



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Involved Officer
Involves: Sergeant ██████████ (S), BCI (O)
Activity Date: 4/20/2023
Activity Location: Ohio State Highway Patrol – Southington Post – 3423 U.S. 422, Southington, Ohio 44470
Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 1107 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (SA Moran) and SA Cory Momchilov (SA Momchilov) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Sergeant (Sgt.) ██████████ ██████████, who was accompanied by his attorney, Lathan Lipperman. The interview took place at the OSHP – Southington Post. The interview was audio recorded. Attorney Lipperman requested that the interview not be video recorded.

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

Sgt. ██████████ had a prepared written statement. Sgt. ██████████ read his written statement aloud.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: ██████████	Rank: Sergeant (Sgt.)
Badge Number: N/A	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: ██████████
Radio Call Sign: N/A	Immediate Supervisor: N/A
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	Mobile Data Terminal: N/A
Cruiser Description: 2016 Dodge Charger with OSHP markings	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Solo
Assignment: Patrol, supervision	Normal Shift: 2200 – 0600 hours
In-Car Camera: N/A	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: 2200 – 0600 hours	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Sundays and Mondays	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Shift modified to work on Monday due to a post inspection
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: N/A	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 22 ½ years	Length at Current Agency: 22 ½ years

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Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard OSHP uniform, gray pants, gray long sleeve shirt, tie, black coat with OSHP patches, badge, and Sgt. chevrons	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: N/A
Ballistic Vest: N/A	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: N/A	Partner: N/A
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: N/A	OPOTC Certification: Current, OSHP academy March 2000
Military Experience/Training: U.S. Marine Corps, Military Police Officer. U.S. Air Force Reserve, Combat Arms Instructor, two deployments Bahrain (2002), Iraq (2008).	Use-of-Force Training: N/A
Prior Shooting Incidents: N/A	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: N/A
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: N/A
	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Aero Precision	Model: M4E1
Caliber/Gauge: .223 caliber	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Unknown
Magazine Capacity: 30	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 28
Extra Magazines: N/A	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 26	Number of Rounds Fired: 2

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Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Qualified, unknown date	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Below are a few sections of Sgt. [REDACTED]'s written statement about why he fired his rifle during the incident:

Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] neared the front passenger side of the truck and began giving verbal commands. I observed movement in the driver's seat of the truck a moment later and realized the suspect jumped through the front window of the cabin into the front driver's window of the truck. Deputy [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] immediately began striking the front passenger window and ordering the suspect to show his hands. I jumped onto a nearby stack of several pallets to gain elevation and a better vantage point. I heard the truck's engine start a moment after the suspect jumped inside, and I saw the suspect hunched over, as though he was grabbing something. An instant later, the engine roared, and the truck launched forward, accelerating directly at me. A second later, while still rapidly accelerating, the suspect cut the wheels right (south). I was no longer in the suspect's path, but he was now driving toward the road and location where I had seen officers seconds earlier. I believed he was going to strike and/or run over and grievously injure or kill one or both of those officers, and it was then I fired at the suspect, just as he drove past me. I also heard several other officers fire at that time.

Page 5 of file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"

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I fired two rounds during this incident. I fired both rounds in rapid succession in what I would estimate was less than one second. I fired those rounds in a southwesterly direction through the front driver's window as the suspect drove past me. My target was the suspect's center mass. I would estimate that I was approximately 8-10 feet from the suspect when I fired. My backdrop was an open wooded area. From my elevated position, I did not see any officers or civilians in my backdrop. I believe I used my red dot sights. I fired with the weapon in my right

shoulder. I was standing when I fired, and I was not moving. Though it was dark, I believe my rifle's light was activated. I did not have any cover or concealment at the times I fired.

I was in fear for the lives of the officers standing on the road at the times I fired my weapon. Before encountering the suspect, I was aware that he had an active felony warrant and had just fled from several law enforcement jurisdictions during a pursuit hours earlier. The other officers and I planned to arrest the suspect and take him into custody on the felony warrant and subsequent charges out of the pursuit.

