



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: Chief Brandon Copley (W)
Activity Date: 11/14/2025
Activity Location: 4175 Brush Creek Rd., Manchester, OH 45144
Authoring Agent: SA James H Gore

Narrative:

On Friday, November 14, 2025, at approximately 2236 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Gore and Amanda North (SA Gore and SA North) interviewed Peebles Police Interim Chief Brandon Copley (Chief Copley) at the scene of an officer-involved shooting which took place earlier on the same date. The site was a residential compound located at 4175 Brush Creek Road in Manchester. Chief Copley was identified as a witness to the incident, and the purpose of the interview was to obtain his statement regarding the matter.

This report is a summary of the information deemed by the author to be the most pertinent 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.

Chief Copley recalled that it was sometime between 1200 and 1400 hours when he heard Adams County dispatch deputies to an address on Mineral Springs Road. He said the caller reported that his brother had been taunting him, or something to that effect. Chief Copley volunteered to respond to the call because it was close to Peebles, and he would have arrived before the deputies. Chief Copley said he learned later that the brother of the complainant was Christopher Lindner (Lindner), who was later killed in the police-involved shooting.

Chief Copley said that when he arrived, he met with the caller (Carl Lindner), who appeared distraught. He said that Deputy Crystal Smalley (Dep. Smalley) arrived shortly afterward. He recalled that a West Union police officer (to whom he referred by his radio call sign, [REDACTED]) and Deputy Torie Barlow (Dep. Barlow) also arrived. Dep. Smalley reportedly told Dep. Barlow and the West Union officer to drive down the road to search for the suspect's vehicle, which was a black Range Rover.

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Chief Copley recalled that the complainant relayed to him that his brother had been taunting him, and he also reportedly pointed a gun at a groundskeeper.

Chief Copley said a short time later, he heard radio traffic from Dep. Barlow, advising that she had passed the Range Rover on the road. He said he and Dep. Smalley walked out of the complainant's house, and they observed the West Union officer pursuing the Range Rover at a high rate of speed on Mineral Springs Road. Dep. Smalley reportedly told Chief Copley to go and assist with the pursuit, but he said he was never able to catch up with them. He said he remembered hearing radio traffic about the speed being over 100 miles per hour, and that the suspect nearly struck some first responders at the site of an unrelated traffic crash.

Chief Copley said he later spotted the West Union officer's car, and he followed him onto Christopher Lindner's residential compound. He said that Adams County Sergeant Randy Walters (Sgt. Walters) asked him to drive his truck all the way up to a wood line so that it could be used as a position of cover.

