

2023-2306 Officer Involved Critical Incident -



Investigative Activity: Involves: Activity Date: Activity Location: Authoring Agent: Video Review and Timing Analysis Officer Toussant (S) 03/19/2024 BCI Richfield SA Matthew Armstrong #146

, Alliance, OH 44601, Stark County

Narrative:

On March 19, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Armstrong completed a video review and timing analysis of video footage recorded on Officer Robert Toussant's body worn camera (BWC) during the shooting incident on September 3, 2023. Video files determined to be most relevant to the shooting portion of the event were provided to the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) for analysis and the creation of video productions capable of being evaluated for a timing calculation. The OOCIC produced multiple video productions. For this review and timing calculation the video file titled SA Armstrong utilized the video file titled *23-00084 Toussant Timeline Presentation* was utilized.

Disclaimer and Additional Factors to Consider When Evaluating Video

The speed of the incident is remarkable. The speed and complexity of rapidly evolving situation(s) that occur during use of force encounters are difficult concepts to comprehend by only watching the video or listening to the audio recording.

Video and audio recording devices also record more information about a particular scene or incident than the person(s) involved in the incident can process during the critical incident. Video and audio recording devices rarely record an event from the same perspective of the officer or subjects involved. It captures the action but not the perception, decision-making, focus or intent of the officer. Video recordings often miss tactile cues or other actions of a subject.

Video and audio recording devices record within the video and sound capabilities available, and they record objectively. Video and audio recordings lack the history, perspective, and interest of the people involved. The positions, angles, obstacles, lighting, and distance from the incident are also factors that need serious consideration.

Video and audio recordings are only components of an investigation and should not be the only evidence relied upon. All available evidence, statements and other information must be evaluated alongside the video recordings available.



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Due to audio recording limitations, the speed at which sound travels, the distance of the recording device from the originating location of the sound, the size and density of objects positioned between the recording device and the location of a sound, and various other environmental factors, sounds heard on a recording may not be definitively identified.

Throughout this report the percussion sounds consistent with the sound of gunfire may be referred to as gunshots or gunfire. It should be noted that those references are based on the totality of corroborating information and evidence gathered throughout this investigation.

Method and Process

SA Armstrong utilized the audio waveform effect to help identify sounds and when they occurred within the video production, specifically when reviewing the video frame by frame.

The frame counter was used to count frames between significant events identified within the recording.

The video/audio production indicated the video contained 29.97 (30) frames per second. Time was calculated by dividing 1 second by 30 frames. The quotient revealed each frame represented 0.03333333 seconds. Using this calculation, the amount of time that transpired between significant events can be approximately calculated by multiplying the number of frames captured between the events by the amount of time each frame represented (0.0333333). The product is the approximate amount of elapsed time. For this review, SA Armstrong rounded the product to the nearest hundredth place decimal (example 0.46666662 was rounded to 0.47 seconds).

Sounds were depicted through the audio waveform which traveled horizontally from the screen right to the screen left. As sound increased so did the number of waves depicted. When a sound first became audibly detectable, the waveform began to increase in frequency on the right side of the screen (See Figure 1). For this reason, SA Armstrong identified the frames depicting significant events as the first frame displaying an increase in frequency on the waveform.

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The video was reviewed using VLC player. Images included within this report were captured with the VLC screen capture feature. They were saved as .jpeg images and attached to this report.

Video Review

23-00084 Toussant Timeline Presentation

OOCIC Forensic Video Analyst (FVA) David Loomis indicated the video presentation was playing at 29.97fps (frames-per second). He included audio waveforms, frame counters, and a timecode in the video presentation.

This video presentation was 03:18 long. It consisted of 5,784 frames (first frame of presentation was #7,702 and last frame was #13,486). The timecode included in the



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presentation indicated the BWC footage began at 00:02:54:10 and concluded at 00:06:07:04. The time stamp recorded by the BWC (included in the upper right corner of the video) indicated the footage on the first frame was captured on September 3, 2023, at 17:44:44 hours. The BWC was a viewpoint camera mounted on the left side of Officer Toussant's head.

The footage began as Officer Toussant approached the second story entrance of the apartment (*Toussant BWC Image 1*). Officer Tousant entered the apartment, made his way to the end of the hallway, and positioned himself on the right side of a closed door.

At 00:35 Officer Lee Rose (Rose) said "Come out with your hands up or we are coming in after you." A male voice can be heard saying he will come out if they leave. During this video segment, officers ordered the male to surrender 6 times before gaining entry to the bedroom.

At 01:22 Officer Shane Tallman (Tallman) began using a Halligan tool to force the bedroom door open. After 1 minute Officer Tallman gave the halligan tool to Sergeant (Sgt) Sgt. Steve Minich (Minich) who opened the locked door. During the 1 minute and 36 seconds officers worked on opening the door, Appleby repeatedly told officers he was coming to open the door. Despite his statements, the door never opened until officers forcibly opened it.

At 02:58 Sgt. Minich pulled the bedroom door open with his left hand (*Toussant BWC Image 2*). As he did so, Officer Toussant stepped forward into the hallway and turned right into the threshold of the bedroom while yelling "Hands up!" **Constant Stepped Constant** (Constant BWC and be seen standing upright with her right hand on the handle of a large, fixed blade knife which was positioned crossed her torso below her breasts. Appleby was standing upright behind her with his right arm wrapped around her torso, his right hand on the knife (*Toussant BWC Image 3*), and his left hand gripped around **Constant BWC Image 4**).

At 03:02 Appleby began moving his head behind **Sector** s head (*Toussant BWC Image* 5). At the same time the knife began rising upward and what appeared to be blood was visible running down the front of **Sector** s neck. Officers yelled again "Hands up! Hands up!" Appleby's left hand began to rise. His right arm remained wrapped around **s** torso with his right hand continuing to grip the knife and his head directly behind **Sector** s head (*Toussant BWC Image* 6).



