



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 16178 SR 160, Vinton, Ohio

To: Jason Holdren, Gallia County Prosecutor
From: Craig Call, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: January 11, 2024
Involves: Roger Meade, Deputy [REDACTED]
BCI Case Numbers: 2023-2812

Investigative Request

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, Sheriff Matt Champlin of the Gallia County Sheriff's Office 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 October 22, 2023 in the area of 16178 State Route 160, Vinton, Ohio and resulted in the death of Roger Meade.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the October 22, 2023 officer-involved shooting in Gallia 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 Andrew Russell
- SA Chad Holcomb
- SA James Poole

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Mathew Austin
- SA Sarah Taylor

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Acting Special Agent Supervisor James Mulford

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:

- Recorded interview(s) of the officer who discharged his weapons
- Recorded interviews of two 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) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Interview of one civilian witness to the incident
- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area



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- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence
- Shooting reconstruction and trajectory analysis
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during 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
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
- 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 the involved officer
- 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
- [Click here to enter text.](#)

Incident Summary/Overview

On October 22, 2023, Gallia County Sheriff Matt Champlin (Sheriff Champlin) requested Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Crime Scene (CSU) and Special Investigations (SIU) units respond to the 16000 block of State Route 160, Vinton, Ohio, in reference to an Officer Involved Critical Incident (shooting) involving Gallia County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) deputies and Roger Meade (Meade). Meade was shot and succumbed to his injuries on scene.

The incident occurred in a pull behind style camper parked near the border of two properties identified on the Gallia County Auditor's website as parcel numbers 01500140501 and 01500140301. There does not appear to be a residential address associated with either parcel.

It was reported to BCI that GCSO Deputy [REDACTED] (Deputy [REDACTED]) engaged in an exchange of gunfire with Meade near the front door threshold of a camper on the above property while Deputy [REDACTED] was attempting to serve an arrest warrant on an uninvolved subject believed to be staying in the camper. Deputy [REDACTED] was reportedly uninjured; however he was struck by possible ricochet or shrapnel from Meade's gunfire. Meade was struck by gunfire in the upper chest area and succumbed to his injuries on scene. Deputy [REDACTED] (Deputy [REDACTED]) and Deputy [REDACTED] (Deputy [REDACTED]) were identified as two additional officers on scene during the incident.



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Erin McMillin (McMillin) was reportedly inside the camper during the incident and had been transported from the scene. BCI was informed McMillin was facing no charges as a result of the incident and had verbally agreed to await BCI's arrival to provide a witness statement.

Meade was ultimately transported to the Montgomery County Coroner's Office for an autopsy.

There is no video evidence available for this incident.

Subsequent Investigation

During the processing of the crime scene, a ballistic event in the floor of the camper near the front door was discovered and has been described and photographed as below by SA Mathew Austin:

