



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: Witness Officer Interview – Sergeant Thomas Smith
Involves: Sergeant Thomas Smith (W)
Activity Date: 04/02/2026
Activity Location: Harrison County Sheriff's Office – 978 East Market Street,
Cadiz, OH 43907
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Thursday, April 02, 2026, at 1041 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Harrison County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Sergeant Thomas Smith (Sergeant Smith). The interview took place at the Harrison County Sheriff's Office.

Sergeant Smith was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the March 30, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of US 22 and Hopedale, Ohio. Reportedly, Sergeant Smith did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

The interview was audio recorded and later uploaded to Axon Justice as part of Reference Item E -Recorded Interviews. Sergeant Smith was provided with a copy of the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form which he stated he understood. He then signed the form and agreed to participate in the interview. Sergeant Smith's signed Criminal Investigation Notification form was attached to this report where it can be reviewed in its entirety.

Sergeant Smith stated his radio call sign on March 30, 2026, was 3405. He has been employed by HCSO for about 18 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 18 years. During the incident, Sergeant Smith wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore a concealed ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove HCSO unit #05, a marked HCSO patrol unit.

Sergeant Smith stated that around 1045 hours [REDACTED] initiated a traffic stop on US 250 [REDACTED] advised over the radio that shots had been fired while on the traffic stop. At that time, Sergeant Smith was in the HCSO administrative building. He recalled exiting the building and responding to the

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scene after he heard the radio traffic advising that shots had been fired. While Sergeant Smith was making his way towards the location of the traffic stop, he recalled hearing radio traffic from Deputy Jason Saylor (Deputy Saylor) which indicated that there were officers in pursuit of the vehicle that [REDACTED] had stopped.

Sergeant Smith recalled that once he heard the pursuit was heading towards him, he placed himself in a location to block the vehicle from entering the town of Cadiz. When the pursuit approached Sergeant Smith's location it continued to US 250 east bound. As the subject vehicle passed him, Sergeant Smith observed that the driver had a phone in his hand, pressed to his ear, as if he was talking. He noted that Ohio State Patrol (OSHP) [REDACTED] Deputy Saylor, Cadiz Police Department (CPD) Lieutenant Ron Carter (Lieutenant Carter), and CPD Officer Lenoir Sweeny were all involved in the pursuit. Sergeant Smith joined as the fifth pursuing vehicle. As he joined the pursuit the subject entered the US 22 on ramp and continued east bound.

While on US 22, an OSHP Trooper attempted to deploy spike strips. The first set of spike strips were ineffective. A second Trooper, Lieutenant Robert Bodo (Lieutenant Bodo) was able to deploy spike strips further east on US 22. The spike strip deployed by Lieutenant Bodo was effective. Sergeant Smith estimated that the speeds of the pursuit were near 100 miles per hour when the subject struck the second set of spike strips. He stated that after the subject struck the spike strips, they lost control, crossed the center median, and came to a rest in the west bound lanes while still facing east. He also recalled that several police vehicles struck the spike strip.

Sergeant Smith recalled the following when the subject vehicle came to a final rest:

[REDACTED] *uh, pulled his cruiser in close proximity, uh behind the suspect's vehicle facing the same direction. And I was still in the Eastbound lanes as [REDACTED] was in the Westbound Lane. Uh, Lieutenant Carter was directly adjacent to me when we parked our vehicles in the Eastbound lane. And I got out and obtained cover, uh, behind his vehicle. But before I exited my vehicle, I could tell there was gunfire going on. I couldn't physically see the subject shooting, but I could see, uh, like a impact on [REDACTED] s, uh, roof. I could see the impact, and I, I knew that it, it was gunfire. I, I, was in the military. I did two deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan; I know what gunfire is like. Uhm, and I, and I called that out over the radio. And then I exited my vehicle, drew my service weapons, obtained cover, and was just trying to locate what the subject was doing, where he was at.*

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Couldn't see him. The, uh, from my vantage point I couldn't see if [REDACTED] was hit. I couldn't see the subject out of the vehicle, I couldn't see nothing. (07:40)

Sergeant Smith continued on to explain that he maneuvered behind cover in an attempt to locate the subject. By the time Sergeant Smith was able to observe the subject, he was running north bound and over a fence that ran along the north side of US 22 and the woods. Sergeant Smith observed [REDACTED] to be alert and orient, so he advised that his primary concern shifted from rendering aide to setting up a perimeter to contain the subject. Seargent Smith noted his concern for public safety with the subject at large:

I was worried that if we didn't do that [setting up a perimeter for containment] the possibility of a carjacking or him breaking into a house or God only knows what if that man was doing that, you know, what could have happed after that. (10:19)

Sergeant Smith requested air support and drones to assist in the efforts of locating the subject. Sergeant Smith went on to detail his actions as the scene commander on US 22.

SA Tingley asked Sergeant Smith if he knew who initiated the pursuit of the subject after the initial shots fired call. Sergeant Smith believed that [REDACTED] had initiated the pursuit after Deputy Saylor located the vehicle.

SA Tingley asked Sergeant Smith if he observed the subject to be armed when he jumped the fence north of US 22. Sergeant Smith stated that though he could not clearly observe if the subject had any weapons in his hands, he felt that the subject was still armed.

SA Lamping asked Sergeant Smith to describe the gunshots that were by the subject towards [REDACTED]. He described them as "*pretty rapid, but at a controlled pace*" (12:36) He also noted that they seemed to be aimed. SA Lamping asked Sergeant Smith what he felt the subject's intent was when he fired the shots, and he responded, "*To kill him [REDACTED].*" (12:50)

The interview concluded at approximately 1054 hours.

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References:

Reference Item E – Recorded Interviews: Subfolder – Law Enforcement Witnesses:
File – 2026-04-02: Interview of HCSO Sergeant Thomas Smith; stored on Axon
Justice

Attachments:

1. HCSO SGT SMITH CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION NOTIFICATION FORM

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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).

Thomas Smith
Printed Name of Interviewee

04-02-2026 10:42
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

SA DAN TINGLEY
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)