



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview
Involves: Trumbull County Sheriff's Deputy [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: April 3, 2023
Activity Location: Trumbull County Sheriff's Office, 150 High Street NW, Warren, Ohio 44481
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente #139

Narrative:

On April 3, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA Joe Goudy interviewed Trumbull County Sheriff's Deputy [REDACTED] (Deputy [REDACTED]). Deputy [REDACTED] was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken of the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association. The interview took place at the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office and was audio and video recorded. The audio recording has been attached to this report. The video recording has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item H.

Prior to beginning the interview, Deputy [REDACTED] read, indicated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form. That form has been attached to this report.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: Deputy (Dep.)
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: Plate [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Ron Carr
Radio Channel Utilized: SO78 Dispatch	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Black 2022 Ford Explorer with Sheriff's Vehicle markings.	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Solo
Assignment: Patrol	Normal Shift: Rotates/Varies
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present on vehicle. Not used during incident.	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: 2300-0700	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Thursday and Friday preceding the event.	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Not that [REDACTED] could recall.
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Not specifically cited, generally sleeps immediately	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes

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after returning home at end of shift.	
Total Length as Officer: 10 Years including time as a Reserve Officer	Length at Current Agency: 8 years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Grey pants with black stripe, basket weave duty belt, outer vest carrier, jacket with patches and heavy plate carrier with sheriff patches	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Duty belt with baton, pepper spray and taser.
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: TAG - Trumbull Action Group narcotics task force member, marine patrol member	OPOTC Certification: Graduated 2011, believes he class number was BAS11076.
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Yes, yearly updated training and a policy that is available for review.
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No discipline related to the use of force.
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Consumed alcohol in the past 24 hours? No	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None with the past 24 hours preceding incident.

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1 – NOT UTILIZED OR FIRED

Make: Glock	Model: 22
Caliber/Gauge: .40 caliber	Serial: Unknown to Deputy [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: 1 round in chamber
Magazine Capacity: 15 to the best of his recollection.	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): (15+1+15+15+15+15 =76) when fully equipped. Was advised he was “a few rounds short” and believed that was due to “putting down” deer in previous unrelated incidents.
Extra Magazines: 4	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 15 per magazine
Discharged During Incident? No	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: 0
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown date in 2022	Type of Holster, if any: Basketweave style with a hood cover and push down safety release.

Weapon #2 – Fired/Utilized Rifle

Make: Arrow Precision	Model: N/A
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm	Serial: Unknown to Deputy [REDACTED]
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Held in the “demonstrated” low ready position with a sling attached but not utilized.
Magazine Capacity: 30+1	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 91 (30+30+30+1).
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 30
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown to [REDACTED]	Number of Rounds Fired: Unknown to [REDACTED]
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Personally Owned

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Last Qualification Date: Unknown date in 2022.	Type of Holster, if any: N/A (Single point sling present and not used).
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Narrative:

Deputy ██████ did not have a body-worn camera. Deputy ██████ did not review any body-worn camera recordings from any other involved law enforcement personnel prior to the interview.

SA Valente asked Deputy ██████ to provide details about the shooting he was involved in on March 21, 2023. Deputy ██████ reported the following:

On the night of the shooting, Deputy ██████ received a phone call at the beginning of his shift from an officer that was previously involved in a pursuit near his home. This officer told Deputy ██████ that the subject in the pursuit had abandoned his truck on railroad tracks near Deputy ██████'s home. Deputy ██████ informed the officer that he had heard about the pursuit on the local news. This colleague went on to tell Deputy ██████ that the subject was “supposed to have some kind of muzzle loader or a musket loader for that matter” [20:25 mark of video]. This phone conversation occurred sometime around 2315 hours.

Deputy ██████ began his shift by going to a gas station where he encountered two Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers. While speaking with the troopers he overheard them receive a radio call to assist Brookfield (Township Police) with “an unwanted subject in reference to uh the pursuit earlier” [21:30 mark of video]. Deputy ██████ then called his supervisor to see if his agency received a request for assistance. Deputy ██████'s supervisor informed him they did receive a request and told him “to start heading that way” (to assist the Brookfield Township Police Department) [21:39 mark of video].

Deputy ██████ then drove to Intense Fabrication on State Route 7 near Brian Adkin's home where officers and troopers were gathering. Once at the meeting location he learned that the property owner (Brian Adkins) observed the subject (Fred Wild) drive down his driveway and believed to be currently hiding on the property in a hunting cabin. Deputy ██████ learned during the briefing that the property owner believed the truck was at the back of property and driveway while the subject was in the hunting cabin located further up the driveway. The group of police and troopers discussed how to approach the cabin and noted that if they were to drive down the driveway “the guy was gonna see us and he was gonna flee” [24:40 mark of video].

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The officers and troopers discussed their concerns about the subject being inside a hunting cabin. The officers and troopers were aware there was a crossbow inside the cabin and did not know if the subject had any additional weapons. The group learned from the property owner that the cabin had four sides, each with a window the subject may attempt to jump out if he observed law enforcement approach the cabin.

