



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



2023-1835

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 114 North Ninth St., Byesville, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Processing of Crime Scene  
Activity Date: July 11, 2023  
Activity Location: 114 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Byesville, Ohio 43723  
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cassandra Tackett

On July 11, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to assist the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) with an officer involved critical incident. It was reported that the GCSO, along with the Byesville Police Department (BPD), had responded to a call of a suicidal male at the above address and had a several hours long standoff. The male, identified as Jeremiah Wise (Wise), reportedly walked out of the front door of the residence toward officers with a firearm, and officers discharged their weapons. Medics were on standby in the area and provided aid to Wise, who later died from his injuries at the hospital. Special Agent (SA) Cassandra Tackett, SA Aja Chung, and SA Mathew Austin responded.

SA Austin responded to the GCSO and documented each involved officer and their duty pistols through photography. GCSO Deputy ██████████ had on a black, short sleeve, battle dress style uniform (BDU) with deputy sheriff patches on his sleeves and an external load bearing ballistic vest. The vest had a name tag, badge, and read "Sheriff" across the back in yellow lettering. Deputy ██████████ was also wearing a GCSO ball cap and body camera on the front of his vest. He fired his department issued handgun during the shooting, and it was secured at the scene. He was issued a replacement Glock 17, and this weapon was documented through photography only.

BPD ██████████ had on dark blue BDU style pants and short sleeve shirt with no department patches. He wore a drop leg pistol holster and a ballistic plate carrier that read "Police" on the front and back in white lettering. His duty pistol was a .40 caliber Glock 22 and it was not fired during the shooting. ██████████ used a rifle during the shooting, and it was secured on scene.

BPD Auxiliary Officer ██████████ had on a dark blue, short sleeve, BDU style uniform with department patches on his sleeves and an external load bearing ballistic vest with badge and name tag. The back of his vest read "Police" in white lettering. He was also wearing a body camera. His duty pistol, a 9mm Glock 45, was not fired during the shooting. Aux. Officer ██████████ also used a rifle during the shooting, and it was secured at the scene.

SA Chung arrived at the shooting scene and documented and collected the involved officers' weapons; which were found secured in the back seat of GCSO cruiser #2003. The table below details those items.

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Item #	Item Description	Involved Officer
1	Glock 17 9mm pistol (S/N: [REDACTED], unloaded, with one cartridge from the chamber and six cartridges in the magazine. Cartridge headstamp "FC 9mm Luger" Found with two additional full capacity magazines	GCSO Dep. [REDACTED]
2	Smith & Wesson M&P 15 rifle (S/N: [REDACTED] with EO Tech optics, unloaded with one cartridge from chamber and 23 cartridges from magazine	BPD Aux. Officer [REDACTED]
3	Smith & Wesson M&P 15 rifle (S/N: [REDACTED] with EO Tech optics, unloaded with no magazine	BPD [REDACTED]

It was later reported that [REDACTED] took his rifle magazine with him to the hospital, where it was turned over to GCSO Sergeant Bill Patterson. Sergeant Patterson turned the magazine over to SA Tackett while on scene, and it was collected as item 11. The magazine had 26 cartridges loaded in it, with a 30-round capacity.

SA Tackett arrived on scene at approximately 2254 hours and a search warrant for the residence had yet to be obtained. The area surrounding the scene had been marked with yellow Sheriff's tape and several cruisers had their emergency lights activated. The residence was located on the southeast corner of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Pearl Avenue. It was a white two-story house, with a brown wooden façade on the front main level. There was a small covered cement porch extending out from the front door. Two vehicles were parked in front of the house. SA Tackett was advised the search warrant was signed at approximately midnight, and began to document the scene through photography. SA Chung used a Leica 3D scanner to collect measurements of the scene.



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Investigative Report



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*Image 1. 114 N 9th St. Byesville, OH*

Fired cartridge casings had been previously marked in the roadway with small pieces of paper. In the intersection of Pearl Avenue and North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, five 9mm casings were located, all with headstamps of "FC 9mm Luger." They were collected together as item 4. A single 9mm casing (item 5), also with a headstamp of "FC 9mm Luger," was located on the windshield of GCSO cruiser # [REDACTED] which was parked in the middle of the intersection. Three rifle casings, all with a headstamp of "Hornady 223 REM," were identified near Byesville cruiser # [REDACTED] which was west of the residence. They were collected together as item 6. North of the residence, three additional rifle casings were located via metal detector in a gravel parking space (item 10). The casings also had a headstamp of "Hornady 223 REM." It was reported that a Crown Victoria police vehicle was parked in this area during the shooting.

