



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



2026-1239
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 31000 Block U.S. Route
250, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, Harrison County

Investigative Activity: Interview – Witness Lieutenant Carter
Involves: Lieutenant Ronald Carter (W)
Activity Date: 04/07/2026
Activity Location: Cadiz Police Department
Authoring Agent: SA John P. Tingley

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 07, 2026, at approximately 0918 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) interviewed Cadiz Police Department (CPD) Lieutenant Ronald Carter (Carter). The interview took place at the CPD which is located at 128 Court Street, Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Lieutenant Carter was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the March 30, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of US 22 East, Cadiz, Ohio. Reportedly, Lieutenant Carter did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

This report only summarizes the information from the interview of Lieutenant Carter and only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all the statement of Lieutenant Carter or the questions and answers that occurred during the interview of Lieutenant Carter. The quotations listed will be a word for word translation of the interview. The times listed for the quotations will be the elapsed time from the beginning of the audio recording.

SA Tingley asked Lieutenant Carter if he was willing to proceed with the interview without having an attorney present and Lieutenant Carter stated that he was ready to proceed with the interview. SA Tingley then presented Lieutenant Carter with the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form which Lieutenant Carter read, stated that he understood, and signed.

Lieutenant Carter stated his radio call sign on March 30, 2026, was 2. He has been employed by the CPD for about twenty-six (26) years. He has been a police officer for a total of slightly over twenty-six years (26) years. During the incident, Lieutenant Carter

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wore his standard police uniform with a police badge affixed to it. He also wore a concealed ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove CPD unit #2, which was clearly marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

SA Tingley then asked Lieutenant Carter to describe his involvement in the overall incident.

Lieutenant Carter stated that he heard dispatch (HCSO Dispatch) notify CPD Units that a pursuit was coming into Cadiz on US Route 250 and that the suspect, in the vehicle being pursued, had just fired at a law enforcement Officer.

Lieutenant Carter went to the Harrison County Home on US Route 250 (which is west of Cadiz) and stood by as the pursuit approached. When the vehicle being pursued passed his location, Lieutenant Carter observed the driver/suspect (Michael Decker) to be a white male with facial hair.

Lieutenant Carter joined the pursuit which traveled eastbound on US Route 250 before turning eastbound onto US Route 22.

As the pursuit continued on US Route 22, Lieutenant Carter observed an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper deploy stop sticks (a tire deflation device). However, Decker successfully evaded the stop sticks and the pursuit continued eastbound on US Route 22.

As the pursuit approached the US Route 22/Ohio State Route 151 exit on US Route 22, Lieutenant Carter observed OSHP Lieutenant Bodo preparing to deploy stop sticks.

This time the deployment was successful, and Decker's vehicle ran over the stop sticks. After running over the stop sticks, Decker lost control of his vehicle and went across the median, ending up in the westbound lanes on US Route 22.

Lieutenant Carter, who was still facing eastbound in the eastbound lanes of US Route 22, stopped his vehicle and prepared to deploy his K9.

Lieutenant Carter then stated, "I went to go hook my K9 up and then gunshots rang out." (07:56 mark of the audio recording)

Lieutenant Carter then observed Decker behind Decker's vehicle in the westbound lane of US Route 22.

Lieutenant Carter then said:

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"...I could see the Trooper still in his car and it looked...it appeared that he was laying across the seat, like behind the dash as the suspect was shooting. Um, and I heard the suspect, the, I heard multiple, multiple, multiple rounds. Um, I thought that was the suspect but couldn't find out. The Trooper had returned fire as well." (09:01 mark of the recorded audio interview)

Lieutenant Carter then observed Decker running northbound towards a fence that runs parallel to US Route 22. Decker crossed the fence and went into the woods that were on the north side of the fence.

HCSO Sergeant Smith and Lieutenant Carter then checked Decker's vehicle and made sure that there were no other people inside of the vehicle. Once the vehicle was checked and secured, Lieutenant Carter assisted with setting up and maintaining a perimeter on US Route 22.

Eventually, Lieutenant Carter went to the Mine Road location where Decker had been spotted and helped to set up and maintain the perimeter at that location. During this time, CPD [REDACTED] and his K9 partner had entered into the woods at the Mine Road location with the OSHP Tactical Team members.

After an undetermined amount of time, Lieutenant Carter heard that a shot had been fired and that Decker was "down". Lieutenant Carter then learned that [REDACTED] had fired his duty weapon and Lieutenant Carter proceeded to the scene of the shooting where he contacted [REDACTED]

Eventually, Lieutenant Carter escorted [REDACTED] down to Mine Road where they contacted SA Tingley.

SA Tingley then asked:

"So, on the scene on 22, you did not see the initial exchange because you were getting your dog out correct?"

Lieutenant Carter responded:

"Yes. I, I, I seen at one point I seen the suspect with the gun raised towards the Trooper's car and he was walking towards the Trooper." (15:01 mark of the audio recording)

The interview was then concluded at approximately 0935 hours.

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The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached as Reference Item E in AXON JUSTICE. The signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form signed by Lieutenant Carter is also attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item E - Recorded Interviews - Subfolder Law Enforcement Witnesses
- Stored in AXON JUSTICE

Attachments:

1. CPD LT CARTER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION NOTIFICATION FORM

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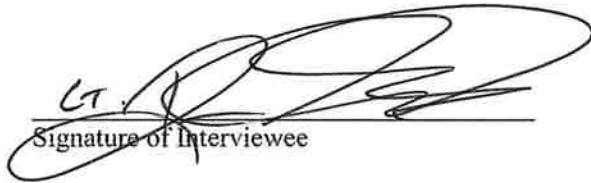


Criminal Investigation Notification


1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this 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 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. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

LT. R. CARTER
Printed Name of Interviewee

04/07/2026 @ 0920
Date / Time


Signature of Interviewee

SA John Tinsley
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA 
BCI Agent (Signature)