, OH 43938
Emergency Contact
Employer
Occupation

Aliases

BROST, WILLIAM WADE - 6/3/72

Identification

OLN [REDACTED] ID Exp SSN [REDACTED]

Background

Last Grade	Marital Status	Religion
Citizenship	Place of Birth	
State of Birth	Country of Birth	

Relationships

Stranger named [REDACTED]

Comments

Vehicles

JSC4504 OH 2014 BLUE, DARK DODGE - Past Record Association

03/30/26 11:31	HCSO	CFS	[REDACTED]
Traffic Stop; Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop			
03/30/26 11:31	HCSO	Case	[REDACTED]
Traffic Stop; Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop			



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REYNARD, NIKI JO

No Picture

Sex	Female	Race	White
DOB	6/22/85	Ethnicity	Not of Hispanic or Latino Origin
Current Age	40	Eye Color	Unknown
Height		Hair Color	
Weight	lbs	Build	
Deceased	No	Complexion	
Distinctive Markings			
None			

Contact Information

Street Address 1257 LINCOLN AVE, STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952
Emergency Contact **Phone #'s**
Employer **Cell** [REDACTED] st Modified 3/31/26
Occupation

Identification

OLN [REDACTED] **SSN** [REDACTED]

Background

Last Grade	Marital Status	Religion
Citizenship	Place of Birth	
State of Birth	Country of Birth	

Comments

Vehicles

JSC4504 OH 2014 BLUE, DARK DODGE - Past Record Association

03/30/26 11:31 HCSO	CFS	[REDACTED]
Traffic Stop; Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop		
03/30/26 11:31 HCSO	Case	[REDACTED]
Traffic Stop; Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop		



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Vehicle Card - JSC4504

Printed on April 1, 2026

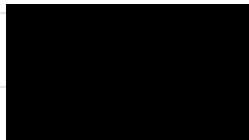
Plate # JSC4504
Plate Expires 2026
Plate State OH
Plate Type Standard issue
VIN 3C4PDDAGXET227129
Vehicle Year 2014
Vehicle Make Dodge
Vehicle Model
Vehicle Style Sedan
Vehicle Color 1 Blue, Dark
Vehicle Color 2
Vehicle Features

Owner BRADON LEE KELLER DELANCEY

Owner

History

03/30/26 11:31 HCSO Case
Traffic Stop; Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop



03/30/26 11:31 HCSO CFS
Traffic Stop; Incident Code TSTOP : Traffic Stop