



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



2023-2306  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Ave., Alliance, OH 44601, Stark County

**Investigative Activity:** Lab Report Reviewed  
**Activity Date:** January 17, 2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Matthew Armstrong #146

**Narrative:**

On January 17, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) received the BCI Laboratory Analysis report for items submitted to the BCI Laboratory on September 5, 2023. The analysis requested was to determine if Officer Toussant's Spikes Tactical rifle was operable and fired the recovered cartridge casings.

The following 2 items were submitted:

- 2 cartridge cases (Matrix Evidence Items #1 and #2)
- Officer Toussant's Spikes Tactical, Model STJ5, .223 caliber rifle, SN: [REDACTED] (Matrix Evidence Item #5).

The report originated from the Firearms section of the laboratory and was authored by Forensic Scientist Andrew Chappell. The analysis revealed the following:

**Findings**

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #3 – Spikes Tactical rifle	N/A	Operable
	Items #1 & 2 – two (2) 223 Remington fired cartridge cases	Source Identification (see remarks)

**Remarks**

Microscopic comparisons of Items #1 and 2 with test fired cartridge cases from Item #3 revealed matching chamber marks. This finding confirms that the Items #1 and 2 were cycled through the action of Item #3.

Four (4) of the submitted cartridges from Item #3 and four (4) BCI supplied cartridges were used for testing.

**Attachments:**

2023-11-16 BCI Lab Report

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# DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Bureau of Criminal Investigation**

**Laboratory Report  
Firearms**

To: Ohio Attorney General's Office  
S/A Matt Armstrong  
30 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

BCI Laboratory Number: 23-37645

Analysis Date:  
November 06, 2023

Issue Date:  
November 15, 2023

Agency Case Number:  
BCI Agent:

2023-2306  
Matthew Armstrong

Offense: Shooting Involving an Officer

Subject(s):

Victim(s):

**Submitted on September 05, 2023 by S/A Matt Armstrong:**

1. Envelope containing cartridge case (Matrix Evidence Item 1)  
*-One (1) 223 Remington fired cartridge case.*
2. Envelope containing cartridge case (Matrix Evidence Item 2)  
*-One (1) 223 Remington fired cartridge case.*
3. One cardboard box containing firearm with magazine and cartridges (Matrix Evidence Item 5)  
*-One (1) Spikes Tactical 5.56mm semi-automatic rifle, model ST15, serial number [REDACTED] and one (1) magazine containing twenty-four (24) 223 Remington cartridges.*

**Findings**

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #3 – Spikes Tactical rifle	N/A	Operable
	Items #1 & 2 – two (2) 223 Remington fired cartridge cases	Source Identification (see remarks)

Please address inquiries to the office indicated, using the BCI case number.

BCI -Bow ling Green Office  
750 North College Drive  
Bow ling Green, OH 43402  
Phone:(419)353-5603

BCI -London Office  
1560 St Rt 56 SW P.O. Box 365  
London, OH 43140  
Phone:(740)845-2000

BCI -Richfield Office  
4055 Highlander Pkw y. Suite A  
Richfield, OH 44286  
Phone:(330)659-4600

## **Remarks**

Microscopic comparisons of Items #1 and 2 with test fired cartridge cases from Item #3 revealed matching chamber marks. This finding confirms that the Items #1 and 2 were cycled through the action of Item #3.

Four (4) of the submitted cartridges from Item #3 and four (4) BCI supplied cartridges were used for testing.

All evidence will be returned to the submitting agency.

## **Analytical Detail**

Analytical findings offered above were determined using visual and microscopic examinations / comparisons.

*Andrew S. Chappell*

Andrew Chappell  
Forensic Scientist  
(234) 400-3650  
andrew.chappell@OhioAGO.gov



Based on scientific analyses performed, this report contains opinions and interpretations by the analyst whose signature appears above. Examination documentation and any demonstrative data supporting laboratory conclusions are maintained by BCI and will be made available for review upon request.

Your feedback is important to us! Please complete our Laboratory Satisfaction Survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q9VQHL5>

### Comparison Conclusion Scale

The following lists the conclusions a Forensic Scientist may reach when performing comparisons. In reaching a conclusion, a Forensic Scientist considers the similarities and dissimilarities and assesses the relative support of the observations under the following two propositions: the evidence originated from the same source or from a different source.

