



**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:** Brookfield Township Police Sergeant [REDACTED] (S)  
**Activity Date:** April 3, 2023  
**Activity Location:** Brookfield Township Administration Building, 6844 Strimbu Drive, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Nicholas Valente #139

**Narrative:**

On April 3, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) and SA Joe Goudy (Goudy) interviewed Brookfield Township Police Department (BTPD) Sergeant [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). Sergeant [REDACTED] was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken of the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association. The interview took place at the Brookfield Township Administration Building 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 I.

Prior to beginning the interview, Sergeant [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:**

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Rank:</b> Sergeant (Sgt.)
<b>Badge Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> [REDACTED] was the BTPD supervisor at the time of the incident.
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> Main BTPD channel	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> White 2019 Dodge Charger with police graphics.	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Solo
<b>Assignment:</b> Patrol/Supervisor	<b>Normal Shift:</b> Rotates/Varies
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Not Present	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present on vehicle. Not used during incident.	<b>Siren:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> 2300-0700	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> Friday and Saturday preceding the event.	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> In-service overtime (1400-1900) evening before incident.

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<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> 6.0 hours sleep previous night and a 2-hour nap before starting shift.	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 8 Years	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> 8 years
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> No Corrective Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Dark navy-blue uniform pants, French blue uniform shirt, exterior vest, navy blue jacket with police patches present on shoulders.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Duty belt with ASP and taser.
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> None	<b>Partner:</b> None
<b>Injuries:</b> None	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> None
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> Criminal Interdiction Training	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Current, attended Youngstown State University Police Academy, graduated in 2015.
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> None	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Yes, yearly updated training. Last relevant training in November 2022.
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> None	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> No discipline related to the use of force.
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> None
<b>Consumed alcohol in the past 24 hours?</b> Yes, with dinner the previous evening.	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> Not in recent past prior to incident.

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**Officer's Firearm(s):**

**Weapon #1 – NOT UTILIZED OR FIRED**

<b>Make:</b> Glock	<b>Model:</b> 19
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 9 mm	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown to [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> 1 round in chamber
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 20	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 61
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 2	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 17 each, 34 total in extra magazines
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> No	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> 61	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 0
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> [REDACTED] could not recall	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> Level three retention, hood cover and push forward style.

**Weapon #2 – Fired/Utilized Rifle**

<b>Make:</b> Daniel Defense	<b>Model:</b> DDM4VN
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 5.56 mm	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown to [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Unchambered with seated fully loaded magazine.
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 30	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 60
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 1	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 30
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unknown to [REDACTED]	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> Unknown to [REDACTED]
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Personally Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> [REDACTED] could not recall	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> N/A (Single point sling present and used).

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**Narrative:**

SA Valente asked Sergeant [REDACTED] if he reviewed his body-worn camera (BWC) video before providing his statement to BCI. Sergeant [REDACTED] said he had not watched his body-worn camera. When asked if he had watched any body-worn camera recordings from the incident, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated "Um, that, that night I briefly saw portions of I think it was a trooper's from across the room on a laptop, but actually sit down and review it, no" [17:05 mark of video]. When asked if he knew what trooper's video he watched Sergeant [REDACTED] stated he did not know, he only observed approximately 10 seconds of the video and just happened to be in the room when others were viewing the video.

SA Valente asked Sergeant [REDACTED] to provide details about the shooting he was involved in on March 21, 2023. Sergeant [REDACTED] reported the following:

Sergeant [REDACTED] stated that prior to reporting for duty on the midnight shift in which the incident occurred, he came to work earlier in the day for an in-service training. While at the in-service training, members of the BTPD became aware of a vehicle pursuit that started in Lordstown, Ohio. The subject of that pursuit abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot in Brookfield Township. The Chief of the BTPD came into the in-service training and asked the officers if they would like to stop the training and assist in looking for the subject who had been involved in the pursuit. The BTPD officers at the training, including Sergeant [REDACTED] agreed to stop the in-service training and assist in attempting to locate the subject from the pursuit. The group of officers from the in-service training were assigned to perimeter positions and similar roles. They assisted for approximately one and a half to two hours before returning to the in-service training. The subject was not located or apprehended at the time they assisted in the search.

