



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



2022-2608  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 28 North Paint St., Chillicothe  
(L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Sgt. Jason Gallagher (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 11/17/2022  
**Activity Location:** Ross County Sheriff's Office – Business – 28 North Paint Street,  
Chillicothe, OH 45601, Ross County  
**Author:** SA Todd Fortner, #93

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, November 17, 2022, the Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) requested the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to respond to the Law Enforcement Complex (28 North Paint St.) to investigate an Officer-Involved Shooting involving RCSO Sergeant Eric Kocheran (Sgt. Kocheran) and an involved party, Nicholas Mitchell (Mitchell). During interaction between Sgt. Kocheran and Mitchell, both discharged a firearm. Both were injured and transported to the local hospital. Mitchell died of his injuries, while Sgt. Kocheran was transported to Grant in stable condition.

BCI Special Agent Todd Fortner (SA Fortner) interviewed RCSO Sergeant Jason Gallagher (Sgt. Gallagher) at the Law Enforcement Complex at 2001 hours. The building houses both RCSO and the Chillicothe Police Department (CPD). The interview was recorded and uploaded to the case file. The audio recording is attached to this report and should be referred to for any further details. The following is a summary of the interview.

Sgt. Gallagher stated he was working as a supervisor in the jail that evening when RCSO Deputy Jacob Smith (Dep. Smith) requested to go outside for a break. Sgt. Gallagher allowed the break and Dep. Smith went toward the rear door to exit the complex. Moments later Dep. Smith advised on the radio that he need help and that an officer had been shot.

Sgt. Gallagher said he rushed to the hallway by the backdoor and found Dep. Smith with Sergeant Eric Kocheran (Sgt. Kocheran), who appeared to have a wound to his chest. Sgt. Gallagher said he applied pressure to the wound and CPD Dispatcher Taylor Matson and jail nurse Brandon Jewett arrived. Due to the stress, Sgt. Gallagher could not remember if Sgt. Kocheran was wearing his ballistic vest. Sgt. Gallagher said he handed off care of Sgt. Kocheran to the nurse.

Sgt. Gallagher said his weapon had been secured in the jail so he picked up Sgt. Kocheran's weapon and covered the involved subject, Mitchell, who was on the ground outside the door.

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He said CPD units began to arrive and he teamed up with CPD Officer Shane Daubenmire (Ofc. Daubenmire). Sgt. Gallagher said they approached Mitchell and secured him in handcuffs as well as making sure he could not access a firearm that was found on the ground under Mitchell's left side. Sgt. Gallagher said Mitchell was not responsive and appeared to have a bullet wound to the head. Officer Daubenmire provided aid to Mitchell and Sgt. Gallagher called for EMS. Sgt. Gallagher said medics quickly arrived and transported both Mitchell and Sgt. Kocheran to the hospital. He said officers then secured the scene.

Sgt. Gallagher said he was ordered to secure Sgt. Kocheran's firearm and gun belt. He said he did notice four silver cartridge casings on the floor inside the doorway but did not notice any bullet strikes. Sgt. Gallagher described the gun under Mitchell as a two-toned, smaller, semi-auto pistol. Sgt. Gallagher said it was not unusual for civilians to knock on the backdoor for assistance. Sgt. Gallagher said he had nothing further to contribute and the interview was concluded at 2024 hours.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Sgt Gallagher Interview