



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



2023-2210
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

To: Chris Becker, Trumbull County First Assistant Prosecutor Trumbull
 Cc: Charles Moran, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
 From: Cory Momchilov, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
 Date: February 20, 2024
 Involves: Randall Fife
 Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
 BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2023-2210
 BCI Laboratory: 23-37351

Investigative Request

On Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Chief Nick Roberts of the Howland Township Police Department 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 August 23, 2023 in the area of [REDACTED] and resulted in the death of Randall Fife.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the August 23, 2023 officer-involved shooting in Trumbull 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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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Cory Momchilov (SA Momchilov) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Momchilov received assistance in the investigation from SA Joseph Goudy (SA Goudy), and SA Andrew Harasimchuk (SA Harasimchuk). SA George Staley of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. BCI Special Agent William Conn of the Cyber Crimes Unit conducted an extraction and analysis of cell phone recovered from the scene. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

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 two of the three officers who discharged their weapons. One officer declined to be interviewed.
- Recorded interviews of witness officers who were 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 other people directly involved in the incident.
- 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 subject, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen).
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history).
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident.
- 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.

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident.
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident.
- 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.
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present.
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. DNA
- Obtained search warrant to analyze electronic evidence, to include:
 1. Cellular phone
- 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(s) who discharged their weapons.
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review.
- Enhancement of audio/video recordings through the assistance of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission.
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through court order.
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered.

Overview:

Randall Fife (Randall) lived at [REDACTED] with his mother, [REDACTED] and brother, [REDACTED].

On August 22, 2023, after 2000 hours, [REDACTED] returned from the grocery store to find that the door to her residence was locked. Randall opened the door for [REDACTED] holding a shotgun. Randall advised that people were after him and he had the shotgun for protection.

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

[REDACTED] attempted to explain to Randall that no one was after him. Randall replied, "What about the punk upstairs? (Referring to [REDACTED].)" Randall replied, "That's not my brother. I don't even think that you are my mom. I don't know who you people are."

At this point, [REDACTED] came down the stairs and Randall pointed the shotgun at him. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took shelter in a back bedroom. [REDACTED] then called his girlfriend, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was in the upstairs of the residence. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to stay upstairs and to get somewhere safe. [REDACTED] then called 911 to report this incident.

Two Howland Township Police Officers responded to the scene. As the officers were approaching the residence, they observed Randall through a window holding a shotgun. The officers backed away from the house and a perimeter was established. The responding officers attempted to contact Randall with a cruiser's public address (P.A.) system but were unsuccessful. Howland Police Officer Brandon McDaniel was able to contact Randall via phone. Officer McDaniel asked Randall, "What's going on in there?" Randall replied, "I think you know what's going on in here, man."

The Mahoning Valley Crisis Response Team (MVCRT) was activated, and a standoff ensued. Team members attempted to negotiate and contact Randall but were unsuccessful. [REDACTED] remained on the phone with 911 during the majority of the standoff.

It was reported that at some point during the standoff, team members lost contact with [REDACTED]. It was decided that after nearly 10 hours, MVCRT members would make entry into the residence.

At approximately 0635 hours, members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Special Response Team (SRT) used explosives to breach the rear door of the residence. Once the door was breached, MVCRT Team began approaching the rear door of the residence, in an attempt to make entry. However, the explosive breach caused the outer screen door to obstruct the team's entry into the residence.

As team members were approaching the rear door, a team member is heard yelling, "Shotgun, shotgun, shotgun, shotgun" and "It's in his hand, It's in his hand." As team members continued their attempt to make entry, a team member is heard yelling, "Drop the gun."

Moments later, Randall fired at team members. Team members returned fire and made entry into the residence. At this point, it is believed that Randall retreated into the living room area of the residence. Team members pursued Randall.

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



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Based upon the physical evidence and team member statements, it is believed that Randall then began to reload his single shot shotgun. Team Members fired at Randall as he was reloading. A total of three (3) team members discharged their weapons during the incident, Sergeant [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]

Randall was transported to the hospital where he later died from his injuries. Two team members were also transported to the hospital where they received treatment for gunshot wounds.

Background

Randall Fife, a 35-year-old male with a long history of psychological issues and mental illness. Since February 25, 2022, Randall was involuntarily committed (Pink Slipped) on three occasions by the Howland Township Police Department.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Investigative Report



2023-2210

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 [REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44884 Trumbull County

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Witness Interviews

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated when she got home from the grocery store at approximately 2000 hours on August 22, 2023, the door to her residence was locked. [REDACTED] stated when her oldest son (Randall) opened the door for her he had a shotgun in his hands. When [REDACTED] asked him what was going on, he said people were after him and that he had to protect himself. Later in the interview, [REDACTED] stated no one was after him. Randall allowed her to bring in her groceries. [REDACTED] tried to calm his fears by telling him no one is going to get him. [REDACTED] then stated Randall said, "what about the punk upstairs." When [REDACTED] asked Randall if he was referring to his brother [REDACTED], Randall stated, "that's not my brother. I don't even think that you are my mom." Randall stated to [REDACTED] "I don't know who you people are."

When [REDACTED] came down the stairs, Randall pointed the gun at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] then told [REDACTED] to get into the back bedroom. [REDACTED] tried to calm Randall down more by telling him to put the gun down. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] stated she then went into the back bedroom with [REDACTED] and barricaded themselves inside. While she and [REDACTED] were in the back bedroom, Randall was walking around the house talking to himself. [REDACTED] further stated, [REDACTED] s girlfriend [REDACTED] [REDACTED]) was upstairs hiding under the bed alone. When asked if Randall tried to force his way into the bedroom they were barricaded in, [REDACTED] said "no, he never tried to come back."

[REDACTED] stated Randall got worse right after his father died in 2020. [REDACTED] stated Randall's father was very good at getting him under control. When [REDACTED] was asked what Randall was doing while they were in the back bedroom, [REDACTED] stated he was talking to himself and the voices in his head. [REDACTED] further stated Randall referred to God and said, "He's ready to go" and that "he's not afraid to die." [REDACTED] stated they could not see him from the bedroom but could hear him moving around the house. When SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] when she called 911; [REDACTED] stated she did not because she was in fear that Randall would hear her. According to the time of the text, at 2013 hours, [REDACTED] texted her daughter Maxine to call 911 and continued texting Maxine everything that was going on. [REDACTED] stated she was texting with Maxine and a crisis negotiator named Kristen throughout the incident.

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Around the time when the SWAT team entered the residence, [REDACTED] stated she thought her house blew up due to how loud it was. At this point, [REDACTED] stated they were yelling that they were "back here," when they heard the officers enter the residence. [REDACTED] stated it sounded like "fireworks" were going off. [REDACTED] stated they were concerned about [REDACTED] being upstairs alone and that was why they didn't try to escape through the first-floor window. When [REDACTED] eventually exited the bedroom, she stated she and [REDACTED] were handcuffed and escorted out the backdoor. [REDACTED] didn't see where Randall was when she exited, other than knowing he was in the front room and that they (law enforcement) made her go in the opposite direction.

When SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] if Randall has acted like this previously, she replied, "lots and lots and lots of times." [REDACTED] further stated there were no guns involved previously. [REDACTED] stated every time they had taken him to the hospital, all they would do is give him medicine and send him home. [REDACTED] was frustrated with the lack of mental health assistance. When asked what Randall does during the day, [REDACTED] stated he spends every day at home and sits in his chair in the living room talking to himself. [REDACTED] further stated they stopped watching television in fear that the voices Randall hears will increase. [REDACTED] stated he sometimes doesn't sleep for days.

When [REDACTED] was asked if Randall ever made threats towards her or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated, with the exception of the incident, he had never threatened them. SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] if Randall had ever threatened anyone else. [REDACTED] stated Randall always referred to, "getting Brenden." [REDACTED] stated Brenden lives in California. From time to time, Randall will call him or facetime him. [REDACTED] further stated, "Brenden has to think he's totally nuts." [REDACTED] stated Brenden has never done anything to him. When asked how Randall is around law enforcement; [REDACTED] stated Randall is "kinda paranoid and scared." [REDACTED] further stated Randall had never threatened to harm any law enforcement and was always compliant.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated just before the incident occurred, he was upstairs in his bedroom, "hanging out." During that time [REDACTED] stated he heard a "weird" banging noise coming from downstairs. Initially, [REDACTED] stated he didn't think anything of it because, "*I always hear banging noises because my brother, he would uh, he would like be loud all the time and stomp all over the house and stuff.*" [REDACTED] stated at this time, he just wanted to go downstairs and check on his mother and to get a glass of water. [REDACTED] stated when he went downstairs, Randall had a gun aimed directly at him. After encountering Randall with the gun pointed at him, [REDACTED] stated he ran into the back room and shut

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

the door. After [REDACTED] went into the room, he heard Randall walk down the hallway towards the room. At this point, [REDACTED] stated he put the bed up against the door so Randall could not, "*shoot through the door.*"

At this point, [REDACTED] stated Randall stopped going after him because his mom got in the way, which caused Randall to point the gun in her face. [REDACTED] stated he tried to talk to Randall to calm him down and to also hear his mom's voice to make sure she was okay. After about 20 minutes, [REDACTED] stated he tried calling the police but immediately hung up at that time because he was afraid of how Randall might react towards his mom when they arrived. [REDACTED] stated after he hung up the phone, the 911 call center kept calling him back.

Soon thereafter, [REDACTED] s mom was able to make her way back towards the back room where [REDACTED] was and entered the room. [REDACTED] stated they barricaded themselves in the back room. [REDACTED] stated they were in the back room from approximately, "8:15 8:30 PM until whatever time the door got kicked down and, uh, shots rang out." While the shots were being fired, [REDACTED] stated they were lying on the floor until it stopped. [REDACTED] stated while he was in the back room, he had his single barrel midland shotgun with four shotgun shells for protection.

SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] if Randall made any threats towards law enforcement. [REDACTED] stated he did not know. When asked if Randall had ever made threats towards law enforcement in the past, [REDACTED] stated, he heard Randall say, "if these fucking cops come near, I'm gonna blow their heads off one by one." [REDACTED] also heard Randall say, "I'm not going back to jail." [REDACTED] further stated that Randall didn't believe that the "cops were really cops" and that there were "people out to kill him and take him to torture chambers." [REDACTED] associated Randall's behavior to his [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated there have been times when Randall was okay when the police arrived.

[REDACTED] stated over the last couple years, Randall acted as if his mom wasn't his mom and that he, [REDACTED] wasn't his brother. [REDACTED] stated his mom told him Randall said, "*I wish I knew who that little punk upstairs was, blah, blah, blah, I want to know what you did with my brother.*" When SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] if he knew when Randall purchased the gun; [REDACTED] stated he wasn't sure when, but he believes it was shortly after his father passed away. [REDACTED] stated he believed that Randall bought it from a local gun show.

