



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



2024-1658

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2212 Tryon Rd.,  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with [REDACTED]  
**Involves:** [REDACTED] (S)  
**Activity Date:** 06/17/2024  
**Activity Location:** OPBA Office-10147 Royalton Road, North Royalton, Ohio  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Cory Momchilov #64

**Narrative:**

On Monday, June 17, 2024, at 1040 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum) interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who was accompanied by his attorney, Dominic Saturday, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the OPBA Office located at 10147 Royalton Road, North Royalton, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Prior to the interview, [REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] with the Geauga County Sheriff's Department and a member of the Lake County Reginal SWAT Team. The Lake County Reginal SWAT Team consists of members from the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Geauga County Sheriff's Office, Painesville Police Department, Chester Police Department, Madison Township Police Department, Lake County Narcotics Unit and the Middlefield Police Department. There are also numerous local fire departments on the team as well.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

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**Preliminary and Demographic Information:**

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Rank:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Badge Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> Responded to the scene in an unmarked [REDACTED] bureau vehicle [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> "[REDACTED]" or "[REDACTED]"	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Geauga County Sheriff's Office-Sergeant James Jonovich Lake County Reginal SWAT Team-Donald Tichel-Assistant Commander
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> Tac-4	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> N/A
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> N/A	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> N/A
<b>Assignment:</b> Geauga County Sheriff's Office-Detective Bureau Lake County Reginal SWAT Team-Team Leader	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED] hours
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> N/A	<b>Spotlight:</b> N/A
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Used to respond to the scene only	<b>Siren:</b> Used to respond to the scene only
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> [REDACTED] hours	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> No
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> 6-8 hours	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 13 years	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> No	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> Contact Lenses

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<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Sheriff's Office issued tactical uniform including- 5-11 tactical pants, long-sleeve 5-11 tactical combat shirt, issued Sheriff's office plate carrier, and issued Sheriff's office ballistic helmet.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Rifle, pistol, extra magazines for rifle, extra magazines for pistol, flex cuffs, taster, medical kit and drop pouch
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Not Present
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> No	<b>Partner:</b> N/A
<b>Injuries:</b> None	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> None
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> Basic SWAT Training through OPOTA, 20 to 30 different shooting and specialty courses	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Yes-Kent State University Police Academy
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> No	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Routinely through the Geauga County Sheriff's Office and SWAT Team
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> No	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> No
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> No	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> No
<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> The preceding week	

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**Officer's Firearm(s):**

**Weapon #1**

<b>Make:</b> Daniel Defense	<b>Model:</b> M4 platform
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 5.56 mm	<b>Serial:</b> ██████████
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Round in the chamber during operations
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 30 rounds ██████████ ██████████ stated that he carries 28 rounds in every magazine**	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> ██████████ stated that he carries 28 rounds in every magazine and during operations he inserts a round in the chamber (27 in magazine, 1 in chamber) **
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 3 (4 total)	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> 25	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> ██████████ stated he believed he fired 4 rounds- Ballistic Testing showed that ██████████ fired 5 rounds
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> May 2024	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> N/A

\*\*During the interview ██████████ stated he carries 28 total rounds in each of his magazines. However, a total of 25 rounds was recovered from ██████████'s rifle (24 in the magazine and 1 in the chamber). Ballistic testing shows that 5 recovered shell casings returned to ██████████'s rifle. Based on this, it is concluded that ██████████ was carrying a total of 30 rounds in his rifle.

