



# DPS INCIDENT REPORT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
P.O. BOX 1456  
ATLANTA, GA 30371

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

## LOCATION(S)

County <b>DEKALB</b>	Location Type <b>INCIDENT LOCATION</b>	Location Description <b>HEAVILY WOODED FOREST</b>					
Street Number <b>1327</b>	Street <b>KEY ROAD</b>	Apt/Lot/Bldg	City <b>ATLANTA</b>	State <b>GA</b>	Zip Code <b>30316</b>	Phone Number	Ext.

## Person: SUSPECT

First Name <b>MANUEL</b>	Middle Name <b>ESTEBAN</b>	Last Name <b>PAEZ TERAN</b>	Suffix	Race <b>WHITE</b>	Sex <b>MALE</b>	Height <b>5'06"</b>	Weight	Hair <b>BRO</b>	Eyes <b>UNK</b>
MNI #	SSN	Date of Birth <b>04/23/1996</b>	Age <b>26</b>	ID Type	Drivers License or other ID	State	OCA / Agency ID		
Place of Birth: , ,									
Addresses • <b>OTHER / 1327 KEY ROAD, ATLANTA, GA /</b>									

## Narrative: INITIAL

Narrative Date/Time <b>02/15/2023 16:42:57</b>	Narrative Synopsis		
Reporting Officer [REDACTED]	Officer Rank <b>SFC</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]	Officer Org/Unit <b>STATE PATROL [REDACTED]</b>
Officer Signature	Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		

Corporal [REDACTED] narrative

I have been actively employed in law enforcement since 2006. During those sixteen years of law enforcement employment, I have spent 11 years as an active SWAT member. In 2017, I was promoted to a fulltime position within the Department of Public Safety Special Operations Group where my sole responsibilities pertained to SWAT and Dive operations. In 2021 I was promoted to Corporal over the Special Operations Group and given the title of Assistant Tactical Commander. My current responsibilities and duties include ensuring objectives and instructions provided by my superiors are achieved and followed by the unit as well as fulfill any role deemed necessary by my superiors to complete any instruction or objective.

Several weeks prior to January 18th, 2023, I was informed by my supervisors that the

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

Department of Public Safety's SWAT Team had been officially requested to assist the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, along with other local law enforcement agencies, with the clearing of a piece of property of protestors who were unlawfully occupying the land. I was verbally notified that the protestors had become increasingly violent toward government. During their occupation of the land, they had attacked civilians in the area, thrown improvised Molotov cocktails at law enforcement in an effort to set officers on fire, and burned a vehicle. As time approached January 18th, 2023, I learned the protestors had attacked fire fighters and ransacked a local fire station near the land they were unlawfully occupying. As a result of known incidents as well as other incidents unknown to myself, law enforcement officers with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation made a few arrests for domestic terrorism. On January 2, 2023, I received an email requesting Troopers to patrol Bank of America's within their respective Troops due to members affiliated with the protestors setting banks on fire as a means of retaliation for the arrests the Georgia Bureau of Investigations made for domestic terrorism. There was link on the email that provided access to a copy of an internet post believed to be published by those responsible for the fires which stated the following. Last night I broke into a Bank of America in Portland Oregon and started a large fire. I attack for revenge against the capital for the hell it creates, to break the illusion of police control that usually protects it, and just because I can. Bank of America funds the Atlanta Police Foundation and a thousand other projects of control. Earlier that day, the six friends in Atlanta charged with domestic terrorism were released from jail. May this fire bring them some warmth in winter. Long live anarchy!

A few days prior to January 18, 2023, I was provided a Georgia Bureau of Investigations Tactical Operations plan that outlined a proposed method of operation for clearing the unlawfully occupied land. Upon review of the document, I observed several pieces of information that stood out to me. To begin, a primary objective of the operation was to detect and arrest domestic terrorists that were currently criminally trespassing on the land while committing other crimes on the property. Their investigation had identified approximately 30 domestic terrorists still actively on the property who were disrupting and intimidating contractors lawfully performing work on private land. Assisting Officers were urged to use extreme caution since the investigation and previous incidents informed the suspects in the woods were known to be armed. Furthermore, the subjects were known to frequently wear camouflage and/or ghillie suits while throwing rocks and fireworks at law enforcement. Finally, the operational plan informed suspected explosive devices had been found on the property as well as traps and trips. In the last sentence of the operational plan, they again discussed firearms. It stated the domestic terrorist had been seen with firearms while one confronted police while armed with a rifle and a pistol. All the provided information leading up to January 18th, 2023, lead me to believe that the protestors/domestic terrorists unlawfully occupying the land were not only extremely dangerous and violent in general, but unusually hostile toward government employees, especially law enforcement officers.

On January 18th, 2023 all SWAT members involved in the operation met with the Georgia Bureau of Investigations along with other local law enforcement agencies at Gresham Park in a parking lot off of Bouldercrest Road for the operation briefing around 06:30 hours. During the course of the briefing, I learned that part of the property belonged to Dekalb County and part of it was annexed to the city of

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

Atlanta. The governing bodies of the property had planned to build a law enforcement training center at the location, which was what the protestors/domestic terrorists were fighting to prevent. The purpose of removing the unlawful occupiers at this point was to allow construction to begin without further interference and/or destruction of property with the possibility of injury to all parties involved. The Department of Public Safety SWAT Team was tasked with entering the property located at 1327 Key Road Atlanta, Georgia from a southern entrance off of Constitution Road SE. We would then travel north on the property to a large clearing. Once in the clearing we would enter a heavily wooded area and travel west on foot toward Intrenchment Creek. I learned there were dozens of people still unlawfully occupying the area. Furthermore, most were utilizing tents and an area in the woods had been constructed into a makeshift tent town. There was even some who had constructed shelters and lookout stations high off the ground on trees which posed significant threat to officers on the ground. The occupiers may use the position of advantage by throwing items at law enforcement officers causing serious injury. We were again cautioned about the presence of traps. One trap was described as a piece of wood with nails protruding upward and concealed under leaves so when someone stepped on it, the sharp end of the nails would penetrate the foot of the victim.

The general instructions for encounters with the suspects were as follows. A Georgia Bureau of Investigations Agent would be assigned to us. When we encountered a suspect, we would attempt to talk to them and identify them. If they complied, they would be turned over to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to determine if they were a suspect in the ongoing criminal enterprise of domestic terrorism. If they were cleared, they would be released and allowed to leave the property. If they refused to comply with lawful orders, they would be arrested for Criminal Trespassing 16-7-21 and any other resulting charges.

