

ASIRT DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF AN RCMP SHOOTING NEAR
TOFIELD ON DECEMBER 23, 2024**

Acting Executive Director: Matthew Block

File No.: 2024-0067(N)

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Introduction

On December 23, 2024, pursuant to s. 46.1 of the *Police Act*, the Director of Law Enforcement directed the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to investigate a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) shooting of the affected person (AP). Two officers were designated as subject officers (SO1 and SO2), with notice to each. ASIRT's investigation is now complete.

ASIRT's Investigation

ASIRT's investigation was comprehensive and thorough, conducted using current investigative protocols, and in accordance with the principles of major case management.

ASIRT investigators interviewed 11 police officers, including the following:

Subject Officer #1 (SO1) – an Emergency Response Team (ERT) officer who shot at the AP;

Subject Officer #2 (SO2) – an ERT officer who shot at the AP;

Witness officer #1 (WO1) – an ERT officer who attended the scene;

Witness officer #2 (WO2) – an ERT officer who attended the scene;

Witness officer #3 (WO3) – an ERT officer who attended the scene;

Witness officer #4 (WO4) – an ERT officer who attended the scene;

Witness officer #5 (WO5) – an ERT officer who attended the scene; and

Witness officer #6 (WO6) – a Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) officer who made efforts to negotiate with the AP.

ASIRT investigators obtained notes or reports from 14 additional police officers, including the following:

Witness officer #7 (WO7) – an officer who initially attended the AP's residence to execute arrest warrants and observed the AP holding a gun; and

Witness officer #8 (WO8) – an officer who initially attended the AP's residence to execute arrest warrants and observed the AP holding a gun.

ASIRT investigators reviewed all available video of the incident, including recordings from an RCMP helicopter and an RCMP drone.

Circumstances Surrounding the Incident

On December 23, 2024, RCMP officers attended at a trailer home on a rural property outside Tofield to arrest the occupant, the AP, on outstanding warrants for assault with a weapon and uttering threats. The AP was also a person of interest in a recent arson at the Tofield RCMP detachment.

When officers attended the residence and advised the AP that he was under arrest, he produced a black pistol and retreated inside the trailer, closing the door behind him. Officers disengaged, established containment, and subsequently obtained a warrant authorizing entry into the residence for the purpose of arresting the AP (a Feeney warrant). The RCMP activated the Critical Incident Program (CIP), resulting in the deployment of a Critical Incident Commander, the Emergency Response Team (ERT), the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), and the Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU).

A CNT negotiator established telephone communication with the AP, who appeared calm and sober but refused to surrender. During negotiations, the AP claimed that he had explosives strapped to his body that he would detonate if police entered the residence. He also claimed to possess an M-16 rifle loaded with armour-piercing ammunition.

ERT officers assumed inner containment of the property. Two snipers – S01 and S02 – established an observation post from an unmarked police vehicle positioned on a neighbouring property. At various times, the subject officers observed the AP inside the trailer through windows and noted that he appeared to be wearing bulky clothing. On one occasion, the AP was observed holding a small object believed to be a possible detonator, lending credibility to his claims of wearing an explosive vest.

A Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV) was deployed and used its hydraulic arm to breach a front window of the trailer. A drone was flown into the residence, capturing footage of the AP with a pistol tucked into his waistband before he destroyed the drone using a sword.

After approximately 3.5 hours and unsuccessful negotiations, CNT advised that there was no viable option to achieve a peaceful surrender. ERT officers deployed a chemical irritant into the trailer to compel the AP to exit. The negotiator again advised the AP to exit unarmed with his hands raised. Instead, the AP exited the residence onto the front porch holding what appeared to officers to be a black handgun and a double-bladed sword. Officers issued loud verbal commands directing him to drop the weapons and raise his hands, which he ignored.

ERT officers deployed three less-lethal 40-mm direct impact rounds. Only one round struck the AP in the abdomen, causing him to flinch but not surrender. The AP then moved off the porch onto the lower deck, still armed, and proceeded southbound along the deck toward the main road. Additional officers were positioned in that area, and civilian bystanders were also present on a neighbouring property after refusing evacuation or shelter-in-place directives. As the AP continued southward towards the end of the trailer, he was struck by a less-lethal round to the head. At approximately the same time, S02 discharged one round from his carbine, followed a split-second later by a single round fired by S01 from his rifle. The AP fell to the ground.

