



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



2025-0151

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 350 South Arch Avenue,
Alliance, Ohio 44601, Stark County

Investigative Activity: Firearms Lab Report Received and Reviewed
Involves: Mason French (S), [REDACTED] (S), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (S), BCI (O)
Activity Date: 03/17/2025
Activity Location: BCI, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, March 17, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (SA Valente) received Ohio BCI Laboratory report(s) for items of evidence submitted on January 24, 2025 for scientific analysis (laboratory case number 25-30587). The report originated from the Firearms section of the laboratory and was authored by Forensic Scientist Jonathan Gardner. The items relevant to this report which had previously been submitted were as follows:

1. Lab item#17, the Beretta pistol used by Mason French (French)
2. Lab item #30, the Palmetto State Armory rifle used by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. Lab item #31, the Bravo Company Mfg. rifle used by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. A collection of cartridge cases, fired bullets, and projectile fragments

SA Valente reviewed the laboratory report and noted the following:

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The Beretta pistol used by French during the incident was linked to six 9mm luger cartridge cases and six fired bullets and bullet jacket fragments. Lab item #28 / Matrix item #30, a small bullet jacket fragment found in the scalp/head hair of the victim, Stacy pride, was matched to French's pistol.

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #17: One (1) Beretta pistol	N/A	Operable
	Items #16, 19-21, 26 & 27: A total of six (6) fired 9mm Luger cartridge cases.	Source Identification
	Items #15, 18, 23-25 & 28: A total of six (6) fired bullets and bullet jacket fragments	Source Identification
	Item #29EB1: One (1) bullet jacket fragment.	Inconclusive*

*Similar class characteristics but insufficient corresponding individual characteristics to identify or exclude.

The Palmetto State Armory rifle used by [REDACTED] was linked to seven fired cartridge cases, one fired bullet, and had similar class characteristics but was not conclusively linked to another bullet fragment. Note the fired bullet linked to [REDACTED] rifle was the bullet removed from the right shoulder of Stacy Pride.

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #30: One (1) Palmetto State Armory rifle	N/A	Operable
	Items #3-6, 8, 9 & 14: A total of seven (7) fired 223 Rem cartridge cases	Source Identification
	Item #35: One (1) fired bullet	Source Identification
	Item #22: One (1) bullet fragment (22EB1)	Inconclusive*

*Similar class characteristics but insufficient corresponding individual characteristics to identify or exclude.

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The Bravo Company Mfg. Rifle used by [REDACTED] was linked to seven fired cartridge cases, one fired bullet and one bullet jacket. Note the bullet jacket linked to [REDACTED] rifle was recovered from the right abdomen of French. The bullet linked to [REDACTED] rifle was recovered from French's left abdomen wall.

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #31: One (1) Bravo Company Mfg. rifle	N/A	Operable
	Items #1, 2, 7 & 10-13: A total of seven (7) fired 223 Rem cartridge cases	Source Identification
	Items #32 & 33: One (1) bullet jacket (32EB1) & one (1) fired bullet	Source Identification
	Item #22: One (1) bullet fragment (22EB1)	Source Exclusion

Note the projectile recovered from French's peritoneal cavity was found to be unsuitable for comparison purposes due to a lack of sufficient reproducible individual detail or other identifying marks.

A copy of the Ohio BCI Laboratory report is attached to this investigative report. Please refer to the attachment for further details.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Firearms Lab Report

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DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Laboratory Report
Firearms

To: BCI / Richfield
Nick Valente
4055 Highlander Parkway
Richfield, OH 44286

BCI Laboratory Number: 25-30587

Analysis Date: February 06, 2025

Issue Date: February 27, 2025

Agency Case Number: 2025-0151

BCI Agent: Larry Hootman

Offense: Shooting Involving an Officer

Subject(s):

Victim(s): Stacy Pride

Submitted on 01/24/2025 by Betsy Farris

1. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 001)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 001)
2. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 002)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 002)
3. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 003)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 003)
4. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 004)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 004)
5. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 005)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 005)
6. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 006)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 006)
7. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 007)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 007)
8. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 008)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 008)
9. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 009)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 009)
10. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 010)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 010)

Please address inquiries to the office indicated, using the BCI case number.