After the initial mass brief was concluded, Lt. [REDACTED] instructed me to carry a non-lethal pepper ball system. The pepper ball system was specifically designed to deal with non-compliant suspects. It is a non-lethal chemical agent delivery system that uses high pressure air to deliver Pava powder from a safe distance. The Pava agent within the pepper ball projectiles is one of six capsaicinoids found in pepper plants and is used in Tabasco sauce, spice packs and cooking oils. The pepper ball system has thousands of documented uses with no known deaths or serious injuries resulting from use. It should also be noted that since the system runs from compressed air and not any type of munitions it does not sound like a gun shot when used. Also it does not look like a firearm, but instead it looks like a normal paint ball gun commonly used in recreational sport.

At approximately 08:10 hours we left the briefing location and proceeded to the property located at 1327 Key Road Atlanta, Georgia. Upon arrival at the southern drive of the property located on Constitution Road, we discovered the driveway was blocked with a large mass of collected metal and other various items. It was readily apparent the items had been intentionally placed on the drive to prevent law enforcement from entering the property. In essence, the unlawful occupiers of the property had erected a roadblock. This was a point of interest because it further reinforced the occupiers will and lengths to continue their unlawful occupation of the property. We utilized SWAT's armored skid steer to remove the obstruction and continued travel to the open field on the property.

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

Once at the field, all members of the SWAT team present got into a line facing in a westerly direction spanning north and south. We then began to enter the woods searching for anyone present. It should be noted that due to the information provided I was attempting to be hyper vigilant of my surroundings. I was looking for traps or suspects utilizing camouflage as a means of attacking law enforcement officers. As a result, I was not paying close attention to distance traveled or time. After traveling a short distance into the woods, we encountered multiple suspects in tents spread out over a large area. At this point, everyone was compliant, and all suspects were turned over to the Georgia Bureau of investigations without incident. There was no yelling or confrontation. Simple conversations were sufficient to gain compliance. Because of the totality of the environment, the number of suspects, and number of law enforcement officers involved I do not know how many people were encountered up to this point. Also, the sheer number of tents needing to be cleared was putting a strain on personnel causing supervisors to move assets around to assist as needed in an effort to conduct operations as safely as possible.

As we traveled further into the woods, we discovered dozens of tents set up in no particular fashion. We began clearing the tents looking for suspects. While doing so, I was contacted by SFC [REDACTED] via radio. He advised he was just south of my location and had encountered a suspect refusing to exit his tent. He requested that I meet with him to assist with the situation. I began slowly walking toward SFC [REDACTED] location. My movement was slow, because I was passing several uncleared tents and still looking for traps or possible explosives. Very shortly after I began my movement toward his location, I could see him talking to an unknown suspect completely concealed within a tent. I had to get relatively close before I could hear SFC [REDACTED] communicating with the suspect because no one was yelling. They were talking in a normal tone of voice necessary to communicate with a suspect within a tent. Once at the tent I visually scanned the area and immediately noticed there were no trees large enough in close proximity that would provide protection from bullets or explosives.

I heard SFC [REDACTED] instructing the suspect to exit the tent multiple times while identifying himself as Police with no reply from the suspect inside of the tent. SFC [REDACTED] then told the suspect he was under arrest for Criminal Trespass and he needed to exit the tent. The suspect still refused to comply but stated, "no I want you to leave." The way the suspect made his statement was a point of interest to me. It was very confident in manner, and it was immediately apparent to me that he had no intentions of cooperating. I told the suspect that if he refused to exit the tent, I was going to introduce chemical agents into the tent. The suspect then asked what he was being arrested for. By this time, TFC [REDACTED] and his K9 partner [REDACTED] had walked up to assist as well. TFC [REDACTED] advised the suspect the property did not belong to him, so he was trespassing. The suspect then unzipped a small section of the tent's front door. He did not open the tent door completely nor did he unzip the mosquito net on the interior of the tent door. He looked through the net briefly at each person standing in front of the tent. I could not see his entire face, but I could see his eyes and one hand which was clasping the tent zipper. His brows were postured in a manner consistent with an angry individual. There was no doubt we were law enforcement. We were each dressed in tactical law enforcement uniforms with identifying patches and had department patches on the front of our protective vests easily identifying ourselves as law

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

enforcement. Furthermore, the suspect had been informed by SFC [REDACTED] that we were law enforcement verbally and told him he was being placed under arrest lawfully. After TFC [REDACTED] advised the suspect he was trespassing he began to zip the front of the tent up, essentially barricading himself within the tent in an effort to prevent arrest. At that time I knew probable cause existed for arrest for Criminal Trespass 16-7-21 and Obstruction 16-10-24. SFC [REDACTED] instructed me to discharge the pepper ball system into the tent. I concurred with the order being the best course of action at that time. Since the pepper ball system is a non-lethal system, it was the least amount of force we could use under the circumstances to effect the arrest of an actively resisting suspect. If the subject were allowed to barricade within the tent with no action taken, we would have had to forcibly open the tent and then forcibly removed the subject from the tent which greatly increases the risk of injury to all parties involved. Furthermore, we knew domestic terrorist suspects were present on the property and known to be armed and extremely violent. Forcibly entering the tent would put law enforcement in very close proximity to the suspect immensely placing officers at risk of violent attack due to diminishing reaction time at such a close distance. Also, I did not believe the pepper ball projectiles would penetrate the exterior of the tent most likely rendering it ineffective which in turn would require officers to use a higher degree of force to effect the arrest.

I discharged a volley of pepper balls into the tent through the opening of the tent door through the mosquito net. I did not count how many rounds I discharged but believe it to be around five rounds. I intentionally aimed for the rear left corner of the tent through the opening away from the suspect. I wanted to contaminate the rear of the tent with the chemical agent carried by the pepper ball to encourage the subject to exit the front of the tent peacefully without causing him any unnecessary discomfort by striking him with the pepper ball rounds. Once I could readily see the suspect was no longer attempting to pull on the tent zipper, I quit discharging the non-lethal pepper ball system. It should be noted that there was no reason for anyone to believe that a firearm had been discharged at this time. The pepper ball system does not remotely sound like a firearm since it is operated by compressed air. Furthermore, I distinctly told the suspect I was going to introduce chemical agents into the tent if he continued to resist so he knew exactly what was happening. Finally, when he looked out the tent before trying to resecure it, I was holding the pepper ball system in my hands which looks just like a paint ball system used for recreational sport, not a gun.

