



Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Prosecutor Summary

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**Involves:** Cole Matthew White (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 12/12/2022  
**Activity Location:** – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Vienna, OH 45369, Clark County  
**Author:** SA Richard Ward, #55

**To:** Clark County Prosecutor Dan Driscoll

**CC:** Special Agent Supervisor Willian Jones

**From:** Special Agent Richard Ward

**Date:** December 12, 2022

**Case Title:** Officer–Involved Critical Incident, death of Deputy Matthew Yates, Jodi Arbuckle, and Cole White

**Case Number:** 2022–1564

**Investigative Request:**

The following prosecutor summary serves as an overview of the criminal investigation of an Officer–Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Sunday, July 24, 2022. Sheriff of Clark County, Sheriff Deborah Burchett requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) conduct an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the OICI. The incident occurred at 1132 Ashwood Drive, Harmony Estates Trailer Park, which is located in Harmony Township, Clark County, Ohio. The incident stemmed from a shots fired call inside of 1132 Ashwood Drive, reported by neighbors and Kristen Mills, fiancé of Jodi Arbuckle who had entered the trailer to check on her son and resident, Cole White.

***Preface:***

This report only summarizes the investigative activity and information gathered by BCI. Not all facts and details are presented in this report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Audio and/or video recordings exist for some of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of the statements made regarding the incident.

**Investigative Team:**

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BCI Senior Special Agent Richard Ward was assigned as the lead Special Investigations Unit (SIU) case agent. BCI Special Agents Steven Seitzman, Douglas Eveslage, Kenneth Smith, Perry Roeser, David Wieging, John Butterworth, Ryan Scheiderer, Andrew Russell, Matthew Collins, David Hornyak were assigned as assisting agents. BCI Special Agents Chad Holcomb, Aja Chung, Kevin Wagner from the BCI Crime Scene Unit and Tyler Price (CCU) processed the scene of the incident and the involved officers, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Will Jones. Additionally, personnel from the BCI Crime Laboratory performed scientific analysis on submitted evidentiary items.

### Synopsis of Incident:

The following information is based on the statements of the involved law enforcement officers, a witness, body-worn and cruiser camera footage, and dispatch and CAD information.

On Sunday, July 24, 2022, just before 1100 hours, Jodi Arbuckle and her fiancé, Kristen Mills arrived at the 1132 Ashwood Drive address to check on Arbuckle's son, Cole White who had missed a court date earlier in the week. Previously, on July 22, 2022, Clark County Sheriff's Office was requested to check the welfare of White who was reportedly observed by friends in a catatonic state; laying on the floor of his trailer with a handgun visibly next to him. Not receiving any answer from White, Arbuckle used a ladder to climb inside the trailer through a front window. While inside the trailer, Arbuckle kept in communication with Mills via their cellular telephones as Arbuckle announced her location as she moved through the trailer. She also announced aloud for Cole to hear, that she was looking for him. Shortly thereafter, Mills heard a scream, White tells Arbuckle, "I'm sorry mom" (heard over the cellular telephone) followed by a gunshot. After the gunshot, Mills attempted to contact Arbuckle, but was unsuccessful.

Kristen Mills and neighbor, Corey Hillenbrand who resided across the street from 1132 Ashwood Drive contacted the Clark County Sheriff's Office reference the gunshots. Sergeant Chad Stalder, Deputy Matthew Yates, Holly Risner and Detective Brian Melchi, who had been working an off-duty detail nearby, arrived. Based upon the information given to Stalder by Mills, he made the decision to attempt contact with White and Jodi Arbuckle by announcing their presences at the front door. With deputies unable to make contact with anyone inside the trailer, Stalder believed exigent circumstances existed and made the decision to breach the front door which Deputy Yates did. Once the entry was gained, Stalder (who was to Yates' right and slightly behind) cleared the right side hallway and when Yates proceeded into the trailer passed a short wall, two gunshots were fired by White. One of the rounds struck Yates in the face and fell immediately to the floor, face down just inside and near the threshold of the trailer. Stalder withdrew from the trailer along with the other deputies, announced the circumstances via the radio and established a perimeter. **Note: Stalder's Body-worn camera captured Yates breach the front door and both enter the threshold of 1132 Ashwood Drive. Stalder cleared the hallway to the right and verbalizes same to Yates. Yates, who is to Stalder's left proceeded further inside, two rounds of gunfire is heard, Yates fell to the floor motionless.**

Once additional personnel from the Clark County Sheriff's Office arrived, an element of the Clark County's Special Operations (SOT) team formed and attempted to extract Yates from the

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trailer. The SOT/sheriff's personnel consisted of Sergeant Denise Jones, Deputy Jordan Bean, Deputy Spencer Wheeler, Deputy Ryan Weaver, Deputy Jonathan Snyder, Deputy Scott Cultice, Deputy Brandon McDuffie, Deputy Ross Eubanks (Non SOT), Sergeant Chad Eubanks (Non SOT) and North Hampton Officer Steven Harrison (Non SOT). As the team approached, Jones and Weaver were able to proceed through the doorway and observed Deputy Yates face down a few feet into the trailer. Jones, in possession of a ballistic shield and her service weapon, knelt and reached for Yates. As Jones attempted to grab Yates' leg, White fired at Jones and Deputy Weaver, who was positioned to Jones' right. Believing the gunfire originated from their right, both Weaver and Jones returned fire to their right. The SOT members withdrew and maintained positions of cover. With the exception of Jones and Weaver, the remaining sheriff's personnel discharged their service weapons from outside the trailer. **Note: A Tik Tok video posted from a neighbors' account and cellular telephone videos captured a limited portion of the Clark County Sheriff's Office SOT team approach the front door of 1132 Ashwood Drive, gunfire is heard and the team withdraws.**