Pages 6-7 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. ██████████"



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It was clear, however, the suspect had no intention to peacefully surrender. First, he had deliberately parked his pickup truck such that no one could gain access to the cabin but he would be able to quickly get into the truck and flee. And once I reached the cabin with the others, the suspect in fact immediately got into the truck and began to flee despite Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED]—both of whom were in uniform and readily identifiable as law enforcement—trying to get inside the truck while repeatedly ordering the suspect to show his hands. Instead of peacefully surrendering and complying with officers' commands, the suspect started the engine and began accelerating. Based on the roaring of the engine, the mud and gravel kicking up behind the truck, and the speed at which the truck was moving, I believed the suspect had the accelerator completely down. At first, I believed he may strike and/or run over me since his truck was rapidly accelerating in my direction. But the suspect cut the wheels right (south) a second later, missing me by mere feet. (After this incident, I saw the tire tracks from the truck were within a few feet of the stack of pallets I had been standing on).

Page 7 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"



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Once the suspect cut the truck south, he was driving toward the road in a southeasterly direction. Moments earlier I recalled seeing two officers positioned on the road in the immediate vicinity where the suspect was now driving. At that time, those officers were fully exposed with

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no cover. I believed that those officers were still in the road and that the suspect was going to strike and/or run over one or both of those officers. I was also aware that Officer [REDACTED] and Sgt. Pedulla were behind me a moment earlier, and I was not certain whether they were out of the path of the suspect's truck. I was especially concerned since the suspect's vehicle was a full-sized pickup; was equipped with a large snowplow attached to the front; and was rapidly accelerating—factors significantly increasing the threat to those officers.

Pages 7-8 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"



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Finally, I also knew that the road was lined with trees on both sides such that a vehicle could only travel using the road. I also believed that Trooper Brown's cruiser was parked at the threshold of the entrance into the wooded area, leaving the suspect no path of escape. I also knew that Trooper Brown planned to remain in his cruiser in case the suspect fled. And because the suspect was rapidly accelerating, and I knew he had several hundred yards until he reached Trooper Brown by which to gain further speed, I feared that the suspect would strike Trooper Brown's cruiser at a high rate of speed resulting in grievous injuries or death, especially given the added force from the snowplow.

At the times I fired at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of the officers from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.

Page 8 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. ██████████"

After Sgt. ██████████ read his statement, SA Moran and SA Momchilov asked him questions. SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████████ about the 28 rounds he carried in the rifle. Sgt. ██████████ explained that he carried 28 rounds due to the spring tension in the magazine. He does not keep a round in the chamber and has to charge (pull the bolt back or "rack" a round) the rifle before using it.

SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████████ about the part of his statement when he mentioned that there was information that the subject, Fred Wild (Wild), was possibly armed with a "muzzle loader". Sgt. ██████████ said a muzzle loader was a "primitive" firearm and was loaded with black powder and then the projectile into the muzzle. Sgt. ██████████ said a muzzle loader could "absolutely" cause the death of someone.

SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████████ about the plan that the officers had about possible breaching the structure of Wild did not come out voluntarily. Sgt. ██████████ said the initial information received was that the truck was "back in the woods" and not near the cabin. When the officers observed the truck in very close proximity to the cabin they still had a plan to "call him out". The plan was for Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Deputy ██████████ and Brookfield Township

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Police Department (BTPD) Sgt. ██████ to approach the door and the other officers would “surround” the cabin.

SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████ about hearing other gunshots and if he made his decision to fire based upon what he saw or what he heard. Sgt. ██████ stated, “I fired first. So, I knew why, exactly why I was firing.”

SA Momchilov asked about the distance the truck traveled and the distance between the officers Sgt. ██████ saw on the dirt path and the truck. Sgt. ██████ looked at the overhead scan image that was printed for his use. Sgt. ██████ pointed to an area under a tree where a pile of pallets were located (to the southeast of the cabin). Sgt. ██████ pointed to an area near the front of the truck (where it came to rest/stopped) and indicated that he last saw officers in that area as the truck began moving in a southeasterly direction. Sgt. ██████ stated, “We were all pretty close together.”

SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████ about the moments when he observed Wild moving inside the truck. Sgt. ██████ said he heard Sgt. ██████ and other officers yelling at Wild to show his hands. Sgt. ██████ said he saw the “window” and realized that Wild “essentially super-manned through that window into the truck.” Sgt. ██████ stated, “It seemed more, kind of, he was laying down toward the passenger side and I could see him come up and then when he was up, I really couldn’t see his left side, but I could tell, it appeared he was reaching for the ignition.” Sgt. ██████ added, “Once the truck started he threw it in gear and accelerated.”

SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████ if he watched any of the body-worn camera (BWC) videos of the incident. Sgt. ██████ said he watched his BWC video once, but it fell off during the incident. Sgt. ██████ also watched Sgt. Grimm’s BWC video and Trooper Boyle’s BWC video. SA Momchilov asked Sgt. ██████ if his statement was based off of his memory or from the BWC videos. Sgt. ██████ stated, “Off memory.”

SA Moran asked Sgt. ██████ about the moments when Wild started driving the truck and if he sensed the truck moving to the southeast or if he realized it after when he saw the tire tracks. Sgt. ██████ answered, “No, I could sense it ‘cause initially he was coming straight at me.” Sgt. ██████ said he could not “speculate” why Wild turned the truck. Sgt. ██████ said, “It was in fast forward and slow motion at the same time if that makes any sense.” Sgt. ██████ said he could “clearly” see Wild turn the truck and drive toward the road where the other officers were located. Sgt. ██████ said he stood on the pallets to have an “elevated” position and it helped him to avoid crossfire if he needed to do something.

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SA Moran asked Sgt. [REDACTED] if he experienced any “perceptual phenomena” during the incident. Sgt. [REDACTED] said both of his gunshots were “muffled” and he could feel the recoil. He heard the other “eight to ten” gunshots fired by other officers “plain as day.”

SA Moran asked Sgt. [REDACTED] about the moments when the truck was driving toward him and his decision to fire. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated, “I knew they were there and when he was initially coming at me it wouldn’t have been safe for me to fire because I had Trooper Boyle, who was right here (pointed to overhead scan image to the southeast corner of the cabin) and I think Sgt. [REDACTED] was actually over here as well (pointed to gravel area on southeast side of cabin) ‘cause when the truck came up he kind of came behind and was somewhere over here and [REDACTED] was still on the right side on here (pointed to gravel area on south side of cabin). When he (Wild) turned, knowing that the other guys were right there and he was heading towards them I didn’t know one, if they could engage or even if they would ‘cause I can’t get in their heads to know what they were seeing or thinking at the time, but I just knew that if it needed to be done I had the safest opportunity to do it without injuring any officers.”

SA Moran asked Sgt. [REDACTED] if he was certain that he fired first. Sgt. [REDACTED] said he was “1000 percent” certain that he fired first. SA Moran asked Sgt. [REDACTED] about the moments that he fired and his point of aim. SA Moran also asked about the time that it took and how the gunshots went through the driver’s side. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated, “Could be the time that it took. I saw my first round impact if that, if that helps.” SA Moran asked Sgt. [REDACTED] if he believed his rounds were effective. Sgt. [REDACTED] stated, “Yes, it’s, I could see an immediate reaction, ‘cause this is the part where it’s like slow motion. When I shot I could see my first round somewhere around here (pointed to upper middle of chest). I saw his shirt move and his arms and his like, shoulders lurched forward. And then, you know, I hate to assume, but I think his foot must have slipped off of the gas and onto the brake ‘cause it made no sense for it to like slow down.” Sgt. [REDACTED] said he had to account for the “mechanical offset” of the rifle sights and his point of aim was the upper chest near the bottom of the neck.

SA Momchilov asked for clarification about Sgt. [REDACTED]’s view and positioning during the shooting. Sgt. [REDACTED] said the pallets were elevated (he estimated the height of the chair everyone was seated in, approximately 18-24 inches from the ground) and he had a “downward angle.” Sgt. [REDACTED] said the driver’s side window of the truck was rolled down and he could see “this much of his torso” (pointed to area about $\frac{3}{4}$ down from shoulders to waist).

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The interview ended at 1133 hours. Sgt. [REDACTED] and Attorney Lipperman declined the opportunity to watch Sgt. [REDACTED]'s BWC video.

Attachments:

1. BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form - OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]
2. Written Statement - OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]
3. 2023-04-20 - Audio - Interview of OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED] - 803_0766
4. 2023-0795 Overhead diagram w-o placards

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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).

