



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



2025-3709
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4175 Brush Creek Rd.,
Manchester, OH 45144 (L)

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Involves: Sgt. Mike Estep (W)
Activity Date: 11/15/2025
Activity Location: 4175 Brush Creek Rd., Manchester, OH 45144
Authoring Agent: SA James H Gore

Narrative:

On Saturday, November 15, 2025, at approximately 0010 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Gore and Amanda North (SA Gore and SA North) interviewed Adams County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Sergeant Michael "Mike" Estep (Sgt. Estep) at the scene of an officer-involved shooting in Manchester. The incident took place on November 14, 2025, at 4175 Brush Creek Road, and it involved a subject named Christopher Lindner (Lindner), who was mortally wounded. Sgt. Estep was identified as a witness, and the purpose of the interview was to obtain his account of the events.

This report summarizes the information deemed by the author to be the most relevant to the investigation, and it does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. It is suggested that the recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Sgt. Estep advised that he is a road patrol sergeant at ACSO, and his unit number / radio call sign is 0105. He recalled that on November 14, 2025, he heard radio traffic, in which unit 14 (Deputy Crystal Smalley) was dispatched to some sort of disturbance on Mineral Springs Road in Meigs Township. The complainant reported that his brother (Christopher Lindner) kept driving by his house and honking his horn. Sgt. Estep said he did not respond to that call, but other agencies responded to assist.

Sgt. Estep explained that Lindner's vehicle was encountered by responding officers, and a pursuit took place from the Peebles area all the way to Manchester. According to Sgt. Estep, the speed of the pursuit reportedly exceeded one hundred miles per hour. Sgt. Estep was not involved in the pursuit. He said he anticipated that Lindner would attempt to make it back to his residence on Brush Creek Road.

Sgt. Estep said he arrived at Lindner's property sometime between 1500 and 1600 hours, and there were units from numerous agencies already on scene, including from

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ACSO, Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP), Peebles Police, West Union Police, and Winchester Police.

Sgt. Estep stated that ACSO Sergeant Randy Walters (Sgt. Walters) asked him to assist the Peebles unit at his location (police truck), so he walked through the woods along a creek to get to him. Sgt. Estep said he was going to provide cover for the Peebles officer as he launched his drone.



Figure 1: Reference map

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Sgt. Estep said he heard a voice, then he looked up toward the building and saw the suspect out on a balcony. He said the suspect stated something like, 'This is the Lord's land,' and other words to that effect. The suspect also reportedly yelled that they were trespassing, and they (law enforcement) needed to get off his property.

Sgt. Estep said he witnessed the suspect point a gun and fire a round across the yard. He said he then heard multiple rounds fired in the distance, and he saw the suspect fall onto the balcony. Sgt. Estep said that West Union Officer [REDACTED] who was with him and the Peebles officer, advised that he also shot one round from his rifle. Sgt. Estep said he looked down and observed a fired cartridge next to his left foot. Sgt. Estep stated that they maintained their position behind the Peebles vehicle until after other officers cleared the structure and the site was secured.

Sgt. Estep mentioned that one of his duties at ACSO is to serve civil protection orders and other court documents. He said he was aware that Christopher Lindner had a protection order from Hamilton County. He remembered that a family friend of Lindner's, whose name he could only recall as "Scott," called and warned that Lindner was armed and dangerous. Scott also reportedly claimed that Lindner had body armor, and he advised that officers should not approach him alone. Sgt. Estep said he previously attempted to contact Lindner by phone, to try to get him to come to the sheriff's office. Sgt. Estep said Lindner never answered. Sgt. Estep believed the petitioner on the Hamilton County order was Lindner's wife, though he could not recall her name.

Sgt. Estep advised that his body-worn camera was not activated during the incident, and his patrol vehicle was not equipped with a camera.

The interview concluded at approximately 0030 hours. An audio copy of Sgt. Estep's interview is available for review as an attachment to this report.

References:

No references

Attachments:

1. 2025-11-15 Adams Sgt. Mike Estep Interview - SA Gore, SA North

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