



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: Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 04/21/2026
Activity Location: Harrison County Sheriff's Office - 978 East Market Street,
 Cadiz, OH 43907
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 11:53 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Cadiz Police Department (CPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Kimberly Corral. The interview was audio recorded.

[REDACTED] was provided with the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form. Upon reviewing the form, he signed it and agreed to participate in the interview.

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.

The preliminary demographic information typically obtained during involved officer interviews was not obtained during the interview with [REDACTED]. Attorney Kimberly Corral advised that her client would only answer questions regarding the incident and events of March 30, 2026.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he had reviewed his body worn camera footage from the incident. [REDACTED] reported that he had reviewed it, and that it was mostly in line with his recollection of the incident. He advised that the only major difference from his memory and the footage which was related to his canine partner's actions in the final moments of the encounter.

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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to detail his actions on March 30, 2026, beginning with his initial involvement in the incident:

[REDACTED] recalled being off duty and on his way home when he passed the initial traffic stop that was conducted. As [REDACTED] continued down US 250, somewhere near Tappan Lake, he recalled seeing the vehicle that had been pulled over drive past him in a reckless manner. When [REDACTED] made it to his driveway, he received a phone call from Cadiz Police Department Officer Sweeney. Officer Sweeney informed [REDACTED] that there was an active shooter on US 22 near Hopedale. [REDACTED] called Harrison County Dispatch and asked if he and K9 [REDACTED] were needed on scene. He was informed that they would be needed.

[REDACTED] got dressed in his normal uniform and responded to the scene in a marked Cadiz Police Department vehicle. When [REDACTED] arrived at the US 22 scene, he noted that the vehicle that had passed him earlier while driving erratically was involved in the incident. He identified the vehicle as a blue Dodge SUV with a sticker in the rear window.

When he initially arrived on scene, [REDACTED] was assigned to hold the perimeter. He was also notified at that time that the involved subject, later identified as Michael Decker (Decker), had shot at an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper and fled into the woods. OSHP deployed their Special Response Team (SRT) as well as a variety of aerial assets to assist in searching for Decker. [REDACTED] also recalled some confusion regarding the firearm Decker was allegedly armed with. Initially it was thought that Decker was armed with a revolver as no shell casings were located at the US 250 scene. However, officers located shell casings from a 9mm pistol on US 22. No firearm had been recovered, and it was thought that Decker may have had access to two firearms.

When OSHP SRT arrived, a plan was formulated. They determined that they would conduct a line search of the woods. [REDACTED] and K9 [REDACTED] were attached to the SRT search team. [REDACTED] recalled the following about the initial search:

Um, at that time, you know, we're don't, this guy's been there for several hours. We can't find him on the camera. We're, you know, we know he is armed. We don't know if he's in there to ambush us or, you know, at at what point there. So, we're, you know, pretty nerve wracking as showing up over the hills and stuff and not knowing where he might possibly be. (06:57)

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While [REDACTED] was in the woods with OSHP SRT, a caller contacted law enforcement. They reported that Decker may have stolen a vehicle on Mine Road, and that he may have fired several gunshots from a long gun. This was ultimately determined to be unrelated. During the erroneous search, a person, who claimed to be Decker's brother, was located at a gas station near the search area. [REDACTED] recalled the following information being broadcast over the radio by officer that spoke with Decker's brother:

Um, there was radio communication that they actually located a male claiming to be his brother, and that he had been on the phone with him throughout the pursuit, and that he had basically told him that he wasn't coming out or, or, you know, and that the brother had made a statement that, you know, he was probably armed with a semi-automatic, um, same thing that we carry, uh, uh, P320, SIG P320, um, and that he basically told him his last goodbyes and then his phone's, you know, been off, which was consistent with our attempts to ping his phone and find his location. (08:07)

As time went on, another incident involving Decker occurred. It was related to [REDACTED] that Decker had pointed a firearm at a citizen near a cabin, had stolen a green jacket and sweatpants, and had shaved his facial hair. Following the new intelligence, the OSHP helicopter located Decker in the woods near the cabin.