Towards the end of the interview, SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] to describe what he heard when law enforcement made entry into the residence. [REDACTED] stated he heard, "*drop the gun, drop the gun!*" [REDACTED] stated he believes he heard a single shotgun blast first, in

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

which he assumed it was Randall, followed by multiple gunshots thereafter. [REDACTED] then stated he heard, "freeze, freeze, drop the gun, drop the gun!" Soon thereafter, [REDACTED] stated he and his mom, along with his girlfriend, were escorted out of the residence.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is the girlfriend to [REDACTED] and was staying at the residence during the time of the incident.

[REDACTED] stated around the time of the incident, her boyfriend [REDACTED] went downstairs. When [REDACTED] went downstairs, [REDACTED] stated she heard yelling and heard [REDACTED] and his mom trying to talk to Randall. [REDACTED] stated at this point she began to have a panic attack. [REDACTED] then called [REDACTED] and told her to stay upstairs. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] began to text her to get somewhere safe. At this point, [REDACTED] stated she was trying to find a place to hide upstairs in the bedroom. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was also texting her to take the air conditioning unit out of the window and to go out onto the roof because it's not safe in the house.

[REDACTED] stated she began to panic because she's never been in a situation like this and that she was alone. [REDACTED] stated she wasn't able to get the air conditioner out of the window due to how heavy it was. [REDACTED] further stated she then hid under the bed. While under the bed, [REDACTED] stated she called 911 and was on the phone for a long period of time. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] texted her that his brother is going crazy.

When SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] what she heard from downstairs; [REDACTED] stated she heard [REDACTED] and his mom, [REDACTED] yell, "Put it down, put it down." At this point, [REDACTED] stated she didn't know what to do and stayed upstairs the remainder of the night. [REDACTED] stated Randall never went upstairs. [REDACTED] stated at one point, because the dog was making noise upstairs, she was nervous Randall would have heard that and came upstairs. While [REDACTED] was upstairs, she did not know what was going on downstairs and she knew it wasn't safe to go down there.

[REDACTED] stated her and [REDACTED] have been dating for 5 months, but she has known him for 8 or 9 months. When asked if she knew Randall; [REDACTED] stated he scared her until she got to know him.

Once [REDACTED] began to stay at the house more, she started hearing Randall talking to himself more, in which [REDACTED] stated that scared her initially also, but after hearing Randall talk to himself, she became used to it, and it didn't bother her anymore. When

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

asked if [REDACTED] heard Randall ever say anything about harming himself, [REDACTED] said she did not. SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] if she had ever heard Randall mention harming other people. [REDACTED] stated Randall would say something along the lines of "when I get my hands on you" or "why don't you come over here and I'll show you," as he was referring to a friend named Brennan. [REDACTED] didn't know anything more about Brennan. [REDACTED] stated she had never heard Randall make any more threats towards anyone, including law enforcement. When SA Goudy asked [REDACTED] if she had ever seen Randall handle a weapon in a threatening manner, she stated that she did not.

Involved Officers Interviews

Officer [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] explained that once the SWAT Team was activated via the 911 app, he called into his dispatch (Trumbull County 911) and "Tried to get as much information on the incident as possible" prior to him leaving his residence. Officer [REDACTED] then responded to the location in his take home cruiser.

When Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene, he stated he noticed, "A lot of traffic cruisers lining the roads" none of which he recognized as being members of the SWAT Team. Officer [REDACTED] then parked his cruiser and then put all his equipment on.

Officer [REDACTED] approached the scene and contacted a Howland Township officer who provided him with information about the incident. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "Essentially the gist that I took in was that we had a hostage situation, family member who was a prior drug user, diagnosed with mental health issues, been off of his medications and he had family inside and weapons. I was advised that they tried to make an approach and they were threatened, so they backed away and set up a perimeter."

Officer [REDACTED] then called SWAT Team command and relayed what information he had to them. Officer [REDACTED] advised that the initial responding officers had a "solid perimeter set" and there really wasn't much for him to take over on scene.

Officer [REDACTED] then moved to an area that he felt was safe and began gathering equipment such as a shield and ram in case an emergency breach was needed.

Eventually other team members arrived and "we pushed out all elements outside of CRT (Crisis Response Team), we maintain and hold perimeter. Command and Control did their thing, negotiators worked, drone team worked, and I basically held for perimeter,

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

so, I don't know, 9, 10, 11 hours, however long it was. At some point, they've exhausted all options. So, we gathered some of the guys, tried to develop a plan like, listen we got OSP (Ohio State Highway Patrol). I guess there was kind of an issue with OSP, they wouldn't give us equipment, a bearcat. So, we wanted originally, I think the plan was to get the OSP's BearCat, which is like a mobile ram, armored ram, you can ram the door, pull the door apart and enter. They refused, so instead they sent us a breaching element, which was nice. So, we formulated a plan with the OSP breaching team. Said that we would send first team in, as cover. They would set the breaching charges, we would back away and stand by. Breaching element was set, they asked for operators, you know who's going to take shield, who wants point. I said, 'I'll take it.' Big shield, it's a level 3 rated shield, so it's a heavy shield, I'm a bigger guy, a lot of the guys on the team are a little bit smaller, they have, you know, different skill sets, I figured I'd take the shield, work it."

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "So the breaching element was made, we moved up through the backyards. OSP, I moved up with OSP, we have a couple guys, rifle guys for cover for us. The OSP set the breaching charges on the back door, which was, it's a weird, elevated backdoor, it's not like a ground level backdoor so we had to move up some stairs, they set the breach charges. Everything was set and we backed down and away and around to the opposite end of the house.

Officer [REDACTED] stated that prior to detonating the breaching charge it was already decided the order in which officers would approach the house. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he was first in the stack, followed by Sergeant [REDACTED] followed by Officer [REDACTED]. Once team members were "set" they advised "command in control" that they were ready, and a countdown began.

Officer [REDACTED] stated, "Command and control gave us a countdown, OSP blew the door, breach went off, we moved out, I was point man with the shield. So, rounding the backside of the house, up the stairs, shield facing the doorway, I immediately saw the guy, I believe his last name is Fife, so I saw Fife at the door he had the shotgun leveled at us. I started calling out the shotgun."

At this point in the interview, Officer [REDACTED] wished to clarify some tactical training associated with the shield. Officer [REDACTED] explained, "We don't typically train shield and pistol work in CRT. My police department, I've been through training where we do train pistol and shield work. While we were stacked, prior to the breach, you know, I made the comments, 'Listen guys, you know, I'll have the shield, I'll have my pistol we'll move, you know, this direction and I was instructed, 'hey we don't train like that, so go ahead and holster up. Focus your shield work, the rifle guys will cover you.'"

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44884 Trumbull County

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "Go back to after the breach, as I'm moving forward with the shield, both arms on the shield. Fife comes up, leveled shotgun, again he is at an elevated position. So, backdoor is not ground level, it's elevated. He levels the shotgun at us, I start calling out, 'shotgun, shotgun, shotgun.' I think [REDACTED] moves to the left side, you know, we were single file, moving around. [REDACTED] moves to my left side, cover behind shield, I'm working shield. Fife backs away into the house into the darkness of the house, you can't see him at that point. So, you got to move to the house. So, we move up the stairs to the backdoor, the breach, something happened with the breach, blew the backdoor off but the screen door, blew the backdoor in but the screen door kind of like just crumpled in on itself and blocked the doorway. So, I start clearing the doorway out, you know, shield in one hand, trying to plug the door, trying to clear the trash out of the doorway. [REDACTED] is to my left, he's trying to do the same thing. At that moment, Fife comes through the dining room, like short hallway dining room, into the kitchen and fires a round off, a shotgun round. I can feel it hit the shield, um, I don't really remember whether or not I felt it hit my pants or not, but at that moment I drew my pistol, [REDACTED] leveled his rifle and I started pushing into the kitchen and then I start hearing, it all happened so fast. It was like the shotgun went off, I could hear it hitting the walls, I could hear it hitting the shield, I had my pistol in my hand and I moved into the kitchen area, [REDACTED] was on my left but using shield as cover and I could hear [REDACTED] screaming, 'I'm shot, I'm shot, I'm shot.'"

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "So, this is where the story gets weird. I recalled only one shot being fired. I've been told multiple times that there were multiple shots fired. I've never seen the body camera, so I don't know exactly how many shots but, in my mind, I heard one shot. I move into the kitchen, into the dining room, dinette, and then I see Fife, sitting on the couch, holding the shotgun, pistol is in my hand, I present out and start shooting. [REDACTED] starts shooting, Fife goes down. Holster up, shotgun is out of Fife's hands, I chuck the shield off into the couch. I move around, [REDACTED] is using, I'm using [REDACTED] as cover, he's got rifle pointing down, shield is out of my hand, pistol is holstered. I handcuff Fife, I roll him over, I check for a carotid pulse, I felt a very rapid but weak and thready carotid pulse."

Officer [REDACTED] stated he then started to yell for a medic and other team members "cleared the house." Officer [REDACTED] advised that the hostages/family members were still barricaded in the residence, hiding under beds. The family members were then extracted from the residence by other team members.

Officer [REDACTED] advised that his version of events is from what he "remembered in the moment" and that he could piece everything else together from what he had heard.

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

SA Momchilov stated, "And you said you haven't viewed any body camera footage." Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Nothing, I haven't heard nothing. My department has shielded me from everything. I mean, yes, we still, SRT, we still go to trainings and stuff and guys will talk. I try to limit it because you're suppose to, hey what happened to you, what did you go through, during the interviews but of course I've heard a lot of different stories, a lot of different accounts of what happened."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if anyone had asked him to lie or try to influence his statement. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "No, not at all."

SA Momchilov stated, "So, you said you were doing perimeter for the majority incident, outside. Do you recall seeing anything in the house?"

Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Yeah, Fife moving around a lot, with the rifle, um not rifle, shotgun. In the moment I didn't know what it was, I knew it was a weapon."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if when he initially observed Fife, with the shotgun leveled, would he have fired if his pistol was out. Officer [REDACTED] stated he would have. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] "Why would that have been?" Officer [REDACTED] replied, "He's pointing a weapon at us. We've been on scene for 11 hours; we've identified ourselves in every way humanly possible. I think he made statements, again this is, you know, everything is crisscrossing between what I remember and what I've heard. I'm pretty positive on scene, I had already known that he had threatened his family members with a shotgun. I know his history only because I looked up his history. So, he has made threats prior, in the moment, I didn't know that but, in the moment, we identified ourselves as law enforcement. The negotiators tried for hours to get him on the phone, he would talk to them and then hang up. The drones, the police sirens, the uniforms, hostages, threats, and he leveled a shotgun at police."

