

Investigative Report

2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident -

Howland Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County



Activity Date: August 24, 2024 Authoring Agent: Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

During Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov's (Momchilov) interview with Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Sergeant Eric Lofland (Sergeant Lofland) and Trooper Michael Vitullo (Trooper Vitullo), both Troopers stated they had their body-worn camera activated during the incident.

SA Momchilov later obtained both Troopers body-worn camera footage.

- Axon_Body_3_Video_2023-08-23_0613_X60A2422U (Trooper Michael Vitullo)
 Duration 35 minutes and 57 seconds
- Axon_Body_3_Video_2023-08-23_0613_X60A2893U (Sergeant Eric Lofland)
 Duration 35 minutes and 55 seconds

Body-Worn Camera Footage Review

Trooper Michael Vitullo

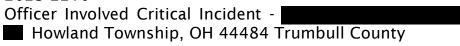


Trooper Vitullo's body-worn camera footage begins at approximately 06:11:32 hours on August 23, 2023. It appears that Trooper Vitullo is standing with other team



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members, possibly briefing about making entry (Audio does not start until 1 minute and 30 seconds into the footage).



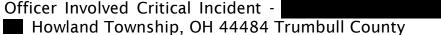
Approximately 1 minute and 24 seconds into the footage, Trooper Vitullo, and other Mahoning Valley Crisis Response Team (MVCRT) members began moving away from the armored vehicle.





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Approximately 2 minutes and 2 seconds into the footage, team members continue to move away from the armored vehicle.



Approximately 2 minutes and 23 seconds into the footage it appears that Trooper Vitullo and other team members are approaching to the rear.

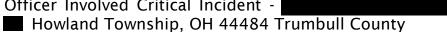




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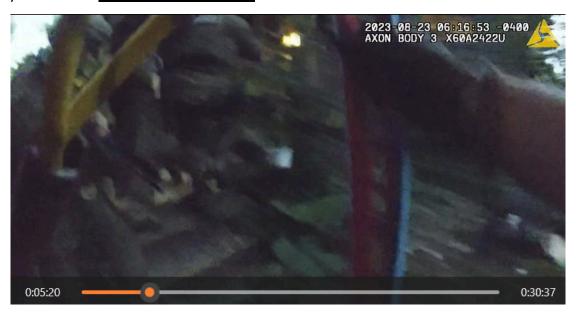
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Approximately 3 minutes and 8 seconds into the footage, team members reach the rear yard area of



Approximately 5 minutes and 20 seconds into the footage, team members begin approaching the rear of residence, by walking up the rear deck of the residence.





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Approximately 5 minutes and 36 seconds into the footage, Trooper Vitullo reaches the back door of the residence. It appears that Trooper Vitullo begins placing the explosive breach on the door.



Approximately 6 minutes and 49 seconds into the footage, Trooper Vitullo has finished placing the explosive breach and begins running the detonator wire.

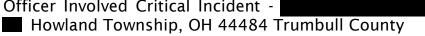




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Approximately 7 minutes and 35 seconds into the footage, it appears that Trooper Vitullo meets with Sergeant Lofland on the northside of the residence.



Trooper Vitullo remains on the northside of the residence and is joined by other team members. Approximately 23 minutes and 1 second into the footage, Trooper Vitullo detonates the explosive breach.

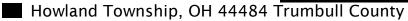




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Approximately 23 minutes and 7 seconds into the footage, team members are observed approaching the rear area of the residence.



Trooper Vitullo remains at the north side of the residence. Approximately 23 minutes and 12 seconds into the footage, a team member is heard yelling, "Shotgun, shotgun, shotgun," Followed by, "It's in his hand." "Where is he? Where is he?" and "He's in the back, he's in the back, front of the house, front of the house."

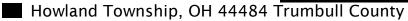




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Starting at approximately 23 minutes and 38 seconds into the footage, a team member is heard yelling, "Drop the gun, drop the gun."



Approximately 23 minutes and 42 seconds into the footage, the sound, consistent with a gunshot is heard. Followed by the additional sounds of gunfire. The sound of gunfire ends approximately 23 minutes and 45 seconds into the footage.

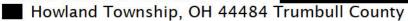




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Approximately 23 minutes and 52 seconds into the footage, Trooper Vitullo is observed approaching the rear of the residence.



Approximately 23 minutes and 53 seconds into the footage, additional gunfire is heard. The sound of gunfire ends approximately 23 minutes and 56 seconds into the footage.



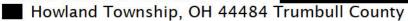
Beginning at approximately 28 minutes and 41 seconds into the footage, family members/hostages are being escorted from the residence.



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Sergeant Eric Lofland

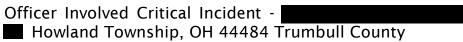


Sergeant Lofland's body-worn camera footage begins at approximately 06:12:02 hours on August 23, 2023. It appears that Sergeant Lofland is standing with other team members, possibly briefing about making entry (Audio does not start until 1 minute and 30 seconds into the footage).



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Approximately 1 minute and 24 seconds into the footage, Sergeant Lofland, and other team began moving away from the armored vehicle.



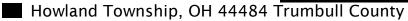
Approximately 2 minutes and 33 seconds into the footage it appears that Sergeant Lofland and other team members are approaching to the rear.



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Approximately 3 minutes and 19 seconds into the footage, team members reach the rear yard area of



Approximately 5 minutes and 31 seconds into the footage, as team members enter the porch area to the rear of the residence (to place the explosive breach), Sergeant Lofland remains north of the porch area.



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Approximately 6 minutes and 53 seconds into the footage, Sergeant Lofland is handed the detonator wire.



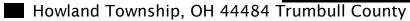
Approximately 7 minutes and 11 seconds into the footage, Sergeant Lofland is observed running the detonator wire to the northside of the residence.



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Approximately 7 minutes and 25 seconds into the footage, team members are observed exiting the porch area.





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Approximately 11 minutes and 8 seconds into the footage, Sergeant Lofland leaves the northside of the residence, and travels to the back area of the house where he meets with another team member.



Approximately 23 minutes into the footage, the explosive breach is detonated.





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Starting at approximately 23 minutes and 9 seconds into the footage, a team member is heard yelling, "Shotgun, shotgun, shotgun, shotgun, shotgun. Followed up indiscernible yelling and then "Front of the house."



Approximately 23 minutes and 37 seconds into the footage, a team member is heard yelling, "Drop the gun, drop the gun. Approximately 23 minutes and 40 seconds into the footage, a sound consistent with a gunshot is heard, followed by multiple sounds of gunfire. The sound of gunfire ends approximately 23 minutes and 43 seconds into the footage.



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Approximately 23 minutes and 50 seconds into the footage, the sound of more gunfire is heard. The gunfire is heard until approximately 23 minutes and 53 seconds into the footage.

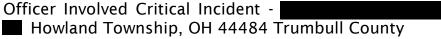


Approximately 24 minutes and 47 into the footage, an injured team member is observed being extracted from the residence.



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The reader of this Investigative Report is encouraged to view Trooper Vitullo and Sergeant Lofland's body-worn camera videos in their entirety, for further details and clarification.

Trooper Vitullo and Sergeant Lofland's body-worn camera footage was placed onto a DVD; the DVD was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item F.

Items

- Trooper Vitullo's body-worn camera footage
- Sergeant Lofland's body-worn camera footage