The group devised a plan to park in the roadway and approach the cabin on foot. Two officers or troopers would position themselves on each side of the cabin. Once everyone was in place someone would drive a marked car down the driveway to the cabin and start making verbal announcement to the subject (to surrender and exit the cabin presumably).

Deputy █████ described the walk down the sidewalk as dark but some visibility still being present. As the group approached the cabin they heard music playing that appeared to be coming from the cabin. The group, unaware of the subject's location, continued to approach the cabin and noticed a truck parked alongside the cabin. Deputy █████ used two business cards to show agents just how close the truck was parked to the cabin.



2023-04-03 Deputy █████ Interview Screenshot 1 Cropped

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Deputy [REDACTED] who was assigned with Brookfield Township Sergeant [REDACTED] (Sergeant [REDACTED] to position himself along the side of the cabin that had the door. As officers approached they found the door was obstructed by the truck.

As the group made their way closer to the cabin, someone stepped on a “a little twig, and when I say like a little twig it wasn’t like a loud branch snapping it wasn’t like a ‘KAPOW’ I mean it was just faint” [28:15 mark of video]. Deputy [REDACTED] then described seeing the subject react to hearing the twig break and that surprising him. The subject then sprung up and Deputy [REDACTED] was caught off guard and began thinking “no way, what’s gonna happen, what’s gonna happen” [28:58 mark of video]. The subject then began to look out the window and an unknown officer shined a flashlight directly on the subject and began announcing “Police! Police!” Deputy [REDACTED] then himself began to yell out “Police!”

The subject then dove out the window of the cabin and into the truck very quickly. Deputy [REDACTED] then began using the barrel of his gun to try and break out the passenger window of the truck but was unsuccessful. Deputy [REDACTED] described the look on the subject’s face at the time by stating “I’ve seen some looks in people’s faces but I will not forget the look on this guy. Like, looking as fast as all this had transpired, I remember just looking at him and like he had like this different look into his eyes, like, I don’t know how to describe it the best but it was, it was a look of uh, he had a uh objective he wanted to, to get and he just, there was, there was nobody home. I don’t know if that makes sense. Um, but he was, he was fumbling around trying to get the keys going and I kept striking the passenger window with my AR15 and somehow during this point that’s when my magazine fell out. I didn’t know that and I’ll never forget how strong that window was [29:44 mark of video].

Deputy [REDACTED] stated the subject was able to start the truck and “just pedal to the floor ‘cause it’s hard compressed dirt. It’s not like there’s a driveway there and if there was any type of gravel it was so far compressed down in there. Just peels out and he takes off right where the troopers are going. I know I wasn’t the first to shot or to shoot rather. Um, I just remember going like this [demonstrates aiming a rifle with his hands] from a low ready and going up and I’m like why isn’t my gun firing? Well, I look over and I’m like my magazine, and I’m like do I throw my gun on the ground, do I do an emergency reload, do I grab my pistol and by that time everybody was done shooting. I got on the radio and I said I need a squad on the red” [30:47 mark of video].

In concluding his recollection of the event, Deputy [REDACTED] stated “he (Wild) was an imminent threat and if we did not discharge our firearms to protect the troopers, and you know, I’ll refer to them as my friends because I’m good friends with all them guys, you know, there isn’t many

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people on midnight shift, especially in the areas we patrol. So, if somebody's coming it's gonna be those guys. If we did not discharge our weapons to protect them from serious physical harm I believe he would have seriously injured one of them or killed one of them, I mean he ran over a tree" [32:21 mark of video].

When asked, Deputy ██████ stated he never heard the subject say anything during the encounter.

When asked if he could see where the officers and troopers were when the truck began to accelerate, Deputy ██████ stated "I knew they were in the front but I couldn't tell ya, like hey this guy is 6 feet away from this guy" [45:25 mark of video].

When asked what lead him to fire his weapon, Deputy ██████ stated "Because I thought he was gonna run over the guys I was with. Seriously, physically injure them or kill 'em, I mean, the guy, he uh, and we all knew that he was in two uh, two chases, he ran from 'em, he had the felony warrants, I mean we all knew that this guy was a severe flight risk. And the fact that he was in a stolen truck and ya know committing a B and E none the less. We knew this guy was gonna do whatever he could to escape [49:00 mark of video].

When asked if he pulled the trigger a second time or how he figured out the weapon was not working, Deputy ██████ stated he did pull the trigger a second time and the trigger was really tight, he then looked at the rifle from the side and confirmed the magazine was no longer seated in the rifle.

Deputy ██████ stated he believed his actions and the actions of the other officers were consistent with his training.

