



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



2024-4082

Officer Involved Critical Incident - (L) 303 S. Main St.,
Celina, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Interview of Ptl. Kyle Balthis
Involves: Ptl. Kyle Balthis
Activity Date: 01/22/2025
Activity Location: 202 N. Main St., Celina, OH 45822
Authoring Agent: SA Douglas Burke #162

Narrative:

On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 1345 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Douglas Burke (Burke) and SA Ryan Emahiser (Emahiser) interviewed Celina Police Department (CPD) Patrolman (Ptl.) Kyle Balthis (Balthis), who was accompanied by his attorney, Andrew Fortlage, from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The interview took place in a CPD Conference Room at 202 N. Main St., Celina, OH. The interview was audio recorded.

Ptl. Balthis was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the December 31, 2024 Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred in the area of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, 303 S. Main St., Ohio. Reportedly, Ptl. Balthis 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.

Ptl. Balthis stated his radio call sign on December 31, 2024, was 411. He has been employed by the CPD for about six and a half (6.5) years. He has been a police officer for a total of six and a half (6.5) years. During the incident, Ptl Balthis wore his standard police uniform of the day along with his duty belt. He drove CPD unit #222, a Ford Expedition, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

Upon beginning the interview with Ptl. Balthis, Ptl. Balthis read his typed narrative from the OICI which is attached to this report for review. Attorney Fortlage was also present as this prepared narrative was read aloud to Agents. Ptl. Bathis was explained, the prepared narrative which he was about to read aloud was completely voluntary and if

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Ptl. Balthis wanted to stop speaking at any time, he could and speak with Attorney Fortlage before answering any further questions.

Supplemental Narrative 01/02/2025 07:34:21 Kyle Balthis

Statement of Ptl. Kyle Balthis

On 12/31/2024 at 0252 hours I was dispatched to S. Main St. Marathon in reference to a male that had attempted to steal a vehicle in the parking lot of the store. Dispatch described the suspect to have a "puffer" coat on and jeans.

I arrived on scene and observed the caller, identified as Errin Johnson, standing in the parking lot near the front entrance of Marathon. While speaking with Johnson, he advised that he had parked his vehicle on the south lot of the store and entered inside to make a purchase. Johnson then stated that he then observed a male, later identified as Moses Alik, enter his vehicle in the driver seat. Johnson stated that he confronted Alik to exit his vehicle and Johnson also stated that Alik was acting very strange. Johnson believed the male was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Alik then exited his vehicle and walked away from the parking lot.

I then collected contact information from Johnson and asked him if he wished to pursue charges for vehicle trespass. Johnson did request that charges were filed.

I then spoke with Marathon employee's who advised they had video footage of the incident.

I then walked with the Marathon employees behind the main counter and observed the security footage. While viewing the footage, Marathon employees had a live feed of the north west parking lot that showed Alik. Marathon employees were advising me that Alik was outside the store currently to north/northwest. Alik was wearing a puffer coat and matched the description of the suspect that had attempted to steal the vehicle. While I was viewing the security footage, I observed Alik to have a large knife in his hand and he was holding the knife to his neck. At this time I advised Sgt. Crosby that Alik was in the back parking lot of the store and he did have a knife on his person. Sgt. Crosby advised he was arriving on scene after I radioed the information to him about Alik's location.

I then exited the store and drew my firearm and walked to the north east corner of the business. As I turned the corner, I was able to observe Alik standing in the parking lot

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with the knife in his hand. I then observed Alik start to stab himself several times in the left neck area with the knife. I immediately began to order Alik to drop the knife.

At this time I also advised Sgt. Crosby who was in the alleyway to the west of the business that Alik was stabbing himself.

I also observed Deputy Heintz with the Mercer County Sheriff Office, arrive on scene from the south west of the parking lot.

I then continued to move towards Alik and continually gave him orders to drop the knife. Alik continued to refuse to drop the knife.

I observed Sgt. Crosby unholster his taser and advise Alik that he needed to get on the ground or he would be tased.

I also observed that Deputy Heintz had his firearm drawn and that we were in line with one another. I then advised Deputy Heintz to move to the left of me so that we would not fire on one another if lethal force was needed.

Alik then began to move frantically and refused to drop the knife after being ordered multiple times by all officers on scene.

Sgt. Crosby then deployed his taser and appeared to have struck Alik with at least one probe causing Alik to drop the knife. I then started to move forward towards Alik to possibly retrieve the knife or tackle him away from the knife. While I was moving towards Alik, I screamed at him "don't pick it up." I screamed this to Alik due to him reaching down to grab the knife after he had dropped it.