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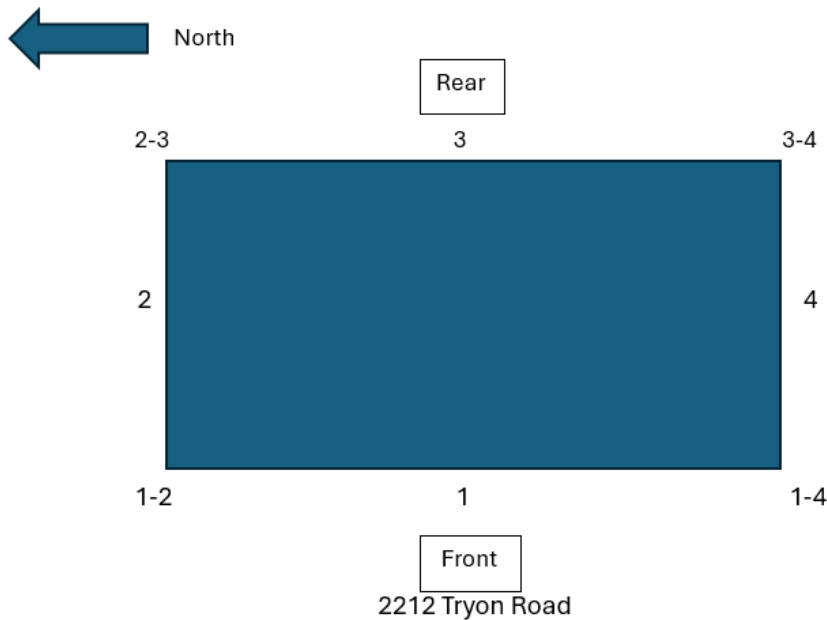
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**Precursor Information**

During tactical situations, a tactical numbering system is often utilized to quickly identify positions around a residence. The main entrance of the residence is usually referred to as the "1 side", counting clockwise around the house, the sides are then sequentially numbered. The corners are then designated by indicating which sides meet at that corner, e.g. corner 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 1-4. This number system was utilized by the Lake County Reginal SWAT Team during this incident (See diagram below).



The Lake County Reginal SWAT Team had two armored vehicles on scene. A smaller armored vehicle, which team members refer to as "David" and a larger armored vehicle which is referred to as "Goliath."

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SA Momchilov asked [REDACTED] if he could discuss how he became involved in the incident and what actions he took.

[REDACTED] explained that he received notification from the paging system that the Lake County Regional SWAT Team was being requested in Ashtabula County. According to [REDACTED] he was informed that a subject had brandished a long gun at the neighbor and a group, of what was reported as small children. When responding deputies arrived, it was relayed that the subject leveled the long gun at them, and then went back into his residence. The residence was then surrounded, and the subject was called out with no success.

[REDACTED] stated that he gathered his gear, left his residence and drove directly to the prearranged staging area. When [REDACTED] arrived at the staging area, he advised that the armored vehicles had not yet arrived. It was decided that an "arrest team" or an "immediate action team" comprised of team members would respond to the scene and "take control of the immediate scene." [REDACTED] stated that he, Assistant Commander Donald Tichel (Deputy Tichel), Lieutenant Zachary Ropos and two other team members responded to the scene in Deputy Tichel's assigned Sheriff's Office vehicle.

Once on scene, team members began relieving primary units that were in front of the residence. [REDACTED] stated at that time, Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office Deputies were "hailing" the individual from a loudspeaker on their cruisers. A short time later, the armored vehicles began arriving on scene (David and Goliath). It was decided that Goliath would be stationed at the 1-2 corner of the residence and David would be stationed on the 1-4 corner of the residence. [REDACTED] explained that because it was reported that the individual had brandished a weapon at the neighbors and responding deputies, it was decided that a mechanical ram would be affixed to David in case matters escalated.

The SWAT Team then took over hailing of the individual. [REDACTED] stated, "Trying to contact the male, get him to the front of the house to speak with us. Um, we had identified ourselves as the Sheriff's office, um, we'd asked him to come to the front of the home, um, to speak with us at the front of the house."

[REDACTED] stated, "After a while, we'd assume control of the scene. We'd replaced a couple of perimeter units from the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, um, we observed for the first time, we observed the subject come to the front bay window of the home. Um, inside the front bay window, we had observed what looked like he was holding a large knife, uh, in his hand in between what was like vertical blinds. Um, this subject was, he was pounding on the window, um, and at one point, he had pounded on the

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window with the knife, like I said just from our perspective at the 1-4 corner, it looked like it was, it was a large knife, and his movements were just very, very animated. Uh, they were fast, they were rapid. Um, he seemed highly agitated. Um, after a while, he then recovered back into the home, um, to where we could not see him inside those, uh, the blinds there, um, of the home.”