When Sergeant [REDACTED] reported to work his normal shift later that evening, which began at 2300 hours, he was told about a vehicle that was stolen from the area where the subject was last seen. Sergeant [REDACTED] thought it was likely the person who stole this vehicle was the same person involved in the earlier pursuit. Other officers told Sergeant [REDACTED] that their suspect in the stolen vehicle was the same person involved in the earlier pursuit. Sergeant [REDACTED] was told the person wanted for the pursuit was Fred Wild (Wild). Sergeant [REDACTED] and others went to Wild's father's home to attempt to gather information on where Wild may be. Wild's father told Sergeant [REDACTED] he was not close to his son, but the subject did have a friend named Brian who was an animal trapper with a lake on his property and lived on State Route 7.

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Sergeant [REDACTED] was able to locate records of Brian Adkins (Adkins) based off the information he obtained from Wild's father. Within minutes of locating Adkins' name, address, and phone number Sergeant [REDACTED] received a call to respond to warehouse near Adkins' property to meet someone who had information about the earlier pursuit. Sergeant [REDACTED] responded to this property near Adkins' home and met with the reporting party who was Adkins himself.

During their meeting, Adkins told Sergeant [REDACTED] the subject was a family friend and he wanted to provide them with information but did not want to be involved beyond that. Adkins then told Sergeant [REDACTED] he saw a news article about a nearby pursuit and believed it was likely the subject. Adkins then reviewed his home security camera recordings and noticed at approximately 1800 hours he observed a blue truck, which he knew to be owned by Bill Schaefer (sp), travel down his driveway. Adkins told Sergeant [REDACTED] that he spoke with the subject while he was on his property and the subject told him he had ran from police, taken the stolen truck, and was hiding on his property. Adkins then told Sergeant [REDACTED] that the subject's truck was parked near the furthest back building along his driveway. The two men discussed the property further and Sergeant [REDACTED] learned the driveway is long and has additional buildings along the way to the back building where the truck was last seen. Adkins also told Sergeant [REDACTED] that the subject was staying inside of a hunting cabin along the driveway which he would encounter before reaching the truck. Sergeant [REDACTED] learned the hunting cabin was on the right-hand side of the driveway across from a deer feeder. Adkins described the subject's state of mind to Sergeant [REDACTED] by saying "As soon as I saw he was drinking a beer earlier I knew there was something off with him. I knew he was, you know, going down the wrong path, whatever" [23:59 mark of video].

Sergeant [REDACTED] then requested and was granted permission by Adkins to search the hunting cabin to locate the subject. Sergeant [REDACTED] asked Adkins if he had seen the subject with any weapons or if there were any weapons inside the hunting cabin. Adkins told Sergeant [REDACTED] he did not see the subject in possession of any weapons. Regarding the cabin, Adkins said "Um, he's like you know it's a hunting cabin, so I'm pretty certain there's crossbows in there is what he said. Um, he doesn't think there's any firearms but he wasn't certain. There was definitely ammunition" [24:22 mark of video].

Adkins then provided Sergeant [REDACTED] with a further description of the hunting cabin and learned it was set up similar to a shed, had no loft or basement, had a single door, and windows on all four sides. During this conversation Adkins also told Sergeant [REDACTED] they would need to walk down his driveway to the cabin because the subject would see the headlights on their vehicles and become alerted to their presence if they drove down the driveway.

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Adkins requested that Sergeant [REDACTED] give him time to return to his home before the officers arrived to search for the subject and that they not share with the subject that Adkins told them where he was. Sergeant [REDACTED] stated that was fine and Adkins left the meeting to return to his house.

