



2023-2210 Officer Involved Critical Incident -Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Howland Township Police Department-Body-Worn Camera Footage Activity Date: August 24, 2024 Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) obtained body-worn camera footage from the Howland Police Department.

SA Momchilov was provided a total of nine body-worn camera footage clips. Four of the clips were taken hours prior to the shooting, those clips captured Howland Township Police Department's initial response to the scene.

Five of the clips were taken after the shooting.

Disclaimer: The author of this report documented the information he felt was most relevant. Not every detail observed or heard on the body-worn camera footage is documented. The reader of this investigative report is encouraged to review all body-worn camera footage clips in their entirety for further details and clarification.

Prior to the shooting

Officer Brian McDaniels

08-22-2023 20:24:25 to 20:54:25	23_07011-202308291048213762
Officer Nicholas Brancaccio	
08-22-2023 20:24:47 to 20:54:26	23_07011-202308291242553601
08-22-2023 20:54:33 to 21:24:33	23_07011-202308291246539410
08-22-2023 21:24:33 to 21:47:50	23_07011-202308291249164080





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Officer Brian McDaniels

08-22-2023 20:24:25 to 20:54:25 23_07011-202308291048213762



The body-worn camera footage begins with Officer McDaniels exiting his cruiser with his rifle. Officer McDaniels cruiser is parked a few houses away from



Approximately 50 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is observed approaching and taking cover behind a vehicle in the driveway. Moments later, Officer McDaniels radios dispatch asking if dispatch could get the caller back on the phone for "an update." Officer Brancaccio is then heard stating "Hey, front window, front window."

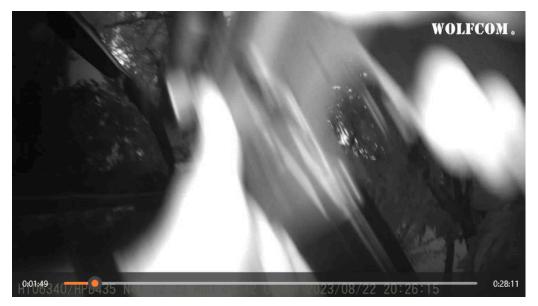


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Approximately 1 minute and 13 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio is heard stating, "Hey, he's this window, he's got a shotgun, okay." Officer McDaniels then stated over the radio, "35, confirmed, we can see him through the window, he does have a shotgun." Moments later officers are heard giving commands for Fife to come out of the residence with his hands up.



Approximately 1 minute and 49 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard saying, "Backdoor, backdoor."



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Approximately 2 minutes into the footage, officers are seen running back to their cruisers.



Approximately 2 minutes and 8 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard saying, "Make good cover, he does have a gun -inaudible-." Officer McDaniels is then observed entering his cruiser and moving it to the front of





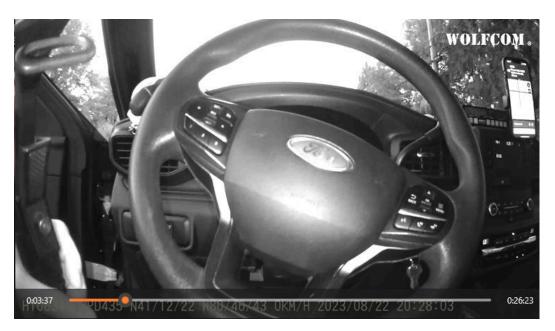
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Approximately 2 minutes and 35 seconds into the footage, dispatch is heard broadcasting, "421, we're on 911 with the sister again, she says the mom and the younger brother are still barricaded in the back bedroom. I still have an open line with the girlfriend upstairs but she's not talking at all."

Approximately 2 minutes and 45 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio replies to dispatch, "Ah, we see him walking around the living room. He's not responding to commands."

Approximately 3 minutes and 7 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard yelling, "Randall."

Approximately 3 minutes and 20 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard telling another officer, "Yeah, he does have a shotgun."



Approximately 3 minutes and 37 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels enters his cruiser. Officer McDaniels is then heard over the cruiser's P.A. (Public Address) system stating, "Randall, step outside with your hands up, buddy. Put the shotgun down. Randall it's the police department, come out of the house with your hands up."

Approximately 4 minutes and 9 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard stating, "Front window."





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Approximately 4 minutes and 14 seconds into the footage, dispatch is heard broadcasting, "Okay, per the sister, the mom is somehow, I think she is trying to text message the girlfriend upstairs to possibly climb out the upstairs window." Officers then request the fire department stage, nearby.

