



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 1818 Jisco West Road, Jackson, OH

To: AAG Anthony Pierson, OAG Special Prosecutions  
From: Craig Call, Special Agent, Ohio BCI  
Date: March 17, 2023  
Involves: Lt. [REDACTED] and William Beach  
BCI Case Numbers: 2023-0290

**Investigative Request**

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, Sheriff Ted Frazier of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on January 31, 2023 in the area of 1818 Jisco West Road, Jackson, Ohio and resulted in the death of William Beach.

*Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the January 31, 2023, officer-involved shooting in Jackson County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

*This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.*



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**Investigative Team**

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA Craig Call

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Jim Mulford
- SA Ryan Scheiderer
- SA Andrew Russell
- SA Dave Wieging

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Cassandra Tackett
- SA Mathew Austin
- SA Shawn Rowley

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau

**Summary of Process**

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- One written statement of the sole officer who discharged his weapon
- One written statement of one of the officers who was directly involved in the incident
- Recorded interviews of nine (9) officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) subjects directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of four civilian witnesses to the incident
- Special agent attendance to post mortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased
- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident



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- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement.
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered
- Reviewed tips, social media posts, and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident

**Incident Summary/Overview**

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, deputies with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to an in-progress trespassing complaint in the 1700 block of Jisco West Road. After meeting with the initial callers and the nearby residents at 1818 Jisco West Road, William Beach was determined to be the suspect. Beach was confirmed to be residing in one of the buildings on the 1818 Jisco West Road property.

Responding deputies made several attempts to contact Beach inside the residence and were unsuccessful. Deputies discovered Beach was on probation and members of the Jackson County Municipal Court Probation Office responded to assist. During an attempt to look inside the residence through a window, Lt. [REDACTED] indicated he observed Beach standing near the front door with an axe raised above his head. Shortly after, Chief Probation Officer Wesley Skaggs looked through the same front window and indicated he observed Beach with an axe and handgun. Deputies continued to try and establish a dialogue with Beach, but were unsuccessful.



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Hostage negotiators from the Ohio State Highway Patrol responded to assist with negotiations and provide additional equipment and support. JCSO deputies were able to place a “throw phone” through the window of the residence to aid with communications. It did not appear Beach ever answered the phone; however, Beach would occasionally communicate with officers on scene by yelling out of the window.

After negotiations were deemed unsuccessful, the decision was made to breach the door of the residence. JCSO members Lt. [REDACTED] Deputy Leif Smith, and Deputy Nicholas Spangler were the team assigned to make the approach. Deputy Smith breached the door with a breaching ram, Lt. [REDACTED] shielded the door with a ballistic shield after the breach, and Deputy Spangler was third in the formation. Lt. [REDACTED] loudly announced he was law enforcement and ordered Beach to come out with his hands up. While Lt. [REDACTED] was moving to his right on the front porch, a loud yell came from inside the residence and Lt. [REDACTED] fired one round into the residence.

Immediately after the shot was fired, Lt. [REDACTED] and Deputy Smith made entry into the residence. Beach was discovered to be shot in the upper chest area and later died of his injuries at the hospital. A 1911 style handgun, which was later discovered to be a BB gun, was recovered from the residence in Beach's immediate vicinity.

### **Subsequent Investigation**

BCI was provided with 25 body worn video (bwc) files for the JCSO deputies and five (5) bwc video files for the Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers on scene during the incident. The majority of the officers on scene had their bwc activated during the time of the shooting. There is no video footage of Beach prior to the shooting. The BWC footage indicates the incident was approximately four (4) hours long and spans from the initial call for service response to Beach was transported to the hospital. The case file contains a significantly more detailed body worn camera review report.

In reference to the events just prior to the shooting and the shooting itself, the BWC footage confirms Lt. [REDACTED] Deputy Smith, and Deputy Spangler approach the front door of 1818 Jisco West Road in a stacked formation. Lt. [REDACTED] was in the front with a ballistic shield with his pistol presented, Deputy Smith was second with a breaching ram, and Deputy Spangler was third with his pistol drawn. Deputy Smith breaches the door and retreats off of the front door. As Deputy Smith retreats, Lt. [REDACTED] can be observed moving in front of the now open-door giving commands for Beach to exit the residence. After approximately twelve (12) seconds after the door was



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breached, a loud yell can be heard coming from inside the residence and Lt. [REDACTED] fires one round into the residence. Lt. [REDACTED]'s BWC was blocked by his ballistic shield during this time and Beach's actions and the inside of the residence cannot be viewed on any BWC when the shot was fired.