██████████ explained that “we” heard very loud music playing from inside the residence as they continued hailing. ██████████ stated, “Routinely throughout that time when we continued to hail, kind of stationary, tried to get the male to the front of the house is you saw, is through the front door of the home or again through those vertical blinds in the home, he would appear quickly and then quickly disappear, um, and I say quickly just because it was just, it was very, very rapid, is like you, the blinds would fly down and then they would fly back up, you know, it wasn't a low or a slow methodical peek. It was more of a quick and then kind of bail back into his position inside the house.”

██████████ advised that, after a period of time, the team decided they were “going to utilize some type of measures” to get the individual to come to the front of the house. ██████████ stated, “With the loud music, we were going to utilize a 40-millimeter projectile, uh, impact round just off a front solid area of the house to try to raise him back to the front of the house. At this point, we had no view inside the house. The blinds were shut. All the doors were shut. There was absolutely no, um, angle, until we could gain intelligence or knowledge from inside the house. Um, as we were inside, or as Lieutenant Ropos from our vehicle, at the 1-4 corner, um, we had loaded what was first round of projectile, impact round, we had shot off of what I believe was the base of that 1 side of the house, expecting to get kind of a loud thud, um, when he had shot that round is the 40-millimeter impact round, which is a foam-tipped round, um, it made next to no noise, um, we realized that it wasn't going to be successful, um, at which time, uh, we had elected to, um, shoot a second round, this time it's just the siding of the house, away from all the windows, um, but closer to that main entry door of the house Again, this was try to get him back to the front of the house to establish communications. We have no cell phone to use inside the home or landline where we could establish communications with him to try to talk and ultimately deescalate him down from visibly where we believed he was at. Um, the second round was then fired from the 1-4 corner. It, it was a little bit louder of an impact, but again, with the music so loud, we realized that that, it wasn't going to be successful, um, to summoning the subject from inside the home. Um, at next point, uh, throughout another prolonged period of time, uh, approximately 20 to 30 minutes, we decided that we would go a little bit louder to try to get him back to the front of the house, um, at which point we decided we were going to use a noise flash diversionary

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device in the open area of the front h, off the front of the home to try to get him back to the front where we could talk to him because at this point, um, it wasn't a large home, but it was not, also, not a very small home, so he had free access to the entire home."

██████████ continued, "We didn't know where he was at inside the home, um, obviously as reported initially, is he had a long gun, but there is believed to be handgun inside the house as well. Um, so our effort to try to get him to a point where we could kind of contain him even if it was just visually. Um, so I put, we had put together a small unit ta, uh, small unit team from our truck at the 1-4 corner to hand deploy a noise flash diversionary device to the front yard of the home. Um, at which point, we moved into position. We deployed it, hand deployed the noise flash diversionary device, um, successfully to the front of the home, um, much, much louder than what the impact round was, um, but again to no avail. Nothing changed inside the home. We weren't able to see anymore blinds at that time, um, so at which point, uh, we elected to Team David would do the same and also deploy spike strips on the vehicle inside the driveway. Um, we've been through barricades before where a subject kind of makes a mad rush or makes a dash to a vehicle and had then gone mobile, so our goal was to immobilize anything obviously for the safety of not only the public, but ourselves, that situation was the safest in the position it was, you know, versus at high speeds in a vehicle on a roadway."

██████████ advised that Goliath then put together a small unit team who deployed another flash diversionary device and placed stop sticks to the vehicle in the driveway.

██████████ stated that deployment was also unsuccessful.

