



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



2022-1545  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4851 Westchester Dr. Apt 101,  
Austintown, Ohio 44515

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** ██████████ (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/27/2022  
**Author:** SA Eric Lehnhart, #84

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 1300 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart and SA John Tingley interviewed Ohio State ██████████ ██████████ his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Ohio Troopers Coalition. The interview took place at 1583 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43209. The interview was audio recorded.

Trooper ██████████ read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader’s overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording and prepared statement be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

**Preliminary and Demographic Information:**

<b>Name:</b> ██████████ ██████████	<b>Rank:</b> Trooper
<b>Badge Number:</b> ██████████	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> N/A
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> ██████████	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> N/A
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> N/A	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> N/A
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> N/A	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> N/A
<b>Assignment:</b> Special Response Team (SRT)	<b>Normal Shift:</b> 1400 – 2200 hours

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In-Car Camera: N/A	Spotlight: N/A
Emergency Lights: N/A	Siren: N/A
Shift Day of Incident: 1400 - 2200 hours	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Sunday & Monday	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8	Consider Self Well Rested? Yes
Total Length as Officer: 10 years	Length at Current Agency: 10 years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Green Tactical Uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: N/A
Ballistic Vest: Not Worn	Body Worn Camera: Present; Not Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: Trooper [REDACTED]
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SRT/Sniper	OPOTC Certification: Yes
Military Experience/Training: Navy, Four (4) Years	Use-of-Force Training: March 3, 2022
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: Nothing found outside of policy
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Unknown

Officer's Firearm(s):  
Weapon #1

Make: FN SPR	Model: A5
Caliber/Gauge: 308	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Sling
Magazine Capacity: Four (4) Rounds Total	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Eight (8)
Extra Magazines: One (1)	Number of Rounds in Extra Mag: Four (4)
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: SRT
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Three (3)	Number of Rounds Fired: One (1)
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: OSHP
Last Qualification Date: July 21, 2022	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Narrative:

Trooper [REDACTED] unit # [REDACTED] is a 10-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) who began his employment in November of 2012. He is currently assigned to the Akron Post

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and is also a part-time member of the Special Response Team (SRT), as one of several OSHP riflemen/snipers. He is OPOTA certified through the OSHP Academy and is current on all required training and qualifications.

On Tuesday, July 19, 2022, Trooper [REDACTED] while on duty, received an OSHP SRT text with information about a barricaded individual and her son at the Westchester Square Apartments in Austintown Township. After receiving this information, Trooper [REDACTED] responded to the area and was assigned as a part of a sniper/spotter team with Trooper [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). As the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) SWAT team was already on scene and had been for several hours, the plan was for OSHP SRT members to relieve the FBI SWAT team of their positions and continue on with the negotiations.

Troopers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] made their way to an adjacent building where the FBI's sniper was already in position in a small laundry room. Trooper [REDACTED] volunteered to take the first 30-minute rotation as the sniper, between he and Trooper [REDACTED] while Trooper [REDACTED] kept a visual through the spotting scope. Trooper [REDACTED] concentrated his focus on the window that was described by the FBI as a possible living room. The FBI advised Trooper [REDACTED] that the female subject was known to be alive, as was her son, and they had witnessed her peek out that specific window earlier in the day.

The FBI also relayed that they had tried to utilize a robot to establish communications with the female; but, in response, she had fired a weapon inside the apartment.

At 1530 hours, Trooper [REDACTED] and Trooper [REDACTED] traded positions. As OSHP SRT had taken over the complete operation, both Troopers listened; as other OSHP SRT members discussed diversion tactics should a breach of the apartment door be necessary.

At 1600 hours, the two switched positions again and Trooper [REDACTED] assumed the role as sniper. As Trooper Landers (robot operator) was operating OSHP's robot toward the subject's doors to attempt communications, the subject appeared at the southside window, opened it and fired a black handgun at OSHP SRT members, who were positioned near the southwest corner of the subject's apartment.

*Suddenly, I saw her hand appear from the bottom of the window with a black handgun in it and she rapidly fired at least two shots towards the west end of her building where I knew SRT members were located. I immediately fired one round. In an instant, she disappeared from the window. I was not certain if I had hit her. I ejected the casing and put another round in the chamber. I yelled "Shot Out" and I heard [REDACTED] relay it over the radio. The entire incident of the suspect's hand appearing out the window, her firing and me returning fire, happened within 2-3 seconds.*

Trooper [REDACTED] maintained his position, while SRT breached the subject's door and called the young male to safety. As SRT called for the standby medics to enter, Trooper [REDACTED] laid his rifle down and left the laundry room, while other law enforcement officers on scene [REDACTED]

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Post, where he stood by until BCI personnel arrived.

Trooper [REDACTED] stated that he was unfamiliar with the female subject; and, once her identity was known to him, he advised that he had no other prior contact with her that he could recall.