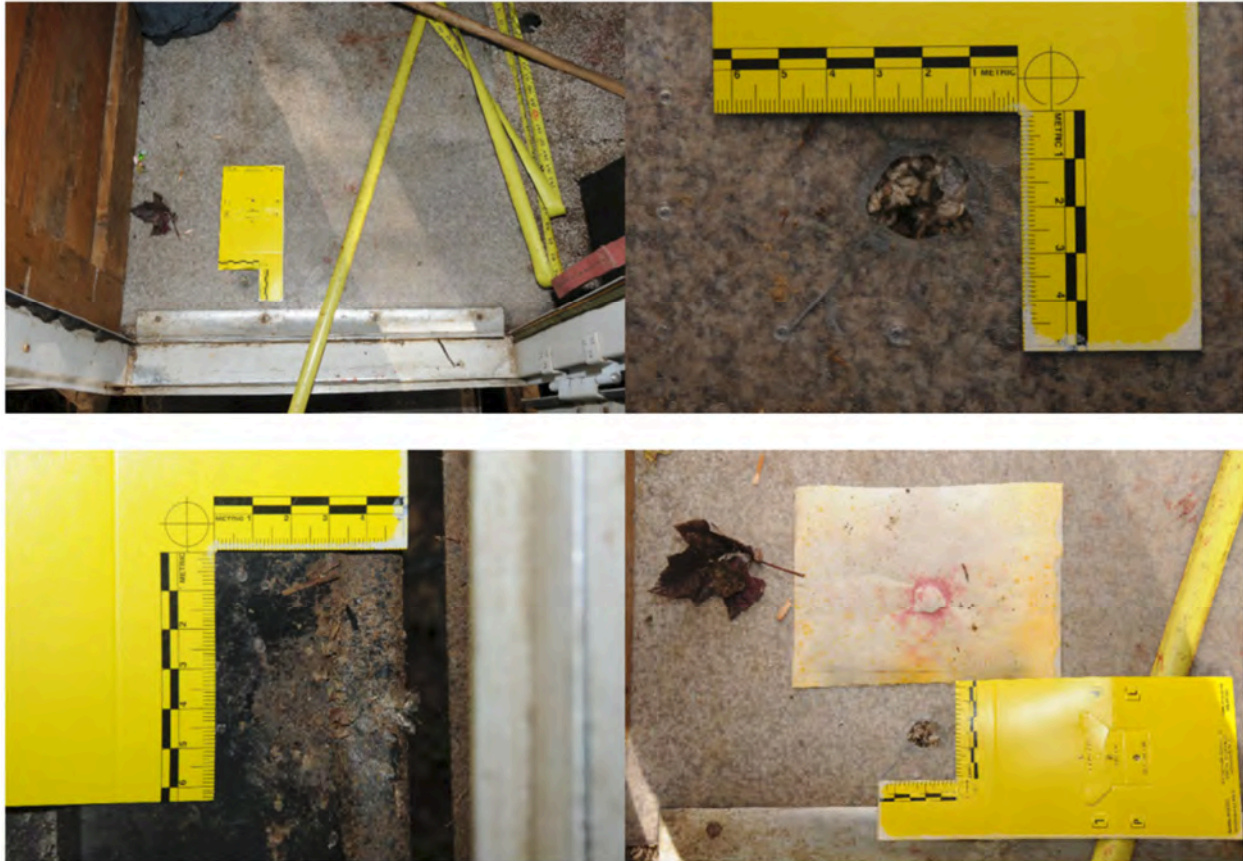
A circular hole, approximately 20mm across, was found in the floor just past the threshold of the front door. The hole perforated the brown carpet and the plastic mat above the carpet. Underneath this area, there was a downward-shaped dent in the black trailer step. Brown fibers were located in this dent along with several silver-colored circular areas of damage approximately 3mm across. Sodium rhodizonate was used to test this area of the floor for lead; the test result was positive (sodium rhodizonate is a chemical reagent used to detect traces of lead by converting it to lead, a positive response for lead is pink/purple).



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Images 3-6: Suspected shotgun damage and positive sodium rhodizonate to trailer floor by front door

See Below for other significant findings SA Austin made while processing the scene.

SA Austin observed a suspected bullet hole in the exterior of the trailer to the left of the front door. This was labeled as ballistic event 1.0 (BE 1.0) for documentation and identification. The bullet that created BE 1.0 perforated the trailer wall and entered the interior of the trailer through a wooden wall by the front door at BE 1.1. A lead in mark1 was observed on the left of the hole on the outside of the trailer and splintered wood was inside of the trailer. Both were consistent with a shot origin from the yard to the left of the trailer door. A second BE (BE 2.0) was located in a cupboard above the couch. The bullet from BE 2.0 passed through the cupboard, exited at BE 2.1, and made an oblong hole in the rear wall of the trailer at BE 2.2. Trajectory rods were placed through the two series of BEs, photographed, and documented through the 3D scans. The information from the scans was used to create trajectory cones with 5° margins of error² (see image 7 above). No projectiles were collected from either of these flight paths.



