



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Travis Hellinger (V)

Investigative Activity: Crime Scene Examination – Primary Scene  
Activity Date: December 20, 2022  
Activity Location: 100 Block of N. Section Street, La Rue, Marion County  
Authoring Agent: Senior Special Agent David M. Hammond

On 12/20/2022 at approximately 0615 hours, S/A Hammond was contacted by SAS Edward Lulla regarding an officer involved critical incident. He advised that members of the Marion Co. SO and Marion PD task force swat team served a search warrant at residence in La Rue, Marion County. The subject of the investigation attempted to flee the scene and later fired shots at a K-9 that was deployed. The swat team members returned fire striking the subject. He later died while being transported to the hospital. The Marion Co. SO and Marion PD requested assistance from BCI with the shooting investigation. S/A Hammond accepted the request.

S/A Hammond arrived in the area at approximately 0755 hours. S/A Hammond briefly met with Capt. Ryan Zempter and Lt. Mike Wheeler of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Capt. Zempter advised that the incident was recorded by drones being flown during the operation. S/A Hammond requested that he download the footage and provide it to BCI as soon as possible. S/A Hammond provided Capt. Zempter with SAS Stranahan's contact information to coordinate the transfer of materials.

Swat Team Commander Lt. Mike Wheeler advised that he had a paper copy of the operation plans and the risk assessment details. He provided the informational packet to S/A Hammond who turned it over to S/A Jason Snyder.

S/A Hammond was then directed to the area of the railroad tracks that separate the 100 and 200 blocks of N. Section Street. Preliminary information provided to investigators from those viewing the drone footage indicated that Travis Hellinger was encountered by the swat team outside his home on N. Swain Ave. He fled north across the railroad tracks and then began to move west, along the north side of the railroad bed. He continued west across N. Section Street where he then moved onto the railroad tracks. When officers were on/near the roadway of N. Section Street, a K-9 was deployed. It ran towards the subject who was standing on the tracks. Travis Hellinger produced a handgun and fired it at the K-9 causing it to stop and flee the area. The K-9 was not injured. Swat team members fired their weapons at Hellinger striking him. The subject did not move from the area where he was shot. Officers located three handguns on/near his person, prior to being removed from the area for medical treatment.

S/A Hammond was assisted at the scene at different times by S/A T. Volmer, S/A J. Snyder, S/A J. Ramel, S/A Tyler Price and SAS S. Stranahan. The scene was photographed as it was found. S/A Chad Holcomb would respond to the scene later. He documented the scene with a Faro 360 digital scanner.

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A search of the area located a clustering of fired cartridge casings on the north side of the track, on the west side of the 200 block of N. Section Street. These cartridge casings were:

Placard #	Item	Location	Submitted to Lab Lab Submission #
1	FC 21 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #1
2	FC 21 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #2
3	FC 21 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #3
4	FC 21 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #4
5	FC 18 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #5
6	FC 18 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #6
7	FC 21 .233 Rem Cartridge Casing	NW Corner at Railroad Signal	Yes - Item #7
16	FC .223 Rem Cartridge Casing	North of Railroad Signal	Yes - Item # 12
18	FC .223 Rem Cartridge Casing	North of Railroad Signal	Yes - Item # 13

The area of the railroad tracks to the west was then searched for evidence. An unfired 9mm cartridge casing was located 120' 7" west of the intersection, along the south rail. It was identified with placard 13. A fired cartridge casing was located approximately 22' 6" West of the intersection and 6' 6" south of the north rail of the tracks. It was identified with placard 14.

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Placard #	Item	Location	Submitted to Lab Lab Submission #
13	Unfired 9P (9mm) 21 VNM	West of Section Street	No
14	FC 18 .223 Rem Cartridge Casing	West of Section Street	Yes – Item 11



**Fired Cartridge Casing Locations – NW Corner of N. Section Street Intersection with Railroad**

Several items of evidence were located near the center of the tracks, further west from the intersection. These items were located approximately 140' 11" to 152' 2" west of the intersection and close to the railroad tracks. These items included:

Placard #	Item	Location	Submitted to Lab Lab Submission #
8	Kahr CW45 ACP Handgun (SN SD2732) Chamber Empty – 6 Cartridges in Magazine – Blazer 45 Auto	North of the railroad tracks / close to emergency medical equipment.	Yes – Item #8
9	Baseball Cap and Damaged Eyeglasses	Center of the tracks	No
10	Ozark Trail Flashlight	Center of the tracks	No
11	Unknown Make Handgun (Glock Style) Silver colored slide, black polymer lower, 1 cartridge in chamber / 28 cartridges in extended magazine 31	South side of tracks	Yes – Item 9

