



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



2024-1658

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

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Steven Ivaskovic
Involves: Officer Steven Ivaskovic (W)
Activity Date: 06/20/2024
Activity Location: Lake County Sheriff's Office-104 E. Erie Street, Painesville, Ohio
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 Painesville Police Officer Steven Ivaskovic (Officer Ivaskovic). The interview took place at the Lake County Sheriff's Office located at 104 E. Erie Street, Painesville, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Ivaskovic was identified as being a police officer 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. Reportedly, Officer Ivaskovic did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Ivaskovic stated his radio call sign on June 1, 2024, was "Ivaskovic". He has been employed by the Painesville Police Department for about 5 years. Officer Ivaskovic worked part time for Perry Village for approximately a year and a half and worked part time for Willoughby Hills for approximately 3 months. Officer Ivaskovic has been a member of the Lake County Regional SWAT Team for approximately 8 months. During the incident Officer Ivaskovic was wearing O.D. (Olive Drap) green pants and a O.D. shirt. He also wore an external ballistic vest, duty belt and helmet. Officer Ivaskovic was equipped with a pistol and rifle. He stated 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 wear corrective lenses (contacts).

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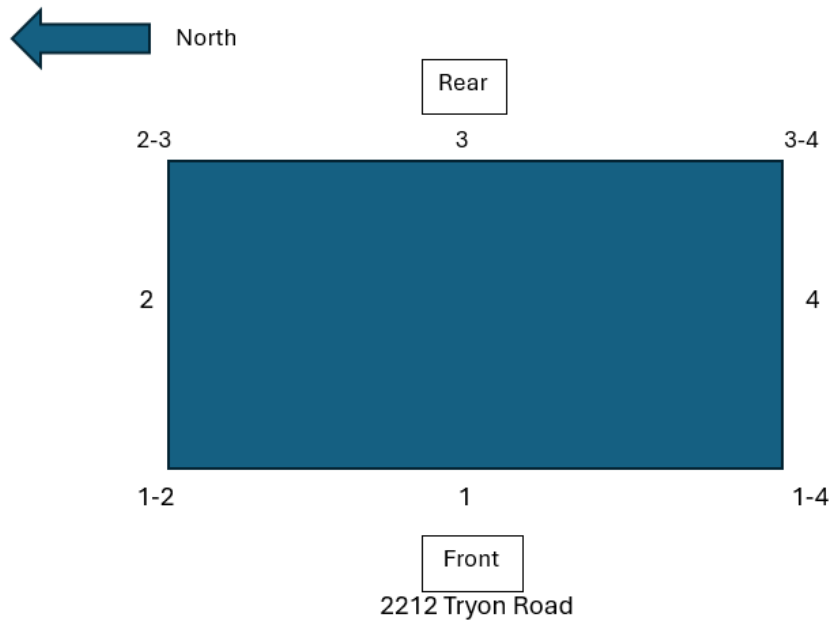
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Precursor Information

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 Officer Ivaskovic if he could explain what led him to the scene and what he observed. Officer Ivaskovic explained that he was notified of the incident and responded to his department and got dressed. Officer Ivaskovic then responded to the staging area near the scene. Once at the staging area, Officer Ivaskovic got into David and was transported to the scene.

Once on scene, David was positioned on the 1-4 corner of the residence.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Ivaskovic if he observed anything during the incident. Officer Ivaskovic stated, "During the incident, I saw the first shot being fired at the Bearcat. Um, I saw the flash bang go off. I saw those go off. I saw the, um, grenade launchers being shot into the house, and that was basically it, that I saw [04:15]."

SA Momchilov replied, "Okay, let's go back to, like, the first incident. You said the first shot? Can you describe what was transpiring during that?" Officer Ivaskovic stated, "So, during that time, I do believe that they had entered or took out the front window, um, and then they saw him standing in the living room, and I do know that he took one shot at it and then I, I was off to the side, so I didn't know everything that was taking place, and I hear over the radio shots fired."

SA Momchilov stated, "Okay. How do you know, you said you knew he fired, how do you know he fired?"

Officer Ivaskovic replied, "It was just a random, it wasn't called out or anything like that. It was just I heard a random boom, so I was kinda taken back by it, I was like was that one of us, and then I hear over the radio shots fired. So, then that's when I knew it wasn't one of us. It was coming from the house, and then I looked at the house, and I saw smoke coming from the house. Kinda from like a shotgun." Officer Ivaskovic stated he did not actually see the individual fire.

SA Momchilov explained to Officer Ivaskovic that it was his understanding a second incident where the individual may have fired again.

Officer Ivaskovic replied, "I only remember the first incident, uh, actually, there was a second incident when they were shooting into the, the, it was three total, so there's the first one with the first shot at the Bearcat, and then they were shooting the, um, 40 Mike Mike into the, um, far right window, and that I believe that was his bedroom, and that's when he had fired out of his bedroom, um, again, um, but the third one I didn't hear the shot for the third one because I was, I was down over here again [05:50]."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Ivaskovic where he was standing during the "second incident." Officer Ivaskovic advised that he was standing by a tree, near the road on the

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1-4 corner. Officer Ivaskovic advised that he did not see the individual fire that time. SA Momchilov asked Officer Ivaskovic how he concluded that the individual fired. Officer Ivaskovic replied, "Shots fired over the radio again." SA Momchilov asked, "Did you hear a bang prior to that?" Officer Ivaskovic replied, "It was kinda hard to tell because they were also shooting the grenade launchers (Tear Gas Launchers) in there."

SA Momchilov stated, "And I guess at some point, I don't know if you're familiar with this, the, the two armored vehicles kind of met up to exchange a gas gun?" Officer Ivaskovic replied that was correct and stated that he was located on the south of the residence, stating "basically right in front of the actual house, for the neighbor's house."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Ivaskovic if he witnessed any portion of the officer-involved shooting.

Officer Ivaskovic replied, "No, 'cause I, it, horrible timing on my part, I went down to go talk to the deputy inside the car, um, and then right as that happened, I heard shots being fired again, and I can tell that they were silenced shots because some, some operators have the, uh, uh, silencers on their guns um, so I knew that was going on, so I looked up, and that's when the shooting was going on."

Officer Ivaskovic advised that he never observed the individual during any portion of the incident.

Officer Ivaskovic stated he was not wearing a body-worn camera during the incident and has not spoken to any other officers about what occurred.

The interview with Officer Ivaskovic was audio recorded. That recording is attached to this investigative report.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Audio interview with Officer Steven Ivaskovic

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