At the request of the Clark County Sheriff's Office, the Greene County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team (SRT), Springfield Police Department SWAT responding to assist. Captain Michael Kranz, team SWAT Commander of SPD, Lieutenant Bryan Mangin OSHP SOT team Commander, Deputy Robert Swihart, GCSO team Commander and Clark County Major Chris Clark, SOT team Commander were on scene and coordinated resources.

Greene County Regional SWAT and SPD SWAT moved armor into the area of 1132 Ashwood to relieve Clark County sheriff's personnel who had moved to positions of cover near and around the trailer. A second attempt to extract Deputy Yates was prepared; specifically, SPD SWAT Mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle "Thing1" driven by Lieutenant Beau Collins would approach and bump the trailer from the rear northeast corner and the second MRAP "Thing 2" driven by Officer Shane Davis would bump the trailer on the front northwest to distract White. While impact was made with the MRAPs, additional tactical elements would deploy flashbangs to the exterior, CS and OC gas inside and around the trailer. During the implementation just before 1400 hours, both MRAPS made impact, SPD SWAT made entry and came under fire from White and withdrew. SPD SWAT consisted for Officer Eric Fleming (ballistic shield), Officer Kevin Miller (ballistic shield), Deputy Justin Nawman (CCSO), Officer William Sanders, Officer Ronnie Terry, Officer Joe Lewis and Officer Aaron Hayes. During the withdrawal, Deputy Nawman injured his leg and was extracted by other officers. The MRAP positioned in the rear was able to tear an opening on the northeast corner for a visual into the trailer. When the MRAPS made initial contact with the trailer, White discharged his weapon believed to be a DPMS AR 10, .308 caliber from inside the trailer outward. Springfield Police Captain Allison Elliot attempted to begin negotiations with White, but was unable to make contact via cellular phone number provided to her for White and through the MRAP's PA system. Rounds fired from White were observed coming from within the trailer and exiting on either side, one round striking an unmarked sheriff's vehicle parked on the street. **Note: MRAP from "Thing 2" video captured SPD SWAT members exit the rear of the MRAP and move toward the front door of 1132 Ashwood. Moments later, SWAT members are observed to have withdrawn and had dragged and Deputy Justin Nawman to cover. MRAP video from "Thing 1" captured the MRAP impact the northeast corner of 1132 Ashwood Drive and create an opening. During the initial impact by "Thing 1", fired rounds appeared to perforate the exterior wall, being fired**

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from within.

OSHP Trooper Nadi Graham was able to deploy a drone into the trailer and for a brief period, identified Deputy Yates' position and the video indicated no signs of life. On the final attempt to extract Yates just before 1500 hours, GCSO Regional SWAT and OSHP SRT deployed less lethal munitions; CS, OC and flashbangs on all sides of the trailer until SPD SWAT gained entry, which with the exception of Deputy Nawman consistent of the same personnel. SPD SWAT was able to retrieve Yates who was removed from the scene with the Clark County BearCat to Care Flight who had staged a distance away. Within minutes of Yates' extraction, a fire was observed emanating from the center south interior of the trailer, which according to reports was the kitchen area. The fire consumed the trailer and the two bodies of Jodi Arbuckle and Cole White were discovered in north central portion of the trailer. **Note: MRAP video from "Thing 2" captured SPD SWAT exit the rear of the MRAP and moments later, Yates is observed being dragged out. "Thing 1" video captured the simultaneous to Yates' extraction the deployment of chemical munitions and detraction devices at the northeast corner .**

**Summary of Investigative Process:** The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods that were used during the course of this investigation:

- Processing the scene by BCI Crime Scene Units.
- Obtained Request for assistance from Clark County Sheriff's Office.
- Recorded interview with responding Officers/Troopers/Deputies from Ohio State Highway Patrol, Greene County Sheriff's Office, Xenia Police Department, North Hampton Police Department, Springfield Police Department and Clark County Sheriff's Office.
- Recorded interviews with neighbors during neighbor canvass.
- Obtained and reviewed closed-source biographical information on Cole White, to include criminal history, OHLEG and more.
- eTrace from the Bureau Alcohol, Tabaco and Firearms (AFT) for firearms possessed and used by Cole White; Remington .380, DPMS AR-10 and Taurus 410/.45 Colt Judge revolver.
- Ohio Division of State of Ohio Fire Marshal report 2022-1437671 from Investigator Tim Schreadley.
- Collected and reviewed body-worn camera footage from OSHP and Xenia Police Department.
- Collected and reviewed Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles' video front/rear identified as "Thing 1" and "Thing 2".
- Received and reviewed Montgomery County Coroners' Office reports for Deputy Matthew Yates, Cole White and Jodi Arbuckle.
- Collected and reviewed Clark County Communication Center radio traffic and CAD reports.
- Received historical police reports/arrest reports for Cole White from Logan County Sheriff's Office (03/23/2022), report number 2022-012008-Criminal Trespass, Yellow Springs (Greene County) Police report-Improper Handling of a Firearm and Sexual Imposition, (08/03/21) and Clark County Sheriff's Office-Check on the Welfare, (07/22/2022).
- BCI Firearms Laboratory Examination of Ballistic Evidence and firearms.