Only moments after I quit discharging the pepper ball system gun fire erupted from within the tent toward where TFC [REDACTED] SFC [REDACTED] and myself were standing. I knew the suspect in the tent was shooting at us because I could hear the gun shots coming from inside of the tent. I could see the front of the tent door flapping as the bullets ripped through it and I could hear bullets striking the vegetation surrounding me. I immediately started moving to my right to avoid getting shot. I kept waiting to feel a sharp pain believing I was about to get shot. SFC [REDACTED] was directly to my right and had not started moving yet. Since I was holding a pepper ball launcher, I had no immediate means of fighting back effectively and believed SFC [REDACTED] was holding his ground to fight while I escaped. I was going behind and around SFC [REDACTED] when he began to fall to the ground. At that time, I fully believed he had been shot. I attempted to grab him and pull him out of the area of gun fire, but he was dead weight, and I

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

could not get a solid grip on him. I believed he was dead at that moment. During all of the this, the suspect was steadily shooting at us, bullet after bullet. I don't know how many rounds he had fired at that point, I just knew it was a significant amount. TFC [REDACTED] and TFC [REDACTED] were around the tent as well, but at that time I did not hear nor see them returning gunfire. I knew there was nothing close by that could protect myself or SFC [REDACTED] from a bullet, so my only option was to stop the suspect from shooting and killing anyone else. To increase my response time, I left SFC [REDACTED] where he landed and threw the pepper ball launcher away. Since the pepper ball launcher was between me and my rifle which was affixed to my body with a rifle sling, I believed the fastest response was to transition to my pistol which I did. I moved to the right of the tent, drew my pistol, and aimed at what shadow of the suspect I could see through the tent wall. I intentionally aimed low to give the projectiles a downward angle of flight to minimize the possibility of bullets traveling through my intended target area and striking someone unrelated to the incident.

Even after moving around SFC [REDACTED], trying to grab him, transitioning to a weapon system, and moving into a shooting position the suspect was still steadily firing his firearm. I began to shoot at the suspect using my department SWAT issued pistol (Serial Number BMCV141). While shooting I observed a small explosion at the front of the tent and a large plume of white powder going into the air. I believed this to be an improvised explosive device that was detonated during the fight and another attempt by the suspect to kill us. I continued to fire my weapon until it was readily apparent to me that the suspect within the tent was no longer trying to murder us. I believed that was evident when the gunfire from inside the tent stopped and no further explosions were observed. When I stopped firing, I could hear TFC [REDACTED] yelling something behind me. I turned and looked and observed him moving toward my location. I have no idea how many times I fired my pistol. However, once it was clear to me that no more force was necessary, I immediately ceased all force. When I ceased fire, I could still hear gun shots coming from other team members for a brief second and then all gun fire stopped.

Moments after all gun fire stopped TFC [REDACTED] yelled out he had been shot. I observed him lying on the ground on the other side of the tent near the front of the tent. However, since he was talking, I diverted my attention to Sgt [REDACTED] who turned out to be unharmed. Utilizing the radio system, I informed Lt. [REDACTED] of what happened. I advised we needed additional personnel to setup a perimeter around the tent to contain the suspect while TFC [REDACTED] was given initial treatment and evacuation from the line of fire. I also requested a ballistic shield and a hooligan be brought to the location to provide some ballistic protection for officers on scene and a safer means of opening the tent. I also assigned personnel to set a perimeter around the uncleared tents to help prevent another ambush type attack.

Once the perimeter was set, TFC [REDACTED] was moved away from the tent and provided medical care from one of the SWAT Team medics. We called for another SWAT Team medic to meet with personnel around the tent to provide medical care to the suspect as fast as possible. All of this happened very quickly. Even though TFC [REDACTED] was moved away from the tent, he was still in a dangerous position. Those who were rendering aid to TFC [REDACTED] were also in danger. Their backs were facing the tent the suspect was still concealed in. If the suspect started shooting again or detonated another explosive

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

device, they would be in grave danger and unable to protect themselves. Based on the aforementioned reasons, we did not immediately rush up to the tent. We maintained the perimeter and Captain [REDACTED] verbally called out to the suspect. He asked the suspect to either exit the tent or let us know if he needed medical assistance. He also informed the suspect we had medical personnel standing by to help him. There was no response. We developed a plan to approach the tent to render aid. As soon as TFC [REDACTED] was transported away from the scene, which did not take a long amount of time, we put the plan into motion.

I deployed a flash bang at the front of the tent. If the suspect was still lying-in wait to try and shoot someone else, it is likely the stimulus of the flash bang would result in the suspect continuing to shoot. When the flashbang was deployed the other team members were behind the ballistic shield. As the flash bang detonated, they approached the tent when no explosive detonation or gun fire was observed. Since I was directly involved in the initial critical incident and sufficient personnel were present, I intentionally removed myself from the tactical element approaching the tent to protect the integrity of the crime scene. The members who approached the tent cut the tent open and found the suspect unresponsive within. A SWAT Team medic rushed to provide aid but advised the suspect was deceased. Once it was confirmed there was no aid we could provide to help the suspect, I immediately instructed all personnel to exit the crime scene and Lt. [REDACTED] gave the same order as well to ensure adherence.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation was requested to investigate the incident and several agents were already present as a result of their assignment to the operation. Those who were directly involved in the critical incident were escorted back to the clearing where the operation began by a Georgia Bureau of Investigation Agent. We were separated from all other department employees other than agency leadership and investigators with the Department of Public Safety's Office of Professional Standards to protect any evidence that may be located on our persons.

We then traveled to the Department of Public Safety's headquarters in one vehicle. We made no stops between the incident location and headquarters. Once at headquarters we met with several Georgia of Bureau Investigation Agents where they collected initial statements from all directly involved and any evidence they observed from our persons. There is nothing further to report at this time.

**Narrative: INITIAL**

Narrative Date/Time <b>02/24/2023 14:35:31</b>		Narrative Synopsis		
Reporting Officer [REDACTED]	Officer Rank <b>SFC</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]	Officer Org/Unit <b>STATE PATROL [REDACTED]</b>	
Officer Signature	Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
I, Sergeant First Class [REDACTED], have been employed with the Georgia State Patrol since December 2004. During my approximate 19 years with the department, I have been a member of the State of Georgia SWAT team (SOG SWAT) for approximately 12 years, with the last 2+ years assigned to				

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

fulltime SWAT. My title on the SOG SWAT team is “Tactical Commander”, which is second to the SWAT Commander. My responsibilities are to lead elements of the team during SWAT incidents, as well as mission planning and coordinating personnel for SWAT incidents.

The following statement is my account of the incident that occurred on 01-18-2023. The statement is based on my recollection of the facts and circumstances that were present leading up to, during, and following the incident.

