



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



2022-1673

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Smith Road Near Van Tress  
Road, Clinton County, OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Tpr. Jacques Illanz (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 09/06/2022  
**Activity Location:** Engle & Martin Law Offices – Business – 4660 Duke Drive # 101,  
Mason, OH 45040, Warren County  
**Author:** SA Lauren Frazier, #129

**Narrative:**

On September 6, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Richard Ward, Kenneth Smith, and Lauren Frazier interviewed Trooper Jacques Illanz of the Ohio State Highway Patrol about his involvement with the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) resulting in the death of Ricky Shiffer on August 11, 2022, in Clinton County, Ohio.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

The interview with Illanz began at 1018 hours at the offices of Engle & Martin. Attorneys Josh Engle and Mary Martin were present for the interview.

Illanz stated he has been employed with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for approximately 18 years and has spent the past 13 years at the Lebanon post. He was wearing a clearly marked Trooper uniform on the date of the incident and was in a marked patrol vehicle (Dodge Charger). His work hours were from 0600 to 1400 hours.

Illanz stated that on August 11, 2022, he heard that a male had attempted to get into the FBI building. After gathering more information on his radio and computer, Illanz learned that the suspect was possibly heading north on I-71 near the Kings Mill area in a white Ford Crown Victoria and was being followed by an FBI agent in an unmarked vehicle.

Illanz was later told of a better description of the suspect and vehicle, which was described to have Florida plates and dark tinted windows. Illanz located the vehicle on north I-71 near the Beach Waterpark and confirmed the license plate as the suspect's vehicle.

Illanz stated that he followed the vehicle until additional units arrived then attempted to do a felony traffic stop. At this time he said the suspect began to flee and went on to the left

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shoulder to pass a semi and fired a shot at a black van with government plates that was driving on the right side of the suspect's vehicle. Illanz later explained that he was the 2nd vehicle in the pursuit, calling the pursuit, while Lt. [REDACTED] was the first car behind the suspect vehicle.

Illanz said that the suspect got off at State Route 73 and almost crashed. The suspect continued on to 380 and eventually turned onto Smith Road. Illanz said that the suspect stopped perpendicular to the road. Illanz exited his patrol car and said he pulled his service weapon, but immediately retreated to his trunk to get his rifle. At this point, Illanz began hearing gunfire exchanged. The gunfire stopped for a while and then gunfire started back up again. Illanz explained that he saw the suspect peek out from behind the Crown Victoria and point a gun in his direction. Illanz also stated that a deputy ([REDACTED]), had fired from the same side of the patrol vehicle and Illanz believed that he was injured from the compression of the rifle fire in close proximity. Illanz said that he did not fire his weapon during this incident although deadly force was authorized.

Illanz was relieved by other officers at some point and went to his District Headquarters (Wilmington Post) to debrief.

The interview between Illanz and BCI concluded at 1034 hours and was audio recorded. See attachments for a copy of the audio recording (attachment #1) and typed statement provided by Illanz (attachment #2).

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-09-06 / Trooper Jacques Illanz audio interview

Attachment # 02: Illanz Written Statement

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**

## **Exhibit 2**

**STATEMENT OF JACQUES ILLANZ**

**AUGUST 22, 2022**

I am a Trooper with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. I have been employed as a law enforcement officer since 2006. I graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in Columbus, Ohio in 2007.

I am currently assigned as a Trooper at the Lebanon Post. I primarily work in the Lebanon area.

I am providing this statement voluntarily. I have prepared the statement to the best of my recollection. I have not yet had the opportunity to review all of the videos of the incident and it is possible that this review might refresh my recollection in the future.

I am familiar with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's policies and procedures on use of force. My most recent training on use of force occurred in 2021. I most recently completed my firearm qualifications in August 2022.

On August 11, 2022, I was working the 0600 to 1400 shift. I was wearing my uniform and operating my patrol car during my shift. While on duty, I carry my Sig Sauer 320 9mm pistol along with 3 magazines containing 17 rounds each. One magazine is contained in the firearm, the remaining 2 are carried on my duty belt. My firearm had 18 rounds (1 in the weapon and 17 in the magazine).

I also had with my personal Stag Arms AR-15. This weapon is carried in the trunk of my vehicle. I had 4 magazines containing 28 rounds each. One magazine is contained in the firearm, the remaining 3 are carried in a bag in the trunk.

I had completed writing a ticket for a commercial vehicle in the northbound I-71 rest area near mile post 34 when I overheard radio traffic about an incident. I checked the incident on my computer and learned that a white male driving a white sedan had attempted to break into the FBI building in Cincinnati. I stayed in my current location. I was advised that a white male driving a white crown Victoria was traveling northbound on I-71. I was initially informed that the suspect was armed with a nail gun. I later was informed that the vehicle had Florida plates and that the suspect was armed with an AR-15.

I left the rest area and traveled south. I observed what I believed to be the suspect vehicle traveling northbound on I-71 traveling at normal highway speed. I turned northbound and pursued the suspect vehicle. I was able to confirm a Florida plate. I fell some distance back and followed the suspect vehicle from approximately mile marker 27 until about mile marker 40. I did not have my lights or siren activated at this time. The suspect vehicle continued to drive at normal highway speed. I reported on the radio that I had identified the vehicle. I was joined in the pursuit by other law enforcement officers, including another trooper, an OSHP Lieutenant, and a Warren County Deputy.

Just south of mile post 41 I and other law enforcement personnel activated our lights and sirens. The suspect vehicle accelerated to approximately 100 mph, drove on the left shoulder, and passed other vehicles. The suspect fired a shot into a black panel van. I observed the window on the passenger side shatter window on the side of the vehicle and damage to the side of the vehicle. Traffic was moderate to heavy.

We maintained the pursuit. The suspect exited on SR 73. The suspect ran through a red light and nearly struck a vehicle. The suspect continued east on SR 73. The suspect turned left on to Smith Road. He crossed over the interstate at a high rate of speed. He stopped suddenly and pulled the car partially into a ditch near some trees.

I pulled up on the left side of the road. I exited my vehicle with my pistol drawn. This is consistent with my training and experience in conducting felony stops.

I could not see the suspect. I ordered the suspect to exit the vehicle and get on the ground. Other law enforcement officers were giving similar commands. I exited the vehicle and stood near the driver door. I retrieved my rifle from my trunk and tried to get in a position to see the suspect. I heard a large number of shots being fired. I took cover behind the tire of my car. I was approximately 70 yards from the suspect.

I believed that I was in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and the only means of escape from danger was the use of deadly force by other officers. I did not believe that I could safely withdraw from the location and adequately protect myself or other possibly innocent persons in the area. I did not fire a shot because I did not have a clear line of sight on the suspect.

I maintained coverage on the suspect vehicle but was unable to get a clear shot. Lt. [REDACTED] gave verbal commands to the suspect to put down his weapon and come out with his hands up. The suspect did not comply with commands. The suspect was yelling at us but I was unable to understand what he was saying. After a brief standoff when nobody fired, additional law enforcement officers and the FBI arrived on the scene.

I remained on the scene for a period of time. FBI and OSHP SRT arrived at the scene. An FBI negotiator sought to communicate with the suspect. I remained in a covered position and received updated information from an observer in a helicopter. I eventually received orders to pull back from my position. I left my vehicle at the scene.

*Tpr. August Allain*  
*August 22, 2022*

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