



2024-1658 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2212 Tryon Rd., Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Medic Hyle Squire

**Involves:** Medic Hyle Squire (W)

**Activity Date:** 06/20/2024

**Activity Location:** Lake County Sheriff's Office-104 E. Erie Street, Painesville,

OH 44077

Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

#### Narrative:

On June 20, 2024, at 1016 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum) interviewed Concord Township Firefighter/Medic Hyle Squire (Medic Squire). The interview took place at the Lake County Sheriff's Office located at 104 E. Erie Street, Painesville, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Medic Squire was identified as being a member of Lake County Reginal SWAT Team who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 1, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 2212 Tryon Road, Ashtabula, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this team member.

Medic Squire stated that his radio call sign on June 1, 2024, was "Medic." He has been employed by the Concord Township Fire Department for about 5 years (2 years full time). Prior to that, Medic Squire worked full time for the Perry Township Fire Department, part time for Madison, City of London, Pleasant Valley and Central Township.

During the incident, Medic Squire wore a uniform consisting of duty pants, duty boots, 5.11 combat shirt and a helmet. Medic Squire also wore a "chest rig" that held medic supplies. Medic Squire was not carrying a firearm or any other weapons. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

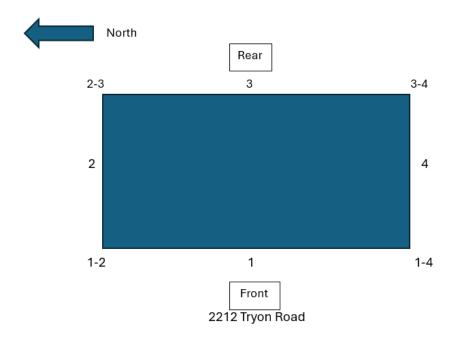




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#### **Precursor Information**

During tactical situations, a tactical numbering system is often utilized to quickly identify positions around a residence. The main entrance of the residence is usually referred to as the "1 side", counting clockwise around the house, the sides are then sequentially numbered. The corners are then designated by indicating which sides meet at that corner, e.g. corner 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 1-4. This number system was utilized by the Lake County Reginal SWAT Team during this incident (See diagram below).



The Lake County Reginal SWAT Team had two armored vehicles on scene. A smaller armored vehicle, which team members refer to as "David" and a larger armored vehicle which is referred to as "Goliath."





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SA Momchilov asked Medic Squire how he had become involved in the incident. Medic Squire explained that he was off-duty when he received a call through the Active911 app regarding a SWAT callout. Medic Squire responded to the scene and met with other Swat Team members in a staging area. At the staging area, Medic Squire stated they were told that an individual had barricaded himself in a house with "the possibility of a long gun." Medic Squire stated, "My guess he, uh, had a verbal disagreement with a neighbor, threatened them with said firearm and then we were there to deescalate the situation."

Medic Squire advised that he was assigned to "David" with six operators who then responded to the scene.

Once on scene, Medic Squire advised that David was positioned on the right side of the residence near the "1-4" corner, at the street level. Medic Squire explained that during the "initial phase" team members were "hailing" the individual every 2 minutes. At one point, Medic Squire stated he observed the individual through a window with a knife to his own neck. The individual then jabbed at the window and then retreated back behind the blinds.

As things progressed, team members shut off utilities to the residence (gas and electric). It was decided that David would be sent to the front of the residence to "open up the front window" (using the boom that was located on the front of David to break out the front window). Medic Squire explained that he was inside David when it was sent to break out the front window. Medic Squire explained that the purpose of breaking out the front window was to possibly make visual contact with the individual, to possibly send drones into the residence and to throw a phone into the residence for communications.

Medic Squire stated, "So, we initially knocked out the front window. We were having a hard time removing the blinds, um, just due to the design of 'em. They were mounted above the window. Just hard to remove. Um, so, as we were sweeping, trying to remove the remainder of the glass and rip out those blinds, um, the gentleman presented himself with a long firearm of some sort, um, pointed it at the vehicle, as he, we were trying to back up, um, and remove more of the glass, more of the blinds, um, aimed it right at us in the vehicle. Um, first one was a misfire, whether it being unloaded or just a malfunction, and then he raised it again and then shot the front of David [05:23]."