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- Received and reviewed After Action reports completed by Dayton SWAT personnel: SWAT Officers Zecchini, Victor, Veregge, Thompson, Scott, Rice, Lawson, Lane, Huber, Hastings, Harris, Hammock, Gundaker, Erwin and Brown.
- Received and reviewed Supplemental reports from Madison County Deputies Delabar, Zimmer, Rolales and Campbell.
- Obtained arrest warrant issued through Greene County Common Pleas Court, 2021-CR0414, issued 07/22/2022, Improperly Handling of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle.
- Obtained Tik Tok, social media of Cole White and cellular telephone videos.

### Investigative Interviews:

Multiple neighbors and officers were interviewed during the investigation. Below listed the interviews, which best summarize the events on Sunday, July 24, 2022.

#### Ms. Kristen Mills:

On today's date, July 24, 2022, Jodie and Kristen went back to Cole's residence at approximately 1044 hours. Jodie called Cole multiple times but never received any response from Cole. Prior to Jodie entering Cole's residence, she told Kristen that she was not scared of Cole and that Cole has never been violent. SA Eveslage asked Kristen if she was on the phone with Jodie while she was inside, and Kristen said "yes, speaker." Kristen explained how Jodie walked through the residence announcing to Cole, "It's your mom...Cole I'm in the kitchen...Cole I'm coming back to your bedroom." Kristen advised Jodie over the phone again, that if she was scared, not to keep searching the residence. Jodie advised Kristen, "I'm not scared" and they both exchanged an I love you. Jodie was advising Kristen that she could not see due to how dark it was inside the residence, so Kristen kept asking her to use her flashlight on her phone as Jodie was saying, "Cole are you on your bed? Cole?" Jodie kept verbally announcing herself to Cole while she looked on the bed and under the bed but did not find him. Kristen explained that Jodie said, "Cole, I'm going to open the closet door, Cole are you in there? Cole, I'm opening the closet door are you in there?" Kristen said that is when she heard "the most frightening scream" as she was standing just outside of "those two windows" and "that's when she screamed bloody murder." Then Kristen heard Cole say in a very calm voice, "I'm sorry mom, I'm sorry" and then "heard a gunshot." Kristen said after hearing the gunshot and getting no response from Jodie she went up the stairs, went inside, and could not make herself turn left to go down towards the bedroom. Kristen advised that during the moments she was inside, she did not hear anything, and then exited the residence and called 911 at approximately 1052 hours. Kristen said that she tried to call Jodie's phone again but "he (Cole) had powered it off."

After Kristen explained the situation to the deputies on their arrival, she stood approximately 20 feet away "as the two sheriff's went in I heard two gunshots." SA Eveslage asked Kristen if two sheriff's went in, and Kristen corrected herself saying that three went inside after "breaking down the door to try and save her (Jodie)."

SA Eveslage asked if the sheriff's deputies knocked and announced their presence on the door prior to forcing entry and Kristen stated, "Oh yeah, they were banging and banging." "When

they banged they kept saying Sheriffs! Sheriffs! Sheriffs!," explained Kristen. Kristen said she will forever be thankful for him (Deputy Matthew Yates) "trying to save her (Jodie), he was so brave." Kristen advised that it was "pandemonium" from that point forward, but recalls there being multiple gunshots immediately after the first two gunshots when deputies went inside. The deputies told everyone to back up so they would stay safe, more gunshots were heard, and the deputies kept moving everyone back as SWAT and other law enforcement arrived.

SA Eveslage asked if Cole kept firing from inside the residence after deputies exited the residence, and Kristen responded, "Yes, it sounded like it...something was going in and out, you could hear it." Kristen said the Jodie described the entire lay out of the residence previously to her, and that one night when they were attempting to make contact with Cole, Jodie said there was a light on in the restroom and that made her "happy because there was electricity." Kristen explained that Barry Espy was getting upset with the police because he was like a father figure for Cole, and the police kept everyone away from the residence. SA Eveslage asked Kristen if Cole made any statements about suicide or homicide to Jodie, and Kristen advised that Cole said something about his "ascension", but they never understood what that meant and thought "he (Cole) was pretty far out there at this point." SA Eveslage asked when Kristen left the scene and Kristen described watching the SWAT armored vehicle being driven into the residence. Kristen further explained that someone was "shooting rapid fire" but wasn't sure if it was Cole or the police. SA Eveslage asked if there was constant gunfire and Kristen said, "yeah, constant." Kristen summarizes the events she witnessed and states, "The deputies went in and Cole shot at them, then the SWAT team went in and Cole shot at them," and then the armored vehicle "rammed the place." Kristen explains how she saw a law enforcement officer "fall out" of the residence and thought they were shot in the ankle. Kristen last witnessed law enforcement throw "gas" into the residence and remove Deputy Matthew Yates.