██████████ stated, "With the music still loud, um, approximately maybe 30 to 40 minutes later, we decided that, uh, we could safely shut the electricity off at the house, um, again as we could hear the noise playing out loud, we knew that he wasn't paying any attention to us, um, and again, our goal was to establish some positive form of communication with the subject on scene. Um, so, uh, from Team David, I assembled a small unit task, uh, small unit team, and we approached what was the 4 side of the house, which was going be the south side of the home, um, to shut the electricity off from the side of the house. We had known from past experience on these barricades that by removing the safety clamp and the meter on the house, you could just isolate the electricity from that house specifically, um, versus shutting it off at the box, where you would lose, you know, 2200 homes, uh, we approached it, we had removed the box and successfully shut the electricity off inside the home. Um, so this way we had eliminated the loud music, so now, again, giving us an opportunity to establish more communications with the subject inside the home."

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██████████ continued, "After about 20 minutes past goes by, um, still see every so often is you see a little bit of a blind movement, so you could see he's still moving within that first floor of the home, um, we had seen, uh, on the 4 side, there was two basement windows. You could see a flashlight inside the home that was moving from the basement into again not an overt, like you could see kind of like the flashlight spill, and, um, we decided that, again, just we've done numerous of these debriefs that shutting the gas off if possible would also be an effective counter measure, um, for the safety of not only us, the subject, but also the neighbors alike, um, just because the volatility of opening up a gas line inside of condensed area inside the house, um, so again, I assembled a small unit, uh, team, that approached from that 4 side, which would have been the south side of the home and, um, we had shut off the gas, uh, from the home effectively before again returning back to our 1-4 corner, um, of the house. All while this is going on, hailing is continuing, as far as, uh, the subjects name, is why we were there, asking him to come out for us. Eventually, that transitioned into, you know, we have once I believe, I don't recall when, um, but once a search and ultimately arrest warrant was signed for the subject, um, that was then relayed over the loudspeaker as well. Um, once we made it back to the corner of the home, um, approximately again 30 to 40 minutes goes by, um, no real success or advancement towards establishing communications with the subject."

At this point, ██████████ explained that the team decided to utilize the ram that was fixed to David to "clear the glass out of the main bay window on the front of the home." ██████████ advised the purpose of clearing the glass from the bay window was to establish a communications portal for a throw phone to be thrown into the residence and to begin inserting drones inside the residence.

██████████ stated a small team comprised of the driver of David, Deputy Raymond (Deputy Jeffrey Raymond), a medic and an operator, drove David to the 1 side of the residence. Deputy Raymond then used the ram that was attached to David and began clearing out the main bay window of the residence. According to ██████████, he believed that Deputy Raymond reported that he had observed the individual inside the main bay area and appeared highly agitated.

██████████ stated, "Once we had established the window was gone, we realized that the venetian or the vertical blinds that were there were a major problem in terms of getting those drones inside the home, um, to gain more information is so we left the ram inside the home, um, because what the ram would do is it would keep the blinds split to fly the drone underneath that ram inside to ultimately give us more information, um, about inside the house. Once we flew a drone in, um, we flew the first drone in. At some point while gaining intelligence on that first drone, um, we had