On 01-18-23, I, along with the SOG SWAT team was participating in a multi-agency law enforcement operation in Atlanta, Georgia. The operation was focused on removing criminal trespassers from the property that was owned by the City of Atlanta and was to be developed for the Atlanta Police Department’s Training Center. The trespassers had mobilized and infiltrated the property for over a year to prevent the development of the property, now known as “Cop City”.

On the morning of 01-18-2023, I, along with the SOG SWAT team reported to Gresham Park to take part in the operational briefing prior to the operation beginning. Here, all agencies and personnel that were also assisting in the operation were present. The Georgia Bureau of Investigations, whom was the lead investigating agency and had overall operational control, briefed all personnel the operational strategy. As part of the briefing, the GBI informed all personnel of the weapons the trespassers could possess and tactics they could employ. This information was gathered through their extensive investigation prior to the operation. From their investigation they discovered that the criminal trespassers were armed with both rifles and pistols. They had also discovered that the trespassers possessed explosives and had built IEDs (improvised explosive device) and Molotov Cocktails. They stated in recent incident prior to this operation the trespassers had thrown Molotov Cocktails at police when they were present at “Cop City”. The GBI stated that we needed to be aware of the booby traps the trespassers had set in the forest to hinder law enforcement’s ability to enter and arrest the trespassers. The booby traps included, but not limited to trip wires, discreet or hidden holes dug into the ground with sharpened stakes inside, also hidden nails strips placed on the ground for law enforcement to step on while walking. Each of these would not only hinder law enforcement, but were designed and employed to seriously injure or kill them. The GBI also informed us that we could locate criminal trespassers in an elevated tree house or suspended high in a tree, and the trespasser may throw pre-staged feces and urine on officers below. Not only is this a grotesque act, but it was known that some trespassers carried STDs. The larger concern with this tactic is if the trespasser who engaged in this tactic was a carrier of a STD, it would likely infect the officer who was subjected to it. Lastly, the GBI stated that the strategy was to remove the criminal trespassers from Cop City. They stated that when officers encountered a trespasser during the operation, and if they were compliant, truthfully identified themselves, and fully cooperated with officers, they would be ordered but allowed to leave without arrest. After completion of the briefing all participants prepared to move from Gresham Park to Cop City to begin the operation.



Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

Also, in addition to the details discussed in the briefing, the GBI's Operational Order Packet detailed the organizational structure of the group known as Defend the Atlanta Forest (DTAF). This packet explained the nation wide reach of the organization and helped explain the reason the GBI was the lead investigating agency and command and control of the operation. The GBI became lead agency because of the nature of the group's crimes and activities that fell under Domestic Terrorism. This is demonstrated by actions taken in Portland, Oregon in late 2022, in solitude for the group in Atlanta.

The SOG SWAT team was designated as Team #2 on the operational plan. We were to enter our "area of operation" in Cop City from Constitution Road. Once on the property the SOG SWAT team would search from south to north on the west side of the property. There were two other search teams that were also in Cop City, Team #1 and #3. One team would enter with Team #2 and search north on the east side of the property, and the other would enter from the north and search south.

The SOG SWAT team utilized a "Line Formation" to search and move through the dense wooded forest that makes up most of Cop City. This formation is used to search in densely wooded areas to ensure a thorough search is conducted, and accountability for personnel and positions are maintained. To ensure accountability is maintained, "team leaders" are assigned to the main formation, one on the left, right, and center, and they are positioned behind the main formation. I was the "team leader" on the left/west side of the formation.

The SOG SWAT team initially searched a small wooded area that lead into an open field. Once in the field we continued north for maybe 100 yards to the main forest area. Before we could enter the wooded area in front of us, several of my teammates were able to see tents inside the woodline. Assigned to our team were agents from the GBI, officers from the Atlanta Police Department, and Rangers from the Department of Natural Resources, who were partnered with their K9s. We requested the DNR Rangers with their K9s assist us in our approach of the tents and contact with trespassers. As the team entered the wood line and began approaching the tents, other tents were also being observed deeper into the woods. The team made contact with several trespassers in the first few tents we encountered. From my position on the left side, and approximately 15 yards from the encounters, I did not hear any behavior that could be described as aggressive from either the trespassers or law enforcement. As we continued searching I could now observe several tents a short distance ahead of me. It appeared that this encampment was larger than the ones we previously encountered. Just prior to our approach to the encampment, the GBI advised that anyone encountered from this point on would be arrested for Criminal Trespass.

I, along with TFC [REDACTED] approached the encampment from the west side toward a tent located near the edge. As I approached the tent from its rear, I was observing it as I walked along the side of it, but was more focused on the layout of the encampment and teammates entering into the area. TFC

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

[REDACTED], who was behind me announced that he could see movement coming from inside the tent indicating that it was occupied. I turned my attention back to the tent and began to search slowly as I came around the front of the tent. Once I could observe the front of the tent and see that the door flap appeared closed, I positioned myself behind a small tree. From this position I could not see the suspect, later identified as Manuel Esteban Paez Teran, but could observe movement coming from inside. I announced and identified myself as "Police" and ordered Teran to exit the tent. I stated this verbal order not in a loud, authoritative tone, but in a normal conversational tone. Because of the previous encounters with trespassers I assumed that this encounter would be no different and that Teran would comply voluntarily as the others did. I continued to observe movement in the tent and assumed Teran may be getting dressed because of the time of morning, or collecting personal items before exiting. After giving Teran a moment, the suspect did not exit or indicate he was intending to. I again announced "Police" and ordered Teran to exit the tent in the same tone as before. TFC [REDACTED], who was still positioned to my right also made a similar order for Teran to exit. The movement inside the tent continued, but Teran did not exit or indicate any intention that he would. I advised Teran that we did not want to cause him any harm and that if he followed my orders I could guarantee his safety, but he needed to comply and exit. Teran finally responded to my orders by zipping up and closing the tent door completely. Because of Teran's position in the tent I never saw him when he zipped up the tent. This act immediately indicated that Teran was actively resisting my lawful orders and had no intention of complying. I also realized that Teran was not just resisting my orders, but barricading inside the tent. After Teran zipped the door closed and barricaded inside, I requested over the radio that I needed one of my teammates equipped with a non-lethal Pepperball system to move to my position for a suspect refusing to comply. Corporal [REDACTED], who was the team leader in the center of the formation and equipped with the Pepperball system, acknowledged my request and began moving to my position. TFC [REDACTED], who is our SWAT K9 handler also began moving to my location to assist. I returned to giving Teran lawful orders to exit the tent, but I also advised him he was now under arrest for Criminal Trespass. I believe that TFC [REDACTED] also advised Teran that he was under arrest for Criminal Trespass, and that he needed to exit the tent. My communications with Teran are still in a conversational tone and he had yet responded to us verbally, or shown any indication of complying. Again, with no sign of compliance, I informed Teran that if he did not comply with our lawful orders that we would use chemical agents to influence his cooperation. By this time Cpl [REDACTED] and TFC [REDACTED] had reached my position and were standing near me. I again advised Teran that he was under arrest for Criminal Trespass and that we would use the chemical agents if he did not comply. I advised him that I did not want to resort to those measures and that he needed stop resisting and comply. My orders to Teran were never aggressive, because I thought I could convince him to exit the tent and surrender. Teran then partially unzipped the top of the tent and peered out at us. I could only see Teran from his nose to his forehead. At this point I thought I had convinced him to surrender, but instead he retreated back into the tent. At some point during this time, Cpl [REDACTED] warned Teran of the impending use of chemical agents if he did not comply and surrender. As I was again advising Teran that he was under arrest for Criminal Trespass and that he needed to exit his tent, Teran responded