Approximately 5 minutes and 40 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard stating over the P.A. system, "Randall it's the police department, come out with your hands up."

Approximately 5 minutes and 51 seconds into the footage, dispatch broadcasted, "Okay, talking to the girlfriend again and she says there is a window upstairs, has an air conditioning in it. She doesn't want to try it; she might make too much noise. She said she's hiding underneath her bed now."



Approximately 6 minutes and 44 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels broadcasted on the P.A. system, "Randall, it's the police department. Come out with your hands up. Put any weapons you have down."

Approximately 7 minutes and 4 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels broadcasted, "Randall it's the police department. Come out with your hands up."

Approximately 8 minutes and 56 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels requested the "girlfriend's phone number" from dispatch."



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Approximately 9 minutes and 37 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels attempts to call the "girlfriend" but is unsuccessful.



Approximately 10 minutes and 4 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is observed moving his position to the back yard of a nearby property. Officer McDaniels then meets with another officer.

Approximately 10 minutes and 58 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio is heard requesting dispatch find a phone number for the residence

Officer Brancaccio then requested that dispatch attempt to make contact and have the residents evacuate their house, through the front door.

Approximately 12 minutes and 10 seconds into the footage, officers note that lights are turned on, towards the back of the house.

Approximately 12 minutes and 43 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels reenters his cruiser. Officer McDaniels then begins broadcasting over the P.A. system, "Randall Fife, it's the police department, come out with your hands up." Moments later, Officer McDaniels broadcasted over the P.A. system, "Randall Fife, it's the police department. Come out with your hands up."

Approximately 13 minutes and 1 second into the footage, Officer Brancaccio is heard asking dispatch for a phone number for Randall Fife.

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Approximately 14 minutes and 6 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels broadcasted over the P.A. system, "Randall Fife, come out of the house with your hands up."

Approximately 15 minutes and 46 seconds into the footage, after dispatch provides officers with Fife's phone number, Officer McDaniels calls Fife. Approximately 16 minutes into the footage, Fife answers Officer McDaniels' phone call.

Fife: Hello Officer McDaniels: Hey Randall Fife: Hello Officer McDaniels: Hey Randall, it's the police department. Fife: What? Officer McDaniels: It's the police department, Randall. Fife: What do you want? Officer McDaniels: What's going on in there? Fife: I think you know what's going on in here, man. Officer McDaniels: Okay, are you doing okay Randall? Fife: Yeah, no, I'm doing good. Officer McDaniels: Tell me what's happening inside the house.

At approximately 16 minutes and 29 seconds into the footage, Fife hangs up the phone.

Approximately 19 minutes and 26 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels is heard saying, "Back of the house. Hey, there is yelling at the back of the house."

Approximately 19 minutes and 48 seconds into the footage, dispatch asks Officer Brancaccio if he wants CRT (Crisis response team) activated. Officer Brancaccio responded, "Affirm."

Approximately 20 minutes and 31 seconds into the footage, an officer asked Officer McDaniels what led up to this incident. Officer McDaniels responded, "Randall Fife has mental issues, **Mathematical and his brother's girlfriend called in and said that he has a shotgun and basically holding everybody hostage and**."

Officer McDaniels also explained, "When we got here, Niko (Officer Brancaccio) and I approached the house, behind that tree and car and could see him walk past with what looked like a shotgun in his hands and he turned off lights and closed curtains."

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Approximately 21 minutes and 10 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels stated, "I guess there is more than a shotgun in the house. There's another, I guess there's a couple handguns and shotguns, and I know he likes knifes, so, I'm not really worried about the knives at this point."

Approximately 21 minutes and 40 seconds into the footage, dispatch asks Officer Brancaccio if he wanted to try to have "mom and little brother' who were barricaded in the first-floor bedroom to try and escape through a window. Officer Brancaccio replied, "Negative, we don't know where Randall is out, so we can't tell them where they can get out and be safe at. He shut the blinds on use, we have no sight lines."

Approximately 22 minutes and 27 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels stated, "What we do know, he will definitely pull the trigger."

Approximately 25 minutes and 11 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels broadcasted over the P.A. system, "Randall Fife, it's the police department. Come out with your hands up." Moments later, Officer McDaniels broadcasted over the P.A. system, "Mr. Fife, it's the police department. Come out with your hands up."

