



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



2024-1658

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2212 Tryon Rd.,
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Investigative Activity: Interview with Deputy Jeffrey Raymond
Involves: Deputy Jeffrey Raymond (W)
Activity Date: 06/20/2024
Activity Location: Lake County Sheriff's Office-104 East Erie Street,
Painesville, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On June 20, 2024, at 1058 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum) interviewed Geauga County Sheriff's Deputy Jeffrey Raymond (Deputy Raymond). The interview took place at the Lake County Sheriff's Office located at 104 E. Erie Street, Painesville, Ohio. The Interview was audio recorded.

Deputy Raymond was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 1, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 2212 Tryon Road, Ashtabula, Ohio. Reportedly, Deputy Raymond did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Deputy Raymond stated his radio call sign on June 1, 2024, was "David" or "Raymond." He has been employed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of 25 years. Deputy Raymond is the driver of the armored vehicle, David. Deputy Raymond has been on the Lake County Reginal SWAT team for 6 to 8 years. During the incident Deputy Raymond was wearing a green SWAT uniform, external ballistic vest and a ballistic helmet. Deputy Raymond described the armored vehicle, David, as being a Lenco Generation 1 armored vehicle with police markings, lights, sirens and a 200-watt P.A. (Public Address) system. He stated that he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses. During this entire incident, Deputy Raymond remained in the driver's seat of David.

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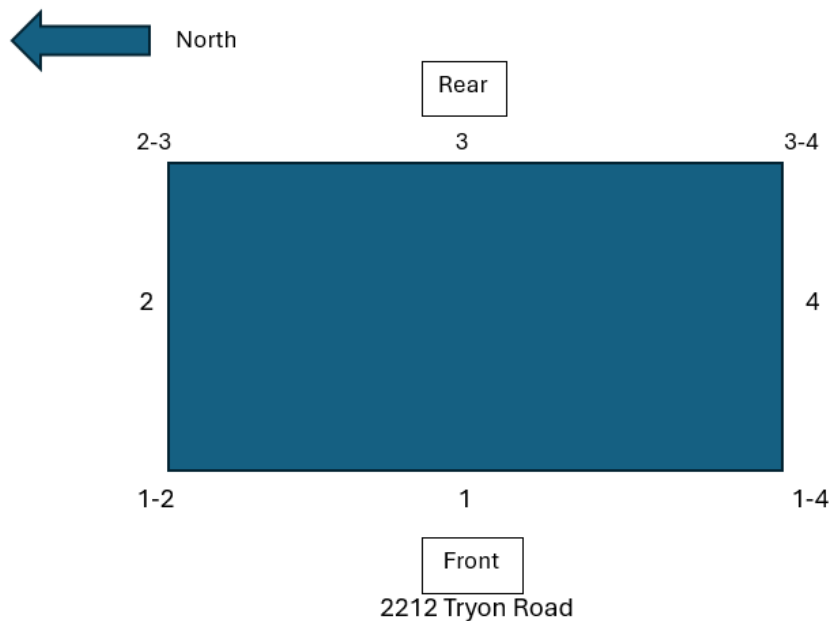
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Precursor Information

During tactical situations, a tactical numbering system is often utilized to quickly identify positions around a residence. The main entrance of the residence is usually referred to as the "1 side", counting clockwise around the house, the sides are then sequentially numbered. The corners are then designated by indicating which sides meet at that corner, e.g. corner 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 1-4. This number system was utilized by the Lake County Reginal SWAT Team during this incident (See diagram below).



The Lake County Reginal SWAT Team had two armored vehicles on scene. A smaller armored vehicle, which team members refer to as "David" and a larger armored vehicle which is referred to as "Goliath."

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SA Momchilov asked Deputy Raymond how he became involved in this incident. Deputy Raymond explained that he received a page regarding a barricaded incident. Deputy Raymond responded and stated he believed that team members met at a staging location that was either a church or a school. Once at that location, Deputy Raymond "Loaded up some guys" and went to the Tryon Road incident location.

Deputy Raymond advised that he approached the address from the south and angled David near the 1-4 corner of the residence, on the street. Deputy Raymond stated that he began making announcements over the P.A. system, every two minutes for a "couple hours." Deputy Raymond advised that he made "at least a hundred, if not more commands over the P.A."

SA Momchilov asked, "At some point did David approach the, the house?"

