



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



2025-2000
Officer Involved Critical Incident - Tiedeman Road at I-480
West, Brooklyn, OH 44144, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Officer Thomas Desmarteau
Activity Date: 06/24/2025
Activity Location: Tiedeman Road at I-48 West Exit Ramp
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 1716 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) interviewed Parma Police Department (PPD) Thomas Desmarteau (Desmarteau), who was also the Assistant SWAT Commander for SEB (Southwest Enforcement Bureau) Central. The interview took place in SA Fletcher's vehicle which was parked in the roadway on the I-480 West exit ramp near Tiedeman Road. The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Desmarteau was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 24, 2025, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of Tiedeman Road and I-480 West in Brooklyn, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Desmarteau did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Desmarteau has been employed by the Parma Police Department (PPD) for about twenty-five years. He has been a police officer for a total of twenty-five years. He has also been a member of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) SWAT team, where he most recently served as the Assistant Commander for SEB Central. During the incident, Officer Desmarteau wore a blue PHPD t-shirt and black tactical-style pants. He also wore an external ballistic vest with "police" written on it and a tactical helmet. His vest had a police badge affixed to it. While responding to the scene, he drove an unmarked black Chevy Silverado 1500 truck equipped with emergency lights and a siren. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. 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.

On the morning of the incident, Officer Desmarteau was completing numerous tasks related to his duties as range master and Assistant SWAT Commander. During that time, he heard radio traffic about a traffic crash that occurred after the vehicle pursuit

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that had taken place between the Parma Heights Police Department and the involved subject, Patrick Kerr (Kerr). Officer Desmarteau recalled hearing additional traffic that Kerr had a gun to his head. It should be noted that Officer Desmarteau was unaware of Kerr's identity during the duration of the interview and did not refer to him by name.

After a period of time, Officer Desmarteau was requested to respond to the incident location to assist with command staffing.

At approximately 1402 hours, Officer Desmarteau arrived on scene and parked his unmarked police vehicle on the bridge just south of the incident location. He observed three armored SWAT vehicles and three tactical teams positioned within and behind the vehicles. Officer Desmarteau described all officers as being behind or within "hard cover."

When Officer Desmarteau arrived, the weather conditions were very hot, daylight, and overcast.

Officer Desmarteau took a position on the left side of a "Brooklyn, Ohio" sign that was located on the east side of Tiedeman Road near the I-480 West exit ramp to Tiedeman Road. Also positioned there was SEB SWAT marksman observer, [REDACTED] Officer Desmarteau stood behind [REDACTED].

From his position behind the Brooklyn, Ohio sign, Officer Desmarteau could hear officers on scene providing several dozen commands to Kerr. When asked what some of the commands included, Officer Desmarteau stated, "Don't do it. Put the gun down. Uh, we want to help you. Um, gosh, they ran the whole gamut of, um, we're here to help. Uh, um, you need water, we'll get you water. Um, and at one point we did" [5:45].

Officer Desmarteau described Kerr as being very irate. Kerr's behavior was apparent to Officer Desmarteau based upon the yelling and the tone and inflection of his voice. Officer Desmarteau heard Kerr make numerous statements, such as "he was Sorry, um, sorry that you have to do this, and that's when we kept tell him, we don't want to do this. It's not worth it. Um, I'm sorry to make you do this. I heard him say, sorry, you have to do this. Um, he did say sorry, he was, he, he was sorry several times. And, uh, in, in some combination of form of that, we were gonna have to do something" [5:46].

Eventually, Officer Desmarteau heard the SWAT Commander give authorization to utilize less lethal munitions, which he believed to be chemical munitions. At that time, Officer Desmarteau moved further back behind the sign and began "peeking" out from the right side of the sign.

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At this time, Officer Desmarteau began taking photos and video recordings of the incident. For additional information, refer to the Investigative Report titled *2025-07-08: Cellphone Video Review - Officer Desmarteau*.

Officer Desmarteau observed Kerr exiting his vehicle with a gun pointed at his (Kerr's) head.

Officer Desmarteau then heard multiple rounds of less-lethal munitions being fired and ducked behind cover. He did not observe Kerr being struck. Moments later, Officer Desmarteau looked out from behind the sign and observed Kerr "sitting" in front of his truck. Officer Desmarteau could only see Kerr's legs and believed he was likely in a seated position.

Officer Desmarteau then heard radio traffic from officer stating they needed to check the "status" of Kerr. Officers then approached Kerr's location and began rendering aid. EMS was requested and Kerr was transported.

Officer Desmarteau was unaware that Kerr had been shot by an officer until he moved to the left side of the Brooklyn, Ohio sign and observed a spent cartridge casing lying on the ground near [REDACTED]. Officer Desmarteau did not hear any gunfire during the incident; he only recalled the distinct sound of less lethal munitions being fired.

Officer Desmarteau did not fire his gun during the incident due to his position. He was behind numerous officers.

Officer Desmarteau feared for the safety of officers who were on scene and in close proximity to Kerr.

The interview concluded at approximately 1736 hours.

The interview was audio recorded, and the recording has been saved to Axon Justice as Reference Item J.

References:

Reference Item J - Witness Officer Interviews - Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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