[REDACTED] made his way out of the initial search area and was transported closer to the area Decker had been located by a Harrison County Deputy. [REDACTED] met with other law enforcement officers near a HUMVEE. There was a laptop live streaming the helicopter video feed. [REDACTED] recalled the following:

And they were just radioing that he was still armed. Uh, he was circling around this tree. Um, I would say we were probably there an hour maybe, maybe more, maybe, you know, somewhere around there. Um, he wasn't dropping the firearm, that he wasn't listening. They were giving commands from the helicopter to, you know, give up and come out. (10:46)

It was ultimately decided that [REDACTED], K9 [REDACTED], and a group of OSHP SRT members would push into the woods in an attempt to apprehend Decker. [REDACTED] believed he may have been the only non-OSHP SRT member involved in the search.

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██████████ recalled that he was the only officer not in full tactical equipment, and that he had the added responsibility of K9 ██████████. He recalled the following about their push into the woods:

We, we don't have a pinpoint, this is the tree. Just, you know, you're going into the woods. So, I'm, you know, at this point I'm constantly staring around like, where's this guy at? You know, he is already shot at two cops, is he gonna start shooting outta nowhere, um, move through the woods and it's super thick and briery and, you know, I was all cut up and, uh, leash tangling around the stuff. (12:21)

██████████ stated that his attention was divided between searching for Decker, and making sure K9 ██████████ stayed on task. He also noted that the only true cover he had was a small shield which he would not fit behind due to his large stature.

██████████ recalled having the following thoughts during the search:

So, um, as we get closer, still don't know exactly where this guy is, you know, the anxiety of like, hey, I know we're getting closer. I know he is got a pistol, so I know that we're in in range, that if he just starts shooting at any point, he could just get lucky and, and, and still hit me or hit one of the other guys. And, you know, um, so scared that, you know, that's gonna happen. Trying to focus on the dog and, and keep eyes out at the same time. (13:17)

██████████ stated that as they approached the tree Decker was behind, he felt that there was a possibility that Decker may have been attempting to set up an ambush:

... hey, that's probably, you know, he didn't wanna leave a tree for, for whatever reason, whether it's a, to me, I, in my head, I'm thinking it's a great ambush point. He is got cover. Like, he doesn't wanna leave that tree for some reason. Whe whether, you know, I know he is in this cabin. I don't know if he got another gun. I don't know if he, you know, it's Harrison County, everybody hunts. And so I don't know what, what the case is. (14:03)

██████████ stated that the woods were dark, he was attempting to keep the dogs quiet, and he did not have the night vision goggles that OSHP SRT had. The OSHP SRT commander asked ██████████ if he could send his dog, and ██████████ advised that there was too much stimulation to do

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so. Shortly after [REDACTED] observed movement behind a nearby tree. [REDACTED] recalled moving to his right to get out of a thicket so that [REDACTED] would have a clear path towards Decker. When [REDACTED] moved to a better deployment spot for K9 [REDACTED], it took him away from any cover, including the ballistic shield. The OSHP SRT team to [REDACTED] left advised that they would be deploying a less lethal munition, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] acknowledged the action by echoing the less lethal command. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] expressed the concerns he had for his safety at that time:

Um, at that point, I'm standing in the middle of, I had no cover. I honestly, tactically it was a bad, bad spot, but, um, so I'm scared that, hey, at any point he can just reach around that tree and, and shoot me right now or shoot one of them. And, and I got no way to, you know, I'm trying to, I'm in no man's land, so I was scared that, you know, I'm, I'm about to get shot and, uh, or they're about to get shot. And, um, I don't know what we're up against. I, I think, I think it's a pistol. You know, I know he shot some rounds. I don't know how many rounds he's got left. I'm, you know, so I'm, I'm at this point it's getting scared that, okay, this is about to happen, you know, and we're super close. (16:19)

[REDACTED] recalled that an OSHP SRT Trooper fired a less lethal projectile at Decker. The OSHP helicopter was keeping watch of Decker and reported that he was still noncompliant and armed with a gun. After the less lethal round was fired, there was a pause in which commands were given to Decker to drop the gun and surrender. He did not comply with those commands. [REDACTED] believed that Decker was still armed and released K9 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] recalled the events after K9 [REDACTED] was released:

So, I, I cut the leash, um, to send [REDACTED] I give him his bite command. Um, he, again, because of the noise and everything, he did not immediately, um, orientate to the tree that the guy was behind. He tried to go to the, the trooper team that was to my right. Um, so at this point now, instead of watching the tree to see if this guy's gonna pop out with a gun, now I'm like, crap, I'm in no man's land. I'm trying to look over here at the dog. I've never worked with these guys. I don't know what they're you know, uh, and I don't know where they're at. You know, when it comes to covering me, whatever I, you know, I'm by myself. I don't have anybody else right there with me. Um, so I'm getting closer because I'm trying to orientate the dog to where he