At this point in the interview, Officer [REDACTED] elaborated about what he observed when he saw Fife sitting on the couch, when officers made entry into the house. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "He is sitting on the couch. The way it looked; he was reloading the shotgun. I only remember one shot, but I've been told many times that I'm wrong. I've been told there was two or three shots. I only remember the one shot. So, he was sitting on the couch reloading a shotgun, which I assume was a single shot shotgun. I could see the break and it was folded in half, like you know, an over/under and he was like, that look in his eye and he was facing us. So as soon as I came through the kitchen into the dinette, passing that threshold, that's what I see, him sitting on the couch. That's the moment, I had the shield and the pistol, [REDACTED] was off to my left. I knew [REDACTED] was clear and it was him, couch, wall, and that's when I opened fire."

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Officer [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] received a SWAT alert advising the SWAT Team was being activated. The alert gave a "basic description on what's going on" and a location. Officer [REDACTED] responded to the scene where he was briefed further.

Initially, Officer [REDACTED] was assigned to the rear perimeter of the residence. During that time, team members were "doing basic, you know, callouts to the guy, you know, he was aware that we were there. They were making contact with him via the phone. They did say that they had contact with one of the people inside the house, which was a female, I believe it was the girlfriend of the, his brother. She was upstairs, continued for hours of, you know, calling on the megaphone or the P.A. system, trying to get him to just, you know, come out and surrender to us so we can kind of figure out what is going on. Hitting the sirens, lights that whole down the list of things we need to do when we get there."

Officer [REDACTED] advised that a couple hours before the SWAT Team breached the residence, "they" lost contact with the female upstairs. According to Officer [REDACTED] "She said that she was having trouble breathing and it sounded like she was kind of having a panic attack and then her phone died. So that kind of ramped things up a little bit because, you know, we have a person there with a gun and essentially holding hostages at that point. Then we lose contact with our only person that we had inside and he kind of wasn't willing to talk to us, willing to communicate with anybody." Officer [REDACTED] explained that the Ohio State Highway Patrol sent out two troopers who had the capability to use explosives to breach the residence. It was then decided that the team would breach the residence using explosives.

Officer [REDACTED] stated, "So once we kind of briefed up on what we were going to do there, on how that was going to go. We got stacked up on the side of the house while they set the breach. Then, once they got the execute order, they blew the door, we had two shield guys and like I said, I had a ram. Because if the explosive breach failed, we were going to have to go do the manual breach with the ram and pry."

Officer [REDACTED] continued, "We get up there, and what had happened was, when they blew the door, there was like a flimsy screen door. The way that the guys described it to us, from the Highway Patrol was like, because of that gap between the door and the screen, it twisted the screen door, so it was still kind of on the frame a little bit. So, as we made our way up, we started working that and that's when the suspect was in the kitchen and the first guy with the shield kind of saw him and called out, 'gun, gun, gun' they started

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

giving him commands at the door to, and as we finally got the screen door pulled off and went to go make it in, he shot the first round and that struck the right side of the guy with the shield and then the person behind him, so, both of them got hit with the first blast and then he kept backing up and that's when we kind of we, the other two shield, the shield guy and the guy with him moved in, I kind of moved on to his side and he fired another round at use and the shield guy, other shield, Sergeant [REDACTED] who was there and myself, we opened fire on him, he dropped and then as we moved up we saw the gun was sittin' there, he was kind of sitting Indian style, kind of slumped over Indian style in the living room. I moved the gun away from him and then as they, as Sergeant [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got the shield and they kind of held him and myself and Officer Wharry we peeled back and went upstairs and got the girl out that was up under a bed, on the second floor."

At this point in the interview, SA Momchilov began asking follow-up questions.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he remembered what specific information he received in the initial SWAT activation alert. Officer [REDACTED] advised that there was a male with a gun inside a house with two females and another male.

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he received any further information when he arrived on scene. Officer [REDACTED] advised that the additional information he received was that the subject was observed with a long gun and that the subject's brother and mother were on the first floor and another female was upstairs.

SA Momchilov stated, "So, an individual in the house, armed, with three individuals in the house."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he observed anything when he was assigned the perimeter to the rear of the house. Officer [REDACTED] stated he observed the subject pace back in forth from the living room to the kitchen area multiple times. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could tell if the subject was armed. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "From back there, no."

SA Momchilov stated, "You said the decision was made to breach based on losing contact with the female. Was there a long duration that happened in between, what's the timeframe?"

Officer [REDACTED] advised that the decision to breach was made around 0600 hours. Officer [REDACTED] further advised, "We were there for a decent amount of time before, so like, we were kind of, I don't want to say exhausted but we kind of were at a point of like, he's not making contact with us, cause obviously when you go into a situation like that,

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

you're whole plan is like, get him to surrender peacefully, just come out so we can go get him help that he needs and get those other people out of the house, make sure everyone's like, safely. So, once you get past a certain point, of like, we're trying to make contact, like he's not answering, because usually we'll try to make contact on the phone or we do the P.A. announcements, like, lights, sirens, like trying to get his attention, like hey, the police are out here, we're trying to just talk to you, you pick the phone up we'll kind of, we can hash this all out and kind of move about it so. Like I said, once you get to that point of exhausting all those measures then you reach that point of where, again, when well lost contact with the female, that was kind of like, I think that extra, extra thing, expedited it a little bit, just as far as that you know, want to make sure that the other people are safe as well."

SA Momchilov asked, "In your opinion, would it be fair to say that he knew that there were officers outside?" Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Oh, absolutely."

SA Momchilov stated, "I believe you said you, somebody started yelling 'shotgun' or something along those lines (once the door was breached)." Officer [REDACTED] stated that Officer [REDACTED] was the individual who yelled gun and that he was the "shield guy" on the left-hand side. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he observed the individual holding a gun at this point. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he did not, and his view was obstructed by the two shields as he was coming up the rear steps.

SA Momchilov stated, "And I believe you said you heard him (subject) fire?" Officer [REDACTED] advised that was correct. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] how he knew it was the subject who fired. Officer [REDACTED] stated, "Ah, just kind of a shotgun blast I think sounds a little bit different then a rifle or pistol going off."

SA Momchilov stated, "So, the shotgun blast goes off and I think you said you heard officers return fire?"

Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Not after the initial blast, so you had the initial blast and then we continued to give, as we we're coming in, we continued to give, like commands, like 'drop the gun, drop the gun' throughout the whole thing was, 'drop the gun' like, and as he's backing up and lets off the second blast is when they, we returned fire on him."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he could observe the individual when that was going on. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Yeah."

SA Momchilov then asked, "Did you see him fire the second?" Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Yeah, so as like, that's as I came in. So, like, the first blast hit the first, two guys on the right-hand side which was ah, Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] was

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

the other shield guy, Officer [REDACTED] was his cover, so, once those two got hit and kind of rolled out that's when I kind of backfilled in where they were, were they were at."

SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] if he viewed any body-worn camera footage from the incident. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he had watched Officer [REDACTED]'s body-worn camera footage. SA Momchilov asked Officer [REDACTED] how many times he viewed it. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he watched the footage one time. SA Momchilov then asked if he is basing his version of events from the body-worn camera footage or off his recollection. Officer [REDACTED] replied, "Off of recollection."

Sergeant [REDACTED]

Sergeant [REDACTED]'s attorney, Kimberly Corral advised that Sergeant [REDACTED] would not provide a statement regarding this incident to investigators.

Crime Scene

A shotgun (Harrington and Richardson-Model 088) was recovered from the kitchen floor area of [REDACTED]. The chamber was found to be empty upon examination. Testing showed that Randall's DNA was present on the shotgun's trigger/trigger guard, the grip and the forend.



Recovered shotgun located on kitchen floor

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

A fired shotshell was recovered from the living room floor area of the residence. Ballistic testing confirmed that the recovered fired shotshell was fired from Harrington and Richardson-Model 088 shotgun. Testing showed that Randall's DNA was present on the fired shotshell.



Recovered shotshell (fired) located on living room floor

The rear door of the residence was found to contain defects consistent with a shotgun being fired at it.



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Agents located a total of 20 spent cartridge casings. Ballistic testing showed that three (3) 9-mm casings returned to Officer [REDACTED]'s firearm, eight (8) 9mm casings returned to Officer [REDACTED]'s firearm and nine (9) 5.56 fired casings returned to Sergeant [REDACTED]'s rifle.

Three unfired shotshells were also recovered from the scene. Two (2) unfired shotshells were recovered from the table located in the living room. One (1) unfired shotshell was located on the living room floor.



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



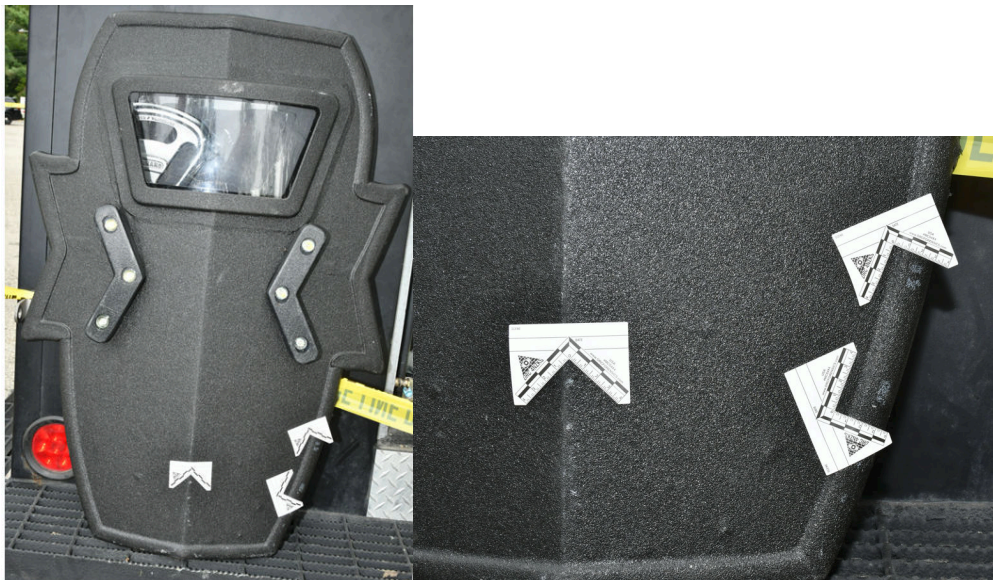
2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

After the incident, the clothing Randall was wearing was examined. Agents located four (4) live shotgun shells inside of the pockets of the pants Randall was wearing at the time of the incident.



The shield that a team member was carrying at the time of the breach also contained defects. The defects are consistent with a shotgun being fired at it.