Deputy Raymond explained that before David approached the house, music was "blaring" from the residence. Some of the team members from David approached the 1-4 corner of the residence and disconnected the meter, to disconnect the electricity. Deputy Raymond explained the purpose of disconnecting the electricity was to communicate with the individual inside the house. A short time later, Deputy Raymond advised the same team went "up there" and disconnected the gas. Deputy Raymond stated, "We've had incidences before where people use a, they're natural gas as, uh, as explosive device."

After the electric and gas was disconnected the commands over the P.A. system continued. Eventually, David approached the front window of the residence and used the ram, which was located on the front of David, to break out the front window. Deputy Raymond advised that "shades" of the window where down and he had to position the ram to make a path for a drone and a throw phone (Figure 1).



Figure 1

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The throw phone was thrown into the residence. Deputy Raymond advised, "At one point, um, the occupant of the house did come to the front window, and he pulled the shades to the side, and he had a knife in his hand, and he was yelling something out the window, and then he disappeared."

Deputy Raymond continued, "So, after we peeled, uh, took the window out and I held the, um, the ram there for a while so we could fly the drones in, then they flew the drones in. Um, I'm on the program where it sends me an alert when the, any of the, um, drones are being flown, so I open that up, and I could observe what's going on with the drone. The drone flew around the house, pretty much cleared everything except for, I wanna say a, a bedroom door that was closed, um, they parked one of the drones in a, in a hallway there, and then, uh, I think one of the batteries went dead. Not 100 percent sure, but at one point, one of the drones was flying, and there was a male and it actually, it looked like he had a broomstick or something and he was gonna swat it, and then that drone went away (Figure 1, 2, 3, 4) (See Investigative report titled "Drone Footage Review" for further detail).



Figure 1

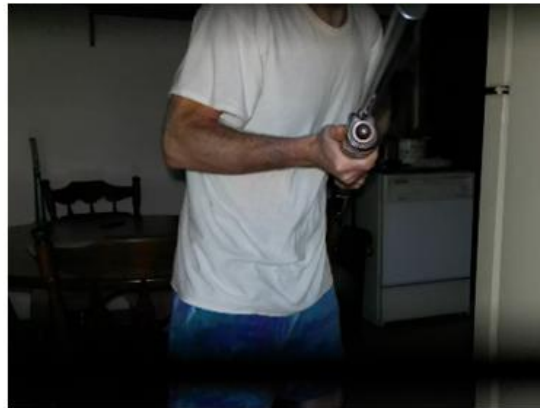


Figure 2



Figure 3

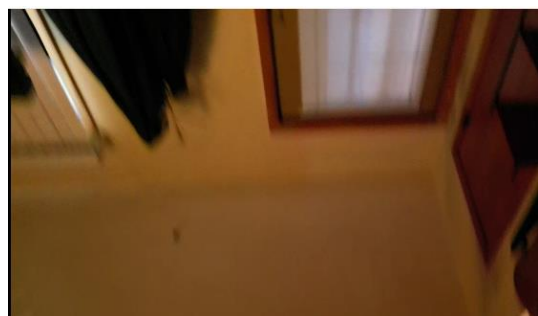


Figure 4

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Deputy Raymond further stated, "So, I don't know if it got hit or what or, then a short time later, another drone went in and that one went away, and then so they were just kept on trying to make communications with this person and didn't work, and then at one point, he did come out, um, when they told me to start the, he did come out, and he presented himself, and what I thought was the broomstick was actually a shotgun, so he came out and was pointing it at the truck, and he lunged forward like this. It looked like he was trying to operate the, the gun, and it didn't work. Then he put it down, manipulated it, put it up again, and I told the guys, you know, I, looks like he might do it, and then we just heard it. It just, it just sounded like a ball-peen hammer hit the side of the truck. I was like, oops, well, he shot the window, so got on the radio and said he did shoot the truck (Figure 5 and 6) [11:02]."



Figure 5

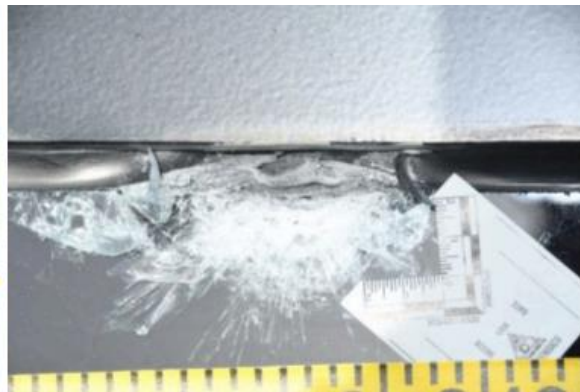


Figure 6

Later in the interview Deputy Raymond was asked if the bullet that struck David's windshield was consistent with a buck shot or a slug.