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

with “No, I want you to leave”, in a tone that was low in volume, but in a tone that sounded defiant and committed. I responded to Teran’s comment that we were not going to leave, he was not going to avoid being arrested, and we wanted him to surrender. When Teran did not comply, Cpl [REDACTED] introduced a volley of Pepperball munitions into the front of the tent.

It felt like several seconds had passed for Teran to show signs that he was affected by the chemical agent. I felt sure that the deployment inside the small confined tent would quickly encourage Teran’s surrender. However, shortly after the deployment of the Pepperball munitions, the suspect began firing from inside the tent at TFC [REDACTED], Cpl [REDACTED], and I. As the suspect began shooting I could hear the rounds cracking as they passed me. Although I was wearing hearing protection, the gunshots were loud and distinctive. I felt my teammates moving behind me as they moved to my right to avoid being shot and killed. As they moved behind me I knew it was my responsibility to provide them cover using my body and body armor. As I remained briefly in that position I knew I was going to be shot and likely killed at any moment. As my teammates moved behind me it felt like one of them grabbed me to pull me out of the line of fire. As I began moving to my right I could still hear the gunfire from the suspect’s weapon, and in the process of moving I stepped on a limb, causing me to lose my balance and fall. As I was falling I was thinking how many more times can he shoot before he is out of ammo. I felt like he was never going to run out of bullets. After landing on the ground and trying to regain an upright position on one knee, I absolutely knew I was going to be shot and was preparing to feel the impact of the bullet. I knew there was no way he could miss me at this distance. After getting to my knee I could hear my teammates already returning fire into the tent. I began to raise my rifle to return fire, but could not hear Teran’s gunfire. I paused very briefly, thinking that my teammates may have stopped Teran’s actions. However, I heard a loud boom to my left towards the front of the tent. When I glanced to my left I observed a large white cloud of smoke as whatever type of device was thrown by Teran exploded. At this point I realized Teran was still an active threat, he was still actively trying to kill me and my teammates, and he was throwing bombs. Not only could he kill me and my teammates that were near me, but other teammates in the encampment. I began engaging the tent where Teran was located inside with my rifle. After shooting several rounds I ceased firing to access the situation, as my teammates were ceasing their fire. I did not observe any sign that Teran was still a threat and immediately began checking on the status of my teammates. I had observed TFC [REDACTED] fall farther to the east from my position and did not know at that time he had been shot. However, as I was checking the status of my teammates, I knew there was no way one of us had not been hit by Teran’s gunfire. As I was beginning to coordinate my next course of action, I learned that TFC [REDACTED] was shot by the suspect. The team immediately began to assist in providing medical care to TFC [REDACTED] and coordinated his evacuation from the location. As medical care and the evacuation were being performed by some members of our team, others were continuing to clear the other tents to secure the area. A plan was developed to clear the tent where Teran was located and secure his person. Medical personnel were notified to be on standby to provide medical care once we had him secure. The team utilized a ballistic shield and deployed a diversionary device as they opened and cleared the tent.

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

Inside, Teran was located suffering from multiple gunshot wounds and was unquestionably deceased from his wounds. A handgun was observed inside the tent near Teran's body. After Teran, his tent, and the rest of the encampment was secured, I remained at the location briefly before being escorted out of the woods. I, along with my other teammates involved in the incident were escorted out of woods by a GBI agent. We were escorted back to the open field where we had entered the woods earlier. Here, we coordinated and cooperated with Investigators from the Georgia State Patrol's Office of Professional Standards and agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation that would be investigating the incident.

**Narrative: INITIAL**

Narrative Date/Time <b>03/17/2023 22:14:56</b>		Narrative Synopsis		
Reporting Officer [REDACTED]	Officer Rank <b>SFC</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]	Officer Org/Unit <b>STATE PATROL [REDACTED]</b>	
Officer Signature		Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		

TFC2 [REDACTED] narrative

This is my recollection of the events to the best of my knowledge: On 1/18/2023, at approximately 0730 hours GSP SWAT was assisting the GBI in a multi-agency operation in the area of 1327 Key Road in Atlanta Georgia. The purpose of the operation was to enter and clear a wooded area that was being inhabited by domestic terrorists who were criminally trespassing and committing other crimes. Prior to the operation we were briefed on the different crimes and tactics being utilized by these domestic terrorists. By the means of intelligence gathering, we were told that the some of the subjects were seen carrying rifles and wearing camouflage. We were also told that the entrance to the wooded area was barricaded, and members of this domestic terrorist group were utilizing booby traps and explosives to prohibit law enforcement from clearing the wooded area. We were also told that members of this group were utilizing trail cameras, lookouts and scanning police radios to monitor police activities. Intel also suggested that this group was responsible for several arsons and were known to throw Molotov cocktails as well as fecal matter and urine. We were also advised that a clearing attempt like this operation had occurred last summer.

I remember thinking that this group was organized and very dangerous. Our team was divided into two separate bear cats, and we also had our armored Rook for this operation. Several members were designated as less lethal operators and we had our SWAT K9 present as well. We were going to search through the woods in a line formation and contact anyone criminally trespassing in this wooded area. Our briefing confirmed that anyone present on the property was violating Georgia law and were subject to being arrested.

