



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



2024-0109
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 9714 St Route 93, Pedro,
OH 45659

To: Brigham Anderson, Lawrence County Prosecutor
From: Chad Holcomb, Special Agent, Ohio Bureau of Criminal
Investigation
Date: March 13, 2024
Involves: Skylar Corbin & LCSO [REDACTED]
BCI Case Numbers: 2024-0109
BCI Laboratory: 24-10290

Investigative Request

On Tuesday, January 09, 2024, Sheriff Jeff Lawless of the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on January 9, 2024 around 9714 State Route 93, Pedro, OH 45659, and resulted in the death of Skylar Corbin.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the January 9, 2024 officer-involved shooting in Lawrence County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

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Investigative Team

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA Chad Holcomb

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Andy Russell
- SA Matt Collins

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Aja Chung (lead)
- SA Sarah Taylor

BCI Cyber Crime Personnel:

- SA Joe Wilhelm

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Acting Special Agent Supervisor James Mulford

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of the one deputy who discharged his weapon
- Recorded interviews of one deputy who as involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of two civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.

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- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Reviewed phone/text records obtained via search warrant from wireless service provider
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
- Obtained consent to analyze electronic evidence, to include:
 1. Cellular phones
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through subpoena
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

Incident Summary/Overview

On January 9, 2024, Lawrence County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from Donna Gullet (Gullett). Gullett stated that a male, Skylar Corbin (Corbin) was threatening to kill himself and his ex-girlfriend [REDACTED]. Deputies responded to 9714 State Route 93, Pedro, Ohio, for the domestic violence call. Upon arrival deputies found Corbin standing in the front of the yard with a weapon to the neck of [REDACTED]

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LCSO [REDACTED] discharged his firearm once, striking Corbin in the head. Corbin was taken to a local hospital in critical condition and died on January 13, 2024 at 1740 hours, due to his injuries.

Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent (Corbin) was obtained from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the deputy's firearm. By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings to known standards from the weapon, identifications were able to be made if the casing was fired from the deputy's firearm. Of the casings recovered, the following identifications were made:

The laboratory confirmed that the deputy's firearm was operable. Furthermore, the one (1) fired .40 caliber casing recovered was source identified to the law enforcement Glock 22 firearm issued to LCSO [REDACTED]

Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsised below.

LCSO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he was informed that a male, Skylar Corbin (Corbin), was in a heated domestic and physical altercation. Dispatch informed him that Corbin had what was believed to be an icepick and stabbed a female in the face and that he had the icepick to the female's throat.

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As [REDACTED] arrived on scene, he exited his vehicle, drew his firearm, and told the male, Corbin, to drop the weapon. He described the weapon as a "metal spike with a sharp point um, approximately four inches long." [REDACTED] walked around the front of his car, to the front passenger side, and noticed that Corbin had positioned himself behind the female. [REDACTED] does not believe he announced "Sheriff's Office" upon arriving on scene because of the immediate threat to [REDACTED] life. [REDACTED] told Corbin to drop the weapon. The female, [REDACTED], stated that she needed help and to please help her.

[REDACTED] again told Corbin to drop the weapon and release the female. At that time, Corbin lowered his left hand from her neck with the edged weapon and stated, "I'm going to fucking kill you." When Corbin said this, he moved his head to the left of [REDACTED] and lowered the edged weapon and "... forcibly brought it back up, uh, as he was going to stab her." At that time is when [REDACTED] discharged his weapon and struck Corbin in the head.

[REDACTED] stated that he fired one shot and was holding his firearm in his right hand with his left hand bracing it. [REDACTED] was using his iron sights on his firearm and his target was the bridge of the nose / center of Corbin's head. The backdrop was a tree, an open field, and a church. [REDACTED] estimates that he was approximately 20 feet from Corbin when he discharged his weapon. SA Holcomb asked [REDACTED] why he fired his weapon. [REDACTED] responded, "To save the life of the female."

Deputy Brandon Cochran:

While enroute to the scene, Dep. Cochran was advised by dispatch that the male, Skylar Corbin (Corbin) and two other female parties were out front still actively fighting. Deputies were then informed who the male was and that he had stabbed the female in the face with an icepick. Once Dep. Cochran arrived on scene, he pulled in the driveway, and saw all three parties in the front yard.

Dep. Cochran stated that based on the angle that he was at, Corbin had [REDACTED] on his right side. "It completely eliminated any vision that I had as far as being able to draw down for any kind of clear shot", Dep. Cochran stated. Corbin was holding [REDACTED] in a manner that he had an instrument to her throat and was still using her as a shield and trying to back away. The weapon was described as a "... flat head screwdriver kinda, small in size."

Dep. Cochran was asked that based on his belief and understanding of the situation, was Corbin a threat? He replied with, "He was. He was actively threatening to end her life, to kill her. At that point in time, I didn't feel like he was going to threaten us or

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myself anyways." Dep. Cochran was asked based on his training and experience whether the other deputy's presence and actions were consistent with his training; he replied with, "Yes."

Donna Gullett:

Gullett stated that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Skylar Corbin (Cobrin) stayed at her residence the previous night. The next day [day of the shooting] she went out and when she came back home, the two were fighting. Gullett asked Corbin to leave. Later in the day, she was about to take [REDACTED] back to her boyfriend's house. They walked outside of her residence and when they got close to her car, she saw Corbin. Corbin then took hold of [REDACTED]

Gullett told SA Holcomb that Corbin stated, "If I can't have you, nobody's going to have you". He then said that he had an ice pick and was going to kill her [REDACTED]. He told Gullett that it was going to be murder-suicide.

Gullett said at some point during the altercation, [REDACTED] yelled that Corbin stabbed her in the face. Corbin stated he didn't stab her, and it was his finger. Corbin then got down on his knees and stabbed himself. She then called 911. Gullett stated that she really believed that Corbin was going to hurt [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that her and Skylar Corbin had been in a previous relationship for 10 years and broke up in September 2023. [REDACTED] talked about the relationship being abusive and how Corbin has hit her before. [REDACTED] stated that she spent the day with Corbin at her friend's house, Donna Gullett. As they were at the residence, Corbin became belligerent about [REDACTED] needing to pick between him and the new boyfriend. Corbin was asked to leave the house; he left.

As [REDACTED] and Gullett were leaving the house, she heard Corbin sobbing uncontrollably. Corbin came through the yard and when [REDACTED] stated she wasn't going to be with him, he said, "Well then it's going to be a murder-suicide". Corbin then took [REDACTED] and struck a screwdriver to the back of her head and face. [REDACTED] described and demonstrated that Corbin had her in a choke hold with his arm around her neck. [REDACTED] stated in her interview that Corbin had stated previously that he wouldn't go back to prison.

SA Holcomb asked [REDACTED] if she feared for her life. She replied, while becoming emotional, "Yes. Yes."

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Summary

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this officer-involved critical incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Chad Holcomb. SA Holcomb can be reached via email at Chadwick.Holcomb@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at (614) 813-8496.

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