Sergeant [REDACTED] requested assistance from other nearby law enforcement agencies to assist in the search for the subject. In total, Sergeant [REDACTED] and BTPD Officer Ellwood-Bellas received assistance from two Trumbull County Sheriff's deputies, four Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers, two Vienna Township police officers, and one Lordstown police officer. Collectively, eleven law enforcement officers from five different agencies gathered and participated in the attempt to apprehend the subject.

The eleven law enforcement officers all met down the street from Adkins' property where Sergeant [REDACTED] and Adkins had met. Sergeant [REDACTED] briefed the group on the subject and informed them the subject was the individual wanted for the pursuit described above. Sergeant [REDACTED] showed the group a map and relayed the information he obtained from Adkins including a description of the property and cabin. Sergeant [REDACTED] stated "so we kind of formulated a little, uh, like a plan to go down there. We all had to park by the road. So, we're all going to have to walk down there, its back in the woods. I don't know how far it is, 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile or whatever maybe. And, uh, so basically, we came up with a plan. We were gonna do, um two people on the north side of the cabin, two people on the east, two people on the west, and then three people on the south. The third, um, was because the Lordstown guy brought a thermal camera with him and that's where the front door was obviously" [28:36 mark of video]. The remaining two officers were to wait at the roadway and once all the officers on foot were in position the two officers with vehicles would drive down the driveway, turn on their vehicle's scene lights, and call out the subject using a PA system.

Sergeant [REDACTED] could not recall which specific law enforcement officers were assigned to each location and role but did recall that Deputy [REDACTED] the Lordstown officer, and himself were all assigned to the side of the building where the door was.

Sergeant [REDACTED] described the group walking down the driveway together with the Lordstown officer in the lead position. When the group got closer to the cabin they saw a light coming from the cabin and could also hear music. Sergeant [REDACTED] believed the music was coming from the truck. The truck was parked directly next to the cabin and facing him, with the driver window of the truck down and directly lined up with the window of the cabin. The truck was blocking the door to the cabin. Sergeant [REDACTED] saw the subject in the cabin through the window. Sergeant

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█████ relayed this to the next officer behind/near him who continued to relay the information down the line to the other law enforcement personnel.

Sergeant █████ further described the truck parked next to the cabin as older, blue and grey in color, and having a snow plow attached. Sergeant █████ quickly surmised this was the truck that was stolen earlier in the day as it matched the description of the stolen truck.

Sergeant █████ knew that the Lordstown officer and Deputy █████ were near him on the side of the cabin with the door when the remaining personnel on foot began to walk through the woods to surround the cabin. When the other personnel began walking into the woods "somebody stepped on a stick, branch, board, something in that area and it cracked real loud" [33:24 mark of video]. Sergeant █████ then observed the subject look out the window, stand up, look out the window and put his face right up to the glass of the window. Sergeant █████ then used the flashlight on his rifle to illuminate the subject and ordered him to "show us his hands" [34:11 mark of video]. The subject then flung open the window of the cabin aligned with the driver door window of the truck and dove into the truck.

Sergeant █████ then walked in front of the truck with the intent to grab the subject before he could fully get into the truck from the hunting cabin. As Sergeant █████ began to walk in front of the truck he realized he would not be able to get between the truck and hunting cabin and began backing up to his original position. Sergeant █████ stated "So he starts, I think the truck started when I was still, I don't remember when it started. I was either in front or I had moved, but I basically aborted that plan. I said I'm getting out of the way 'cause he's gonna try and leave. So, I stepped back to the passenger side. Um, were still yelling 'show us your hands.' I could hear somebody beating on the passenger window of the truck" [ 34:59 mark of video]. Sergeant █████ continued, "So the truck fires up and it starts moving as soon as it starts. Um and when he went forward I remember he hit a little like a tree that was there and ran it right over. I stepped out of the way" [35:35 mark of video]. "My first thought was I'm getting out of the way of this thing and I focused on him and just assumed were going to have to run down this driveway and its going to start a pursuit with these guys waiting. You know, obviously, pretty quickly, uh, I heard a gunshot and as soon as I heard that first shot that's when I kinda like realized, took my attention off of me being, you know, out of the way and realized there' still people in the way. Um, at some point in there I fired my weapon, when I was, yeah, I want to say I was standing close to, I don't know, close to where that dirt is basically the corner of those woods" [36:07 mark of video].