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Clothing and equipment worn by team members also contained defects that are consistent with a shotgun being fired at it.



Holster worn by Sergeant [REDACTED] at the time of the incident.



Pants worn by Officer [REDACTED] at the time of the incident.

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



2023-2210

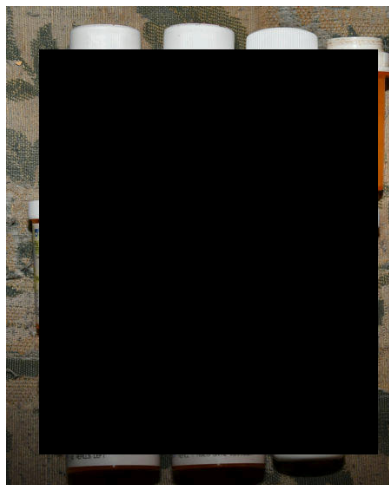
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Pants worn by Officer [REDACTED] at the time of the incident.

Numerous prescription medication, prescribed to Randall was also located in the living room area of



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

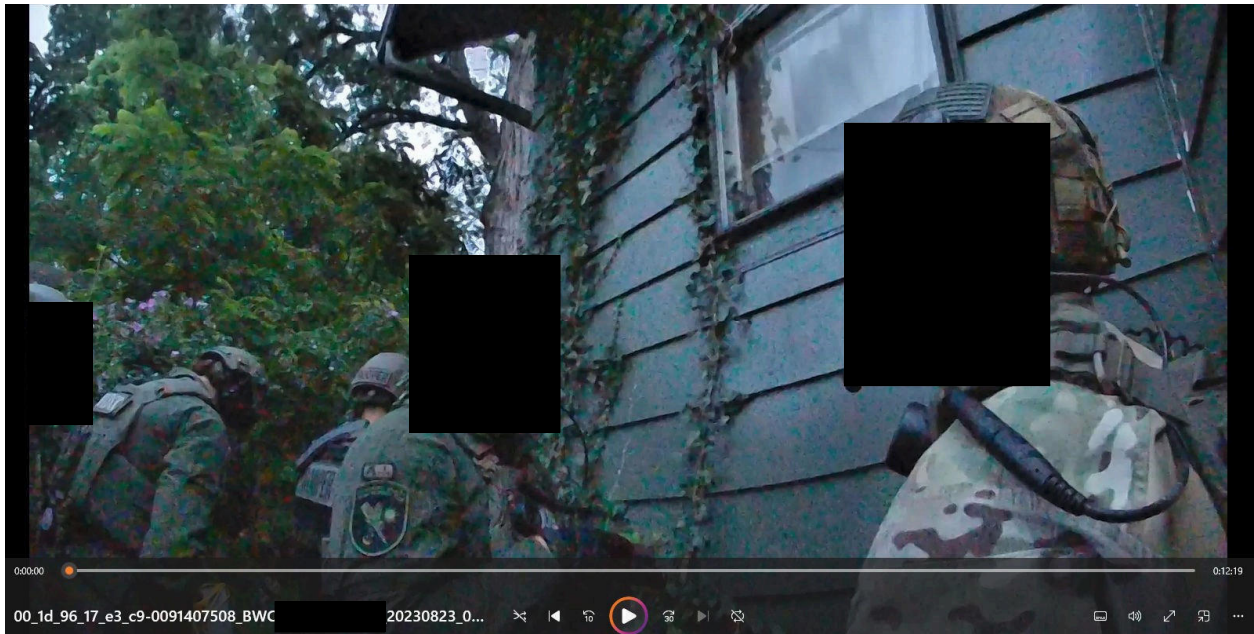


2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Officer [REDACTED]'s Body-Worn Camera Footage

Officer [REDACTED] was the only entry Team Member who was wearing a body-worn camera.



The beginning of the body-worn camera footage (time-0634:00 hours) appears to show MVC(R) members on the northeast corner of the residence. Approximately 22 seconds into the video, a voice of a loudspeaker is heard requesting that "Randall" come to the front door and that "Nobody is here to hurt you."

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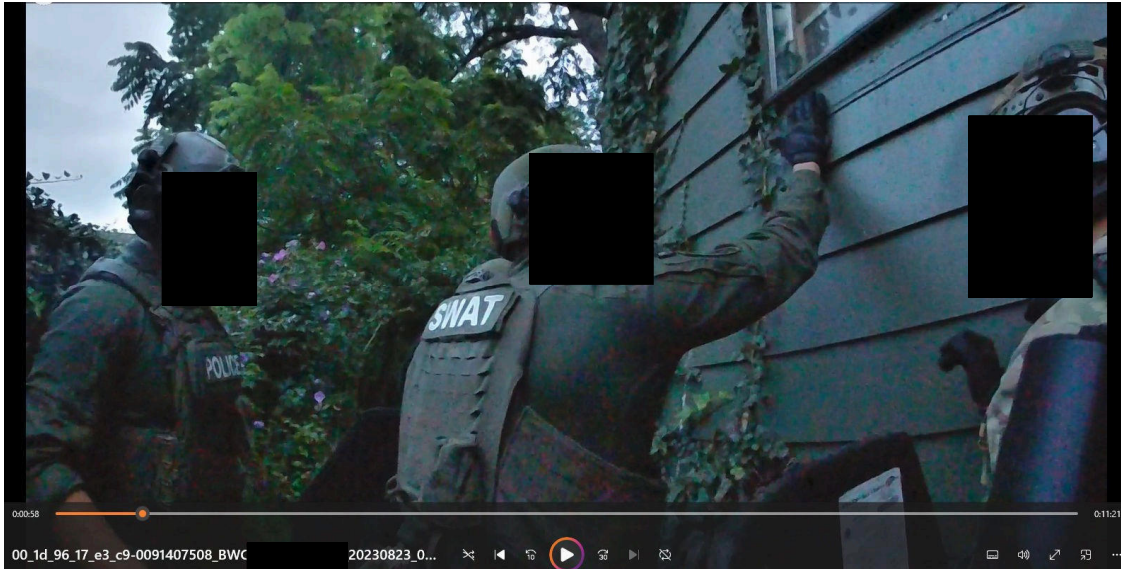
Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



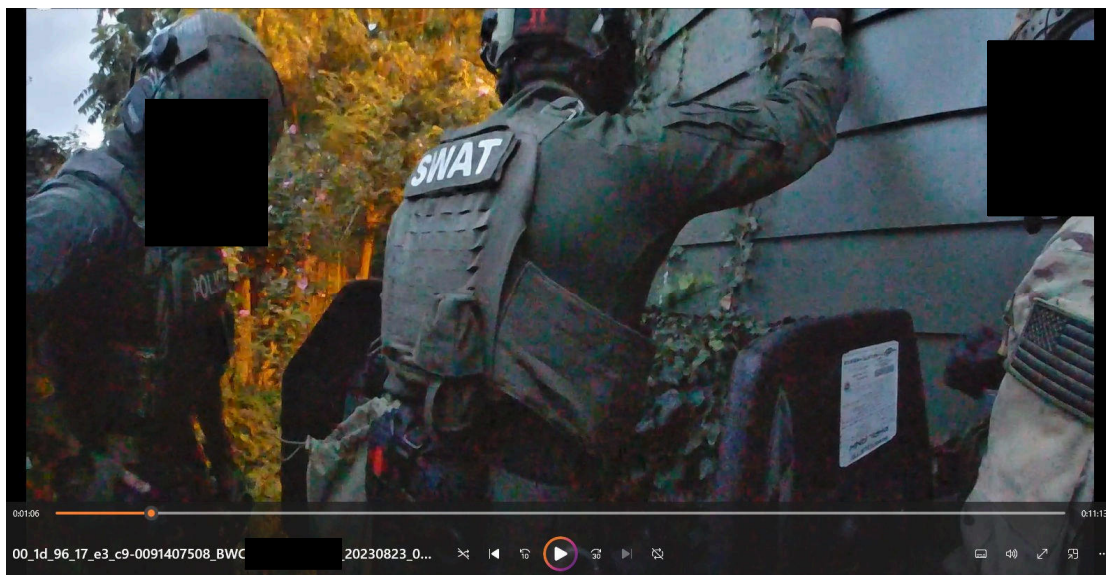
2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Approximately 58 seconds into the footage (0634:59 hours) MVCRT begin a countdown starting with 5.



At the end of the countdown, team members begin saying "Execute, execute, execute." Moments later an explosion is heard followed by a burst of light (rear door being breached by explosives).

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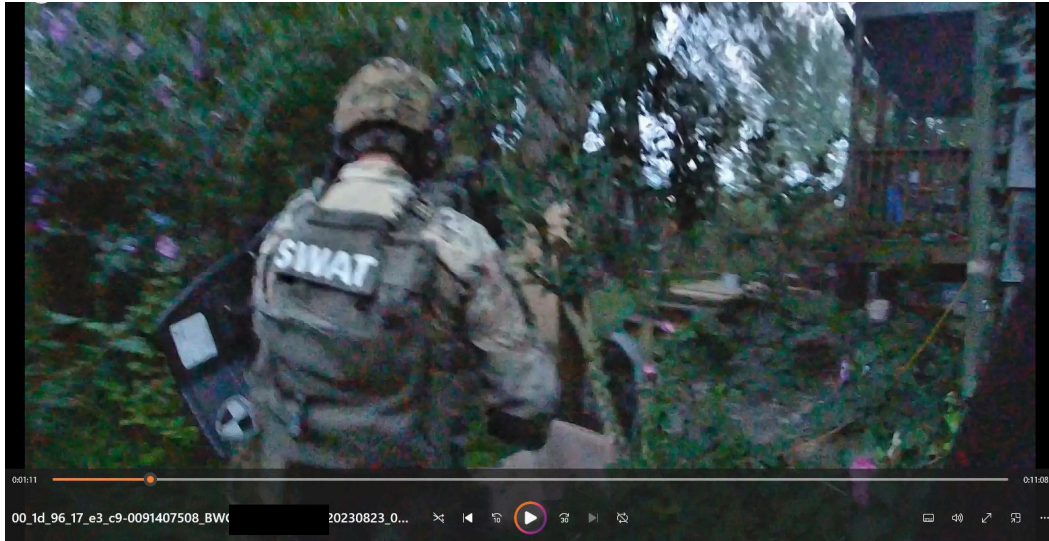
Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



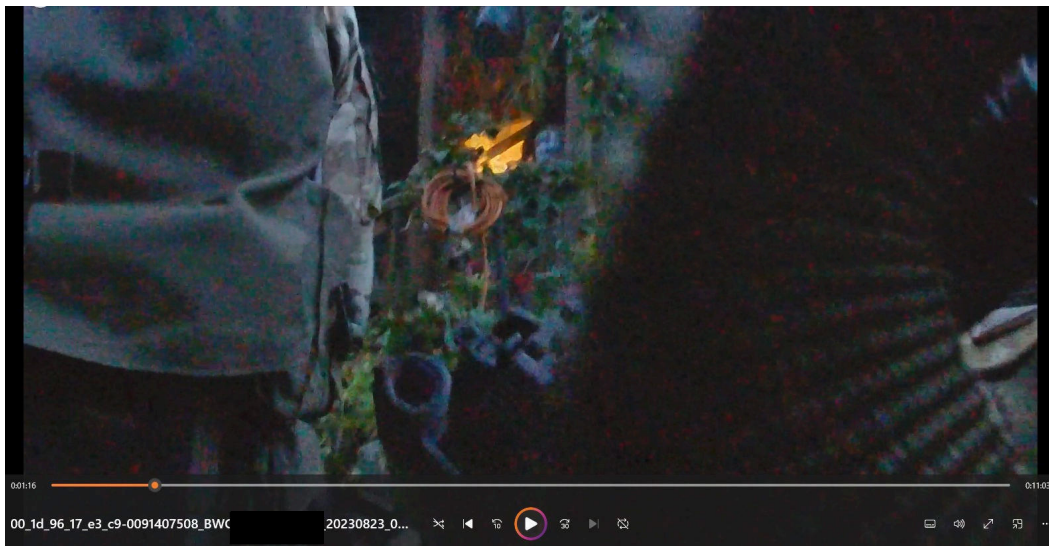
2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Approximately 1 minute and 11 seconds into the footage, team members began approaching the rear of 3639 Highlawn Ave SE.