**Mr. Corey Hillenbrand:**

Hillenbrand related he had stepped outside to smoke when he observed two females outside the 1132 Ashwood Drive residence, which is directly across from his and his mother's (Lelah) residence. The time was approximately 1000 hours. Hillenbrand said the two females, one of which he referred to as the mother, walked to the back of the trailer and he could hear the mother saying, "Hey, if you can hear me, I just need to know if you are okay...I just want to know if you're safe, you're okay." Hillenbrand related the mother continued to ask (her son inside) to bang on the wall or say something to know he is safe. Hillenbrand stated there was not a response at which time the mother retrieved a ladder, took off a screen to a window and climbed inside the residence through the window. Hillenbrand approximated the mother was inside the residence for 4-5 minutes and then he heard 5 shots go off and heard her scream. Next, Hillenbrand went inside his residence to grab his phone and called the police when he heard another gunshot. The other woman outside screamed "Jodie, Jodie. Say something, say something. Jodie. Jodie."

Approximately 15-20 minutes later, three sheriff deputies arrived on scene, go up to the front door and identified themselves. Hillenbrand stated the deputies had their weapons drawn and were in a "tactical position." The deputy with a shotgun then kicked open the door and identified themselves again, "Sheriff's Office, Sheriff's Office" before they made entry. Hillenbrand said he heard the guy inside the residence shooting at the officers first when the

shotgun went off. Hillenbrand added you could see it (the round) go through the roof of the residence with smoke coming out. Hillenbrand heard the deputies say "Shots fired. Shots fired. Man down." and observed two deputies retreating. Another attempt to enter the residence was made by deputies, which Hillenbrand stated he recorded (on his cell phone), and more shots were heard. Hillenbrand mentioned he dropped to the ground when he heard the shots. Hillenbrand commented that another deputy got shot in the leg.

**Ms. Deanna Arbuckle:**

Deanna stated Cole [White] was raised by his mother [Jodi Arbuckle], but the family was very close and White's grandmother along with his Uncle Mark, were involved in his life. At one point White and his mother lived with his grandmother. According to Deanna, when White was very young, he exhibited signs of depression. Approximately ten years ago, White's grandmother passed away suddenly and Deanna believed this exacerbated White's depression. Agent Ward asked Deanna if she and Jodi kept in contact with White and she stated she had normal aunt/nephew contact, but Jodi had regular contact with White.

Within the last four to five years, Deanna stated White had "major shifts in his presentation of the world." White began to become involved in the "Masonic Order" and spoke of a "higher plains" and saw things differently than others. White began to become involved with nature and the Earth. According to Deanna, White would donate blood, but once his "mental health shifted" stopped; not wanting the responsibility of the people who received his plasma.

During an evening two or three years ago, White arrived at Jodi's house asking for mental health help. Once help was offered, White declined. According to Deanna, Jodi reported that White had pulled a handgun on her, but was unsure if White pointed the handgun at her.

Deanna stated on one occasion within the past three years, White refused to talk with her and other family members and believed he was not in the right state of mind. Because of this behavior, Deanna contacted the Clark County Sheriff's Office, but White was gone before the police arrived on Ashwood Drive. Eventually, White was stopped by the police and agreed to a mental health evaluation. According to Deanna, White received inpatient treatment for less than seven days and was released. During their visits to the hospital, White accused Jodi of having him committed. White sought out patient care and self reported he was schizophrenic; experiencing delusional thoughts, but was not diagnosed with this disorder because of the limited time period that White had exhibited this behavior. White refused to take the medications and sought natural substances; specifically, "Mushroom" and "DMT". Mark Arbuckle believed White used DMT prior to his hospital stay.

Once White was discharged from the hospital and the weeks following, Deanna stated he spent time with his family. Deanna stated White has asked her if she thought of him often and she replied yes. White told Deanna not to think of him because the thoughts causes him to be pulled back to this plain, which was harmful. According to Deanna, White made the same remarks to all of his family members separately. Over the last year, White's contact with his family decreased dramatically.

**Officer Interviews:**

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### Clark County Sheriff's Sergeant Chad Stalder:

Sergeant Stalder stated Deputy Yates and he arrived and he observed a female [Kristen Mills] directing him to a location. Stalder was concerned about parking where he would have been in range of any gunfire and after the incident realized he parked directly in front of the incident location. Yates exited his patrol vehicle and donned his ballistic helmet and shotgun. Stalder stated Mills was panicking but was able to obtain limited details from her. Melchi had spoken with a neighbor and Stalder recalled, not sure from whom, that inside 1132 Ashwood would be a "Murder-Suicide." Later, Stalder learned Mills' wife [Jodi Arbuckle], entered the trailer through a window and Mills heard five shots. Additionally, Stalder heard Mills was on the phone with Arbuckle when she was shot.

Once Deputy Risner arrived, Sergeant Stalder stated Deputy Yates took the lead and announcements were made at the front door. Based upon the circumstances; specifically, the reported shots fired and a potential murder-suicide, Stalder made the decision to breach the front entrance with Yates as the breacher, which was his role on the Special Operations Team (SOT). Once Yates indicated the entrance door was locked, Stalder informed Yates, "Lets go" and Yates began to kick the door. Stalder indicated Yates had difficulty with the door and he believed the door was fortified/barricaded from within. Yates eventually "mule Kicked" the door and used his shoulder to push the remainder of the door open to enter the trailer. Stalder stated he was behind Yates when the two entered, noticed the living area was clear, looked right down a hallway and yelled, "clear...clear...clear...nothing to the right" and when he "swung" his head around, he heard a gunshot. Stalder looked down and observed Yates down near the doorway and he displayed no movement.