Deputy Raymond stated, "No, it was obviously a slug. I mean, it's not often that we shoot bulletproof gas because it's so expensive, but in my experience over the years, I've seen it done, and that was bigger than what you see from a 308, so it was something very large. And where he did shoot, um, was kind of right at the top of the windshield and the bottom of the armor, which is in the crease there, and for a split minute, I thought that well, if he drives two or three more in that same area, it's gonna come in 'cause that's the weakest point of the truck [20:55]."

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Once David was shot, Deputy Raymond stated that David was pulled back to the street (1-4 corner) and "Worked on a game plan and then that's when they started introducing, uh, the gas into the house a short time later.

SA Momchilov stated, "At some point, some team members were saying he fired a second time?"

Deputy Raymond responded, "Yes, when we were introducing gas, I believe there was one round that went into this bedroom window, and well, in the truck because it's so loud in there, and I'm kind of encapsulated in the metal, they were shooting rounds into this window, and they heard one round come out or, or that's what they said, so."

SA Momchilov asked, "You didn't see it directly or hear it directly?"

Deputy Raymond responded, "No, I just heard them, I just heard them out there saying he took a shot." Deputy Raymond continued, "But they were saying it came out of that bedroom window right after they put a, um, gas round into that area."

Deputy Raymond explained the other team, on the other side of the house had an issue with the 40 millimeter (Gas Launcher), and we had one left over in our truck, and then that's when, um, we were going to move and take it to the other crew up there, so then they could hand it off and get the gas into the back of the house there."

Deputy Raymond continued, "We came up with a plan that we were gonna slow roll up the road using the armor as cover for the guys on the, in my truck, drove all the way up. At one point, halfway between the 1-4 corner, almost directly in front of the house, we have, um, what's called go lights on the truck. I'm shining the light and keeping it in the front window to, you know, if anybody's in there, we would be able to see it, but as we're moving, I'm watching the truck up here turning, and then I gotta adjust the light go forward, adjust the light, and one of the times I adjust the light, and he was standing there with, with the, uh, shotgun, so I stopped the truck, and then he fell, he went back and into the hallway that was into the front room, so then we lost sight of him. Stopped, announced it, said hey, he was standing there with a rifle. So, then, um, continued to move, got up to the truck, handed off the 40 millimeter and adjusted the light again, and at that point, that's when, that's when they handed off the 40 millimeter to the other truck, and we were about to start to go backwards, and then, uh, that's when, uh, someone said they thought they saw him in the front room or something, and then that's when I heard the gunshots [15:57]."

SA Momchilov asked, "Did you see him in the front room at all?"

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Deputy Raymond replied, "No. Because those blinds and I was talking to Ropos (Deputy Zak Ropos) because I was telling him, because they were like where's the 40 millimeter, and I had already handed it off to someone else, so there was a little bit of verbiage of where exactly it was and who's hauling it out and everything. I was looking to him and they were telling us to reverse the truck back to the original location. I go we're gonna start moving, and once that's when I was talking to Ropos through the, through the, uh, gun port, that's when I heard shots. I looked over and, uh, that was it. This, those blinds were there, so I didn't see. But there was, uh, [REDACTED] in front of me. He, he had a couple of rounds."

SA Momchilov replied, "Could you tell that he was firing? [REDACTED]?"

Deputy Raymond stated, "Oh, yeah. You could tell it because he was directly, would have been right at my B-pillar because that was his position and that's it [16:47]."

SA Momchilov asked, "Okay. Could you tell if the individual inside the house fired at all?"

Deputy Raymond replied, "I don't know." Deputy Raymond continued, "I could not tell 'cause, like I said, I was talking though the, uh, the port to Ropos."

Deputy Raymond stated he was not wearing a body-worn camera during the incident and the only footage that he has seen from the incident was from the drones.

Deputy Raymond stated that he had not spoken to any other team members about what occurred.

The interview with Deputy Raymond was audio recorded. The audio recording is attached to this investigative report.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Audio interview of Deputy Jeffrey Raymond

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