Printed Name of interviewee

4/20/23 1100
Date / Time

S _____

SA CHARLES MORAN #67
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF SERGEANT [REDACTED], UNIT # [REDACTED]

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred between approximately midnight and 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in Brookfield, Ohio. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I obtained my Ohio Peace Officer Training (OPOTA) Certificate in March of 2000. My date of hire with the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) is September 13, 2000. I was promoted to the rank of sergeant in August of 2011. I am currently assigned to the OSP Warren Post. My regular duty hours are 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. My regular days off are Sunday and Monday; however, on the week of this incident my schedule was modified to accommodate a post inspection, and I reported to work on Monday at 10:00 p.m.

Before I joined OSP, I served in the Marine Corps from 1995-1999 and held the position of a Military Police Officer. I served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1999-2001 (which overlapped with my OSP employment). From August of 2001 until May of 2022, I served in the Air Force Reserve (also concurrent with my OSP employment). Throughout that time, I served as a Combat Arms Instructor and trained personnel on shooting/marksmanship. I also held multiple leadership positions within the squadron. That service included two deployments: Bahrain in August – October of 2002 and Iraq in July 2008 until January 2009.

On the day of this incident, I was wearing the uniform of the day: dark gray trousers, a long-sleeved light gray shirt and tie, a black coat that displayed my OSP badge and rank chevron, and stocking hat. I was also wearing a body worn camera which was activated during this incident and mounted in the center of my chest. I was operating in Cruiser [REDACTED]

I was carrying my OSP-issued primary service weapon: a Sig Sauer P320 9mm handgun. I was also carrying my OSP-issued secondary handgun, a Sig Sauer P365 9mm. My range qualifications are current for both weapons; however, I did not use either weapon during this incident. Instead, I was equipped with my OSP-issued semi-automatic Aero Precision AR-style rifle, loaded with OSP-issued Hornandy Tap ammunition. That weapon holds 30 rounds, but I only load 28 rounds, consistent with my training and OSP policy. That rifle was equipped with a red dot site and light mounted to the right side of the handrail. I was current in my range qualifications with that weapon.

I have good vision and hearing and do not require corrective lenses or hearing aids. Nor do I suffer from any disabilities. I did not consume any alcohol in the 24 hours before this incident. I was not taking any medication that could impair the performance of my duties. I did not work any overtime on the day before or day of this incident. I arrived at my shift well rested and in good spirits.

At the time of this incident, several other members of law enforcement were present: Sergeant Tim Grimm and Troopers Scott Boyle and Kevin Brown from OSP; Officer [REDACTED] and Sergeant Pedulla from Vienna Township; Deputy [REDACTED] and Sergeant Ron Carr from the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office; Patrolman Josh Bellas and Sergeant [REDACTED] from the Brookfield Township Police Department; and Officer Ted Drewek from the Lordstown Police Department.

On Monday, March 20, I reported to the Warren OSP post around 10:00 p.m. After arriving, I learned that hours earlier a suspect, Fred Wild III, had been involved in a pursuit with the Lordstown Police in which OSP assisted. Apparently, during the pursuit the suspect's vehicle became disabled on railroad tracks, and the suspect bailed on foot, escaping into the nearby

woods. I was also aware that suspect had a felony warrant for failure to appear out of an OVI. Finally, the suspect was also believed to have recently stolen a truck and that he may be carrying a muzzleloader.

A few hours into my shift, dispatch radioed that Brookfield Police had requested that area law enforcement agencies and OSP assist with arresting Mr. Wild III. A civilian had called the police and reported that the suspect was hiding in the woods in or near a cabin located behind (west of) the property at 1433 State Route 7 in Brookfield. Trooper Boyle and I left the post in separate cruisers shortly after dispatch's transmission. We drove to 1266 State Route 7, which was just down the road from the suspect's reported location and where law enforcement was meeting to develop an arrest plan. Sgt. Grimm and Trooper Brown were also reporting to that location.

I arrived at about 12:45 a.m. Members from the Vienna, Brookfield, Lordstown, and Trumbull County law enforcement agencies had all arrived within a brief time later. I learned that the cabin the suspect was staying in reportedly belonged to a family friend and that the suspect had previously been arrested there. The civilian that called the Brookfield Police Department had gone back to the cabin and talked to the suspect. The civilian reported that the suspect had started a campfire and was drying his clothes which had apparently gotten wet during his pursuit earlier that day.