Approximately 27 minutes and 51 seconds into the footage, it appears that a Mahoning Valley Reginal Crisis Team (MVRCT) member arrives on scene. Officer McDaniels explains, "We got a call, it's a mental family, Randall Fife's his name. There was an argument, he has a shotgun, he's having a moment for two people barricaded upstairs under a bed. Two people barricaded downstairs. I believe there's other firearms in the house. There's mention of a handgun. I've tried to call him on the phone. So, when we arrived, we came up to this tree and this SUV, he walked by with what looked like a shotgun in his hands, closed the curtain, shut off the lights. I tried to call him on the phone, and he said, 'I think you know what's going on' and hung up on me."



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Approximately 29 minutes and 55 seconds into the footage, Officer McDaniels begins running. Moments later, Officer McDaniels' body-worn camera shuts off.

Officer Nicholas Brancaccio

08-22-2023 20:24:47 to 20:54:26 23_07011-202308291242553601



The body-worn camera footage begins with Officer Brancaccio outside of his cruiser, with his rifle.



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Approximately 28 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio and Officer McDaniels are observed approaching

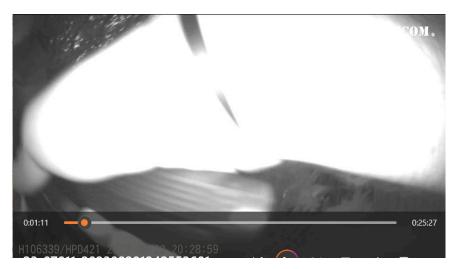


Approximately 56 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio is heard stating, "Hey front window, front window."



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Approximately 1 minutes and 11 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio can be heard stating, ""Hey, he's this window, he's got a shotgun, okay." Moments later Officer McDaniels is heard, broadcasting to dispatch, "35, confirmed, we can see him through the window, he does have a shotgun." Officer McDaniels is then heard ordering Fife to come out of the residence, with his hands up.

Approximately 1 minute and 40 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio is heard requesting that dispatch contact units, "401 and 402."



Approximately 1 minute and 54 seconds into the footage, officers began backing away from the house. Officer Brancaccio requested that Officer McDaniels pull a cruiser to the front of



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Approximately 2 minutes and 29 seconds into the footage, dispatch broadcasted, "421, we're on 911 with the sister again, she says the mom and the younger brother are still barricaded in the back bedroom. I still have an open line with the girlfriend upstairs but she's not talking at all. Moments later, Officer Brancaccio replies to dispatch, "Ah, we see him walking around the living room. He's not responding to commands."

Approximately 3 minutes and 5 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio states, "See those red shutters? I'm going to light it up. That's where he's walking left and right too, with something in his arm. Another officer askes, "Is it a confirm shotgun?" Officer Brancaccio replied, "Looked like it to me. He was busting something up in that back right window."

Approximately 4 minutes and 11 seconds into the footage, dispatch advises, "Okay, per the sister the mom is somehow, I think she is trying to text message the girlfriend upstairs to possibly climb out the upstairs window." Officer Brancaccio then requested the fire department stage, nearby.

Approximately 5 minutes and 48 seconds into the footage, dispatch states, "Okay, talking to the girlfriend again and she says there is a window upstairs, has an air conditioning in it. She doesn't want to try it; she might make too much noise. She said she's hiding underneath her bed now." Officer Brancaccio requested dispatch ask "the girlfriend" if she could say what side of the house she was on. Moments later, dispatched advised that it was the "It's the front window, in the front of the house."





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Approximately 10 minutes and 57 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio requested that dispatch located a phone number for the residence at 3659 Highlawn Ave and request that the residents evacuate out the front door.

Approximately 13 minutes and 37 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio asks dispatch if they have a phone number for Fife.

Approximately 14 minutes and 20 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio explained to another officer, "We saw him, shut the blinds on us. We saw him, it looked like he had a shotgun in his hand. We have a couple barricaded inside. Trying to make contact, we haven't heard anything..."

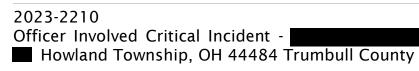
Approximately 17 minutes 23 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio received a phone call from the Howland Police Chief.

Approximately 19 minutes and 44 seconds into the footage, dispatch asked Officer Brancaccio if he would like CRT activated. Officer Brancaccio responded, "Affirm."