The interview concluded at approximately 1328 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording, signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and Trooper [REDACTED]'s previously prepared typed statement, which he read on the audio recording, are attached to this Investigative Report.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-27 [REDACTED] Typed Statement  
[REDACTED]

Attachment # 03: 2022-07-27 [REDACTED] Overhead Scene

Attachment # 04: 2022-07-27 [REDACTED] Interview

## STATEMENT OF TROOPER [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred between approximately 4:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 4851 Westchester Drive, Austintown, Ohio. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) investigation into this matter.

My date of hire with the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) is November of 2012 and I graduated the OSP academy approximately twenty-two (22) weeks later and obtained my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Certificate. I am currently assigned to the OSP Akron Post, and I am also assigned part-time to the Special Response Team (SRT), unit 1067. I have been part of SRT since August 2017. Because I work both patrol and SRT, I have a varied schedule but will typically work at the post from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and complete SRT training every Wednesday. My regular days off are Sunday and Monday. I have completed tactical training through OSP Basic SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), and I am sniper and rifle certified. I have four (4) years of military experience in the Navy and I received an honorable discharge. I also have a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Akron. I do not wear glasses or contacts and my vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I did not consume any alcohol in the 24-hour period prior to this incident.

I was not under the influence of any medications, prescription or over the counter, which would have impaired my abilities. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I did not work any special duty in the 24-hour period prior to this incident. I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested. I did not have my body worn camera (BWC) on at the time of the incident because it is attached to my ballistic vest which I took off due to being in prone position and there are no mounting capabilities to the rifle.

On the date of this incident, I was working as part of the SRT team. I was dressed in my normal green tactical uniform consisting of BDU's (Battle Dress Uniform), long sleeve shirt with OSP SRT patches on each shoulder. I was assigned as part of a sniper/spotter team with OSP SRT member [REDACTED]. Since I was assigned as a sniper, I was carrying my FN SPR A5 308 Winchester bolt-action rifle. That rifle was equipped with a NightForce NXS variable power scope. I was current in my range qualifications and had just completed my monthly proficiency qualification on July 14, 2022. I did not have my service pistol or BWC on my person at the time, of this incident as I had removed my duty belt and ballistic vest in order to take a prone position.

On July 19, 2022, I reported to the command post set up at the Westchester Square Apartments. Prior to my arrival, I had received an OSP text regarding information about a barricade with a picture of the female suspect and her young son. FBI SWAT was currently in charge of the scene and there were FBI negotiators and OSP negotiators at the command post. They had tried to make contact with the suspect via telephone and text and she would not speak with them or respond to them. There were also members of the FBI SWAT team staged on the ¾ corner of the suspect's building and in an apartment adjacent to the suspect's apartment. The plan was to have additional SRT members who would relieve these FBI SWAT teams as they arrived on scene.

The apartment building was three (3) stories high, with the first floor being partially sunken into the ground. The apartments were flats and had a main front door into the building, which opened to a hallway and doors to each individual apartment. The barricade started the evening before at 4851 Westchester Drive and the SRT team was coming to relieve the FBI SWAT team. 4851 Westchester Drive is a building that sits horizontally (east and west), and the

suspect was in the bottom floor apartment at the southwest corner. I believe the incident had started out of a call for a welfare check and when members of the responding agency (I believe Austintown police) arrived at the apartment, a female in the apartment brandished a weapon. There was also a young boy (her son) believed to be in the apartment with her. Local police held the scene until the Mahoning Valley SWAT team arrived and they were eventually relieved by the FBI SWAT team. OSP SRT team was called in to relieve the FBI SWAT team. OSP SRT Sergeant Beeler stated that I was going to relieve the FBI sniper who was in the apartment building directly south of the suspect's building. OSP SRT member [REDACTED] would be my spotter and we would alternate positions. I inquired as to if this was a barricade or a hostage barricade due to the child. He stated that at the present time it was a barricade but that could change if things escalated.

SRT [REDACTED] and I walked into the building that was directly south of 4851 which from the outside appeared to be an identical building. The buildings paralleled each other and were separated by a small area of grass. The FBI SWAT team had their BEAR (tactical armored vehicle) positioned at the southwest corner of the suspect's apartment and the northwest corner of the southern building. We went to the second floor where there was a narrow community laundry room that was directly across and slightly higher than the windows in the suspect's apartment. The FBI agents had pushed washers/dryers against the window in the laundry room and were using that as a platform for their rifles and for the sniper to lay across when watching the windows. They had put up a blackout sheet to cover the open window with a hole for the rifle to shoot through. The FBI agents informed us that they had tried to send in a robot to establish communication and she fired a round in response. They also stated that they knew she was alive, and that the boy was unharmed, based off some social media she had recently posted.