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At 03:03 appears to pull her head down and to her right which exposed Appleby's head. The knife rises toward the top of s shoulder while Appleby waved his left hand in a back-and-forth motion. He then reached his left hand forward toward the barrel of Officer Toussant's rifle while letting go of the knife with his right hand and yelling "I said I will..." (*Toussant BWC Image 7*).

At 03:04 as Appleby finished the word "will" what appeared to be a muzzle blast can be seen at the end of the rifle barrel (*Toussant BWC Image 8*). Two frames later (Frame #013082) the percussion sound was captured audibly on the audio waveform (*Toussant BWC Image 9*). Seven frames later (Frame #013089) another muzzle blast was depicted (*Toussant BWC Image 10*) along with a second percussion sound visible on the audio waveform one frame later (Frame #013090) (*Toussant BWC Image 11*). Appleby immediately fell to the floor. The knife remained in **BWC Image 12**).



Toussant BWC Image 1



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Toussant BWC Image 2



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Toussant BWC Image 3



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Toussant BWC Image 5



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Toussant BWC Image 6



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Toussant BWC Image 7



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Toussant BWC Image 8



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Toussant BWC Image 9



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Toussant BWC Image 10



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Toussant BWC Image 11



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Toussant BWC Image 12



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Timing Analysis

SA Armstrong identified 5 significant events. Two of the events appeared to be gunshots fired by Officer Toussant. They were identified based on the best available visual and audio cues. The frame numbers depicting these 5 events were noted and placed in a spread sheet. The number of frames between each of the events was counted and then multiplied by 0.03333333 to identify the approximate amount of time that elapsed between each event. The spreadsheet created for the timing calculation was titled *Timing Estimate Summary – Toussant* and has been attached to this report.

Based on the data gathered from this video production, the approximate amount of time elapsed between significant events was calculated:

- 6 seconds elapsed from the time the bedroom door started to open to the firing of the first gunshot.
- 6.3 seconds elapsed from the time the bedroom door started to open to the firing of the second gunshot.
 - 0.3 seconds elapsed between the two gunshots.
- 1.6 second elapsed from the time Appleby started to raise his left hand and the time of the first gunshot.

• 0.63 seconds elapsed from the time Appleby reached toward the rifle muzzle and began releasing the knife to the first gunshot.

| IMAGE #13 | IMAGE #14 | IMAGE #15 IMAGE #8 | | IMAGE #10 | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| Door Opened | Raises left hand | Reached toward muzzle | 1st Gunshot | 2nd Gunshot | | |
| Frame #12901 | Frame #13032 | Frame #13061 | Frame #13080 | Frame #13089 | | |
| Start | 4.4 Seconds | 0.97 Seconds | 0.63 Seconds | 0.3 Seconds | | |
| Total time from door beginning to open to 2nd gunshot fired | | | | | | |
| 6.3 Seconds | | | | | | |
| Time from reaching toward muzzle and 1st gunshot fired | | | | | | |
| 0.63 Seconds | | | | | | |

The images below correspond to the Images identified in the Timing Analysis. They have been attached to this report.

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Toussant BWC Image 13



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Toussant BWC Image 14



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Toussant BWC Image 15



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Toussant BWC Image 8



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Toussant BWC Image 10

Reference Items:

1. Item D – OOCIC Video Production

Attachments:

- 1. OCIC Presentation Frame and Time Calculations Toussant
- 2. Tousant BWC Images 1 15

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Frame #'s

Timing Estimate Summary – To

Frame #'s

Total

0.03333333

Time

0.96666657

0.97 Seconds

Frame #'s

Total

0.03333333

Time

0.63333327

0.63 Seconds

| Timing Estimate | Summary – Tou | ssant | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------|
| IMAGE #13 | IMAGE #14 | IMAGE #15 | IMAGE #8 | IMAGE #10 | |
| Frame #12901 | Frame #13032 | Frame #13061 | Frame #13080 | Frame #13089 | |
| Bedroom door opened | Appleby began to raise left hand | Appleby reached toward muzzle of Rifle and begins letting go of knife | First shot captured through muzzle | Second shot captured through muzzle blast | Row 1 co Frame # |

Frame #'s

Frame #'s

Total

0.03333333

Time

0.29999997

0.3 Seconds

OOCIC Video File - 23-00084 Toussant Timeline Presentation

Frame and Time Calculations

contains a corresponding Image # . Row 2 contains the Frame #. Each IMAGE # in Row 1 corresponds to the # and the images within the timing analysis portion of report.

Method for Time Calculation

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| IMAGE #13 | IMAGE #14 | IMAGE #15 | IMAGE #8 | IMAGE #10 | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| Door Opened | Raises left hand | Reached toward muzzle | 1st Gunshot | 2nd Gunshot | | |
| Frame #12901 | Frame #13032 | Frame #13061 | Frame #13080 | Frame #13089 | | |
| Start | 4.4 Seconds | 0.97 Seconds | 0.63 Seconds | 0.3 Seconds | | |
| Total time from door beginning to open to 2nd gunshot fired | | | | | | |
| 6.3 Seconds | | | | | | |
| Time from reaching toward muzzle and 1st gunshot fired | | | | | | |
| 0.63 Seconds | | | | | | |



00:02:54:10 29.97fps

Toussant



00:05:48:12 29.97fps

Toussant



00:05:50:21 29.97fps



00:05:51:02 29.97fps

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00:05:51:15 29.97fps

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00:05:52:02 29.97fps

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00:05:52:00 29.97fps

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00:05:52:29 29.97fps

Toussant

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