We left the staging area and made our way to the wooded area. We were all dressed in our issued GSP SWAT uniform which have GSP SWAT sleeve patches. Our plate carriers also had identifying

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

patches that were large and read "POLICE STATE TROOPER". Through the front windshield of the bear cat, I could see that the access gate to this property had been barricaded with large logs, sticks, and large pieces of aluminum by those that were occupying the wooded area. Once the bearcat stopped, I dismounted and watched the armored Rook tear down this barricade. When the barricade was finally torn down, we began our movement into a large clear-cut field. Our team had split up initially, and I was on the far-right side of the property with several of GSP SWAT members. We got into our woodland search formation which extended from the clear-cut field to the road and began to walk through the dense woods. I remember watching the base of every tree as I walked past to ensure there was not a trip wire or a booby trap. After every step that I took, I would take a small breath of relief because I hadn't stepped on a booby trap. We cleared that wooded area all the way to a clear-cut power line. Then we were ordered to load back into the bear cat and link up with the other GSP bear cat team in order to form a large woodland formation.

The woodland search formation utilized was just a simple line formation. We were spread far enough out horizontally where we would cover a large portion of the woods but still had line of sight to the SWAT team member to the left and right. Behind us were GBI agents who were dressed in exterior armor vests and gun belts.

Once our line was set and command had positive accountability of all our team members, we began to walk into the wood line. I was on the left portion of the line. In front of me, I had a 2-man DNR team with their k-9. It wasn't very long in our woodland movement until we came across a hammock covered by a tarp and a couple of tents. TFC [REDACTED] began to give loud verbal commands to the occupants in the hammock. A female voice came from inside the hammock and a woman stepped down. A male who was also in the hammock stepped down as well complying with the orders given by TFC [REDACTED]. I placed the male in flexcuffs and turned him over to the GBI. A tent that was to my right was also occupied by a male. That male was placed in flexcuffs by other members of our SWAT team and turned over to the GBI. TFC [REDACTED] placed the female in flexcuffs as well. She was turned over to the GBI. Once those occupants from the first set of tents were turned over to the GBI, the formation went back into motion and continued to clear the woods.

Shortly after, the right side of the line came across another set of tents. The formation paused as the right side handled clearing those tents. While the formation was paused, I could hear voices and the sound of people running through the woods. TFC [REDACTED] relayed that information on our SWAT radio channel. While we were paused, TFC [REDACTED] saw another set of tents directly in front of us. Once the encampment on the right side of the formation was cleared. The line continued its forward movement.

As we cleared through the brush, I could see a tent almost directly in front of me. It was white and green colored. I walked to the left of the tent and told SFC [REDACTED] who was beside me that I could see movement inside the tent. SFC [REDACTED] pushed towards the front of the tent and began to give several loud verbal commands directly at the tent. There was no response from the tent initially. I began to give loud verbal commands at the tent as well. We still did not receive any response. I remember SFC [REDACTED] specifically notifying the occupant of the tent that he was under arrest for criminal trespassing and that he needed to come out of the tent unarmed. After numerous verbal commands were ignored, SFC

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

[REDACTED] called for one of the assigned pepperball launcher operators to make their way to the tent. CPL [REDACTED] approached our location with a pepperball launcher followed by TFC [REDACTED] and his K9 partner Robby. We created an L position for safety and to focus on the tent as the subject inside was under arrest and refusing to comply with our lawful orders.

There were several operators on the left side of the tent and several more in front of the tent. CPL [REDACTED] began to give loud verbal commands to the occupant of the tent advising that refusal to exit the tent would result in the deployment of a chemical agent. It was then that the occupant of the tent finally spoke up. The occupant refused to comply with commands and stated that he was not coming out. His tone was serious and calm and caused me concern that he was becoming a barricaded subject or at least planning to escalate his resistance. TFC [REDACTED] then proceeded to give the occupant of the tent loud verbal commands. Those were also ignored. CPL [REDACTED] then proceeded to launch pepperballs near the front of the tent. The chemical agent in the pepperballs would travel through the tent entrance with the wind when the pepperballs broke.

I am familiar with the sound of the pepperball launcher which sounds like a paintball gun as both use air to propel the balls from the barrel. The pepperball gun sounds nothing like a firearm. As soon as he finished launching the pepperballs, I heard actual gun shots being fired from inside of the tent towards our direction. SFC [REDACTED] dove out of the way awkwardly and hit the ground hard, and I believed he had been shot. I could see that TFC [REDACTED] was in a kneeling position returning gunfire towards the tent. It was apparent that the occupant of the tent was trying to injure or kill one of my team members. He was committing the forcible felony of aggravated assault as he fired upon their positions. He was also creating a risk of serious injury or death to the other people in the tents around us. In order to stop the threat, I aimed my issued rifle towards the tent, at a downward angle to avoid striking anyone other than the suspect who was firing at us and began to fire. During the exchange of gunfire, an incendiary or smoke device was deployed from inside the tent and a thick smoke cloud formulated from under the tent. I believe the suspect inside the tent deployed the smoke device. At some point, a team member yelled cease fire. Shortly after, someone yelled that TFC [REDACTED] was shot and was down. As medical personnel and team members made their way to TFC [REDACTED] position, I held my sights at the tent ensuring that the threat was stopped.

As team members and medical personnel began to work on extracting TFC [REDACTED], I took cover behind a nearby tree and continued to scan the tent to provide security for the medics and others arriving at the scene. Once TFC [REDACTED] was extracted, other team members arrived with a ballistic shield for protection as they were going to approach the tent. We still had no idea if the suspect was injured, and it was our obligation to provide medical treatment once the threat had ceased. As the team approached, I moved to a position in front of the tent and continued to cover it. The other team members deployed a diversionary device and approached the tent. The tent was opened by the zipper and cut open on the left side; I moved to the left side of the tent. I could see that the suspect inside had sustained severe gunshot wound injuries. I heard a team member state that they observed a pistol inside the tent. I observed a kydex holder that was located at the opposite side of the tent. We called for medical personnel to evaluate the suspect. It was determined that he was deceased. We

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

were still at an active scene and there were still tents that needed to be cleared. I visually checked each one the SWAT members vests to ensure they hadn't sustained any gunshot wounds as we were all placed in danger when the suspect began shooting from inside the tent. The Troopers involved in the incident were escorted out of the woods by a GBI agent as the rest of the team, and other law enforcement officers continued clearing tents.

**Narrative: INITIAL**

Narrative Date/Time <b>03/17/2023 22:17:20</b>		Narrative Synopsis		
Reporting Officer [REDACTED]	Officer Rank <b>SFC</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]	Officer Org/Unit <b>STATE PATROL [REDACTED]</b>	
Officer Signature	Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			

Sgt. [REDACTED] narrative

The following statement is a recitation of the facts regarding the Officer Involved Shooting that occurred on January 18th, 2023, as I recall them to the best of my recollection.