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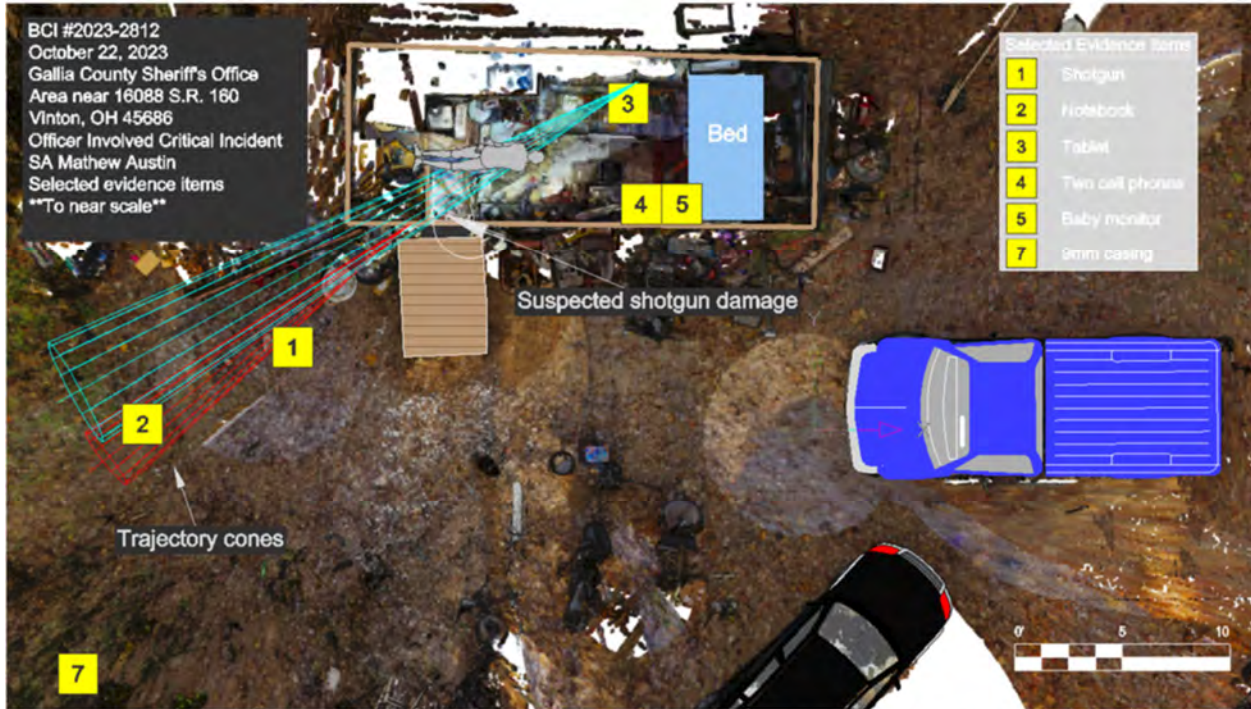


Image 7. Diagram of scene with selected items and two trajectory cones

Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

Various items of potential evidence 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 Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from the firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

- A fired 9mm casing was recovered from the crime scene and found to be fired from Deputy ██████'s Glock 45 9mm handgun.
- Two projectiles were recovered from Roger Meade's body during autopsy which were found to be fired from Deputy ██████'s Glock 45 9mm handgun.

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 synopsized below.

Erin McMillin

Erin McMillin (McMillin) was reportedly found to be inside Meade's camper during the shooting. McMillin was not arrested or charged with a crime as a result of the incident, however she was voluntarily transported to the Gallia County Jail where she waited to be interviewed.

The following will be a part of McMillin's statement to BCI describing her observations immediately surrounding the shooting. The entire interview is contained in the case file.

McMillin explained the above incident began when she heard loud knocking on the camper door. McMillin explained she and Meade were asleep in the bed along the south wall of the camper with Meade positioned closest to the wall. McMillin described seeing a face look through the camper window located near the foot of the bed and a voice yell "It's Holdren. Get



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your ass out here Roger and tell her to get her ass out here too." McMillin indicated she asked Meade who it was and Meade responded, "I don't know, but I'm about to shoot this motherfucker." McMillin described observing Meade retrieve what appeared to be a handgun from the area between the bed and the south wall then proceed towards the door. McMillin described Meade appeared to move some kind of obstruction blocking the front door. McMillin said Meade appeared to stumble during this process and observed him shoot a round in what appeared to be the floor area in front of the door just prior to opening the outward opening door. As the door opened, McMillin described hearing gunshots and observing Meade fall backwards into the bathroom area near the north wall of the camper. McMillin believed Meade to have been shot. McMillin said she was ordered to show her hands and exit the camper. McMillin indicated she believed it to be the police when she was ordered to show her hands. McMillin said she was placed on the ground, handcuffed, and placed into cruiser, however the handcuffs were taken off after she was identified.

