



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



2022-1527

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5760 US 62, Hillsboro, OH,
Highland County (L)

Investigative Activity: Records Received, Review of Records
Involves: Richard Jean Poulin (S)
Date of Activity: 07/26/2022
Activity Location: Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – 1560 SR-56 SW, London,
OH 43140, Madison County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On July 26, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) requested the following records from Highland County Sheriff Donald Barrera (Sheriff Barrera):

- Any completed internal investigations relative to accidental discharges of the issued Sig Sauer P320.
- Any and all complaints or concerns, formal or informal, your office has received by your staff regarding the Sig Sauer P320.

SA Seitzman received a response from Sheriff Barrera on July 26, 2022. Sheriff Barrera advised that on December 29, 2022, Highland County Sheriff's Office Special Deputy Phillip Porter (Deputy Porter) accidentally discharged his department-issued Sig Sauer P320. Sheriff Barrera sent SA Seitzman a coaching entry for the incident. The coaching entry revealed that Deputy Porter was handling the firearm in his bedroom when his "finger hit the trigger," causing a round to discharge.

SA Seitzman also received a letter from Sheriff Barrera indicating that his office had not received any formal complaints relative to the Sig Sauer P320 pistol. He stated that his chief deputy received a verbal complaint from a deputy prior to the purchase of the Sig Sauer P320 pistol; however, he said the deputy's complaint was that he personally preferred a different weapon.

The records received from Sheriff Barrera are attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Public records request for any HCSO accidental discharge of firearm

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

incidents

Attachment # 02: Letter from Sheriff Donald Barerra Re Sig Sauer P320

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Exhibit 1

Incident Report

Highland County Sheriff's Office

7/26/2022

Coaching

For: Porter, Phillip (9642)

Occurred: 12/29/2020

By: Seaman, Craig (8854)

Entered: 12/29/2020

On December 29, 2020 Deputy Porter reported to myself and Deputy Hughes that he had an accidental discharge of his issued 9mm handgun in his home while off duty. He was handling the weapon in his bedroom when his finger hit the trigger. One round was discharged into a dresser in his bedroom. Deputy Porter was taken to the range by Deputy Hughes (range instructor) and re-qualified and instructed on handling procedures.

Employee's Signature

Supervisor's Signature

Exhibit 2



HIGHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF

Donald E. Barrera

130 Homestead Avenue • Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

Phone: (937) 393-1421 • Tip Line: (937) 840-6243 • Fax: (937) 840-6241

EMERGENCY 911

To: Steven D. Seitzman, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
From: Sheriff Donald E. Barrera
Re: Your July 26, 2022 E-Mail request Re: Sig Sauer P-320 Complaints/Concerns; Formal/Informal
Date: July 26, 2022

Pursuant to your request of this date as referenced above, after talking with my firearms instructor at the Highland County Sheriff's Office, until this date, neither my firearms instructor nor I have been aware of any complaints regarding the Sig Sauer P-320.

After speaking with my Chief Deputy on today's date, he advised me that we have had one deputy complain about the purchase of the Sig Sauer P-320 firearm in the past. I was unaware of the comment at the time of the purchase of the Sig Sauer P-320's, and until today's date.

There have been no written complaints from the complaining officer to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Donnie Barrera