Approximately 1 minute and 16 seconds into the footage, as a team member is walking up the steps to the rear of the residence, a team member is heard yelling, "Shotgun, Shotgun, shotgun, shotgun."

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Starting at approximately 1 minute and 22 seconds into the footage, the following dialog is heard between team members.

Unknown Team Member: I don't see it.

Unknown Team Member: Where?

Unknown Team Member: It's in his hand. It's in his hand.

Unknown Team Member: Where is he? Where is he?

Unknown Team Member: He's in the back, he's in the back. Or the front of the house, front of the house.

Unknown Team Member: HR lets go. HR lets go.

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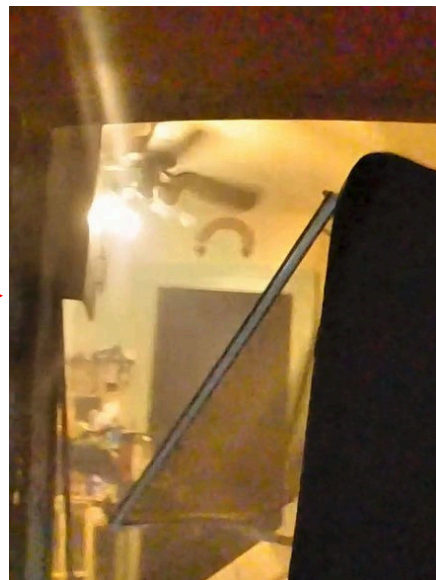
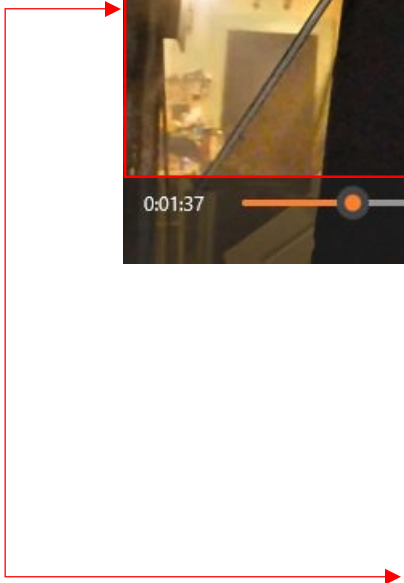
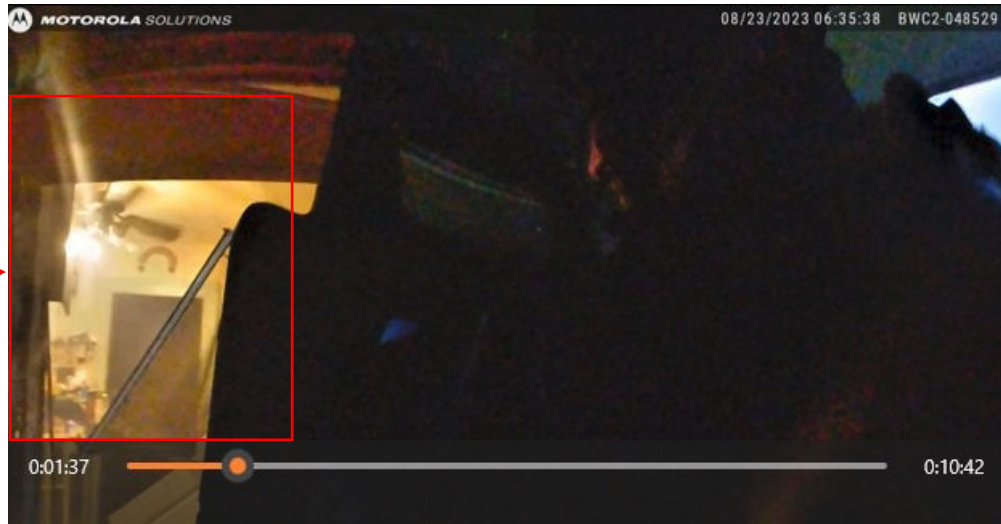
Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Enlarged image of screen door area that is obstructing entry.

Approximately 1 minute and 37 seconds into the footage, it appears that team members are attempting to make entry into the residence. However, the outer screen door appears to be obstructing them.

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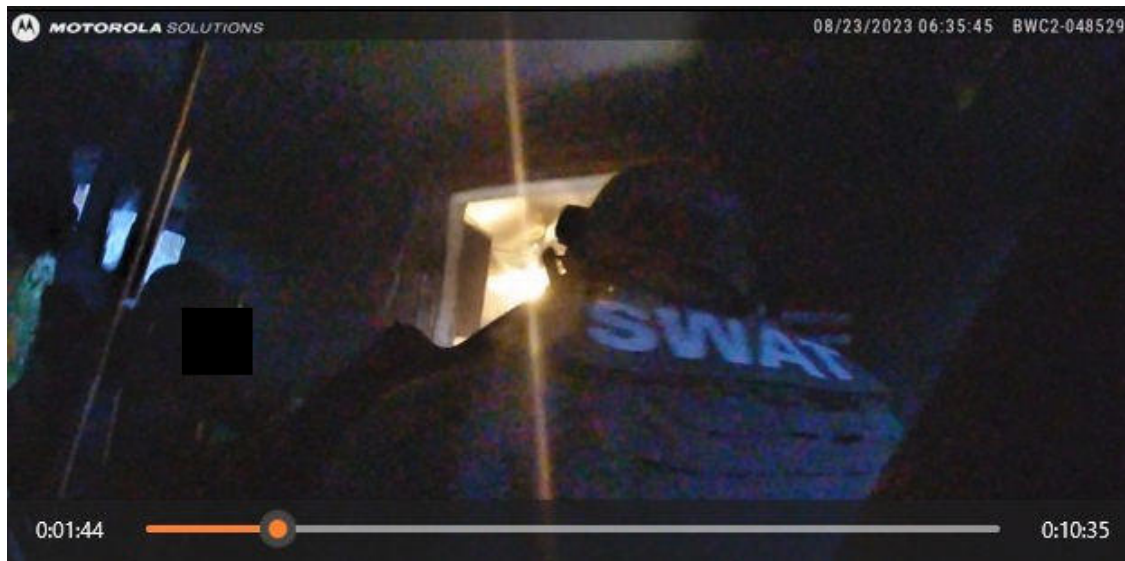


Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report

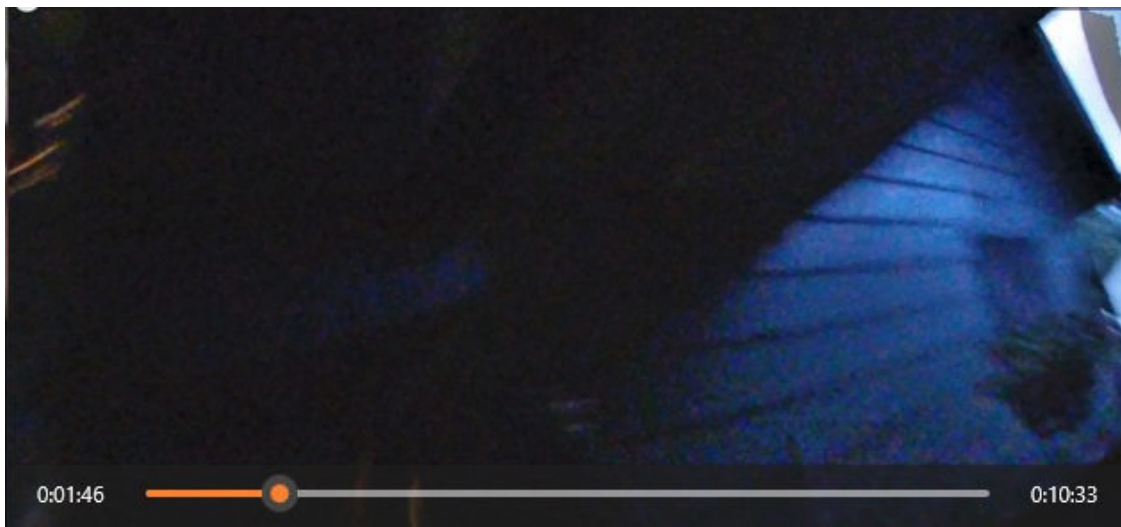


2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Approximately 1 minute and 44 seconds into the footage, prior to making entry into the residence, a team member is heard yelling, "drop the gun."



Approximately 1 minute and 46 seconds into the footage, the sound consistent with a gunshot is heard. That sound is followed by numerous other sounds that are consistent with gunfire. It then appears that Officer [REDACTED] is in distress and states, "Ah, fuck, I'm hit. Fuck him. Let go, HR let go."

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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Approximately 1 minute and 52 seconds into the footage, team members are observed making entry into the residence.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Enlarged image of team members in kitchen area.

Approximately 1 minute and 55 seconds into the footage, team members are observed in the kitchen area of the residence. Moments later, Officer [REDACTED] can be heard stating, "Yes, I'm hit."

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Enlarged image of team members in the threshold area.

Approximately 1 minute and 57 seconds into the footage, team members are observed in the threshold area that separates the kitchen from dining room area of the residence. A team member is heard yelling, "Show me your hands."