Deputy [REDACTED]

Deputy [REDACTED] provided BCI with a written witness statement of his account of the incident. In reference to the events immediately surrounding the shooting, Deputy [REDACTED] wrote the following:

"While standing in front of the door, I heard some movement coming from inside of the door, and just off of the right side of the door inside of the camper. Based on the noise that I heard coming from the camper, I moved away from the front door just to the left and back away from the door slightly and lowered the retaining hood on my holster. After just a few seconds, front door of the camper began to open and as it opened, I seen a yellow tape measure strung out in the doorway. I heard the sound of a metal tape measure, bending and snapping and directly after that, I heard a gunshot coming from the area of the doorway of the camper. I then felt multiple things hit me. At that time, I observed Mr. Meade holding a gun and the gun in my direction. Fearing for my life as well as the life of Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] I unholster my service weapon and fired three rounds at Mr. Meade. Immediately Dep. [REDACTED] and Myself began advising dispatch of shots fired and that deputies were fired upon first. We also began advising them as far as getting medical help started our way as well as supervisors."

Deputy [REDACTED]

Deputy [REDACTED] provided BCI with a written witness statement of his account of the incident. In reference to the events immediately surrounding the shooting, Deputy [REDACTED] wrote the following:

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"Deputy ██████ then came over to where I was standing and was able to see through the window. He then advised me that he had a visual on Rodger Meade and a female laying in the bed. Deputy ██████ then announced "Rodger, it's ██████ with the Sheriff's Office. Get your ass out here and talk to me." At that point it sounded as though someone got up and began moving inside. Deputy ██████ then moved back to the door which was on the North End of the camper.

We could hear noise at the door which sounded like someone shaking the door knob. About that time a gunshot rang out. I then drew my firearm and looked towards Deputy ██████. The door of the camper then opened, however from my point of view I could not see directly into the camper. By that point Deputy ██████ had drawn his firearm as well and was pointing towards the camper door. Deputy ██████ then discharged his firearm three times.

I immediately ran to Deputy ██████ and we approached the door of the camper. I was able to pull the door open and could see inside the camper. Deputy ██████ then reached down and grabbed the firearm and threw it out of the camper. We began yelling verbal commands for the occupants to show us their hands. The female that was inside then came to the doorway and exited the camper. Deputy ██████ took her and began securing her."

Deputy ██████

Deputy ██████ provided BCI with a written witness statement of his account of the incident. In reference to the events immediately surrounding the shooting, Deputy ██████ wrote the following:

"Once at the residence which is approximately 60 Yards off of the roadway, Deputy ██████ went to the front door which was on the left side of the house, Deputy ██████ went to the right of the home and I went to the side of the house where I could observe the front and the back of the home. Deputy ██████ then began to knock on the door of the camper with no response. Deputy ██████ then went to the right of the door where a window was and observed Mr. Meade and a female, he believed to be Mrs. Johnson inside the home. Deputy ██████ stated "It's ██████ from the sheriff's office get your ass out here and talk to me".

"Once contact was made all deputies shifted to the left when I heard the discharge of a firearm. I focused on the door and observed it swing open, however due to my positioning I could not see past the door. Once the door swung open Three additional shots were fired and I drew my service weapon. I then observed Deputy ██████ with his firearm out stating "Show me your hands" to the suspect inside. Deputy ██████ who was directly in front of me and myself proceeded toward the camper door to aid assistance."



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"Once to the door Deputy ██████ grabbed the barrel of what I believed to be a shotgun and tossed it on the ground outside of the camper and then grabbed a female and place her on the ground outside of the camper. Deputy ██████ and I proceeded in to the camper where I observed Mr. Mead to be lying face down in the shower area unconscious. I grabbed Mr. Meade and Deputy ██████ and I placed him on the floor on his back and began raking him for injury's observing one gunshot wound center mass in the chest. I then began preforming CPR for a few brief seconds when I advised Deputy ██████ to take over as I needed to check Deputy ██████ for gunshot wounds as well."

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

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 or by telephone, at 614-270-1066.