



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



2026-1239
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 31000 Block U.S. Route
 250, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, Harrison County

Investigative Activity: Body Worn Camera Review
Involves: Sergeant Thomas Smith (W)
Activity Date: 04/17/2026
Activity Location: BCI - Bowling Green
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond

Narrative:

On Friday, April 17, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David M. Hammond (SA Hammond) reviewed the body worn camera (BWC) recording received from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). The BWC video was captured during the vehicle pursuit of the subject and subsequent officer involved critical incident (OICI) which occurred on March 30, 2026, on US 22 near Miller Station Road, Hopedale, OH.

The recording consisted of Body Worn Camera video utilized by Sergeant Thomas Smith (Sgt. Smith). The recordings were uploaded to Axon Justice and stored in Reference Item F - Video Footage - HCSO BWC Video.

Title	Uploaded Date	File Type	Size	Duration
Sgt. Tom Smith HCSO BWC 3-30-26.mp4	April 2, 2026	Video	2.0 GB	33 Minutes

SA Hammond reviewed the BWC recording in its entirety and noted the following¹:

The video was marked as Wolfcom, 2026/03/30, 11:51:42, HCSO3405, N40/18/22 W80/58/06 151KM/H. It documented a portion of the vehicle pursuit after the initial traffic stop by [REDACTED] where shots were fired, and prior to the crash where Michael W. Decker (Decker) fled the vehicle. Sgt. Smith can be heard providing location updates during the video. The pursuit ended with the crash and Sgt. Smith can be seen exiting his marked Harrison County Sheriff's Cruiser before taking cover.

A portion of the body worn camera video captured Decker running into the woods. Sgt. Smith retrieved an AR-platform rifle from his cruiser and completed a security sweep of

¹ The summary was generated with the assistance of AI. While the summary was reviewed for accuracy, refer to the original recording for further detail.

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Decker's vehicle for additional suspects or victims. He then maintained security at the scene and assisted with the coordination of additional search efforts.

While watching the BWC recording, the following portions were deemed the most relevant to the investigation:

- At the 00:34 mark (11:52:11), [Sgt. Smith] "22. Eastbound coming up on Snyder. About to hit the four lanes again."
- At the 01:48 mark (11:53:25), an unknown Unit advised, "They got a spike. Got a spike. He's uh, code four. Code 4, 22 westbound. 22 westbound."
- At the 02:01 mark (11:53:38), [Sgt. Smith] "He's shooting. He's shooting", (*BWC, Figure 1*). Due to the volume of the police siren, the radio traffic and the movement of Sgt. Smith, no shots were audible.



BWC, Figure 1

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- At the 02:07 mark (11:52:44), [Sgt. Smith] stopped his cruiser and exited. He then took cover behind a Cadiz Police Cruiser with his handgun drawn (*BWC, Figure 2*).



BWC, Figure 2

- At the 02:14 mark (11:52:51), Sgt. Smith moved to the rear of the Cadiz PD cruiser.
- At the 02:22 mark (11:54:00), [Sgt. Smith] "He's going to the woods, drop it, drop it, drop it," (*BWC, Figures 3 & 4*).



BWC, Figure 3

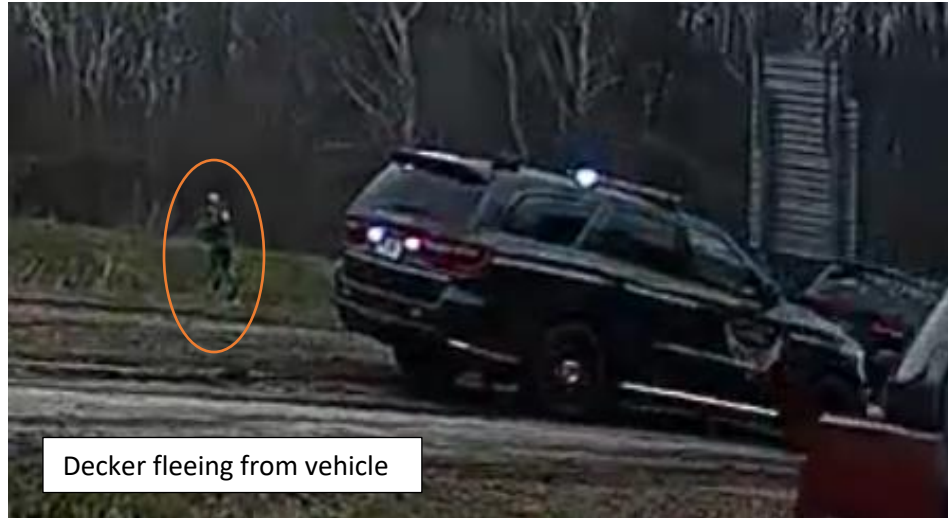
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BWC, Figure 4

- At the 02:26 mark (11:54:04), Michael Decker can be seen climbing over a fence and moving into the woods (*BWC, Figures 5 & 6*).



BWC, Figure 5

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BWC, Figure 6

- At the 02:33 mark (11:54:10), an unknown Unit advised, “Going into the woods, going into the woods.”
- At the 02:46 mark (11:54:24), Sgt. Smith retrieved a patrol rifle from his cruiser.
- At the 02:57 mark (11:54:34), [Sgt. Smith] “He’s right there, to your twelve, about 50 yards.”
- At the 03:17 mark (11:54:56), Sgt. Smith moved across the median, repositioning behind an Ohio State Highway Patrol cruiser (*BWC Figure 7*).



BWC, Figure 7

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- At the 03:29 mark (11:56:06), Sgt. Smith began to encourage two unknown OSHP Troopers to pull back from the edge of the woods. "Hold on. Pull back guys. Pull back. Pull back. Wait till we get air," (*BWC Figure, 8*).



BWC, Figure 8

- At the 03:34 mark (11:55:12), [Sgt. Smith] "34. 34. Get us uh, some air support up here. Get us a helicopter or plane."
- At the 04:12 mark (11:55:49), Sgt. Smith appeared to answer an OSHP Trooper who was standing near the edge of the wood. "We, uh, about a minute and thirty seconds ago. He is armed. One handgun."
- At the 04:40 mark (11:56:59), [Sgt. Smith] "I'm going to clear the car." Sgt. Smith moved from the cover of the OSHP cruiser to the rear of the blue Dodge SUV. He moved along the passenger side of the vehicle before announcing that it was clear (*BWC, Figure 9*).



BWC, Figure 9

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- At the 08:55 mark (12:00:32), [Sgt. Smith], "Uh, just to advise you, uh, OSP did return fire, empty a mag in him. We don't know if the subject's hit, but he did hop a fence and he is armed. He still has the 40 on him. He's in the wood line right now. I would say probably a hundred yards. We do not have visual on them at this time."
- Between the 08:55 (12:00:32) and 29:09 mark (12:20:46), the recording captured deputies, troopers, and officers discussing the incident, requesting additional units, and establishing a perimeter
- At the 29:09 mark (12:20:46), Sgt. Smith notified dispatch that the subject had been located by a drone. "We got him on thermal with the drone. Standby for the location there". This would later turn out to be a deer, bedded down by a creek.
- The recording continued for approximately three minutes. Nothing relevant to the investigation was observed

The thumb drive containing the BWC footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as Reference Item F - Video Footage - HCSO BWC Video. The recordings were also uploaded to Axon Justice and stored in Reference Item F - Video Footage - HCSO BWC Video.

References:

Reference Item F - Video Footage - HCSO BWC Video - stored in Axon Justice

Reference Item F - Video Footage - HCSO BWC Video - *Smith Figures 1-9* - stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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