Stalder exited the trailer and positioned himself behind a shed for cover. When he spoke with Risner and Melchi, both indicted they heard more than one shot fired. Sergeant Stalder repositioned himself to a large Oak tree where Deputy Risner was positioned and neither observed any movement inside the trailer. Stalder remained on scene was present when the Clark County SOT attempted entry, but received gunfire and exited the trailer. According to Stalder, Springfield police SWAT arrived and eventually was able to retrieve Yates from the trailer. Stalder observed the trailer catch and consumed by fire.

### Clark County Sheriff's Officer Sergeant Denise Jones:

Sergeant Jones stated she received a text from the SOT 911 system of an officer-involved shooting. Jones received additional information from the communications center that Deputy Matthew Yates was down. Jones stated on her way to retrieve the SOT vehicle from the fairgrounds, her work vehicle broke down. Jones stated Deputy John Snyder, who had retrieved the SOT vehicle, picked her up, so she and Snyder arrived to the incident scene together. Once on scene, Jones donned her SOT gear and was briefed by Deputy Scott Cultice about extracting Deputy Yates from the trailer. Jones stated she was the first in the stack with Deputies Spencer Wheeler; and Ryan Weaver was directly behind her when they made their approach to the entrance of the trailer. Jones was in possession of a shield and her Glock model 17, 9mm and observed the front screen door partially open and no front door. When Jones proceeded up the stairway, she observed the front door on the floor and Yates face down, inward and diagonally toward the kitchen-deep area of the room. Jones stated she observed the area to be a center fed room where she could see part of the kitchen, but the left hallway was obstructed



by a short wall, where Yates laid perpendicular too, and described a deep hallway to her right. Initially, Jones looked right while she yelled to Yates, but Yates did not respond nor move. Jones informed other team members to check right while she rotated left, squatted down to tap Yates's leg/foot. Just then, Jones stated she received fire from her right, she stood up, rotated the shield to her right and observed a muzzle flash from her right. Jones stated there were three to four rounds fired at them. Jones stated she moved laterally toward the front door and discharged her handgun, along with Weaver, until she exited onto the stairway. When she reached the stairway, Jones stated she got "hung up" and fell down the stairs. Jones was dragged by Weaver, who had thought she was shot, into the yard where she discarded the shield. Agent Ward asked Jones how many times she discharged her duty weapon and she stated six to ten times.

Once she recovered, Sergeant Jones stated Deputies Weaver, Crump, and Wheeler "stacked up" at a nearby trailer to the north until Springfield police arrived to make an attempt to recover Deputy Yates. Jones stated Springfield police utilized their "big truck" to strike the trailer and believed they struck the trailer from the other side because the entire trailer began to move. Springfield police deployed several officers along with Deputy Nauman, who proceeded to the same doorway, "stacked up" with double shields. Once inside the threshold, Jones stated the entry team began to receive gunfire. Jones stated the team exited and Nauman fell and appeared hurt, which was determined to be a "mechanical injury". Jones stated she did not observe the Springfield police with their firearms drawn and believed they did not discharge their firearms while inside the trailer.

#### Deputy Ryan Weaver:

Deputy Weaver stated he was contacted via the paging system, reference the call-out of an officer down. Prior to arriving on scene, Weaver stated he did not have information relative to the case, but heard information of a truck that attempted to break through the barricade. Weaver stated he observed a blue truck that matched the description and was informed later the operator of the truck was Matthew Yates's father. Once on scene, Weaver stated he retrieved his equipment from the BearCat and was informed Deputy Yates was inside the doorway and needed to be recovered.

Deputy Weaver stated SOT team members stacked to make entry; Sergeant Jones was first with the shield, Deputy Spencer was second and he was third. Weaver recalled the team ascended the stairs, Jones was being pushed from behind and he informed Spencer to go on "her [Jones] speed" and not to push. At the doorway's threshold, Weaver stated he observed the lower portion of Deputy Yates on the floor and thought he was deeper inside than just the doorway. Initially, Weaver stated everything was fine then, "all hell broke loose" and, from what he can remember, he was side by side with Jones as both had returned fired to the right with their handguns. Weaver did not know how many rounds he fired. Agent Ward asked Weaver the statement, "all hell broke loose," was he referring to receiving gunfire and he stated, "yes".

When they exited, Deputy Weaver stated he recalled Sergeant Jones was on the ground and he was dragging her back to cover. While on the ground, Jones informed Weaver he was tripping her. Weaver stated they maintained cover and switched out as needed and recalled seeing Deputy Crump at their location with a rifle.

Deputy Weaver deployed his personal Drone to obtain Yates's location, but the Drone could not make it through the front door, collided with the car port and was out of play. Weaver stated he received additional information that other people may be in the trailer. Weaver recalled he observed a ladder near an open screen of a window and wondered if someone had entered through the trailer a window.

Agent Ward asked Weaver if he maintained that position when Springfield Police SWAT attempted to recover Deputy Yates and stated, "yes". Weaver observed the SPD MRAP ram the car port and believed CS gas was deployed. Weaver observed the SPD SWAT with Deputy Justin Nawman deployed and moved up the stairway. Weaver stated he heard gunfire, but did not observe the SPD members discharge their firearms. Weaver observed Nawman go to the ground and he was dragged back to the MRAP.