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Enlarged image of possible white colored cloud emitted from firearm

Moments after “show me your hands”, a possible white colored cloud is emitted from a team member’s firearm, followed by the sound of continuous gunfire.

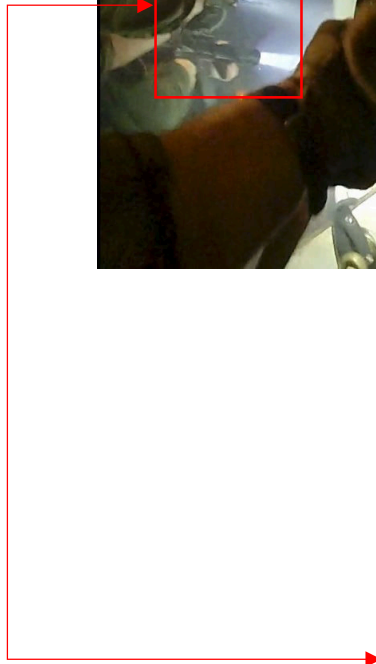
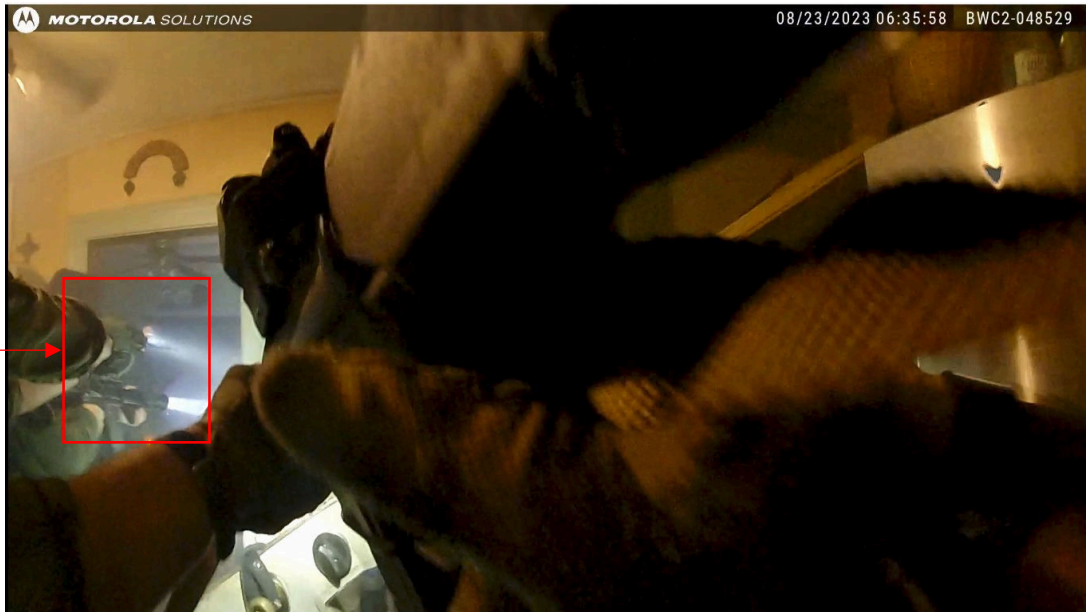
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Enlarged image of possible muzzle flash

Moments later, a possible muzzle flash is also observed.

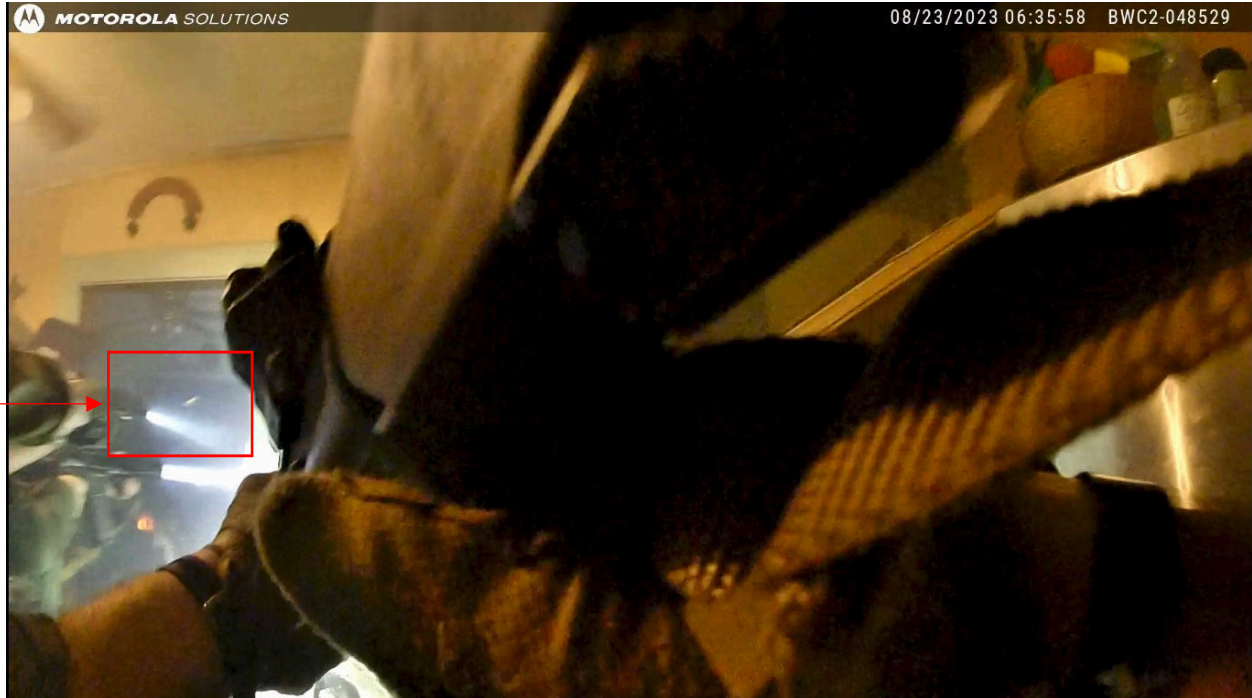
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



A cartridge casing
observed ejecting
from a firearm

Approximately 1 minute and 58 seconds into the footage, as gunshots are heard, a shell casing is observed being ejected.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Enlarged image of possible muzzle flash

Approximately 1 minute and 58 seconds into the footage, a possible white colored cloud is emitted from a team member's firearm.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible ejected
cartridge casing

Approximately 1 minute and 59 seconds into the footage, a possible ejected cartridge casing is observed.

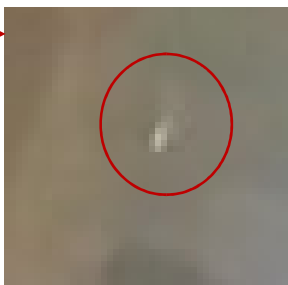
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible ejected
cartridge casing

Approximately 1 minute and 59 seconds into the footage, a possible ejected cartridge casing is observed.

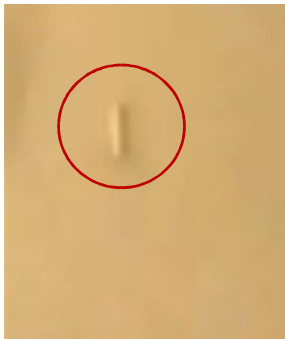
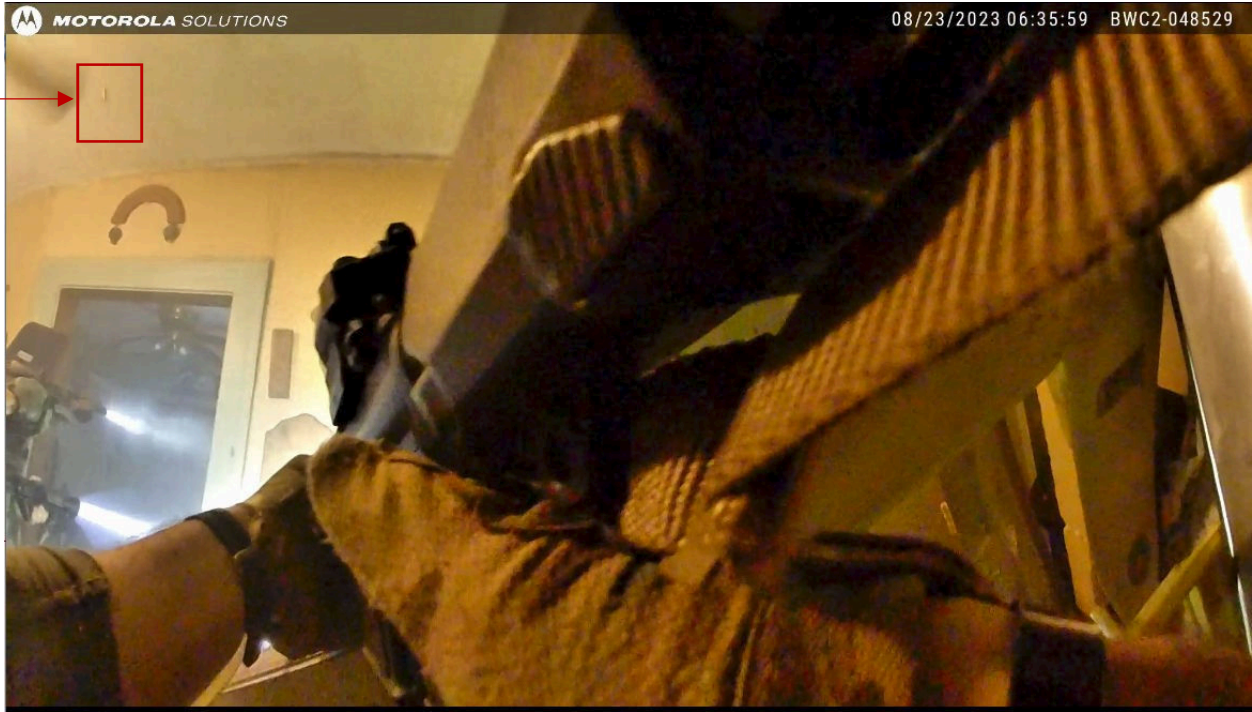
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible ejected
cartridge casing

Approximately 1 minute and 59 seconds into the footage, a possible ejected cartridge casing is observed.