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	capacity. No serial number.		
12	Taurus G2C handgun, unknown serial number, 1 cartridge in chamber 9P 21 VNM, 6 in magazine – capacity of 7.	South of railroad tracks	Yes – Item 10



A search of the north side of the railroad tracks located two defects in the dirt that appeared to penetrate down into the dirt. These two holes were identified with placard 17. These areas were further examined for firearms related evidence. No evidence was located and this did not appear to be related to the incident.

Investigators then searched the portion of the railroad tracks, east of the Section Street intersection. A long leather leash was located approximately 78' east of the west edge of the roadway. This leash was identified with placard 15.

Seven fired cartridge casings were located in the center of the tracks, approximately 479' east of the Section Street intersection. These cartridges were identified with placards 19, 20, B, C, E & F. An additional cartridge casing was located in this area but not identified in photographs with a placard. Each of the cartridge casings were CBC 9mm Luger. These cartridges were collected as evidence (Lab

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Submission # 14-20). Preliminary information provided to investigators indicates that these cartridge casings may be unrelated to the event being investigated. Investigators located two deceased opossums close to the fired cartridge casings. S/A Hammond requested that the casings be tested to confirm that they did not originate from any of the corresponding caliber weapons.

An extensive search of the area was conducted by multiple agents to locate fired cartridge casings. The search was hindered by the large area, large (multi-colored) railway stones and movement of officers/vehicles in the emergency medical treatment. The spaces between the rocks created spaces, where cartridge casings could fall between and be hidden. Railroad authorities repeatedly requested investigators to speed up their search to allow train traffic to resume. At one point they advised that fourteen trains were being delayed. Investigators attempted to locate as many cartridge casings as possible in a reasonable time frame given the circumstances.

A rough sketch of the scene was completed with the assistance of S/A Tyler Price and S/A J. Rammel. Item locations were marked with orange spray paint for scanning at a later time. The west edge of Section Street was used as a reference point for east and west measurements. The north rail of the rail-line was used for north and south measurements. All measurements are hand measured using a measuring wheel and tape measure. They should be considered approximations. The scene was further documented with a digital scanner. See also diagrams and digital renderings by S/A C. Holcomb.

Diagram Reference Measurements:

Placard	East / West	North / South
1	W 2' 4"	N 14'
2	W 6'	N 15' 5"
3	W 6' 9"	N 15' 5"
4	W 9' 11"	N 15' 4"
5	W 2' 10"	N 7' 4"
6	W 2' 2"	N 2' 9"
7	W 6' 11"	N 5' 4"
8	W 140' 11"	N 5' 8"
9	W 145' 6"	S 2'
10	W 145' 8"	S 3' 6"
11	W 147' 11"	S 6' 8"
12	W 152' 2"	S 7' 8"
13	W 120' 7"	S 3' 8"
14	W 22' 6"	S 6' 6"
15	E 78'	N 1' 2"
16	W (Not Recorded)	N (Not Recorded)
17	W 116' 11"	N 20' 10"

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18	W (Not Recorded)	N (Not Recorded)
19	E 478' 2"	S 2'
20	E 478' 2"	S 1' 5"
B	E 479' 4"	S 3' 11"
C	E 479' 4"	S 9"
D	E 479' 2"	S 2' 6"
E	E 479' 9"	S 8"
F	E 480' 8"	S 2' 10"

At the conclusion of the scene examination, S/A Hammond retained all items of evidence. S/A C. Holcomb provided S/A Hammond with the weapons that were collected from the officers at the Marion Policed Department and the clothing from Travis Hellinger that was secured from the hospital. S/A Hammond secured from the scene at 1316 hours. S/A Hammond transported the evidence to the Bowling Green Office of BCI. The clothing from Travis Hellinger was placed into the drying cabinet and laboratory items were submitted on 12/20/22 at approximately 1630 hours. The remaining items ( scene #1 -9, 10, 13, G, Scene 2 - 8) were placed into temporary locker #3 at 1720 hours.

Matrix Submissions: digital images, diagram, search inventory, lab submissions.

Investigation to continue:

Please email a copy of this report to:

SAS Scott Stranahan

S/A Jason Snyder





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