A Forensic Scientist may utilize their knowledge, training, and experience to evaluate how much support the observed similarities or dissimilarities provide for one conclusion over another. A conclusion shall not be communicated with absolute certainty. It is an interpretation of observations made by the Forensic Scientists and shall be expressed as an expert opinion.

1	Source Identification	The observations provide extremely strong support for the proposition that the evidence originated from the same source and the likelihood for the proposition that the evidence arose from a different source is so remote as to be considered a practical impossibility.
2	Support for Same Source	The observations provide more support for the proposition that the evidence originated from the same source rather than different sources; however, there is insufficient support for a Source Identification. The degree of support may range from limited to strong or similar descriptors of the degree of support. Any use of this conclusion shall include a statement of the factor(s) limiting a stronger conclusion.
3	Inconclusive	The observations do not provide a sufficient degree of support for one proposition over the other. Any use of this conclusion shall include a statement of the factor(s) limiting a stronger conclusion.
4	Support for Different Source	The observations provide more support for the proposition that the evidence originated from different sources rather than the same source; however, there is insufficient support for a Source Exclusion. The degree of support may range from limited to strong or similar descriptors of the degree of support. Any use of this conclusion shall include a statement of the factor(s) limiting a stronger conclusion.
5	Source Exclusion	The observations provide extremely strong support for the proposition that the evidence originated from a different source and the likelihood for the proposition that the evidence arose from the same source is so remote as to be considered a practical impossibility; or the evidence exhibits fundamentally different characteristics

We invite you to direct your questions to:  
Abby Schwaderer, Quality Assurance Manager  
(740) 845-2517  
[abby.schwaderer@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:abby.schwaderer@ohioattorneygeneral.gov)

**Andrew S. Chappell**

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation  
Statement of Qualifications  
Richfield, OH 44286  
(330) 659-4600 Ext. 241  
andrew.chappell@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

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**Education**      **Master of Science, Forensic Science; 2001**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

**Bachelor of Science, Chemistry; 1997**  
Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, VA, *Cum Laude*

**Professional Experience**      **Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation**  
November 2001 – Present Forensic Scientist, Firearms

**Virginia Division of Forensic Sciences**  
September 2000 – November 2000 Intern, Firearms

**Specialized Training**      **Smith & Wesson M&P Series Pistol Armorer, April 2010**  
Smith & Wesson, OPOTA; Richfield, OH Instructed by Daniel Keuhn

**Ethics, December 2009**  
Ohio Attorney General's Office, Ohio BCI&I, Richfield, OH

**Gunshot Residue Distance Determination, September 2009**  
Midwest Forensic Research Center, Ohio BCI&I; London, OH Instructed by Jack Dillon

**Factory Tour – Hi-Point Firearms, August 2009**  
Hi-Point Firearms, Inc.; Mansfield, OH Provided by Tom Deeb

**NIBIN 13 Critical Tasks Workshop, March 2009**  
Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium, OPOTA; Richfield, OH Instructed by Pete Gagliardi

**NIBIN Users Congress, January 2009**  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; New Orleans, LA

**Ethics in Forensic Science, June 2008**  
West Virginia University Extended Learning, Ohio BCI&I; Richfield, OH

**NIBIN Users Congress, January 2008**  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; Largo, FL

**SigArms Academy Armorer's Program, November 2007**  
SigArms, OPOTA; Richfield, OH Instructed by Dennis Carroll

**NIBIN Users Congress, September 2007**  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms; San Antonio, TX

**Ethics, April 2007**  
Ohio Ethics Commission, OPOTA; Richfield, OH

**Firearms – DNA Interaction Training, September 2005**  
Ohio BCI&I; Richfield, OH Instructed by Dale Laux & Michelle Snyder

**Factory Tour – Hi-Point Firearms, November 2003**  
Hi-Point Firearms, Inc.; Mansfield, OH Provided by Tom Deeb

**NIBIN Migration Training, May 2002**  
Forensic Technology, Inc.; Largo, FL Instructed by Anna Arvidsson & Cresha Cason

**Firearms Training Program, November 2001 - November 2002**  
Ohio BCI&I; Richfield, OH

**Specialized Training , cont**      **AAFS Annual Training Seminar, February 2001**  
American Academy of Forensic Sciences; Seattle, WA

**Memberships**      NIBIN Users Congress, 2007 - Present

**Honors and Awards**      **Ohio BCI&I Unit Award, December, 2009**  
Ohio BCI&I; London, OH