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Investigative Report



2023-1835

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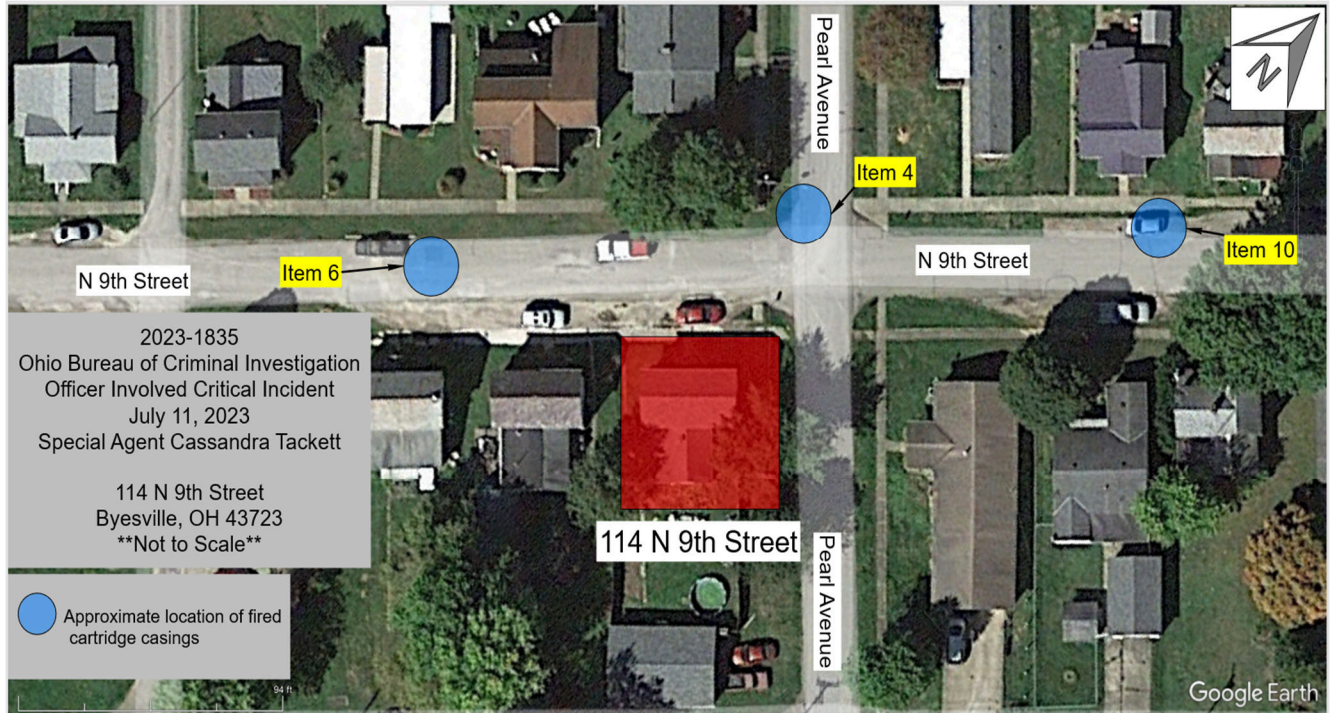


Image 2. Diagram of fired casing locations

The two-story residence consisted of a master bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room on the first floor. Two bedrooms on the second floor were decorated and contained items for young children. There were no evidentiary items located on the second floor. SA Tackett observed suspected bloodstains on the front porch area. The front door and screen door were both found open, and the screen door's glass was completely shattered, but intact. In the living room, suspected blood and signs of medical intervention were present. A black cell phone was collected from this area as item 8. A black Rock Island Armory STK 100 9mm handgun (S/N: RIA2512065) was found next to the open front door. The gun was found loaded, with one cartridge in the chamber and 11 cartridges in the seated magazine. The cartridges all had a headstamp of "WIN 9mm Luger."