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Sergeant [REDACTED] stated when he fired his weapon the line of travel for his bullet(s) would have begun at the back-right corner of the vehicle and gone diagonal to the front left of the vehicle.

Sergeant [REDACTED] described the truck as having stopped pretty quickly. Sergeant [REDACTED] then ran up to the passenger window and looked in while giving orders and felt "it was pretty clear he was probably deceased" [37:13 mark of video]. Sergeant [REDACTED] then broke the passenger window of the vehicle to gain entry as the door was locked. Once he broke the window, Sergeant [REDACTED] looked inside, assumed the subject was deceased, then reached inside the truck, smacked the shifter into park, and turned off the truck. After checking to see if anyone (besides the subject) was injured Sergeant [REDACTED] called for EMS to respond.

Sergeant [REDACTED] then met with EMS personnel along the driveway and escorted them to the truck. EMS personnel confirmed the subject was deceased. Sergeant [REDACTED] then escorted EMS personnel out of the scene. Around this same time a trooper suggested all of the involved parties who fired a weapon place those weapons in his vehicle. Sergeant [REDACTED] placed his rifle in the trooper's vehicle along with the other involved parties that fired their weapons. Sergeant [REDACTED] then contacted the BTPD chief and detective. Sergeant [REDACTED] then waited at the end of the driveway for his chief and the detective to arrive.

After relaying the above account of events, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated he wanted to point out that he knew but failed to mention earlier that he was aware of the subject having a second outstanding warrant for his arrest for an unknown crime out of a county he could not recall, but did recall the entering agency confirmed they did want the subject prior to the officers approaching the cabin.

When asked, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated he did learn earlier in the day the subject may be in possession of a musket as he was reported to have one at that time.

When asked, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated that he heard at least one gunshot before firing his weapon.

When asked what he presumed was happening when he heard the first gunshot, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated "that's what alerted me to like, you know, oh shit, there's people standing in front of that. Like I got out of the way but they did not. Um, so, my thing was, he started moving. Once he started moving, went right over that little tree with that plow, that's when I perceived a threat towards, not me but the people that were still out in front of the truck. It was pretty clear that the guy intended to get away" [48:46 mark of video].

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When asked how many times he thought he fired, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated "I know once, at lea(st), I don't think any more than two, one or two. Best guess is one [50:34 mark of video].

Sergeant [REDACTED] estimated the amount of time between him hearing the first gunshot and firing himself to be approximately two seconds.

When asked what his concerns were regarding what could have happened when the truck began to accelerate and he fired his weapon, Sergeant [REDACTED] stated "That's when, I didn't perceive a threat against me but I perceived a threat against the people that were still in front so I thought he was gonna run somebody over [52:01 mark of video].

When asked if he could see the locations of all the other officers from his vantage point (at the time he fired), Sergeant [REDACTED] stated "I don't think I could see all, I mean there's no way I could recall and tell you where everybody was" [54:44 mark of video].

Sergeant [REDACTED] did not know who fired first but stated he knew it came from the area in front of the truck.

Sergeant [REDACTED] did not believe he has had any previous interactions with the subject.

Sergeant [REDACTED] stated he believed his actions and that of the other law enforcement personnel were consistent with his training.

Note that at no point in the interview did Sergeant [REDACTED] make reference to his magazine becoming unseated from his rifle.

Reference Items:

1. Reference Item I - Video recorded interview of Sergeant [REDACTED]

Attachments:

1. 2023-04-03: [REDACTED] Signed Criminal Investigation Notification Form
2. 2023-04-03: [REDACTED] Signed Interview Overhead Image
3. 2023-04-03: Audio - [REDACTED] Interview



### 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).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Interviewee

04/03/2023 10:56  
Date / Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interviewee

SA Joseph Goudy<sup>83</sup>  
BCI Agent (Printed)

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