☐ BCI -Bowling Green Office
750 North College Drive
Bowling Green, OH 43402
Phone:(419)353-5603

☐ BCI -London Office
1560 St Rt 56 SW P.O. Box 365
London, OH 43140
Phone:(740)845-2000

☒ BCI -Richfield Office
4055 Highlander Pkwy. Suite A
Richfield, OH 44286
Phone:(330)659-4600

11. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 011)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 011)
12. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 012)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 012)
13. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 013)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 013)
14. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 014)
 - One (1) fired 223 Rem cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 014)
15. Envelope containing bullet (CSU Matrix Item 015)
 - One (1) fired bullet. (CSU Matrix Item 015)
16. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 016)
 - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 016)
17. One cardboard box containing firearm (Serial #NU013539) (CSU Matrix Item 017)
 - One (1) Beretta 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, model BU9 Nano, serial number NU013539, and one (1) magazine. (CSU Matrix Item 017)
18. Envelope containing bullet (CSU Matrix Item 018)
 - One (1) small bullet jacket fragment. (CSU Matrix Item 018)
19. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 020)
 - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 020)
20. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 021)
 - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 021)
21. Envelope containing fired cartridge casing (CSU Matrix Item 023) from kitchen floor of Apt #515
 - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 023) from kitchen floor of Apt #515
22. Envelope containing projectile fragments (CSU Matrix Item 024) from stairway
 - One (1) bullet fragment [22EB1] and one (1) metal fragment [22EB2]. (CSU Matrix Item 024) from stairway
23. Envelope containing projectile (CSU Matrix Item 025) from shoe in entry closet
 - One (1) bullet jacket fragment. (CSU Matrix Item 025) from shoe in entry closet
24. Envelope containing projectile (CSU Matrix Item 026) from wall in entry closet
 - One (1) fired bullet (damaged). (CSU Matrix Item 026) from wall in entry closet
25. Envelope containing projectile (CSU Matrix Item 027) from inside glass cabinet with fire extinguisher
 - One (1) fired bullet. (CSU Matrix Item 027) from inside glass cabinet with fire extinguisher
26. Envelope containing cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 028)
 - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 028)
27. Envelope containing fired cartridge case (CSU Matrix Item 029)
 - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. (CSU Matrix Item 029)
28. Envelope containing bullet fragment (CSU Matrix Item 030)
 - One (1) small bullet jacket fragment. (CSU Matrix Item 030)
29. Envelope containing bullet fragment (CSU Matrix Item 031)
 - One (1) small bullet jacket fragment [29EB1] and one (1) lead fragment [29EB2]. (CSU Matrix Item 031)

30. One cardboard box containing firearm (CSU Matrix Item 032) (Serial [REDACTED])
 - One (1) Palmetto State Armory multi-caliber (223 Rem/5.56x45mm) semi-automatic rifle, model PA-15, serial number [REDACTED] one (1) magazine and twenty-one (21) 223 Rem cartridges. (CSU Matrix Item 032)
31. One cardboard box containing firearm (CSU Matrix Item 033) (Serial # [REDACTED])
 - One (1) Bravo Company Mfrg. multi-caliber (223 Rem/5.56x45mm) semi-automatic rifle, model BCM4, serial number [REDACTED] one (1) magazine and sixteen (16) 223 Rem cartridges. (CSU Matrix Item 033)
32. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 047)
 - One (1) bullet jacket [32EB1] and one (1) lead bullet core [32EB2]. (Matrix Item 047)
33. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 048)
 - One (1) fired bullet. (Matrix Item 048)
34. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 049)
 - One (1) small lead fragment. (Matrix Item 049)
35. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 53)
 - One (1) fired bullet. (Matrix Item 53)

Findings

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #17: One (1) Beretta pistol	N/A	Operable
	Items #16, 19-21, 26 & 27: A total of six (6) fired 9mm Luger cartridge cases.	Source Identification
	Items #15, 18, 23-25 & 28: A total of six (6) fired bullets and bullet jacket fragments	Source Identification
	Item #29EB1: One (1) bullet jacket fragment.	Inconclusive*

*Similar class characteristics but insufficient corresponding individual characteristics to identify or exclude.