ERT officers advanced toward the AP, repeatedly instructing him to show his hands as he continued to move. Additional less-lethal rounds were discharged. Officers then secured the AP and immediately began first aid efforts. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) attended and subsequently pronounced the AP deceased at the scene.

The AP sustained a single gunshot wound, which was determined to be the cause of death. No expended bullets were recovered at the scene or during the autopsy, preventing a forensic comparison to the subject officers' firearms. As a result, it could not be determined whether S01 or S02 fired the fatal shot. The handgun carried by the AP during the incident was later determined to be a pellet gun. No functioning explosives or firearms were located on the property. The AP was found to be wearing a tensor back brace that secured a sealed bag containing a white food substance, which appeared designed to simulate an explosive vest.

Scene

ASIRT investigators oversaw a scene examination conducted by members of the RCMP Forensic Identification Service unit.

A black pellet handgun and a long sword, which had a central handle with blades at opposite ends, were seized (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1 – The AP’s pellet gun.

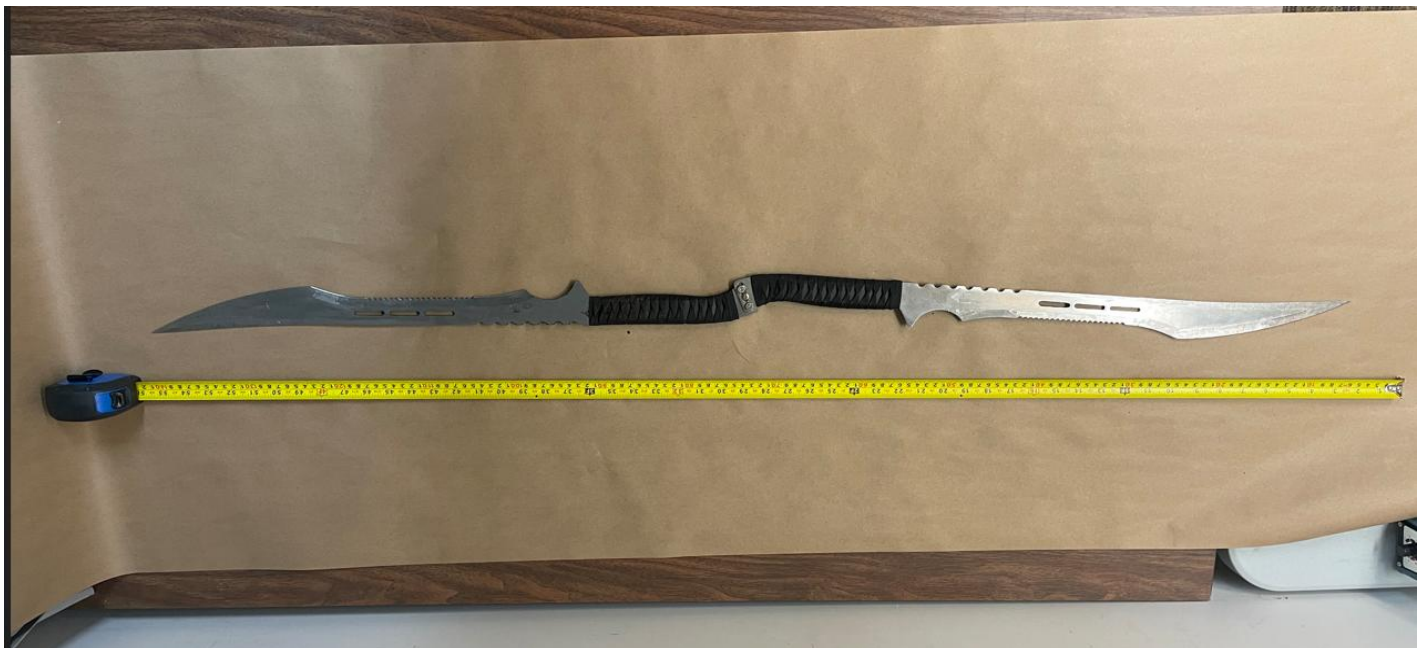


Figure 2 – The AP’s sword.