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viewed him inside the house still pacing throughout the house, uh, with the long gun in hand. At that point, I believe for myself, is when we were able to identify the long gun positively as a shotgun. Um, is while the drone was inside the house, uh, the male ultimately in pacing, he had pointed the shotgun again, in what I believed visibly animated fashion, uh, pointed the shotgun at the drone is, but ultimately, before either striking or kicking the drone, the drone went down. Um, while inside is we had flew a second drone in and we had landed it, I don't recall where we had landed it, it was somewhere with a view of the main hallway, um, but the male had eventually presented himself back to the main room, just inside of that picture window. Um, at that picture window, from where I was at, the 1-4 corner, is I could not see him. He was not at the window. He was some point deep into the room, um, but Detective Raymond was walking through over the radio, so we heard Detective Raymond say about how where he was, that he had the long gun in his hand, um, that he presented the long gun, um, I believe he presented the long gun, and there was, uh, at first, what he responded was there was like kind of a click but no bang is ultimately then he says he's brandishing a shotgun again, and what we observed, we heard the loud audible noise of the firearm go off and we observed, well I observed was the smoke and spalling exit the main picture window and you see the spalling come off of the armored vehicle. So, indicative immediately indicative to myself, uh, physically, that the truck had just been fired upon. Um, and then which was confirmed by Detective Raymond over the radio that he had fired on the truck from inside the room and then retreated back into the house. We left the truck initially, um, in position because we knew that we needed the armored vehicle, um, we knew we needed the armored vehicle to move the blinds to keep our communication port open for all of our drone work. Um, at some point during this exchange, um, Deputy Hopp (Deputy Shane Hopp) had hand deployed the throw phone inside the main room, ultimately, to no success. The phone was never picked up or answered or anything, um, and ultimately, it, I don't recall when, but the drones and the phone, he threw them back out at the armored truck, um, from that main area. Um, once the truck was shot, um, we did kind of accountability of everybody inside the vehicle, is everybody was good, um, there was actually a little bit of spalling, 'cause where it hit the armored truck it was right at the tray and the window break, um, so there was actually spalling of glass that made it through. I mean, ultimately, it stopped it, um, but once Detective Raymond came back to the, we had pulled him back to the 1-4 corner, um, we had kind of reassessed the vehicle and we determined that it was definitely a slug round from that shotgun that had impacted the vehicle, as evidenced by the like ballistic pattern, not like a buckshot pattern."

██████████ explained that it was decided since David had been shot at the team was "going to assemble a gas plan for the house" and stated, "So, to introduce OC gas

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into the house, is we put together a gas plan after observing the house. The two most areas, um, that were the most difficult tact, tactically for us to deal with the subject at was the attached garage and the basement, um, just a very, very limited view in the basement, so we decided we put together a gas plan to introduce, um, projectile gas rounds into the attached garage and the basement of the home. Um, effectively for us is we wanted to deny him those areas, so if he could not utilize those areas against us or could not utilize those areas to hide, is it would effectively make our resolution of this situation what we believe much more effective. Um, so we had assembled two units, small unit teams, is we introduced gas, um, to the basement from the 4 side of the home, the south side of the home, utilizing two basement windows, and then we had introduced gas to the attached garage from Goliath, which was at that 1-2 side of the home, um, through the man door, uh, to the garage area. Um, once those volleys were successful, um, we determined that there was enough rounds inside that we could at least deny like effective use of those. Obviously, we, we can't, we can't account for how he or any suspect or subject would deal with those, but we could effectively deny effective use, um, once those were in is we let it, and again continued hailing, as far as our intent, who we were, why we were there is we had come back to when we kind of established, reestablished our spots at the 1-4 corner and at the one 2 corner. Um, we decided, um, again based on experience with some of these barricades that we needed to effectively put rounds, um, when I say rounds, I say OC rounds, um, put gas projectile rounds into the 3 side or what would have been the east side of the house, um, the east side of the house, we did not have very good access to, uh, just because it was a wide open backyard and with the subject already displaying an attempt to shoot at the armored vehicle, we wanted to take no chances, um, for the safety of everybody on scene. Is we had put together a team, um, to kind of do the best they could on that 3 side of the home, but ultimately, the 40 millimeter launcher, um, was disabled due to, uh, what I believe was a round, it's a common issue with sometimes when these guns, the launchers, uh, get hot, um, so the launcher actually went down. We kind of went stale for a while, all the while continuing hailing. Um, we had put in another, um, team to go to the 3 side, and as they started to introduce rounds to the 3 side, via a 40-millimeter launcher, is again the gun went down and one of the, um, members on that team had called it deadlined. They said the gun was done. It wasn't going to be fixed tonight. So, at which point, at our 1-4 corner is myself and Lieutenant Ropos and [REDACTED] had established that the front utilizing the front of the truck for cover at the 1-4, we had decided, um, via with our ultimate assisting commander, Don Ticel, who's on the truck with us, um, that we were going to introduce gas to the 1-4 corner, which was a bedroom window. Um, prior to that on the drones is we had seen on the drones at one of the first views before he had knocked some of the drones off, the main two bedrooms to the first floor, um, the 1-4 bedroom was closed, was like