Medic Squire stated he was positioned inside David directly behind the passenger seat and the projectile fired by the individual struck the front passenger side of the armored vehicle (Figure 1 and 2).





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Figure 1 Figure 2

SA Momchilov asked Medic Squire how he knew that the individual's weapon initially misfired. Medic Squire responded, "Um, so, he aimed it at us, pulled the trigger, lurched forward, no projectile came out of the weapon." Medic Squire explained that he is familiar with firearms and spent 8 years in the Ohio Army National Guard

SA Momchilov stated, "Okay. So, you see the misfire, and then does he immediately fire the second shot then? Medic Squire responded, Um, he appears to tamper with the weapon in a manipulation that I was unfamiliar with at the time and then he presented the weapon again at us and then fired the long gun.

SA Momchilov responded, "Okay, and when you say manipulated, is he, is he bringing it back towards himself. I mean is he still aiming at you guys or?"

Medic Squire replied, "Um, he dropped it down. I can't remember what exactly he did at the time with the manipulation, but he put the weapon back in service and then fired a round at us. At the front windshield, passenger-side. And this is all after he (Deputy Shane Hopp) threw in the throw phone. He threw in the throw phone initially after we cleared the glass, so we were trying to communicate with him [06:53]."

Medic Squire stated that once the shot was fired, David retreated to the street level.

SA Momchilov stated that it was his understanding that at some point team members began utilizing tear gas. Medic Squire stated that was correct.

Medic Squire explained that at some point, while he was inside of David, it was decided that David would meet with Goliath. Medic Squire advised that he was not privy to why





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David was going to meet with Goliath (investigators learned that a gas launcher, that was being utilized near the rear of the residence, had malfunctioned. David was going to provide an extra gas launcher to Goliath and the two armored vehicles were going to meet on the road near the front of the residence.)

Medic Squire continued, "Um, but I know that we were going to make a movement for some purpose and then during that time, uh, the gentleman unfortunately presented himself at the front window. I was able to see it from, it would be the right side of David looking at the house. Um, the gentleman presented himself with the firearm up and then, unfortunately, the, the incident occurred where he was fatally shot.

SA Momchilov replied, "Okay. So, I'm sorry. I'm a little, yeah, where exactly were you at?

Medic Squire responded, "I was in the back of David on the passenger side, which would be the right side of the vehicle looking at the house through one of the windows on the right side of David.

SA Momchilov responded, "Okay. So, you actually see him. Can you maybe describe the motion he made when he came..."

Medic Squire replied, "Yes, sir. So, the gentleman, as we were moving over towards Goliath, um, the gentleman stepped through the blinds with the rifle or the long gun up. Should say the long gun, cause I don't know what it was. Um, presented himself with the long gun, um, pointed directly at David from what I saw and then, uh, the gentleman at the vehicle, um, the two officers shot.

SA Momchilov asked, "Could you tell if that individual fired at all?

Medic Squire replied, "Uh, my recollection, I couldn't tell."

After the shooting, team members eventually made entry into the residence at which point they requested a medic. Medic Squire entered the house "to render patient care." Medic Squire advised, "Unfortunately, the gentleman had expired prior to my arrival."

SA Momchilov asked Medic Squire if had spoken with any other team members about the incident. Medic Squire advised that the team had a crisis intervention debriefing and "that was the most of it" and that no one has asked him to lie or otherwise try to influence his statement.

SA Momchilov asked Medic Squire, "Was there another instance where he may have fired? Do you know?





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Medic Squire replied, "So, talking to other guys, I heard that there was the possibility of another instance where he shot rounds. Um, during that time, we were gassing the house, and we had the .40 millimeters going off. Some say, but I cannot tell you with a fact whether he fired again or not. Medic Squire explained that when he was inside David, "everything's very muffled."

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report.

#### References:

None

#### Attachments:

1. Audio interview with Medic Hyle Squire