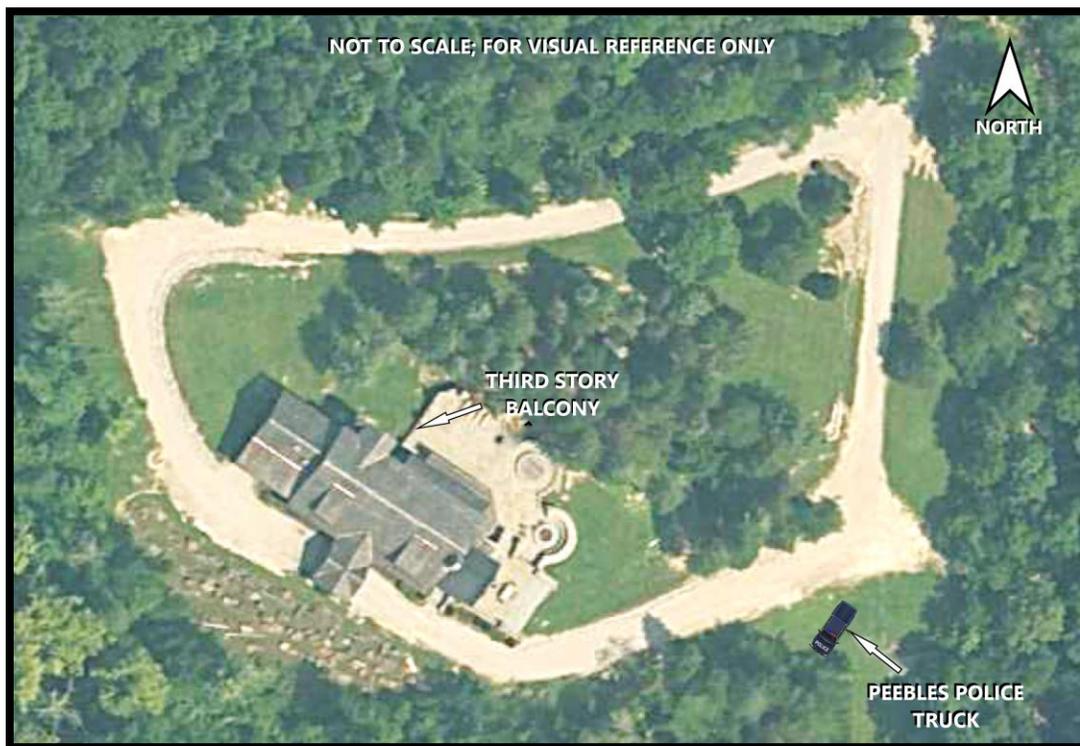


Figure 1: Reference map

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Chief Copley said he parked his truck and grabbed his rifle. He stated that he was only able to observe a portion of the house (east end). He said he was joined at his position by the West Union officer [REDACTED]. Chief Copley said he prepared his drone for deployment, and then they were joined by Adams County Sergeant Mike Estep (Sgt. Estep).

Chief Copley described flying the drone over the southern end of the structure, then he was asked by others, whom he presumed were troopers, to fly the west side of the structure. Chief Copley said he lost signal to his drone, and it crashed in some bushes.

After his drone crashed, Chief Copley advised that he resumed a position around the center of his truck. He recalled that the West Union officer was at the hood, and Sgt. Estep was near the bed. He said he remembered hearing radio traffic regarding the suspect coming outside. Chief Copley stated he looked up and saw the suspect walk out to a balcony. He recalled hearing the male state something like, 'This is God's land,' and 'You're trespassing,' or similar words. Chief Copley said he saw the male point a rifle down over the balcony and fire a single shot. He recalled hearing several shots of return fire in the distance, and one shot fired from the West Union officer to his left. Chief Copley said he held his position until after others approached the structure and rendered aid.

Chief Copley mentioned that his drone was not recording video, and he did not take any still images with it. He also advised that he was wearing a bodycam, and he may have intermittently recorded footage of a portion of the events. His bodycam appeared to be an early generation Axon model, and Chief Copley mentioned that it was in poor condition.

On November 18, 2025, SA Gore met with Chief Copley at the Columbus Police Training Academy, where Chief Copley was visiting on an unrelated matter. He provided copies of his bodycam footage to SA Gore, which consisted of three clips.

Upon reviewing the footage, SA Gore noted that it was timestamped in "Zulu Time," or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), not Eastern Standard Time (EST); therefore, any times appearing in the footage would have to be converted, with consideration given for Daylight Saving Time.

One of the clips was footage of Chief Copley's encounter with Carl Lindner at the initial complaint on Steam Furnace Road. The audio became muted, perhaps inadvertently, several minutes into the clip. Another clip appeared to be of when Chief Copley was trying to catch up to and/or intercept the police pursuit. The third clip was primarily footage from behind Chief Copley's truck at the residential compound; it did not

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capture the exchange of gunfire. The three video clips were uploaded to the Axon™/Evidence.com database as Reference Item H.

An audio copy of Chief Copley's interview is available for review as an attachment to this report.

References:

1. Axon™ Case ID 2025-3709, Reference Item H

Attachments:

1. 2025-11-14 Peebles Chief Brandon Copley Interview - SA Gore, SA North

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