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slightly cracked, and the bedroom that went off the 3-4 corner, so the backside of the house and that south side of the house was closed, so we believed he potentially was in one of those two, uh, rooms. When we had got a second drone feed up during this time, we had seen that now both doors were closed. Um, leading us to believe he was potentially, again, in one of those two bedrooms. Due to the, um, 40-millimeter launcher going down on the 3 side, we had elected to introduce gas, um, OC projectile gas into that window on the 1-4 corner of the house, um, which again would be the south west, um, bedroom window is the first round Lieutenant Ropos, it was [REDACTED], um, was running our lethal cover for our small unit team. I was running his safety behind and then Lieutenant Ropos was with me launching directly behind. We were kind of stacked up, launching the 40-millimeter, utilizing the 40-millimeter launcher. The first round was effective, um, hit in the, what we believe is the low left corner of the window. Um, it's effective for a hit. I was actually calling his hits, um, just because of the speed that those go, it's hard to, uh, you really can't track the, your shots with those launchers."

[REDACTED] continued, "Um, once he made his hit, is he reloads for the second one to introduce, I believe, the plan was to do two or three into this front window. The second one he comes up, launches, as he launches, again, hits low left in the window is immediately you hear another shotgun blast and you see a spalling come through what was left of the window and what you heard was, obviously we never saw the round, is, but you could hear the round pass us at the front of the truck. I would approximate, at approximately between 6 and 10 feet from where we were at the front of the truck, because we were just adjacent to the wood line, and it came past us. You heard the round traveling, 'cause again a slugs a, what we believed to be, 'cause again it was a very large spalling, um, slug you heard travel through the woods directly across the street from us, um, so again, approximately 6 to 10 feet in front of our fixed position. At which point we relayed over the radio, um, I relayed over the radio that another round was fired, again we never saw where the subject was inside the room. Um, the shot was taken from unknown distance inside the room. Um, but again, where, once that shot was taken, we had bailed back to even a better position of cover obviously, um, we relayed, we kind of done a team check make sure everybody was okay, um, once that happened, again, once we kind of huddled up there with [REDACTED], Lieutenant Ropos, and Don Ticel, we had realized, like now this was two shots that he had taken at us, um, both from a position of cover inside the home."

[REDACTED] stated, "We identified, you know, myself specifically identified that as some level of training or some level of kind of, you know, we'd kind of say he was trade craft is he knows not to step out or we believe a subject would know not to step out to a point of vulnerability is we believe he was firing from a position of cover, um,

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which is extremely more dangerous for us, um, you know, as a law enforcement officer is once that second round, um, once that second round hit, um, we had kind of transitioned. We moved back again a little bit farther from our positions, um, continued hailing at that point."

██████████ stated that after 20 to 30 minutes the team wanted to conduct another "volley" of gas rounds to the 3 side of the residence from the 40-millimeter launcher. However, according to ██████████ the team assigned to David had "no safe ingress" to the 3 side of the residence and the 40-millimeter launcher that the team assigned to Goliath had was "deadlined." ██████████ explained that the team assigned to David had a backup launcher and "kinda war gamed a little bit how we would get them (Goliath) that second launcher."

██████████ stated, "We ultimately decided we did not want to risk somebody's safety not being behind an armored vehicle at that immediate vicinity of the crime, of like the scene. Um, so we come up with a plan. It is we were going to from once things went a little bit more stale, and when I say stale, just less visual on the suspect, um, moving inside around the house, we were going to traverse across the roadway in front of the 1 side and hand deliver to Goliath, um, the backup 40-millimeter launcher. The plan was to get there, deliver it quickly and then back up into our position. We decided it, you know, it was our safest, quickest play to get them a launcher that was functional. Is we decided to, um, progress. We'd moved most of, most of the operators to the inside of the vehicle, except for myself, Lieutenant Ropos, I believe lieutenant, um, ██████████ and Chris Malita.