Alik then again picked up the knife and then turned towards Deputy Heintz. I then observed Alik raise the knife above his head and advance towards Deputy Heintz.

As I was moving to the left, Deputy Heintz then discharged his firearm and I believed at the time the firearm had been discharged 3 to 4 times.

Alik immediately fell to the ground and Deputy Heintz, Sgt. Crosby, and I immediately moved in to handcuff Alik.

I then moved forward and grabbed the knife and threw it to my right away from Alik. Sgt. Crosby and I then handcuffed Alik and I then asked Deputy Heintz to retrieve his medical kit from his cruiser.

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I was able to retrieve latex gloves from Sgt. Crosby's glove pouch and roll Alik over to his back so that I could assess his injuries.

I was immediately able to observe a large amount of blood on the left hip of Alik. I was then able to place pressure on the wound on the left hip of Alik. While holding pressure on his left hip, I also observed blood emitting from the chest and face of Alik. After pulling up the shirt and coat of Alik. I observed a wound on the upper left chest near the heart of Alik. After wiping the blood away from the chest of Alik I was able to confirm a gunshot wound on the left chest of Alik.

I then advised Sgt. Crosby to retrieve a chest seal bandage from the medical kit and continued to wipe the blood away from the chest wound.

While Sgt. Crosby and I were providing medical attention to Alik, Sgt. Crosby and Deputy Heinl had contacted dispatch to send a squad to the scene to transport Alik.

Sgt. Crosby was then able to place the chest seal on Alik on his chest wound. I also observed several stab wounds on the left neck of Alik while assessing him.

Squad members then arrived on scene and they were advised of the injuries that I had located on Alik.

Alik was then sat up and had his coat removed from him and had his handcuffs removed so that squad members could render aid.

Alik was then lifted onto a cot and placed in the back of the ambulance.

I then entered the ambulance with Sgt. Crosby and assisted squad members. Alik was still slightly resisting officers and squad members while in the squad. I was then able to hear Alik make statements in reference "I want to die" or "kill me."

Alik then slowly started to stop resisting and appeared to either fall asleep or stop breathing. I then exited the squad due to EMS members no longer needing assistance.

After exiting the squad, I then assisted with securing the scene and standing by the scene.

Several officers from multiple agencies then arrived on scene to assist.

I then stood by on scene as Chief Wale arrived on scene and was eventually relieved from the scene by Chief Wale and returned to the police station.

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KMB

SA Burke had a few follow-up questions for Ptl. Balthis regarding the OICI after he read his typed narrative.

SA Burke asked Ptl. Balthis if he ever deployed his taser or fired his duty weapon during the OICI involving Moses and he stated he did not. Ptl. Balthis explained he believed Moses to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs due to Moses stabbing himself in the left side of his own neck and screaming incoherently. This was abnormal behavior of Moses from prior encounters involving him.

Ptl. Balthis said he was very familiar with Moses. According to Ptl. Balthis, prior encounters with Moses involved him with alcohol; however, during the OICI, officers were dealing with unfamiliar behavior from Moses. It was an out of character behavior of Moses from any other time officers had dealt with him.

Due to Moses being of the Marshallese decent, SA Burke asked Ptl. Balthis if he knew if Moses understood the English language. Ptl. Balthis said Moses understood the English language and could speak English well.

SA Burke asked Ptl. Balthis if Moses posed a threat towards Deputy (Dep.) Spencer Heintz (Heintz) as Moses turned and approached Dep. Heintz with a knife in his right hand, above his head. Ptl. Balthis said Moses posed a threat towards the life of Dep. Heintz as Moses approached Dep. Heintz in an aggressive manner.

Ptl. Balthis said after Dep. Heintz engaged Moses with his duty weapon and First Aid was being rendered to Moses, Moses was heard saying "I wanna die or kill me." Ptl. Balthis did not hear Moses make any comments of this nature or any nature prior to the OICI. SA Burke asked Ptl. Balthis if any officer's accompanied squad members in the squad when Moses was transported to the hospital and Ptl. Balthis said, "no I do not think so."

Ptl. Balthis had no further relevant information to add to this interview and the interview concluded that.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording and typed narrative from Ptl. Balthis was attached to this report.

Attachments: #01 Interview with Ptl. Kyle Balthis from Celina PD

#02 Celina Police Department Report

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