On January 18, 2023, Georgia State Patrol SWAT was requested to assist in a Multi-Agency Operation at the future site of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center as known as "Cop City". The purpose of the operation was to identify and remove protestors who were trespassing. Protestors have been camping on site sabotaging construction efforts for several months. Prior to the operation local agencies had searched the property in the past and arrested protestors.

I, Sgt. [REDACTED] arrived at the SWAT office in Atlanta at 0515 hours where a briefing was conducted, and assignments were given. After the briefing everyone prepared their equipment and loaded into their assigned vehicles and traveled to the staging location. Once at the staging location SWAT command attended a briefing with the agencies assisting in the operation. Orders were given to arrest protestors for criminal trespass and break down tents once they were checked. It was advised to be mindful that the protestors set barricades and booby traps on the property.

At approximately 0800 hours all agencies traveled to the future site of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center. Upon our arrival, a barricade was located and blocking the driveway leading to the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center property. TFC. [REDACTED] utilized the Rook, an armored skid-steer and moved the barricade out of the way. All team members exited their vehicles and formed a line formation at the front of the property. I was on the left side of the line formation close to the creek bed. We began to move forward searching the property for protestors and campsites.

Not long into our search, several tents occupied and unoccupied by protestors were located. They appeared to be compliant. Once the handful of protestors were detained and tents were broken down, we continued our search. We approached what was believed to be considered the living room where multiple tents were located. We approached a two-man green and white tent covered by two brown tarps. There was a lot of camping gear out in front of the tent like someone had been camping for some

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

time. TFC. [REDACTED] and SFC. [REDACTED] observed movement in the tent. We formed a L-shaped formation and began giving verbal commands. Facing the front of the tent, I was positioned on the right side, to the left of TFC. [REDACTED] maybe 3-5 yards from the tent. I was not able to see the subject and the door was zipped closed. SFC. [REDACTED] gave the verbal commands in a calm non-aggressive voice to the subject inside. He advised the subject in the tent we were the police, and he was trespassing and needed to come out of the tent peacefully. The subject did not comply, nor did he respond. Verbal Commands were continued requesting the subject to come out of the tent peacefully and his safety would be guaranteed. The subject finally replied in a committed voice stating something along the lines of he wanted us to leave, and he was not going to leave. The subjects voice sounded like a male. Verbal commands were continued and advised that he was under arrest for Criminal Trespassing and a less lethal chemical agent would be deployed in the tent if he did not comply and come out of the tent peacefully. A reasonable amount of time was allowed for the subject to come out of the tent, but he refused. SFC. [REDACTED] requested pepper ball rounds. Cpl. [REDACTED], TFC. [REDACTED], and K9 Robby arrived at the front of the tent. Cpl. [REDACTED] advised the subject that less lethal chemical agents would be deployed into the tent if he did not comply. Again a reasonable amount of time was given, but the subject refused to come out of the tent. Due to the subject obstructing law enforcement officers and barricaded in the tent, Cpl. [REDACTED] deployed less lethal pepper ball rounds into the tent. Seconds after Cpl. [REDACTED] stopped, I heard multiple gun shots being fired from within the tent. I observed the rounds exiting the front of the tent in the direction of SFC. [REDACTED], Cpl. [REDACTED], TFC. [REDACTED], and K9 Robby. I observed all of them falling back. At this moment I was in fear for my life and the lives of my teammates and others in the area. The subject had no regard for human life, blindly fired through the tent at Police Officers. At any moment he could have pointed his weapon in my direction and blindly fire at me and my other teammates. I believed that the only way to stop the subject from injuring or killing us was to use deadly force against him. Using my department issued SWAT rifle, in self-defense, I returned fire in the direction of where I observed the rounds exited the tent and moved backwards to find cover. Once I found cover, I pointed my weapon at the tent ready to reengage, but a ceasefire was given. After the ceasefire, I heard someone yell medic and [REDACTED] had been shot. I ran to TFC. [REDACTED] to help render aid until medics arrived. TFC. [REDACTED] suffered a gunshot wound to his [REDACTED]. He appeared conscious and was breathing, but his skin was turning pale. I helped apply pressure while medics assessed TFC. [REDACTED]. The medics assessed TFC. [REDACTED] wound and advised he needed to be transported to the hospital as soon as possible. We began to carry TFC. [REDACTED] out of the woods but opted it would be quicker to use DNR to transport him with their ATV's. After TFC. [REDACTED] was secured on an ATV and sent to the hospital. I returned to the tent where the shooting occurred. Other teammates had arrived and breached the tent and secured the scene. I glanced at the subject in the tent and observed a black handgun laying by his body.

GSP SWAT Team members who were not involved in the shooting secured the scene for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). All teammates involved in the shooting were transported back to the SWAT office to wait for the GBI and Department of Public Safety (DPS) investigators.



Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

**Narrative: INITIAL**

Narrative Date/Time <b>03/17/2023 22:21:32</b>	Narrative Synopsis
---	--------------------

Reporting Officer [REDACTED]	Officer Rank <b>SFC</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]	Officer Org/Unit <b>STATE PATROL [REDACTED]</b>
Officer Signature	Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		

TFC [REDACTED] narrative

On January 18th, 2023, at approximately 0700 hours a.m. I was participating in an operation with the Georgia State Patrol (GSP), Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T. / SWAT) Team combined with multiple other agencies. The location was a wooden area in DeKalb County known as COP CITY, a future training facility for APD and AFD.

This was a planned operation to locate, and arrest activists known as "The Forest Defenders," that have established illegal camping inside the forest on the ground, and above ground in trees. We were told that the group has a history of hostility, vandalism, and violence. The well-organized activist's group had previously set a Bank of America branch on fire, and a truck. As part of their tactics, they were known to use cocktail Molotov, rocks, high powered lasers, trenches, and barricades to prevent the construction of the training facility. There was intel that there could possibly be booby traps and explosive devices (IED's) inside the forest planted by the individuals. We were also told that all the people on the property were subject to arrest for criminal trespass.

All members of the GSP SWAT team were dressed in our SWAT uniform, ballistic helmets, and plate armor. Our uniforms have shoulder patches that read "GSP SWAT" and on the front and or back, our uniforms have patches that read "POLICE STATE TROOPER."

As the morning went on and the team was preparing for the operation, we were briefed by Command Staff with details about the operation and what to expect. Shortly after the briefing, the law enforcement convoy vehicles moved through Constitution Road, the location where we made entry to the forest by removing a metal barricade set-up by the activists with "The Rook", an armored skid steer vehicle used by GSP S.W.A.T.