Reference Item:

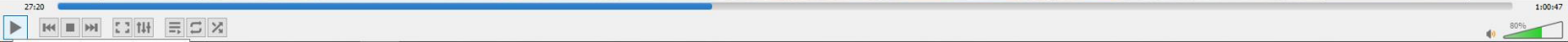
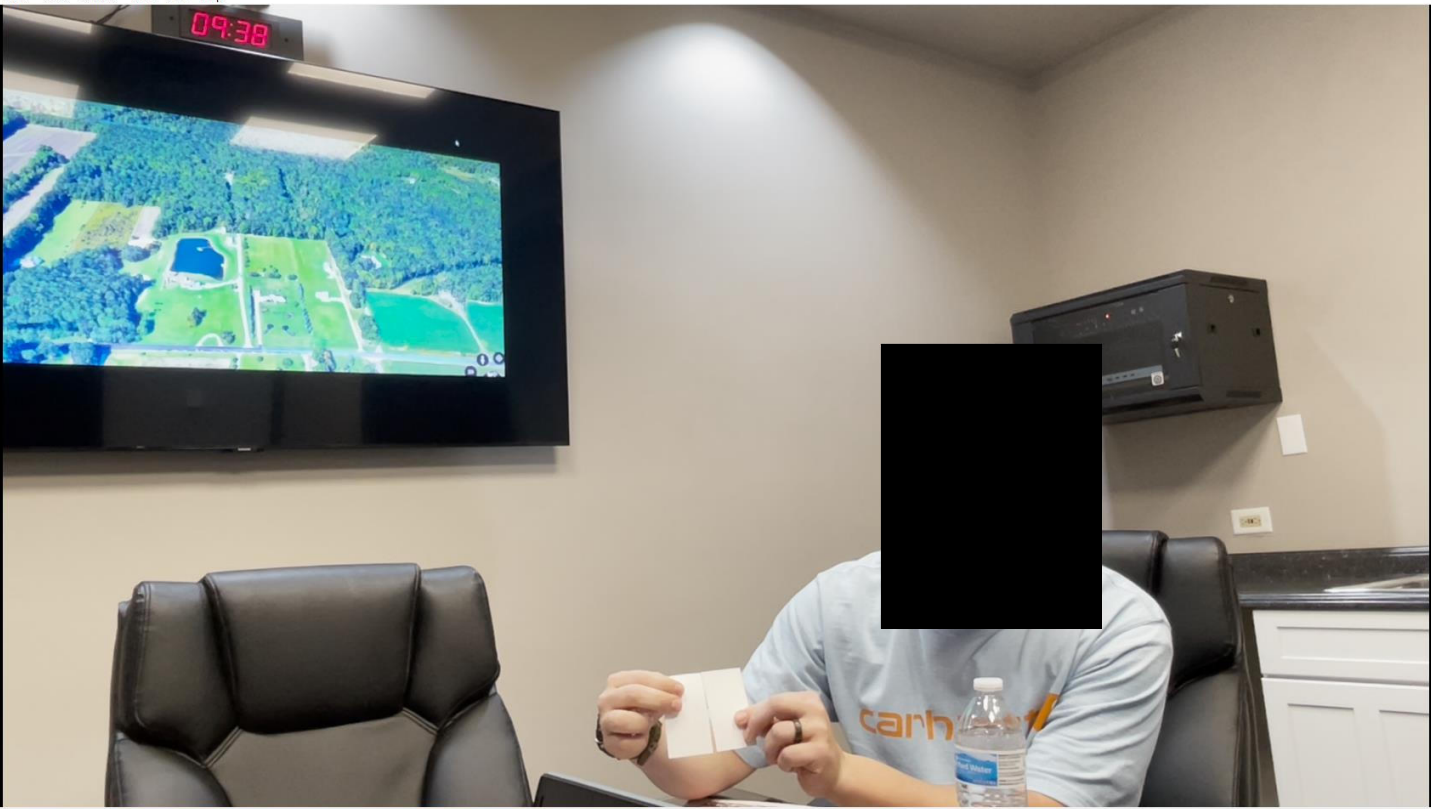
1. Reference Item H - Video recorded interview of Deputy ██████.

Attachments:

1. 2023-04-03: Deputy ██████ Interview Screenshot 1 Cropped
2. 2023-04-03: Deputy ██████ Interview Screenshot 1
3. 2023-04-03: ██████ Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form
4. 2023-04-03: ██████ Signed Interview Overhead Image
5. 2023-04-03: Audio - ██████ Interview

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DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
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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).

[Redacted Name]

Printed Name of Interviewee

4/3/23 @ 0909

Date / Time

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

SA. Joseph Goudy⁸³

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature]⁸³

BCI Agent (Signature)



03/21/2023

2023-0795

BCI for TCSO

OICI

1433 SR 7, Brookfield, Ohio

SA Dan Boerner #135

To Scale

- 1 - FC 223 REM
- 2 - FC 223 REM
- 3 - FC 223 REM
- 4 - FC 223 REM
- 5 - FC 223 REM
- 6 - FC 223 REM
- 7 - Hornady 5.56
- 8 - Hornady 5.56
- 9 - Hornady 5.56
- 10 - Hornady 223 REM
- 11 - Hornady 223 REM
- 12 - Hornady 223 REM
- 20 - Projectile