**Xenia Police Officer Robert Swihart Co SWAT Commander:**

While on scene, Detective Swihart met with SPD Captains Kranz and GCSO Major Clark at the command post while another attempt to retrieve Yates was developed. Swihart had knowledge of an attempt to retrieve Yates and deputies came under fire prior to his arrival. Swihart proceeded with another SWAT member, Chris Reed to meet up with Clark County personnel on the "4" corner to deploy munitions during the rescue attempt. Swihart had in his possession two flameless tri-chambers, two flashbangs and two chemical expulsions. Once Springfield police begin to approach, Swihart deployed two flashbangs outside the trailer, in an attempt to draw the suspect to the front of the trailer, two expulsions and one tri-chamber on the "3" (southwest) side, one tri-chamber inside the "4" (northwest) side window. During this attempt, Swihart heard shots being fired and that Deputy Nawman was down and believed to be shot. Swihart and Reed moved to the front of the BearCat to assist with the extract of Nawman.

Detective Swihart and Reed relocate to the command post and made contact with Deputy Sticka where the decision was made to relieve Clark County personnel. Reed and Swihart redeploy forward and advised the Clark County personnel they would be replaced. Swihart stated an unmarked detective car was removed and the Green County MRAP was moved up. Once the armor was in place, Greene County SWAT deployed gas utilizing the .40mm gun to deploy Ferret rounds to cover the Clark County deputies withdrawal.

On the final rescue attempt, additional SPD and Greene County armor is brought closer to cover the SPD SWAT to move to retrieve Deputy Yates. Swihart stated gas and flashbangs were deployed on the exterior to distract and cover SPD SWAT recovery of Yates. Swihart was aware that deployment of the same or similar munitions were deployed on the rear side of the trailer, but all deployment ceased once SPD SWAT made entry. Once Yates was extracted, Clark County Sheriff's Office BearCat was pulled up and Yates placed inside the removed from the scene. During the rescue attempt, a fire was announced over the radio from team member that pulled Yates out and moments later, the fire became visual from the outside. Swihart believed the fire originated from the rear "2/3" (northeast) side of the trailer. Swihart provided cover for the fire personnel who had provided fire suppression. Swihart stated Dayton Police SWAT arrived and assumed positions to relieve their personnel.

**OSHP Lieutenant Bryan Mangin SRT Commander:**

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July 24, 2022, Mangin received a call from a Springfield police detective and asked Mangin to alert other troopers to not stop him in transit to this call. Shortly thereafter, Mangin was contacted from either OSHP Post 12 or the central hub (Fusion Center) for assistance reference a Clark County deputy shot inside a trailer. Mangin reached out to Clark County Sheriff's Major Chris Clark and asked what resources he needed. Mangin began to direct OSHP SRT resources to Clark County which included the BearCat stored in Columbus.

Once resources arrived, Lieutenant Mangin made contact with Springfield police and Clark County Sheriff's Office to assess the situation and develop a game plan to remove Deputy Yates. Mangin stated he was present when the decision to utilizing SPD's MRAPs to "make intentional contact" with the front and rear of the trailer to distract while distraction devices and CS gas was deployed simultaneously. During the distraction, Springfield Police SWAT would make entry to extract Yates from the trailer and the scene would be treated as a barricaded subject. During the second attempt and first tactical attempt, Mangin positioned himself with SPD's MRAP at 2/3 corner and deployed a handheld cannister of CS gas into a window of the trailer. Agent Ward asked Mangin if he heard gunshots when SPD made their attempt and he stated there was a lot going on with gas and flashbang deployment, but did not observe glass coming from the window he deployed the CS gas cannister, which was believed to be gunfire.

Because that attempt also failed, Lieutenant Mangin stated a game plan between Greene County Regional SWAT, SPD, and himself was prepared to retrieve Deputy Yates. Mangin stated because the exact location of Yates was needed, a tactical drone was deployed along with a Robot inside the trailer. According to Mangin, the robot became trapped inside a room and was rendered useless; however, the drone was able to locate Yates, face down, further down by the kitchen. After locating Yates, the drone then became disabled for reasons unknown. Mangin believed Yates was pulled by the suspect further into the trailer possibly to bait other officers.

Lieutenant Mangin stated the plan mirrored the original tactical attempt to retrieve Deputy Yates; "intentional contact" with the MRAPs and trailer; flashbangs and gas. Agent Ward asked if any troopers deployed flashbangs and Mangin stated Sergeant Lofland and Trooper Saultz may have. Mangin stated during the final attempt, he remained at the command post, Lofland had relieved him in the rear 2/3 corner of the trailer and Saultz was near the front. On this final attempt, SPD SWAT was able to retrieve Yates and Trooper/Medic Nadi Graham was able to assist with Yates being placed on the gurney prior to removal. While Yates was pulled out, someone yelled 'small fire' and cover was provided for fire personnel to eventually extinguish the fire. Agent Ward asked Mangin if he had knowledge of any other people inside the trailer and he had some details of a female unaccounted for, but no other additional details.

#### Clark County Sheriff's Office Chris Clark SOT Commander:

On the date of the incident, Major Clark stated he was off duty. He received a call from dispatch and was told that there was an incident at Harmony Estates with an "officer down," who they believed was Deputy Matthew Yates.