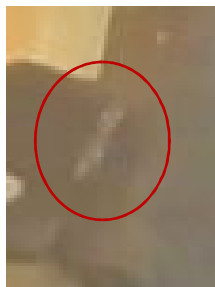
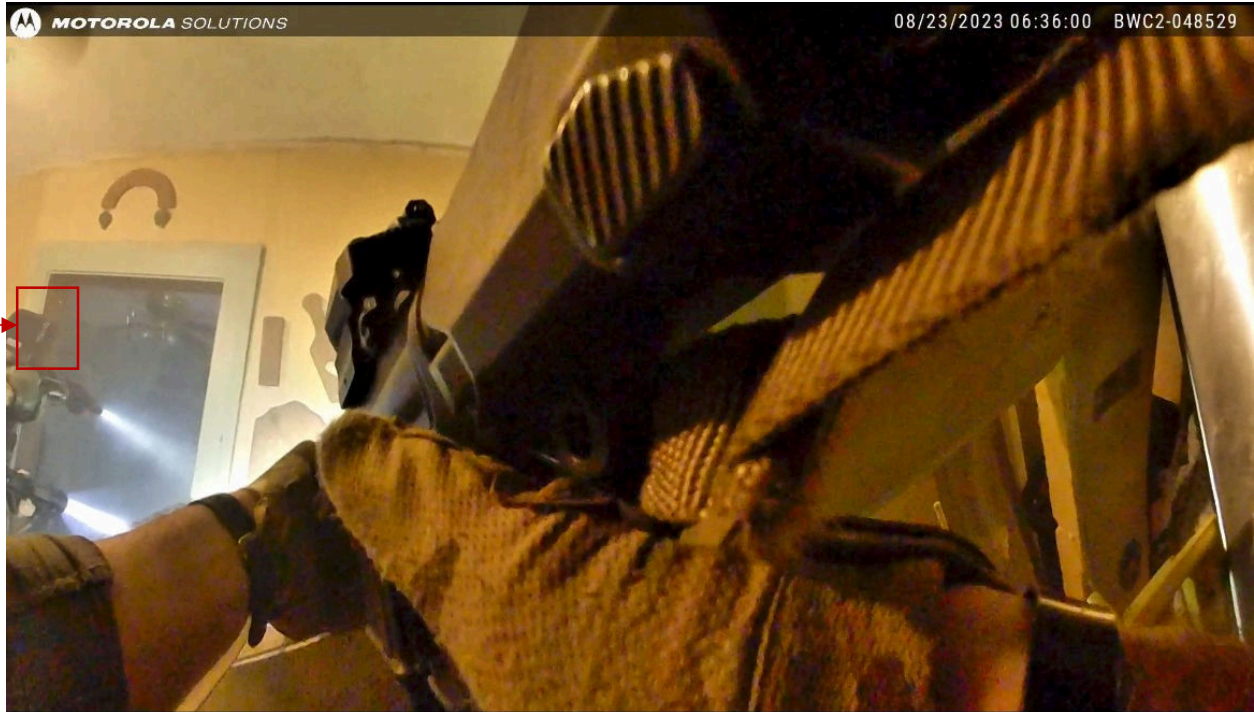
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible ejected
cartridge casing

Approximately 2 minutes into the footage, a possible ejected cartridge casing is observed.

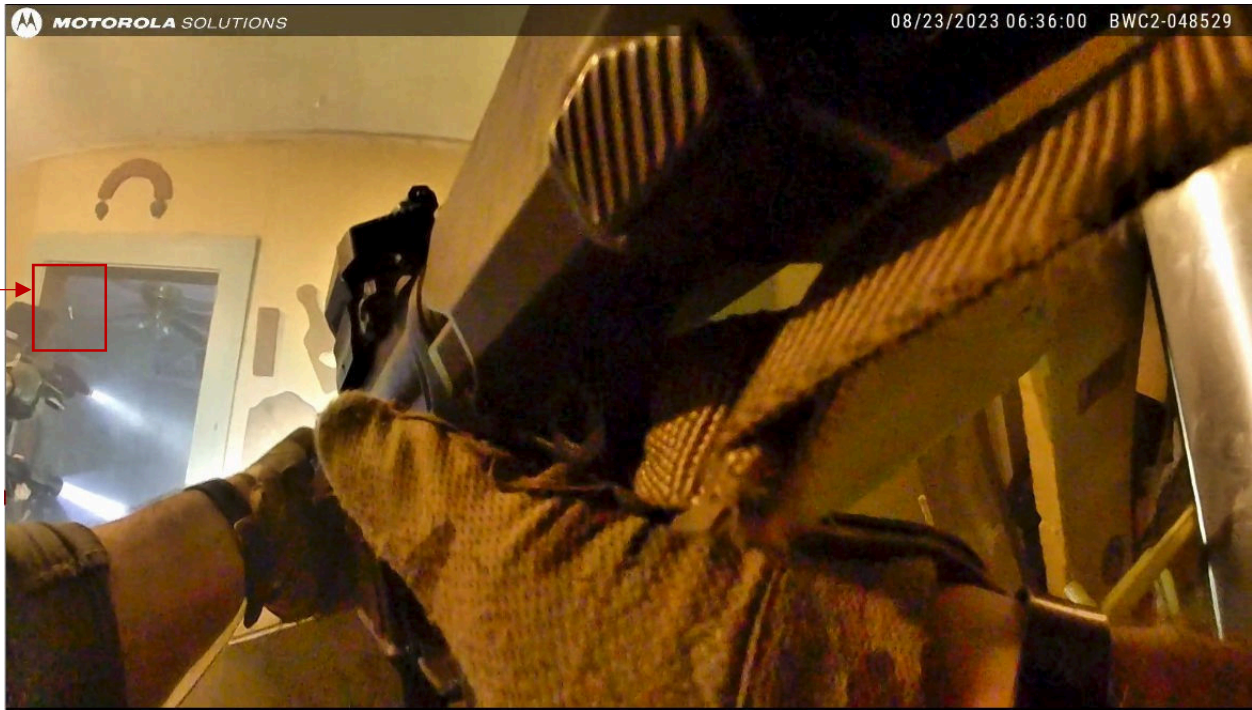
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
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[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible ejected
cartridge casing

Approximately 2 minutes into the footage, a possible ejected cartridge casing is observed.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible muzzle flash



Possible ejected cartridge casing

Approximately 2 minutes into the footage, a possible muzzle flash is observed followed by possible cartridge casing.

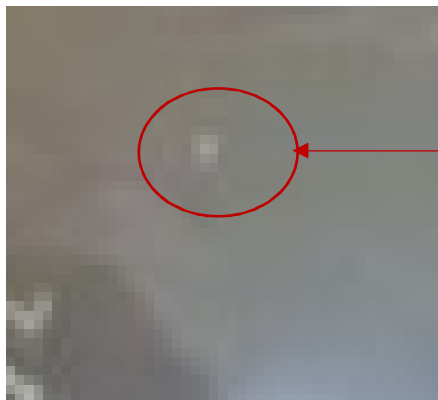
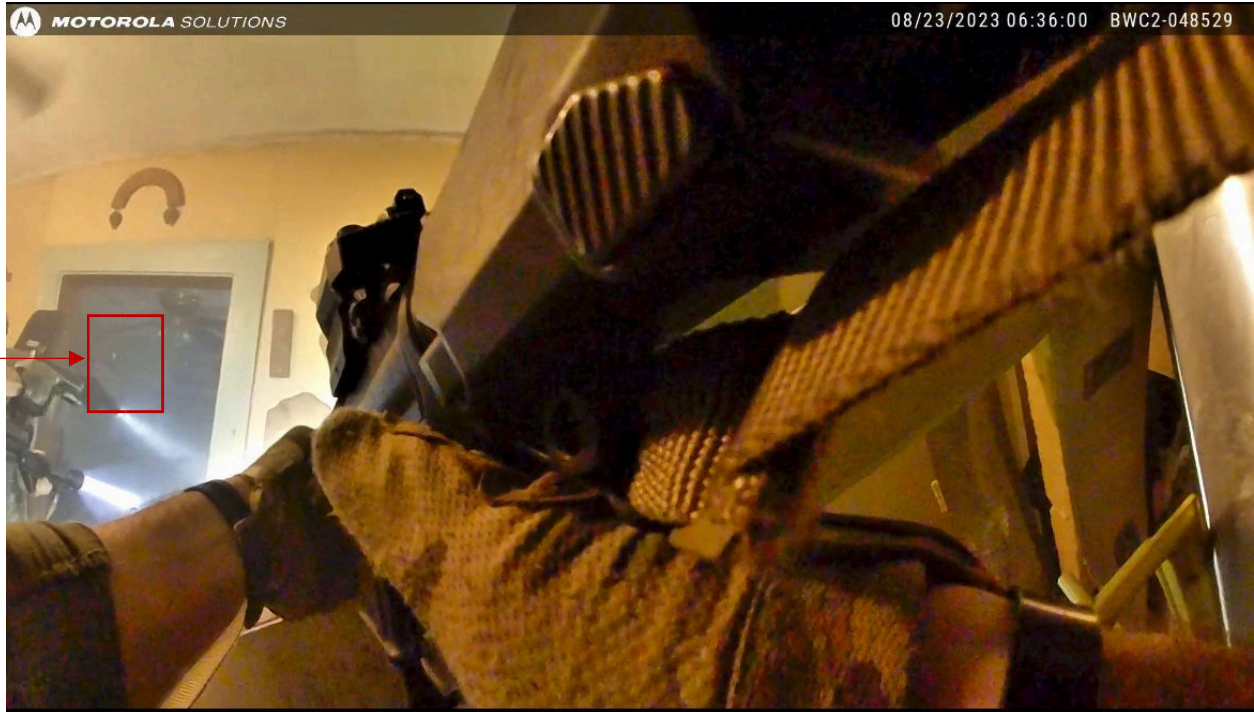
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Possible ejected
cartridge casing

Approximately 2 minutes into the footage, a possible muzzle flash is observed followed by possible cartridge casing.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Beginning at approximately 2 minutes and 1 second into the footage, it appears that team members began making entry into the kitchenette/living room area.