██████████ continued, "Myself, Lieutenant Ropos, and ██████████ were gonna run cover for the vehicle just anti flanking. We don't want him to, if the subject decided to run out of the vehicle and were to flank us, we were in a very, very bad position with our other teams in play, um, and then, um, Chris Malita was going to hand deliver the 40-millimeter launcher to Goliath, and then we were gonna move back into our position. As we were moving across that roadway, is we were coming in front of the house is somebody, I don't recall who over the radio calls a large amount of activity like he ran across the main hallway area of the home and was moving around in that front room. Um, so we stopped directly in front of the house for what I approximate between 3- and 4-minutes time, um, our goal was we did not want him to surprise us again from deep inside that room, especially when we were in a vulnerable position of a, of a hand off. Is so we had stopped. We had no observation. Again, the blinds were closed still because our truck wasn't in the bli, in the window anymore, um, is we had, I believe at that point, the front door was open and we could see into portions of the main room into that hallway, so all, all we could tell was if he were to cross to the left

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side of the house or the right side of the house. Um, so we called movement, and we stopped for approximately 3- or 4-minutes time, at which point, you know, one of the, uh, the assisting commander, Don Tichel, goes hey, we gotta get this 40 over there is if you're not seeing anything let's get moving. So, we start moving over and to a point where we stop right next to Goliath. Um, we're almost like kinda not touching but we're close to Goliath is Chris Malita then runs the 40-millimeter launcher over to Goliath's team. Their, their small unit team, and I look back, and as I look back, the armored vehicle is Lieutenant Ropos and [REDACTED] are at the front of the vehicle so closer to that 1-2 corner, and there was nobody left on the back corner once that transfer went, so I went to pick up cover on the back side of that vehicle. Um, as we are stationary, um, to the, I, we either had just started moving or we were stationary, I don't recall if we were creeping or if we were stationary. Um, I press out because I wanted to look into the long hallway there to determine which side of the house the subject was ultimately on at that time."

[REDACTED] continued, "Um, as I look, I had seen a flutter on the left side of the bay window. Um, throughout multiple times throughout the night I had seen that left side flutter, and that's, I didn't know if, if the subject was like low below the window or if he was just kind of peeking, but we'd seen it multiple times, um, without ultimately seeing a person. Um, so I had seen is we had pressed out over there. I was running cover from the side of the vehicle looking directly into, my perspective was like directly into that front door, um, I see the blinds shutter. I, I pressed out past, not past, but I pressed out just utilizing the vehicle for cover, and I had seen what was the long barrel of a shotgun start to protrude for the first time from either at the window or protrude just a little bit past the window, but I had seen a long barrel of the shotgun. Is once the shotgun pressed out, and again I don't know if it was in the window just behind the blinds or if it was actually pressed through like the window frame itself, um, but I observed the shotgun, and I observed the subject. So, at which point, once I observed the shotgun I, I go up on the sights of my, uh, my rifle, and at which point is he goes up and I observe him cheek weld (Figure 1), which a cheek weld would be his cheek goes to the stock of the shotgun, is he was taking aim. I knew at this point is Chris Malita was in between the vehicles running a 40-millimeter launcher in addition to [REDACTED] um, deputy, um, Lieutenant Ropos and then any other cover teams at this point is with how aggressive the cheek weld and he's up and aiming on, I then engage the suspe, the subject with what I believe is four rounds, um, from my patrol rifle is at that time from the back of the vehicle is once the, um, once my four rounds had gone off, is I had seen the subject fall backwards or back into the left into the window out of view. Um, we did kind of an accountability check on everyone there. Everyone was good. Um, at which point, like I said, I, I heard rounds from this side of

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the vehicle, and that's, I just heard somebody check on [REDACTED], as well, um, he was running left cover, I was running right cover, um, once I had heard them check, we go hey, cool, like, let's get a drone up, let's get a drone moving."