I, with the rest of the team, made entry into the woods in a line formation. I was positioned on the far-left side of the line. GBI agents with plate armor and weapons walked behind us. Approximately thirty minutes after we made entry, I visually located a suspect walking approximately 100 yd on my 11:00 o'clock position. Immediately, I advised the members of the team about the suspect's location. Shortly after, I spotted an orange in color tent right where the suspect was walking. The right side of the team

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name <b>[REDACTED]</b>
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

made an approach to the tent where the suspects were. The suspects followed commands and were peacefully arrested for illegal trespassing, secured in flex cuffs, and turned over to GBI agents.

We then continued to move into the woods where more tents and suspects were spotted. While part of the team was focusing on the suspects that were just found, the left side of the team stopped and waited in line to provide security and continue the search. Suddenly, we heard voices coming from the west side of our location. Once the team was back in the line formation, we continued the search into the woods moving towards the location where the voices were likely coming from. This is when I spotted a camouflage tent sitting next to another brownish tent, so I immediately notified the team about the location of the tents. As the team approached the brown tent, an L-line formation was assembled in front of the tent for safety and to focus on the tent. I was on the far-right side of the team approximately 10:00 o'clock from the front entrance of the tent. The team leader gave several verbal commands in a calm and controlled manner to any possible tent occupants, to come out of the tent with their hands up. This is when I believe that I heard what sounded like a male voice saying, "I am not coming out." His voice was calm, determined, and concerned me. I believed that the subject was indicating his intent to resist arrest. This also indicated to me that the person was alone in the tent.

While standing in line with team members more commands were given to the suspect without any positive response. Team members also told the subject inside the tent that he was under arrest. The team leaders advised the suspect that they would use less lethal force if he did not come out. The suspect refused to comply, so pepper ball was used as a less lethal resource to force the suspect to come out of the tent.

Immediately after, I noticed smoke coming from the tent as if the suspect was attempting to use some type of incendiary device. Seconds later, coming from within the tent, I heard what appeared to be gunshots and although the bug screen of the tent was zipped close, I could see the muzzle flashes coming from within the tent. On my left peripheral vision, I saw that one of our team members went to the ground. I thought he had been shot. Cpl. [REDACTED] was on his knee returning fire in the same direction where the gunshots were coming from, and I thought to myself, "Oh my God, we are getting shot at." That's when I feared for my life and the lives of my teammates, so using my SWAT primary weapon, my rifle, I also returned fire in the direction where the muzzle flashes were coming from. I shot at a downward angle to avoid any injuries to people in the tents around us. This situation happened very quickly.

Seconds later, I heard a loud voice yelling, "Cease fire, Cease fire." A silence took place for what seemed like a few seconds, when suddenly I could hear a faint voice coming from my left side saying, "I'm hit, I'm hit".

Because of training muscle memory, immediately after the shooting, I began to scan the area for

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

additional possible threats. That's when I spotted more tents behind me approximately 60 yards away to my right, so I immediately advised Cpl. [REDACTED] of what I saw. He replied, "fix on it". I was concerned that our team might be attacked by other shooters inside those tents.

At that time, more team members arrived from different directions, and there were already enough officers focusing on the shooter's tent, so I set myself behind cover and focused solely on the tents behind us, in case more suspects attempted to engage with lethal weapons. This is when team members from Atlanta PD arrived to clear the tents that I was focused on. Once the Atlanta PD took control of those tents, I turned back to the direction of the suspect's tent and stood guard. When I looked at the tent, I saw Cpt. [REDACTED] leading as a shield man with a team in line formation slowly approaching the suspect's tent and giving verbal commands for the suspect to come out of the tent. Without any response, a team member used a knife to cut the side of the tent. This is when a team member looked down, and immediately yelled, "medic, we need medic." This is when we were certain that the suspect posed no more threat to us.

One of my last memories of the incident is when I heard one of the team members yell that we needed six men to carry [REDACTED] out of the woods.

After the shooting, SWAT Team members not involved in the incident stayed behind securing the scene for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). I, Cpl. [REDACTED], Sgt. [REDACTED], TFC III [REDACTED] and SFC [REDACTED] walked back to our armored vehicle and were transported back to the GSP headquarters to wait for the GBI and Department of Public Safety (DPS) investigators.

**Officer: Approving Supervisor (Supplement 01)**

Officer Name [REDACTED]	Officer Rank <b>LIEUTENANT</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]	Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>
Approval Date / Time <b>03/22/2023 14:56:26</b>	Officer Signature [REDACTED]		

Sup #	Officer Name Rank / ID #	Involvement On Report / Reporting Role	Officer Agency Org/Unit
01	[REDACTED] TFC	ASSISTING OFFICER	GEORGIA STATE PATROL TROOP A / POST 29 / SWAT
01	[REDACTED] SFC	REPORTING OFFICER / REPORTING OFFICER	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY STATE PATROL\SWAT
01	[REDACTED] CPL	ASSISTING OFFICER	GEORGIA STATE PATROL TROOP K/ SWAT
01	[REDACTED] TFC	ASSISTING OFFICER	GEORGIA STATE PATROL TROOP K / SWAT
01	[REDACTED] TFC2	ASSISTING OFFICER	GEORGIA STATE PATROL TROOP K / SWAT

Report Date / Time <b>02/13/2023 14:52:39</b>	Report Number <b>DPS00065326 (01)</b>	Report Case/CAD Number <b>DPS00065326 / GSPC23CAD008685</b>	Reporting Officer Rank / ID <b>SFC / [REDACTED]</b>	Reporting Officer Name [REDACTED]
Originating Agency ORI <b>GAGSP0000</b>	Reported to Agency Date <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00</b>	Occur Date Range <b>01/18/2023 04:14:00 - 01/18/2023 22:59:00</b>	Jurisdiction <b>GADPS</b>	Status: Clearance: <b>ARREST</b>
Offense Description <b>N005 ASSAULT ON A PEACE OFFICER</b>				

Sup #	Officer Name Rank / ID #	Involvement On Report / Reporting Role	Officer Agency Org/Unit
01	[REDACTED] <b>SGT</b>	<b>ASSISTING OFFICER</b>	<b>GEORGIA STATE PATROL TROOP C / POST 9 / SWAT</b>
01	[REDACTED] <b>LIEUTENANT</b>	<b>APPROVING SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY GSPKISWAT</b>

The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe that the above named Defendant, committed violation(s), of law, on the below date(s) and time(s), as listed in the narratives associated with this report:

**Officer: Reporting Officer (Supplement01)**

Officer Name [REDACTED]	Office Rank <b>SFC</b>	Officer ID No [REDACTED]
Officer Agency <b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		
Officer Signature [REDACTED]		