Major Clark stated that he called the Clark County Sheriff Deborah Burchett and got permission to coordinate SOT towards the incident location. Major Clark began towards the scene and used Active 911 to send the incident out to SOT members. He said that he was told that they believed the officer was down just inside the door. Major Clark asked dispatch to get an aerial view of

trailer to attempt to coordinate the entry but records showed an empty lot.

He arrived on scene and was briefed by Clark County Sheriff Burchett and other officers. He was told that there was a 911 call which said that there was a lady screaming, and that she had broken into the house, and there were 5–6 shots fired. He said that multiple officers arrived, including, John Schneider, Denise Jones, Scott Cultice, Ryan Weaver, Diane Norris, and other members he could not recall. Major Clark said the initial plan was to use a rapid entry and get the officer out of there. He described that the team was going to use shields, make entry to front door, and extract. He said that he wanted to get their armored BearCat vehicle right up on the front door, but limited space made it difficult.

Major Clark said that he took a position at the 3–4 corner of the trailer. As soon as his team got to the front door, he heard several gunshots fired. He said that there was a red plaid material over the windows, blocking his view inside the trailer. He said shots were being fired in all directions so he backed behind his vehicle for cover. Major Clark stated that he could not see the subject and was concerned about the location of his team, so he did not fire his weapon. He said that after this attempt, they did not see any movement from Deputy Yates or the female inside and believed them both to be deceased.

Officers believed Deputy Jones may have been hit but learned that she was alright. Officers held their position and waited on additional tactical units with hostage negotiators. Major Clark was told that several people had already attempted to make contact with the subject, with no success.

Major Clark requested additional tactical teams and once they arrived, they discussed making a second entry. The second plan was similar to the first., but included using level four, rifle rated shields. Major Clark does not believe that any distractions or munitions were deployed at this time. Officers used an armored MRAP to try and extract Deputy Yates. Major Clark stated that he believed the suspect had moved because shots were now being fired from a different part of the trailer. This second attempt to extract Deputy Yates was unsuccessful.

At this time, Major Clark stated that his team was emotionally involved and physically exhausted. Additional tactical teams began arriving on scene and Major Clark turned the scene over to Captain Krantz with Springfield Police Department (SPD). Major Clark stated that he was still involved in the command structure and himself, Captain Krantz, and Robert Swihart (Greene County SWAT) discussed using distraction devices to get the subject to come out. The third plan included using the MRAP to ram the 2–3 corner of the trailer to try to open it up, in order to use approximately 30 seconds to throw flashbangs and 40 mm gas to get the subject to go into hiding and allow them to extract Deputy Yates. An additional MRAP was positioned in the front of the trailer and was left in place because the awning collapsed on the truck and they did not want to close off their entry into the trailer. Major Clark stated that officers attempted to use a drone and robot to try to locate a thermal image of subject inside, but all were unsuccessful. Officers were able to make entry using the distractions and put Deputy Yates in the back of the armored BearCat and transported him to Miami Valley Hospital.

Shortly after, Major Clark said that there were reports that there was a fire in the kitchen and it started to consume the entire trailer. Officers were still not able to identify exactly where the subject was. Officers attempted to get fire engines in to put out the fire, but still provide

safety from gunfire. They were able to post SWAT guys on fire hoses and eventually the fire was extinguished.

#### Springfield Police Officer Eric Fleming:

On July 24, 2022 he was off duty and received an alert on his phone. He got on his radio and got the address of the incident and responded directly to the scene and met with Capt. Kranz. He was briefed that Dep. Yates was down in the trailer and that the suspect was using either a .308 or an AK-47. They began to devise a plan to get up to the trailer and extract Dep. Yates.

The plan was to get a team led Ofc. Fleming to the door while pepper-balls were deployed by Clark County to keep the suspect's head down. Ofc. Fleming and his team made their way to the door. They were originally briefed that Dep. Yates was right in the door. Ofc. Fleming carried a shield and was the first in the door. Ofc. Fleming couldn't see Dep. Yates from the door. He made entry and observed an open floor plan to the right. he moved left and saw Dep. Yates in the hallway. He stepped over Dep. Yates and the team began being fired upon from the left end of the trailer. He saw the flash and the debris coming through the walls. He heard someone yell "He's down" and saw someone fall as he was turning to exit the trailer. It ended up being Dep. Nawman. He held his position with the shield while the team was getting Dep. Nawman to the steps. The team retreated to the cover of the MRAP.

A short time later a second plan was put into action and the same team minus Dep. Nawman and with the addition of Det. Burch stood by while a volley of gas and flashbangs were launched prior to their approach. The team again approached the door of the trailer Ofc. Fleming entered and held to the right while Det. Terry held a shield to the left. The team was able to extract Dep. Yates. Ofc. Fleming saw a small fire on the floor of the trailer near where Dep. Yates was laying. As soon as Dep. Yates was removed from the trailer, the team retreated to cover and held perimeter positions while the fire began to engulf the trailer. The team had to pull the perimeter back several times due to the smoke.

