



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



2025-2000
Officer Involved Critical Incident - Tiedeman Road at I-480
West, Brooklyn, OH 44144, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Trp. Austin Skipper Interview
Involves: Trp. Austin Skipper
Activity Date: 06/26/2025
Activity Location: 4800 Tiedeman Road, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
Authoring Agent: SA Eric Lehnhart #084

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 1655 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart (SA Lehnhart) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OHSP) Trooper (Trp.) Austin Skipper (Skipper). The interview took place at 4800 Tiedeman Road, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144. The interview was audio-recorded.

Skipper was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 24, 2025, officer-involved critical incident shooting which occurred at the intersection of Tiedeman Road and I-480, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144. Reportedly, Skipper did not discharge a firearm during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information known or observed by this trooper.

Skipper's badge number is 1997. During the incident, Skipper wore his olive drab green (OD green) special response team uniform with subdued Velcro identifying patches affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove an OSHP Bearcat (SP696) #1, a Lenco Bearcat, marked with OSHP emblems and emergency lights.

Trp. Skipper was working in an OHSP marked patrol vehicle when OSHP Post 18 transmitted a request for assistance with traffic control at Tiedeman Road and I-480. When Trp. Skipper arrived, he assisted another Post 18 Trooper with clearing the I-480 off-ramp of traffic. Eventually, another "piece of armor" was requested by the locals on scene and Trp. Skipper left the area to retrieve OSHP Bearcat 1 from Post 18.

On Trp. Skipper's return to the scene, three (3) negotiators and a local SWAT Lieutenant boarded OSHP Bearcat 1 with Trp. Skipper as the vehicle operator. Trp. Skipper navigated the vehicle close to the dark colored truck where negotiators provided a "throw phone" to the subject. The Bearcat's PA was also used to communicate when the subject would stop communicating through the phone provided.

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According to Trp. Skipper, negotiations with the subject were "sporadic" as he would take long breaks between engagements. Several times, the subject would "cross himself", place the gun to his head like he was going to shoot himself and then start talking with negotiators again. The subject was seen multiple times by Trp. Skipper grinding his teeth and placing a towel over the bottom part of his face. The reason for this behavior was unknown to Trp. Skipper.

Trp. Skipper observed the subject with a black semi-automatic handgun which he was holding a good portion of the time to his head with his right hand. Conversations between the negotiators and the subject were difficult for Trp. Skipper to hear as the OSHP Bearcat was still running to keep those inside cool and for mobility should the subject become mobile.

Trp. Skipper stated that the subject exited his truck and moved to the front of it. At that time, Trp. Skipper heard a "pop" and saw a less lethal munition bounce near the OSHP Bearcat. He witnessed the subject fall to the ground and began to bleed heavily from his chest. Trp. Skipper was not aware that the sniper who was positioned to the rear of the OSHP Bearcat had fired on the subject.

After the engagement, Trp. Skipper witnessed other tactical officers on scene approach the subject and began providing trauma first aid to the subject. Trp. Skipper stayed with his vehicle until the subject was transported from the scene by the local fire department.

The interview concluded at approximately 1718 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was uploaded to a corresponding Axon Justice folder as Reference Item G. An OSHP Information Sheet is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

Reference Item G – Trp. Austin Skipper Interview – Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. 2025-06-24 OHSP Information Sheet Redacted

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OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL:

1 PERSON INSIDE OUR Lenco BEAR FROM OSHP SRT:
TPR. AUSTIN SKIPPER - [REDACTED], A.SKIPPER@DPS.OHIO.GOV

THE OSHP SRT Lenco BEAR ALSO HAD 3 NEGOTIATORS FROM
SEB, AND ONE OTHER SEB SWAT PERSONNEL INSIDE
THE TURRET.

SGT JOHN BEELER [REDACTED] JGBEELER@DPS.OHIO.GOV
AND TPR. ANDRE THOMAS [REDACTED] ATTHOMAS@DPS.OHIO.GOV
WERE BOTH BACK NEAR THE COMMAND POST FOR
THE DURATION OF THE EVENT.

IT IS NOT BELIEVED THAT SEB FIRED ANY LESS LETHAL
OR LETHAL MUNITIONS FROM OUR BEAR.

OSHP SRT'S POINT OF CONTACT CAN BE
SGT. BEELER (INFO ABOVE) OR
LT. BRYAN MANGIN
[REDACTED]
BKMANGIN@DPS.OHIO.GOV