Approximately 20 minutes and 38 seconds into the footage, dispatch broadcasted, "Okay, mom just sent the sister a text that she wanted to leave where she was hiding in the bedroom to go and try to talk to him. She is advised to stay put where she is in the room."

Approximately 21 minutes and 35 seconds into the footage, dispatch asks Officer Brancaccio if he wanted to try to have "mom and little brother' who were barricaded in the first-floor bedroom to try and escape through a window. Officer Brancaccio replied, "Negative, we don't know where Randall is out, so we can't tell them where they can get out and be safe at. He shut the blinds on use, we have no sight lines."









The body-worn camera footage begins with Officer Brancaccio asking an unknown individual if they know who resides in nearby houses.

Approximately 5 minutes and 37 seconds into the footage, dispatch broadcasted, "Okay, the mom just sent a text message to the sister, she can hear Randall saying out loud 'It's always the good ones that have to die.' Mom heard him say that now and she can hear him crying."



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Approximately 7 minutes and 23 seconds into the footage, Officer Brancaccio met with other officers. Officer Brancaccio was asked how the call originated. Officer Brancaccio explained, "Came out that, it was a disturbance call. They said that he was acting crazy, threatening them, and then another call came out, said he had a gun, going around the house. Then it came out that **Second** had a gun, so, from what we were told, Randall has a shotgun and either **Second** or mom is barricaded upstairs, has some type of firearm too."

Another officer added, "**Example** s girlfriend is barricaded upstairs under a bed."

Officer McDaniels explained that when they arrived, they approached the house, they observed Fife with what appeared to be a shotgun. Fife then closed the blinds and shut off the lights.

Approximately 17 minutes and 59 seconds into the footage, dispatch broadcasted, "Okay, mom just texted the sister that she can hear him talking -inaudible-talking about God, Jesus, -inaudible- but it sounds like he's in the back bedroom, which is going to be mom's bedroom, closest to the back porch window, to the right, is where the bedroom is at she's in, correction, that he is in, that's going to be mom's bedroom."

Approximately 21 minutes into the footage, dispatch broadcasted, "401 be advised, Randall just told the mom through the door to say where she was at."





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Approximately 22 minutes and 24 seconds into the footage, dispatch broadcasted that she was still on the phone with "the girlfriend." The girlfriend stated that she wedged herself underneath the bed and that she would not be able to get out of that position without assistance.

08-22-2023 21:24:33 to 21:47:50 23_07011-202308291249164080

Nothing extraordinarily relevant is observed in the clip.

After the shooting

08-23-2023 06:39:52 to 07:09:51 23_07011-202308291253199961



Approximately 50 seconds into the footage, ambulances and medics are requested toward



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Approximately 1 minute and 37 seconds into the footage, it appears that medics are tending to Officer



Approximately 4 minutes and 43 seconds into the footage, Fife's family members are observed being escorted from the residence.





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08-23-2023 07:09:52 to 07:39:51 23_07011-202308291256088437

The footage captures the officer speaking with **sector and** and transporting her to the police department.

08-23-2023 07:39:51 to 08:0951 23_07011-202308291259405540

The footage captures the officer at the Howland Police Department. The footage does contain conversation between the officer and

08-23-2023 08:09:51 to 08:24:02 23_07011-202308291259405540

The footage captures the officer at the Howland Police Department. The footage does contain conversation between the officer and

08-23-2023 08:55:55 to 09:00:34 23_07011-202308291259405540

The footage captures the officer at the Howland Police Department. The footage does contain conversation between the officer and

All of the Howland Township Police Department body-worn camera footage was placed onto a DVD; the DVD was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item H.

<u>ltems</u>

H-Howland Township Body-Worn Camera Footage

- 08-22-2023 20:24:25 to 20:54:25 23_07011-202308291048213762
- 08-22-2023 20:24:47 to 20:54:26 23_07011-202308291242553601
- 08-22-2023 20:54:33 to 21:24:33
 23_07011-202308291246539410
- 08-22-2023 21:24:33 to 21:47:50 23_07011-202308291249164080
- 08-23-2023 06:39:52 to 07:09:51 23_07011-202308291253199961
- 08-23-2023 07:09:52 to 07:39:51 23_07011-202308291256088437
- 08-23-2023 07:39:51 to 08:0951 23_07011-202308291259405540
- 08-23-2023 08:09:51 to 08:24:02 23_07011-202308291259405540
- 08-23-2023 08:55:55 to 09:00:34 23_07011-202308291259405540