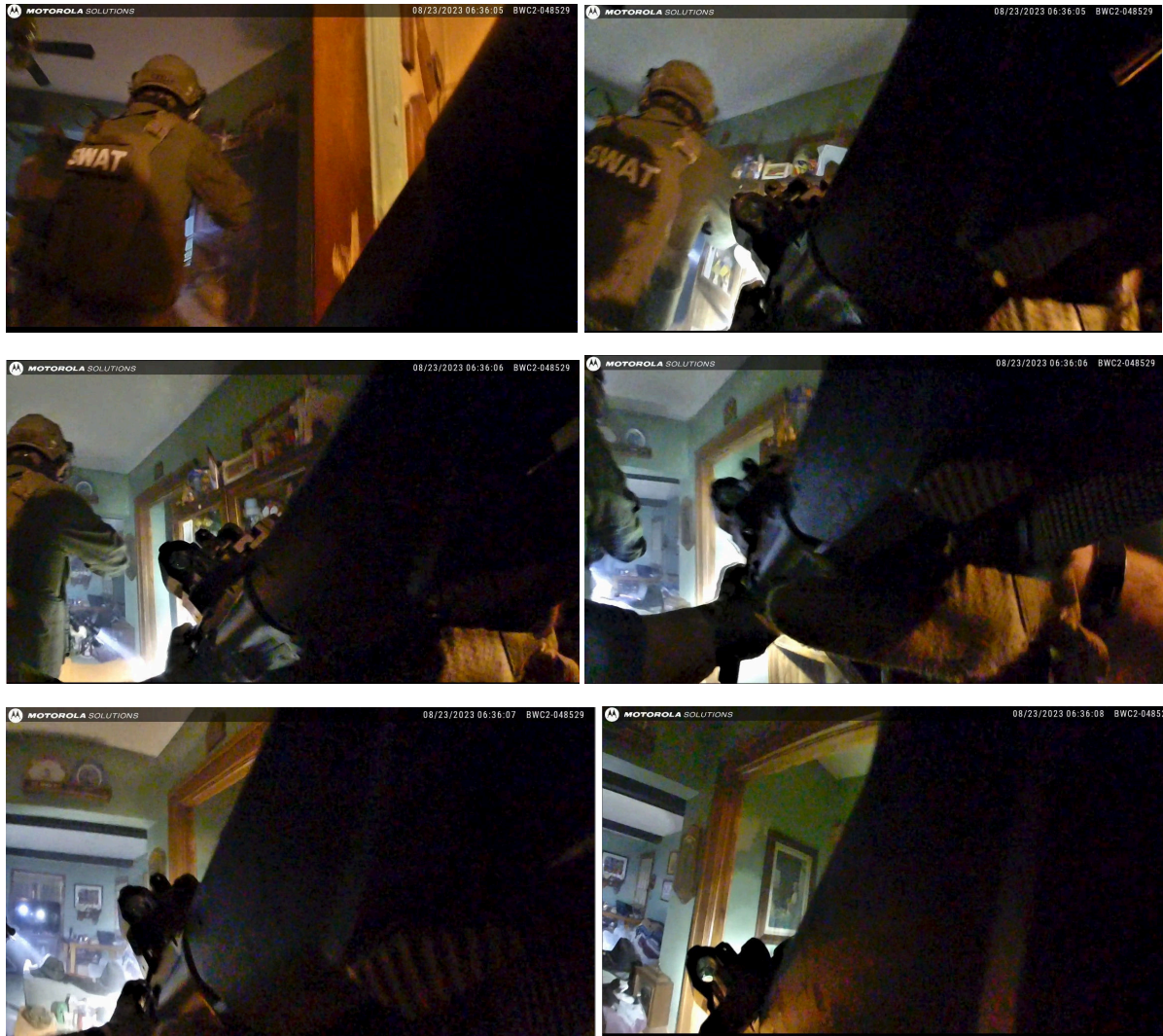
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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210
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[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Team members continue pushing into the living room area.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**

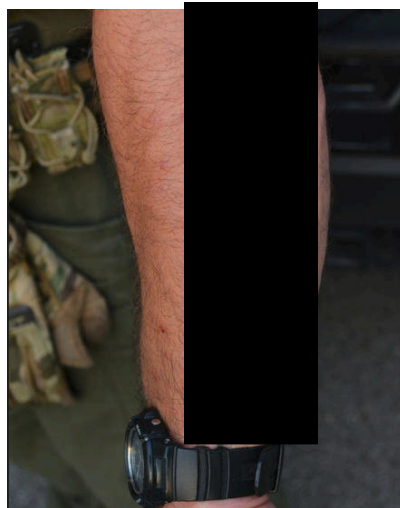


2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Officer Injuries

Both Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] sought medical treatment after the incident.

Medical records indicate that Officer [REDACTED] was diagnosed with bilateral corneal abrasions, gunshot wound of left forearm, foreign body in left forearm, and a contusion of left lower extremity.



Injuries to Officer [REDACTED]'s arm area

Medical records indicate that Officer [REDACTED] was diagnosed with a gunshot wound of leg excluding thigh.



Pants worn by Officer [REDACTED] at the time of the incident.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**

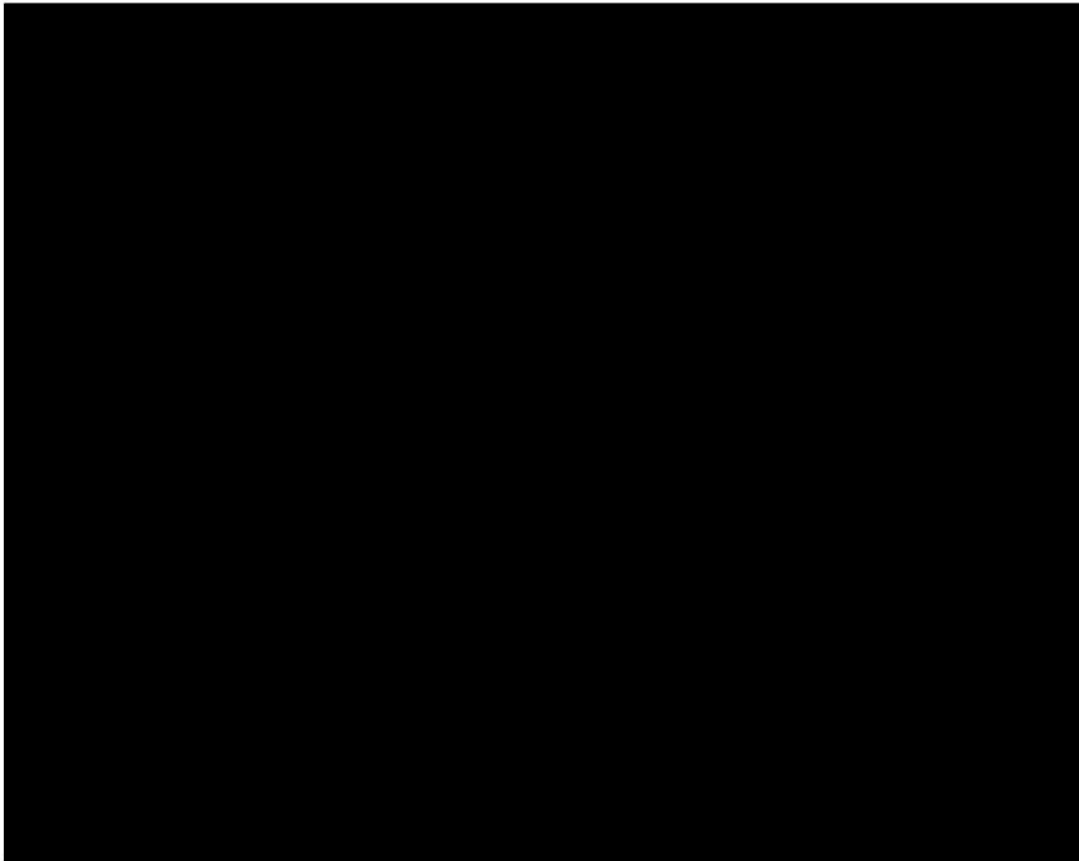


2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Randall Fife's Autopsy

Randall's autopsy was performed at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office on August 26, 2023, at 0850 hours by Dr. Thomas P. Gilson. Dr. Gilson noted in his report that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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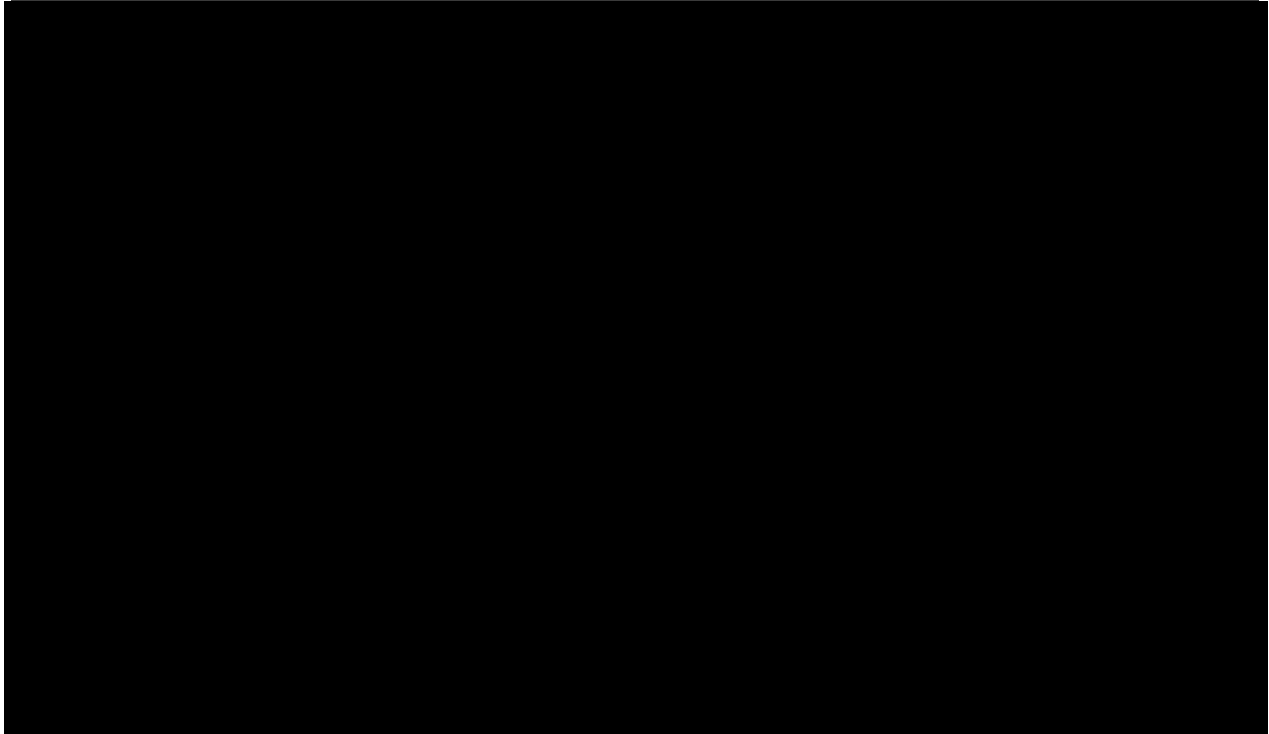


Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Conclusion

Based upon the available evidence, Randall fired upon team members as they were making entry into the residence. Team members then returned fire as Randall retreated to the living room area. At that point, Randall attempted to reload the shotgun at which point, team members fired again.

There are some differences in team member statements regarding how many times Randall fired. Only one spent shotshell was recovered from the scene, suggesting that Randall fired once.

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 Cory Momchilov. SA Momchilov can be reached by telephone, at (330) 659-4107.

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