We decided that officers would approach on foot, then two officers would surround each side of the cabin and an officer would make announcements from a PA for the suspect to surrender. If the suspect refused to do so, then officers would breach the cabin and arrest the suspect. Specifically, it was decided that I and Patrolman Bellas would cover the northern side of

the cabin. We also decided that at least one or two other officers would position their cruisers along the road that leads to the cabin and stay in their cruisers in case the suspect fled by vehicle.

The arrest plan was finalized around 1:00 a.m. At that time, I and the other officers drove our cruisers up the road and parked on the east side of State Route 7, about a quarter mile east of the cabin. Once everyone did so, officers began walking west along the driveway/road that runs to the cabin. Trooper Brown and Sgt. Carr remained behind and planned to move their cruisers onto the road once officers got closer to the cabin. The main driveway terminated after a few hundred yards, right at the threshold of the woods. But a gravel/dirt road continued into the woods leading to the cabin. Once we reached that part of the road, I believed that Trooper Brown moved and parked his cruiser at the threshold of the woods, and Sgt. Carr parked directly behind him.

I continued west along the gravel/dirt road with the other officers. We fanned out shortly after entering the wooded area. Several officers had night vision or thermal imaging goggles to help see since it was dark, and no lights were being used to help avoid detection. After we walked a few hundred yards, I could see a small structure that appeared to be a large shed that had been converted into a living space (which I believed was the "cabin"). That structure was situated on the right (northern) side of the road. It appeared there was a window on the eastern wall of the cabin, and from that window I could see a light inside. It was also around that time I saw a full-sized pickup truck with a large snowplow attached parked in front of the cabin, facing east. The truck was parked immediately next to the cabin such that the front door of the cabin was blocked by the back of the truck and the driver's window of the truck aligned with the front window of the cabin. I believed the suspect had deliberately parked the truck in that manner to

create a fast and easy escape and prevent law enforcement from getting inside. I could also hear music coming from the truck (though I did not think the truck's engine was on).

I continued quietly towards the cabin with the other officers. As we neared, Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] approached the front of the cabin and truck. Trooper Boyle positioned himself in front of the truck behind the southeast corner of the cabin. I stayed about 5-10 yards east of the front of the truck and cabin and several yards north of the road. I believe Sgt. Grimm was behind (east of) me and to my right (north). I recall Officer [REDACTED] being behind (east of) me and to my left (south). Sgt. Pedulla was south of me. And I recall two other officers being positioned south of me on the road.

Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] neared the front passenger side of the truck and began giving verbal commands. I observed movement in the driver's seat of the truck a moment later and realized the suspect jumped through the front window of the cabin into the front driver's window of the truck. Deputy [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] immediately began striking the front passenger window and ordering the suspect to show his hands. I jumped onto a nearby stack of several pallets to gain elevation and a better vantage point. I heard the truck's engine start a moment after the suspect jumped inside, and I saw the suspect hunched over, as though he was grabbing something. An instant later, the engine roared, and the truck launched forward, accelerating directly at me. A second later, while still rapidly accelerating, the suspect cut the wheels right (south). I was no longer in the suspect's path, but he was now driving toward the road and location where I had seen officers seconds earlier. I believed he was going to strike and/or run over and grievously injure or kill one or both of those officers, and it was then I fired at the suspect, just as he drove past me. I also heard several other officers fire at that time.

I stopped firing an instant later once the suspect passed me and it sounded and appeared as though he was no longer accelerating. The truck stopped about 20 feet later in a southeasterly direction, partially on the road. I remained on the pallet and covered the suspect. Trooper Boyle announced for officers to clear the cabin, which I believed several officers did.

An officer approached the passenger side of the truck and broke the front passenger window and opened the door. Officer [REDACTED] opened the driver's door and said the suspect was not moving. I got off the stack of pallets moments later and approached the truck and asked whether anyone checked the suspect's injuries. The suspect was slumped forward and did not appear to be moving. Trooper Boyle gloved up and checked the suspect for signs of life, but he could not find a pulse. I waited with the other officers for several minutes until medics arrived and confirmed the suspect was deceased.