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #30: One (1) Palmetto State Armory rifle	N/A	Operable
	Items #3-6, 8, 9 & 14: A total of seven (7) fired 223 Rem cartridge cases	Source Identification
	Item #35: One (1) fired bullet	Source Identification
	Item #22: One (1) bullet fragment (22EB1)	Inconclusive*

*Similar class characteristics but insufficient corresponding individual characteristics to identify or exclude.

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #31: One (1) Bravo Company Mfrg. rifle	N/A	Operable
	Items #1, 2, 7 & 10-13: A total of seven (7) fired 223 Rem cartridge cases	Source Identification
	Items #32 & 33: One (1) bullet jacket (32EB1) & one (1) fired bullet	Source Identification
	Item #22: One (1) bullet fragment (22EB1)	Source Exclusion

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Items #22EB2, 29EB2, 32EB2 & 34: One (1) metal fragment (22EB2), one (1) lead fragment (29EB2), one (1) lead core (32EB2) & one (1) small lead fragment (34)	N/A	Unsuitable^

^Insufficient class and/or individual characteristics present.

Remarks

Four (4) submitted cartridges from each of Items #30 & 31 were used for testing.

Items #22EB2, 29EB2, 32EB2 & 34 [described above] were determined to be unsuitable for comparison purposes due to a lack of sufficient reproducible individual detail or other identifying marks; therefore, no further conclusions could be made.

All evidence will be returned to the submitting agency.

Analytical Detail

Analytical findings offered above were determined using visual, physical, and microscopic examinations / comparisons.



Jonathan P. Gardner
Forensic Scientist
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Based on scientific analyses performed, this report contains opinions and interpretations by the analyst whose signature appears above. Examination documentation and any demonstrative data supporting laboratory conclusions are maintained by BCI and will be made available for review upon request. Results relate only to the items tested.

Your feedback is important to us! Please complete our Laboratory Satisfaction Survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q9VQHL5>

Comparison Conclusion Scale

The following lists the conclusions a Forensic Scientist may reach when performing comparisons. In reaching a conclusion, a Forensic Scientist considers the similarities and dissimilarities and assesses the relative support of the observations under the following two propositions: the evidence originated from the same source or from a different source.

A Forensic Scientist may utilize their knowledge, training, and experience to evaluate how much support the observed similarities or dissimilarities provide for one conclusion over another. A conclusion shall not be communicated with absolute certainty. It is an interpretation of observations made by the Forensic Scientists and shall be expressed as an expert opinion.

1	Source Identification	The observations provide extremely strong support for the proposition that the evidence originated from the same source and the likelihood for the proposition that the evidence arose from a different source is so remote as to be considered a practical impossibility.
2	Support for Same Source	The observations provide more support for the proposition that the evidence originated from the same source rather than different sources; however, there is insufficient support for a Source Identification. The degree of support may range from limited to strong or similar descriptors of the degree of support. Any use of this conclusion shall include a statement of the factor(s) limiting a stronger conclusion.
3	Inconclusive	The observations do not provide a sufficient degree of support for one proposition over the other. Any use of this conclusion shall include a statement of the factor(s) limiting a stronger conclusion.
4	Support for Different Source	The observations provide more support for the proposition that the evidence originated from different sources rather than the same source; however, there is insufficient support for a Source Exclusion. The degree of support may range from limited to strong or similar descriptors of the degree of support. Any use of this conclusion shall include a statement of the factor(s) limiting a stronger conclusion.
5	Source Exclusion	The observations provide extremely strong support for the proposition that the evidence originated from a different source and the likelihood for the proposition that the evidence arose from the same source is so remote as to be considered a practical impossibility; or the evidence exhibits fundamentally different characteristics

We invite you to direct your questions to:
Abby Schwaderer, Quality Assurance Manager
(740) 845-2517
abby.schwaderer@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

Jon Gardner
Statement of Qualifications
jon.gardner@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

Education

- Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. May 1994. University of Rochester. Rochester, NY.
- Master's degree in Forensic Science. May 1998. University of New Haven. New Haven, CT.

Professional Experience

- Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Forensic Scientist. 1999 – present.
- Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Forensic Science Coordinator. 2004 – 2011, 2012 – 2018.

Selected Specialized Training

- Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Firearm & Toolmark Examiner Training. 1999.

Memberships

- Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) – Provisional Member. 2005.
- Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) – Regular Member. 2010.

A complete CV can be made available upon request

Updated: April 1, 2024