All of the windows and blinds in the suspect's apartment were shut. However, the FBI informed us that the bulk of the movement they saw was out of the suspect's "3" window which means the 3<sup>rd</sup> window from the west. The FBI believed that window was in the living room. They also stated that she had come to that window and peaked out it previously.

I believe it was approximately 3:00 p.m. at this point and I told [REDACTED] that I would take the first thirty (30) minute shift as the sniper and that I would concentrate on the "3" window (which was a double window) and as the spotter, he would watch the "1" and "2" windows. Since I was laying across washing machines, I took off my duty belt and ballistic vest. A couple of the FBI SWAT agents remained in the room with us as we had not fully switched over communication yet. At around 3:30 p.m., [REDACTED] and I switched positions and he became the sniper while I was the spotter. During this time, OSP SRT fully took over the scene with OSP SRT Lt. Seth Douhitt becoming the command leader. I believe OSP SRT Sgt. Christ Castellanos and SRT team members Andre Thomas, Hector Burgos, and Erik Lofland relieved the FBI SWAT team at the ¾ corner. If a breach was needed, they would break windows and perform other diversion tactics. An SRT team, that I believe was comprised of Sgt. Beeler, SRT team members Justin Ross, Paul Punches, Ryan Brillhart, Josh Bumgardner and Scott Moore, relieved the FBI SWAT team who was positioned in an adjacent apartment in the suspect's building. They would be responsible for entry into the suspect's apartment. I believe at this point that OSP SRT now had control of the scene and that we had communications established on a TA (talk around) channel.

Sometime around 4:00 p.m., SRT [REDACTED] and I switched positions: I was now the sniper, and he was the spotter. After several minutes, I heard over the TA that SRT member Mike Landers, who is a ICOR robot operator, was going to send in the robot to try and establish

communication with the suspect. Per radio traffic, I heard that the robot was in the suspect's building, and I believe coming down the hallway towards the suspect's door. I had my rifle trained on the "3" window and I noticed that the blinds moved, like someone had walked by them. Within a second or two, I saw the blinds on the east side of the double window open, and the suspect pushed her face up against them and peaked out. Then the window opened (it slides to the side; I believe west to east). Suddenly, I saw her hand appear from the bottom of the window with a black handgun in it and she rapidly fired at least two shots towards the west end of her building where I knew SRT members were located. I immediately fired one round. In an instant, she disappeared from the window. I was not certain if I had hit her. I ejected the casing and put another round in the chamber. I yelled "Shot Out" and I heard [REDACTED] relay it over the radio. The entire incident of the suspect's hand appearing out the window, her firing and me returning fire, happened within 2-3 seconds.

I heard over the radio that the entry team that was staged in the adjacent apartment deployed to the suspect's apartment door. They breached the door, which from the radio traffic, sounded as if it had been barricaded. I remained in my position until I knew the suspect and scene were secured. I heard over the radio that the boy was safe and that the suspect was down and they radioed for medics. I left my rifle at the scene in the custody of other law enforcement, and I left the scene. I returned to the OSP Canfield Post and waited for BCI agents to arrive. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I fired one round at the suspect. I fired from prone position, out the second-floor window of the building south of the suspect's building. My distance from the suspect was approximately 38 yards. I utilized my sights, and I had my sight magnification amplified so that my view was just the "3" window. I had my rifle pointed through a hole in the blackout sheet that covered the

laundry room window and gave me some concealment. The direction of my shot was north and at a slightly downward angle as I was firing from the second floor and the suspect's apartment was on the first floor. The backdrop of my shot was the floor/foundation of the apartment. My target was the left side of suspect's head as that was all I could see because she was positioned with her head in between the divider of the double window and the fact she was in a first-floor apartment. I stopped firing because I could no longer see the suspect.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of the other SRT Members who were positioned on the west end (3/4 corner) of her building. Immediately before I fired my weapon, the suspect had fired at least two shots at the SRT members at the west end of her building and I believed she would continue firing at them if I did not stop the deadly threat. During the hours long barricade, the suspect had been given multiple opportunities to surrender and refused. She also fired a round while the FBI SWAT team was in command. I truly believe the suspect intended to kill or seriously injure the SRT members at the end of her building. I fired my weapon to protect the other SRT members from the suspect's deadly action of firing her gun at them, as they would not have had a shot to return fire since the suspect had cover and concealment from inside the apartment. I do not believe I had any other choice to protect their lives at the time I fired my weapon.

I know the suspects name is Imonie Hackett. I do not believe that I ever had any prior encounters, personal or professional, with the suspect.

This concludes my statement, and I am now prepared to answer any additional questions you may have.

  
Trooper

  
Unit 



### 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).

[Redacted Name]

Printed Name of Interviewee

7-27-2022 1302

Date / Time

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

*Eric T. Leonard*

BCI Agent (Printed)

*Eric T. Leonard*

BCI Agent (Signature)



7/27/2022