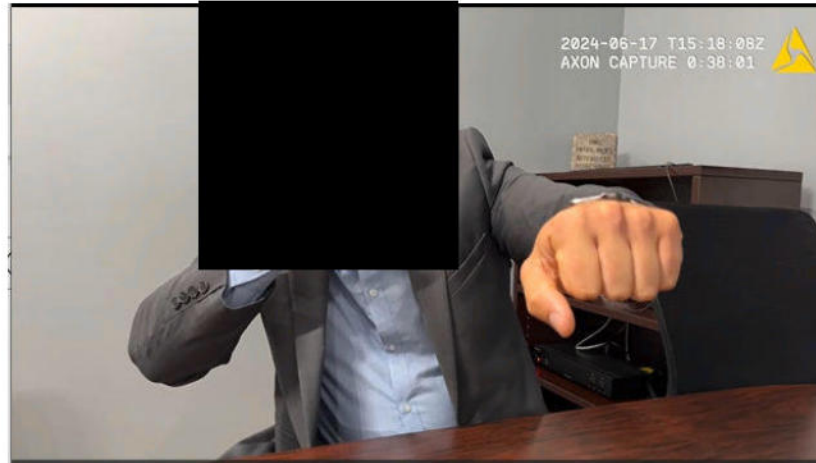


Figure 1

[REDACTED] *demonstrating the "Cheek Weld" that he observed*

[REDACTED] advised that the drone operator flew a drone inside the residence and reported that the subject was down with the "shotgun in close proximity of his person." It was then determined that the team was going to make entry into the residence.

[REDACTED] stated, "We had made entry into the home, seen the suspect there on the ground, uh, with the shotgun just below his, it was a leg. I don't recall if it was his left leg or right leg, and hands were down within about 6 inches of the subject. Um, we go in, made an approach, I pulled the shotgun, and I pulled it, I just tossed it towards the middle of the room. At that point we had not done any assessment of him. The medic was behind us, so once the safety, the scene was cleared, is once we determined the shotgun was away, is we kept an operator, I believe it was Don Tichel, with the medic, who the medic then went up and assessed as we continued to clearance of that, uh, structure is the medic then assessed him and ultimately assessed that he was deceased, um, in place. We had then continued and finished clearing of the home and then ultimately pulled, once that was complete, we had done scene security until it was ultimately handed off to BCI in the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office."

SA Momchilov stated to [REDACTED], "So your position was during the majority of this incident was 1-4 corner?"

[REDACTED] replied, "Yes, sir."

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██████████ advised that he had not discussed this incident with anybody else and no one has asked him to lie or otherwise try to influence his statement to investigators.

SA Momchilov asked ██████████, "Do you believe your actions were consistent with your training?"

██████████ replied, "Yes, sir."

SA Momchilov asked, "Did you perceive that you had any other options other than use deadly force?"

██████████ replied, "No, sir."

The BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form signed by ██████████ is attached to this investigative report.

The interview with ██████████ was audio and video recorded. The audio interview is attached to this Investigative report. The video interview was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item D.

**References:**

Reference Item D-Video Interview of ██████████

**Attachments:**

1. BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form-██████████
2. Audio Interview of ██████████

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# MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

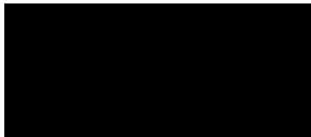


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## Criminal Investigation Notification

1. You are advised that this investigation is being conducted in order to determine the presence or absence of criminal liability on the part of those involved in the incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are not in custody. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. As such, you may refuse to answer questions from the criminal investigators; your statements are not being compelled under threat of adverse disciplinary action from your employer. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you may be required to answer).



Printed Name of Interviewee

06/17/2024 10:39  
Date / Time



Interviewee

Jesse Bynum #179

BCI Agent (Printed)

Jesse Bynum  
BCI Agent (Signature)