In the master bedroom, a box of Winchester ammunition (item 13) was found on a shelf next to a broken northwest facing window. A small Rock Island Armory pistol case, with the same serial number as item 7, was found in a dresser drawer and documented through photography. The kitchen trashcan was found stacked high with beer cans and there were a multitude of open beer cans on the kitchen table. On the floor near the kitchen table, two cartridges with headstamps of "WIN 9mm Luger" (item 9) were located.

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*Image 3. Rock Island Armory handgun found next to front door*

SA Tackett observed multiple ballistic events (BE's) to the front exterior of the house and were labeled as BE 1-15. All BE's appeared to travel from the exterior to the interior of the residence. There were three misshaped holes that were labeled BE 1 through BE 3 and all were located on the front master bedroom window to the northeast of the front door. BE 4 was caused by a projectile that traveled in a southwesterly direction. The defect had a lead-in mark and caused damaged to the wood exterior. BE 4 was located between the master bedroom window and front door. BE 5 was a misshaped hole with the metal pushed inward and it was located near the ground into the bottom portion of the residence. BE 6 and BE 7 were a round penetrating holes that splintered the wood façade. They were located between the front master bedroom window and the front porch area. BE 8 was a round penetrating round hole into the wood façade. A projectile was recovered from the event and collected as item 14. There were two misshaped holes located above the mailbox that were labeled BE 9 and BE 10. An oval shaped perforating hole was observed in the mailbox and labeled BE 11. The projectile caused the metal to be pushed inward and continue on to the wood frame of the front door. The projectile created a misshaped hole and was labeled BE 11.1. Two defects were located on the front screen door. BE 12 was a round perforating hole into the glass of the door. The impact caused radial and concentric fractures and exited at BE 12.1. BE 13 was a misshaped hole on the frame of the door that caused radial

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Investigative Report



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fractures to the glass and exited at 13.1. BE 14 was located near address numbers that were affixed to the house. The defect was a round penetrating hole into the wood façade that caused the wood to splinter. BE 15 was perforating misshaped hole with a lead-in mark that appeared to travel in a southwest direction. No projectiles were recovered from BE's 1-7 and BE's 9-15.



*Image 4. Several BE's located between the master bedroom window and front door*

A bag with items taken from Wise's body at the hospital were brought to the scene by GCSO Deputy Mark Fehr and turned over to SA Tackett. The bag contained cut, bloody clothing which consisted of a pair of black underwear, a pair of dark blue shorts, and a brown leather wallet. The wallet contained an Ohio Identification card for Wise, several cards with his name, and \$43 cash. All items, along with the original packaging, were collected as item 12.

Agents left an inventory of what was taken from the house, along with a copy of the search warrant inside the living room. Agents cleared the scene at 0415 hours on July 12, 2023.

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SA Tackett traveled to the Athens BCI office after clearing the scene on July 12, 2023. She placed item 12 into drying cabinet 'B' and secured it at 0735 hours. She also secured the remaining evidence in temporary locker 'Long' at 0737 hours.

On July 13, 2023, SA Chung picked up two items of evidence from the Licking County Coroner's Office at 1520 hours.

On July 14, 2023, SA Tackett retrieved item 12 from the Athens BCI drying cabinet 'B' at 0957 hours. She then retrieved all other items of evidence from the temporary locker 'Long' at 1006 hours and transported all evidence items to the London BCI office.

SA Tackett received two pieces of evidence from SA Chung at 1204 hours (Scene 2). They consisted of a small silver colored piece of metal, possibly a medical staple (item 1), and a copper colored metal projectile jacket found during Wise's autopsy (item 2). These items were both received in sealed envelopes, initialed by Dr. Lee with the Licking County Coroner's Office. Items 1 and 2 were placed into separate 5x7 envelopes affixed with BCI evidence labels.

Items 1-7, 10-11, and 14 (Scene 1) were submitted to London Evidence Receiving on this date. Items 8-9 and 12-13 from scene 1, and items 1-2 from scene 2, were placed into BCI London Evidence Temporary Locker #3, to be placed into the BCI Evidence Vault.