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needs to go. And, um, so now I'm inching closer as I'm trying to point and say, you know, Stellen, which is his bite command, and pointing toward, you know, behind that tree, behind that tree. And finally at that point, I, um, when I released the leash, I had, you know, I figure I'm standing here, I, I had drew my, uh, service pistol, um, so that I had some type of protection. (18:01)

██████████ began to position himself in a way that he could observe Decker. He described seeing Decker's legs and that Decker had his back pressed against the tree. ██████████ described Decker's actions as follows:

Um, as I was coming around to the right, I could clearly see that he had the pistol in his left hand, and he looked towards me as the gun started coming my way, I was scared he was gonna shoot. So, I, uh, discharged my firearm and, and shot him. And at that point I verbalized gun, gun, gun so that everybody knew there was a gun. And, um, my dog at that point, you know, like I said, this is where the, the camera had clarified to me, I thought he was already on the bite, but he, it was actually just before that. Uh, so my dog had engaged, so I seen that he was laying, you know, fell back behind the tree. So, I closed the distance. (19:29)

██████████ then closed the distance, realized that Decker did not have possession of the firearm any longer, let the other law enforcement on scene know that there was no further threat, holstered his weapon, and removed K9 ██████████ from Decker.

██████████ explained the feelings he experienced leading into the shooting:

Um, yeah, I just remember being, you know, scared that, hey, his, his pistol was, you know, he's already shot. He's not, there's not gonna be a question in his mind. He's been out here for nine hours. He's, he's told his brother that he's not coming outta these woods. Like, I, I know that he's gonna shoot us, you're gonna shoot at us or, or make us, you know, you know, suicide by cop type thing. And, and I just knew that, you know, when he had that gun coming towards us that I, I couldn't give him a chance to, you know, pull the trigger at me. Um, so I, I mean, I feared that, you know, he was either gonna shoot me or shoot someone else, and one of the other officers. (20:46)

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Following the shooting an OSHP SRT team leader instructed [REDACTED] to turn off his body worn camera. [REDACTED] also noted that other officers on scene were attempting to render aid to Decker after the shooting. [REDACTED] was escorted out of the woods where he met with Cadiz Police Department Lieutenant Ron Carter.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he was aware of any pending charges against Decker when the initial search for him took place. [REDACTED] was aware that there were several warrants for Decker, and that BCI was obtaining additional charges related to the shootings involving Decker from earlier in the day.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] where he was aiming when he fired at Decker. He reported the following:

I remember coming around the tree and the, in my head, I, I'm pretty good with a pistol, but I remember, hey, the biggest target because of a, and that was his, his head, um, he was sitting against that tree and everything else was kind of bladed. And I felt that, you know, uhm, that's the biggest thing I have to shoot at. Um, and being that close, you know, that's where initially I was aiming, whether that's, you know, I, I'm not gonna lie to you. I don't know if that's where I initially, you know, actually squeezed the trigger at, or if I drop, you know, my, my sights at that point down. I just know that I never had a bigger target than that. (25:07)

[REDACTED] believed he only fired one shot at Decker.

SA Tingley asked [REDACTED] if he was able to hear the radio traffic from the OSHP helicopter. [REDACTED] noted that he was on the same frequency as the OSHP aviation team.

The interview concluded at approximately 12:21 hours.

After the interview, SA Lamping obtained [REDACTED] Victim's Rights paperwork. [REDACTED] appointed his attorney as his victim's representative. A copy of the paperwork was sent to Attorney Kimberly Corral as well as Harrison County Prosecutor Lauren Knight. A copy of the form was also attached to this report.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice and stored as part of reference item E - Recorded Interviews. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is attached to this report.

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References:

Reference Item E – Recorded Interviews: Subfolder – Law Enforcement Interviews:
Subfolder – File: 2026-04-21: Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
stored on Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. 2026-04-21 - Criminal Investigation Notification - [REDACTED]
2. 2026-04-21 - [REDACTED] VRRF

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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).