Lt. [REDACTED] and Deputy Smith, in that order, entered the residence immediately after the shot was fired. A handgun can be observed on top of a cardboard box with Beach on floor flailing his arms and legs immediately behind it. Lt. [REDACTED] continued yelling commands at Beach and ineffectively deployed his taser on Beach due to hitting a cardboard box. After a short period of time, Lt. [REDACTED] and Deputy Smith approached Beach and recognize he had been shot. Both officers immediately call for emergency medical services to respond and began rendering aid to Beach.

Beach is loaded into the ambulance and accompanied by Sgt. Wilson to the hospital. Sgt. Wilson can be observed assisting medical personnel with chest compressions during the short transport. During this time, Sheriff Frazier can be observed giving a short briefing at the scene and Lt. [REDACTED] confirmed he shot Beach due to Beach coming at him with a gun.

BCI was provided with Lt. [REDACTED]'s personnel file by the JCSO. A review of the file was conducted and no instances or complaints related to the use of excessive force were observed. Lt. [REDACTED]'s Ohio Peace Officer Certification and firearm's qualifications were also found to be current.

**Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report**

The autopsy report for the decedent (William Edward Beach) was obtained from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

**Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports**

Lt. [REDACTED]'s firearm and the fired 9mm casing recovered from the scene were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Laboratory performed an analysis of the officer's firearm, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene (casing). By comparing the evidentiary cartridge casing to



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known standards from the weapon involved, identification was able to be made as to the casing fired from the firearm involved. Of the casing recovered, the following identifications were made: The fired casing recovered on scene was a match for the officer's gun submitted for comparison.

**Investigative Interviews**

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsised below.

**Lt. [REDACTED]**

Lt. [REDACTED] provided a written statement only in reference to his actions and observations during the incident, which is approximately seven (7) pages in total length. In reference to the events just prior to shooting and the shooting itself, Lt. [REDACTED] wrote, "Deputy Smith used the ram to breach the door. When the door swung open, I placed myself and the shield between the stack and William to provide cover for us to back out to a safer location. William Beach was in the residence near the eastern wall, and I saw him raise a pistol and point it at me. I began giving William verbal commands in an attempt to get him to exit the house peacefully. William then charged forward quickly moving toward me. I had no place to retreat and I feared that I was about to be killed. I believed that William was about to shoot me and I fired one shot aiming center mass of his person. I saw William stumble backwards losing grip on the pistol. I then kicked the door further open and entered the residence. I holstered my pistol after seeing his pistol had fallen clear from his reach."

***Deputy Nicholas Spangler***

Deputy Nicholas Spangler provided a written statement only in reference to his actions and observations during the incident, which is approximately one- and one-half pages in length. In reference to the events just prior to the shooting and the shooting itself, Deputy Spangler wrote, "I was advised by Lt. [REDACTED] that the decision had been made to breach the door. Lt. [REDACTED] advised that I would be the third man in the stack, preceded by Deputy Leif Smith with the ram, and Lt. [REDACTED] with the shield. We approached the door and Deputy Smith rammed the door, which resulted in the door opening a few inches. Lt. [REDACTED] began looking through the door while giving commands and announcing, "Sheriff's Office." At this point, I heard a gunshot. Believing William



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had opened fire upon deputies, I took flanking steps and began heading toward cover or concealment. After a short period of time, I came to understand that Lt. [REDACTED] had fired the shot. I observed Lt. [REDACTED] and Deputy Smith attempt to open the door to make entry. At this point, I walked back up to the door.”

***Deputy Leif Smith***

Deputy Leif Smith provided a written and recorded audio statement in reference to his actions and observations during the incident. In reference to the events just prior to the shooting and the shooting itself, Deputy Smith wrote, “Lt. [REDACTED] grabbed the ballistic shield, I was next in the tactical formation with the door ram, and Deputy Spangler was behind me. All three of us made contact at the front door. Lt. [REDACTED] stepped off to my left giving me access to the front door. I made one solid strike with the ram forcing the door almost halfway open. It appeared that there were items behind the door preventing it from opening all the way. I immediately placed the ram next to the steps and got cover behind Lt. [REDACTED] and drew my firearm. Lt. [REDACTED] announced, "Sheriff's Office, come out with your hands up now, Now!". At this time, I heard what sounded like the suspect yell, "motherfucker." And then there was one gunshot fired.” Deputy Smith indicated he did not initially know who fired the shot he heard until he and Lt. [REDACTED] made entry into the residence. Deputy Smith also described finding a 1911 style firearm on the floor area near Lt. [REDACTED]’s feet immediately after he made entry into the residence.

Additional statements, written and recorded audio, were obtained from other officers present during the incident, however all of these officers were stationed in a perimeter position unable to make the same observations as the above officers.

**Summary**

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI’s investigation into this officer-involved critical incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

**Contact Information**

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency.



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The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Craig Call. SA Call can be reached via email at [timothy.call@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:timothy.call@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone, at 614-270-1066.