#### Springfield Police Captain Michael Kranz SWAT Commander:

Kranz stated he was contacted by Clark County Sheriff's Major Chris Clark and informed a deputy was "down". Kranz arrived on scene at Harmony Estates trailer park fairly quickly and was present during the first unsuccessful rescue attempt by the sheriff's office personnel. Agent Ward asked Kranz if he witnessed the first attempt and he stated he was present, but did not witness the attempt. Agent Ward asked if he was briefed as to the details and Kranz stated there was a lack of information. Kranz took an armored Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle to view the trailer, which also allowed for troopers and other officers in the area of the trailer to fall back with cover.

Captain Kranz stated he received information from Major Clark there was a caregiver/mother possible involved, but had no other information reference the location of this person. Additionally, Kranz was told Deputy Yates was down just inside the trailer's front door threshold and the officers/deputies came under fire when they attempted to rescue him. Kranz learned the suspect [Cole White] was in possession of a .308, AK 47 or .30 caliber repeating rifle, because of the frequency of fire. Kranz activated his [SWAT] team, but it took some time for personnel and equipment to arrive. According to Kranz, one of the MRAPs arrived rather

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quick, but the other MRAP vehicle had been serviced and equipment removed, which caused some the delay.

Captain Kranz stated his team staged on the second street over on Teakwood for command and equipment placement. At this location, Kranz met with Ohio State Highway Patrol SOT Commander Lt. Bryan Mangin and eventually Greene County Regional SWAT Commander Robert Swihart. Kranz stated a plan was devised to extract Deputy Yates from the trailer. Kranz remained unclear if the female discussed earlier was inside the trailer and attempted to "filter that out" through the information obtained. According to Kranz, the plan was for MRAP to bump the back the rear of the trailer and at the same time, chemical munitions deployed inside the trailer. The purpose was to encourage White to exit the trailer or drive him deep inside to lessen the threat. Kranz stated the other MRAP was deployed at front door of the trailer and struck the awning. Once the SPD SWAT team along with Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Nawman attempted the rescue, the team came under fire and withdrew. Deputy Nawman was injured during the attempt and was extracted by team members.

Captain Kranz stated Greene County SWAT arrived and utilized their armored vehicle toward the front of the trailer. The MRAP was able to peel the the rear corner of the trailer for a line of sight inside and another point of entry if needed. On the attempt Deputy Yates was extracted, the decision was made to deploy gas and flashbangs outside the trailer for thirty seconds and make entry by the SPD SWAT. CS gas and flashbangs were deployed by Greene County, SPD, and possibly OSHP. The SWAT members known by Kranz who extracted Yates were Detective Terri, Officer Fleming, and Detective Miller. SPD extracted Yates from the trailer and placed into Clark County Sheriff's Office BearCat. Agent Ward asked Kranz when the fire of the trailer began and he stated he did not now. Agent Ward asked if negotiations were attempted and Kranz stated attempts were made loud speaker/via the PA system, but was unsuccessful.

#### BCI Firearms Laboratory Report:

Two (2) 308 WIN cartridge casing recovered from inside remains of 1132 Ashwood Drive were identified being fired from the DPMS AR 10 308 caliber rifle also recovered from the remains. Four (4) fired jacketed bullets recovered during the autopsy of Jodi Arbuckle and one (1) casing from the scene were identified being fired from a Remington .380 caliber pistol recovered from the trailer's remains.

#### Officers' Firearms:

Deputy Cultice: Rock River [REDACTED] one .223 casings identified, Deputy Snyder: Rock River [REDACTED] twelve .223 casing identified, Sergeant Jones: Glock model 19 [REDACTED] four 9mm casing identified, Major Reynolds: Glock model 19 three 9mm casing identified, Deputy McDuffie: Rock River [REDACTED] 1 .223 casing identified, Deputy Ross Eubanks Aero Precision [REDACTED] four .223 casing identified, Deputy Weaver: Glock model 19 four 9mm casing identified and Officer Harrison: PTR [REDACTED] two 9mm casings identified.

#### Montgomery County Coroner's Officer Autopsy Findings:

Jodi Arbuckle–postmortem examination conducted on July 25, 2022, revealed cause of death: [REDACTED] Also indicated [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Cole White–postmortem examination conducted on July 25, 2022, revealed cause of death: [REDACTED] Clark County Coroner listed White's manner of death as; [REDACTED]

Deputy Matthew Yates–postmortem examination conducted on July 25, 2022, revealed cause of death: [REDACTED]

Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal Findings:

State Fire Marshal investigator Tim Schreadley's report 2022-1437671 states in part;

–"The cause of this fire was **undetermined**. Upon completion of the analysis of the competent sources of ignition in and around the area of origin, none were able to be eliminated. The available ignition source considered, in no particular order, were: (1) Intentional human act, (2) A failure in the electrical system or device within the structure, (3) A failure of the lithium battery of the downed unmanned aerial vehicle (drone), (4) An open flame, i.e. candle, being disrupted after impact on the structure, (5) Heat/spark generation from law enforcement distraction/chemical agent devices".

Summary:

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed, and all known records have been obtained and reviewed. BCI has striven to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into this OICI. BCI will continue to assist in the investigation of any newly identified witnesses or information related to this criminal investigation. At this time, it appears that BCI's investigation into this OICI has concluded, unless new information or witnesses are identified through the grand jury or other processes.

As always, BCI remains available for consultation, and we look forward to your assessment of this investigation and your decision as to any additional efforts, processes, or further assistance you might determine to be necessary.

End of Summary.