X 
Printed Name of Interviewee

x04/21/2026 @ 1154HRS
Date / Time

X 
Signature of Interviewee

SA J. LAMPSON #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

 #184
BCI Agent (Signature)

OHIO VICTIMS' RIGHTS REQUEST FORM

As a victim of crime, you have constitutionally protected rights. **Some rights are automatic. Some rights require your request.**

This form provides important information about your rights. This form is NOT a public record. If you are a victim of an offense of violence, sexually oriented offense, or protection order violation, law enforcement will review this form with you and ask you to complete this form so that criminal justice officials know which rights you wish to exercise. Law enforcement will provide you a copy of the form. These rights also apply to victims of all other criminal offenses. Law enforcement will provide victims of all other offenses information on how to access the form online or provide a printed form, upon request. Complete the form and provide to the law enforcement agency who is investigating. Keep a copy.

Requesting and Enforcing Your Rights

- Page two of this form provides a list of rights that must be requested if you wish to exercise them. It is your choice. You can choose to exercise all, some, or none of your rights.
 - PLEASE NOTE: If you are a victim of a violation of a protection order, an offense of violence, or a sexually oriented offense and you do not complete the form or request your rights at first contact with law enforcement, you will be automatically opted in to all "upon request" rights until you opt out of your rights or are contacted by the prosecutor. Once contacted by a prosecutor, you will no longer be opted in and you must request your rights in order to exercise them.
- You can change your mind at any time about which rights you choose to exercise. However, if you choose not to exercise some rights and then request them later, you may give up some rights that only apply during certain stages of the case. If you change your mind, you must call, email, or complete a new form and return it to the investigating officer, prosecutor, court, prison, jail, or community based correctional facility to ensure officials have updated information on the rights you wish to exercise and updated contact information. You can obtain another Victims' Rights Request Form at ocvjc.org or by calling 614-848-8500.
- **If any of your rights are denied, you may ask the advocate or prosecutor to help, seek enforcement on your own, hire an attorney, or request free legal assistance from Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center at <https://www.ocvjc.org/request-for-assistance> or call 614-848-8500.**
- An online resource to help you understand and exercise all of your rights is the Victims Rights Toolkit, <https://www.ocvjc.org/victims-rights-toolkit>

Appointing a Victim Representative

- You may choose to exercise your rights and/or choose a representative to exercise your rights. A representative can be anyone other than the defendant. You can choose, change, or remove a representative at any time.

Privacy and Safety

- You may be eligible for a protection order. The investigating officer will provide available resources to assist with obtaining a protection order.
- You may use the form on Page 2 to request redaction (removal) of your name, address, and identifying information from public records related to this case. This request does not apply to crash reports submitted to the Ohio Department of Public Safety. You must send a separate request with the pertinent information on your crash (name, date, location) to the Department of Public Safety to request redaction of crash reports found at https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/what-we-do/crash-reports/crash_report_search by emailing traffstats@dps.ohio.gov or calling (614) 466-3536.
- You may be able to keep your address private by obtaining a Safe at Home address. Learn more at <http://www.safeathomeohio.gov> or call 614-995-2255.
- If the defendant, defendant's attorney, or anyone else acting on behalf of the defendant contacts you to talk with you, request an interview, or attempt to obtain any information or materials from you, you have the right to refuse. Immediately contact the prosecutor to let them know you have been contacted. You may also contact <https://www.ocvjc.org/request-for-assistance> or call 614-848-8500.
- You can receive texts, calls, or emails to receive notice of a defendant or offender's release or escape from jail or prison. Register at: <https://www.vinelink.com/#state-selection>

Arraignment

- **Arraignment is a hearing that can happen within a couple days after the defendant is charged with a crime.**
- If you request notification, law enforcement will notify you of the arrest of the defendant and can provide you a phone number for the clerk of the court to get information on the date, time, and location of the arraignment proceeding.
- During arraignment the judge decides whether or not to release the defendant on bond, determines bond conditions, and whether or not to issue a protection order.
- You have the right to attend the arraignment and tell the judge about any safety concerns and your opinion regarding release, bond conditions, and whether or not you would like a protection order.

Compensation and Restitution

- **Crime Victim Compensation Fund:** You may be eligible to apply for reimbursement for certain financial losses relating to your victimization, even if the suspect has not been arrested or convicted. You may apply at: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/individuals-and-families/victims/apply-for-victims-compensation> or call 800-582-2877.
- **Restitution:** Upon conviction, the court must order the offender to pay you for certain financial losses relating to your victimization. It is important to keep a record of all expenses incurred as a result of the crime so that the court can use this information to determine what costs are properly included in an order of restitution. <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/docs/JCS/courtSvc/MarysLAW/SCO-CSD-0002.pdf>