Tape was then placed throughout the scene. Before I left the scene, I gave my rifle to Trooper Brown so it could be safely stored in a cruiser until investigators could collect and process it as evidence. At that time, there was still a round in the chamber and a magazine was inserted, but I ensured my rifle was placed on safe. This ended my involvement with this incident. Sometime later, I drove from the scene to the Warren Post. There, I met with an investigator from BCI who took photos as part of the investigation.

I fired two rounds during this incident. I fired both rounds in rapid succession in what I would estimate was less than one second. I fired those rounds in a southwesterly direction through the front driver's window as the suspect drove past me. My target was the suspect's center mass. I would estimate that I was approximately 8-10 feet from the suspect when I fired. My backdrop was an open wooded area. From my elevated position, I did not see any officers or civilians in my backdrop. I believe I used my red dot sights. I fired with the weapon in my right

shoulder. I was standing when I fired, and I was not moving. Though it was dark, I believe my rifle's light was activated. I did not have any cover or concealment at the times I fired.

I was in fear for the lives of the officers standing on the road at the times I fired my weapon. Before encountering the suspect, I was aware that he had an active felony warrant and had just fled from several law enforcement jurisdictions during a pursuit hours earlier. The other officers and I planned to arrest the suspect and take him into custody on the felony warrant and subsequent charges out of the pursuit.

It was clear, however, the suspect had no intention to peacefully surrender. First, he had deliberately parked his pickup truck such that no one could gain access to the cabin but he would be able to quickly get into the truck and flee. And once I reached the cabin with the others, the suspect in fact immediately got into the truck and began to flee despite Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED]—both of whom were in uniform and readily identifiable as law enforcement—trying to get inside the truck while repeatedly ordering the suspect to show his hands. Instead of peacefully surrendering and complying with officers' commands, the suspect started the engine and began accelerating. Based on the roaring of the engine, the mud and gravel kicking up behind the truck, and the speed at which the truck was moving, I believed the suspect had the accelerator completely down. At first, I believed he may strike and/or run over me since his truck was rapidly accelerating in my direction. But the suspect cut the wheels right (south) a second later, missing me by mere feet. (After this incident, I saw the tire tracks from the truck were within a few feet of the stack of pallets I had been standing on).

Once the suspect cut the truck south, he was driving toward the road in a southeasterly direction. Moments earlier I recalled seeing two officers positioned on the road in the immediate vicinity where the suspect was now driving. At that time, those officers were fully exposed with

no cover. I believed that those officers were still in the road and that the suspect was going to strike and/or run over one or both of those officers. I was also aware that Officer [REDACTED] and Sgt. Pedulla were behind me a moment earlier, and I was not certain whether they were out of the path of the suspect's truck. I was especially concerned since the suspect's vehicle was a full-sized pickup; was equipped with a large snowplow attached to the front; and was rapidly accelerating—factors significantly increasing the threat to those officers.

Finally, I also knew that the road was lined with trees on both sides such that a vehicle could only travel using the road. I also believed that Trooper Brown's cruiser was parked at the threshold of the entrance into the wooded area, leaving the suspect no path of escape. I also knew that Trooper Brown planned to remain in his cruiser in case the suspect fled. And because the suspect was rapidly accelerating, and I knew he had several hundred yards until he reached Trooper Brown by which to gain further speed, I feared that the suspect would strike Trooper Brown's cruiser at a high rate of speed resulting in grievous injuries or death, especially given the added force from the snowplow.

At the times I fired at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of the officers from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.

I do not know the suspect, Fred Wild III. Nor do I believe I have ever previously encountered him, professionally or otherwise. Finally, I do not recall the suspect saying anything during this incident.

This concludes my statement.

Se [REDACTED]

03/21/2023
2023-0795
BCI for TCSO
OICI
1433 SR 7, Brookfield, Ohio
SA Dan Boerner #135
To Scale



- 1 - FC 223 REM
- 2 - FC 223 REM
- 3 - FC 223 REM
- 4 - FC 223 REM
- 5 - FC 223 REM
- 6 - FC 223 REM
- 7 - Hornady 5.56
- 8 - Hornady 5.56
- 9 - Hornady 5.56
- 10 - Hornady 223 REM
- 11 - Hornady 223 REM
- 12 - Hornady 223 REM
- 20 - Projectile