A clear plastic bag containing approximately 2.5 kg of white bee feed, which had been secured to the AP's torso using a back brace and had shifted to the side during the provision of medical assistance, was seized.

No expended bullets or bullet fragments were located at the scene. There were also no defects observed on the exterior of the trailer consistent with bullet impacts. Numerous fragments from less-lethal munitions were located on the deck and in the surrounding area.

An ERT drone was located on the ground near the front of the residence. The drone's memory card was damaged, and no video footage could be recovered.

An unmarked police truck positioned on the neighbouring property to the west served as the sniper observation post from which both subject officers discharged their firearms. This vehicle was located approximately 54 metres from the front porch of the trailer.

Autopsy

An Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) pathologist performed an autopsy on the AP. The AP sustained a single fatal gunshot wound. The pathologist, in her report of May 20, 2025, concluded that the cause of death was a gunshot wound of the chest and neck. The entry wound was at the right upper back/posterior chest. The exit wound was at the left jawline. There were skin and soft tissue injuries consistent with having been struck by less-lethal projectiles to the face, ear, and the abdomen. Toxicology was negative for alcohol or illicit intoxicants.

Witness Officer #7 (WO7)

WO7's written report was provided to ASIRT investigators. His report included the following information.

Members of the Eastern Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) attended Tofield to execute the arrest of the AP on outstanding warrants for uttering threats and assault with a weapon. WO7 was aware that the AP had previously attempted suicide while in police custody and was also a person of interest in a Tofield arson investigation.

On the date in question, WO7 attended the AP's residence with WO8 and CRU members. They knocked at the front door but received no response. WO7 disconnected two security cameras located near the front door. CRU members advised that they would seek a Feeney warrant, and WO7 remained outside the residence with another officer.

The AP subsequently opened the trailer door. The accompanying officer advised the AP that he was under arrest and directed him to come outside. The AP remained at the doorway, speaking quietly to police and stating he would not exit the residence. The AP then reached behind his back toward his waistband, produced a black pistol, and raised it before closing the door. WO7 and the other officer immediately shouted, "Gun, gun, gun" and retreated to positions of cover behind their police vehicles. Officers maintained containment of the residence while awaiting the arrival of the ERT. Upon ERT's arrival, WO7 and the other officers repositioned to the outer perimeter.

Witness Officer #8 (WO8)

WO8's written report and notes were provided to ASIRT investigators. These items included the following information.

On the date in question, WO8 attended the AP's residence with WO7 and CRU members. Prior to attending, he confirmed that the outstanding warrants for the AP's arrest – for assault with a weapon and uttering threats – were still active.

Upon arrival, he parked in the driveway and approached the front door, announcing police presence. He was positioned just off the front porch with WO7 and another officer when the AP opened the door and asked what they wanted. An officer advised the AP that he was under arrest on the outstanding warrants and directed him to step outside. The AP appeared calm and stated that he was not going anywhere. He then reached behind his back and produced a black object. Someone immediately shouted, "Gun," and WO8 took cover behind a nearby truck. The AP subsequently closed the door to his residence.

He and the other officers present repositioned to cover behind a police vehicle located further back. The Real Time Operations Centre was contacted and advised of the unfolding situation. They were informed that the Critical Incident Command (CIC), ERT, CNT and Police Dog Services had all been notified. Officers on scene established containment of the residence while awaiting the arrival of these specialized resources.

Witness Officer #1 (WO1)

ASIRT investigators interviewed WO1.

WO1 assumed the lead in the TAV. Also inside the TAV were a negotiator in the front seat, WO2, WO4, and WO5 providing lethal cover, and WO3 providing a less-lethal use of force option.

Other officers made efforts to advise nearby residents to shelter in place or evacuate the area; however, several residents remained in their homes, and some came outside. WO1 observed several neighbours, approximately 200 metres to the southeast, watching the incident after refusing to shelter in place or leave the area, which presented a public safety concern.

Due to the lack of progress in negotiations with the AP, WO1 heard a non-lethal tactical plan verbally approved over the radio. The plan involved deploying chemical agents into the trailer to create discomfort and encourage the AP to exit the residence. WO1 was tasked with breaching a window near the main door to get a better view into the trailer. Using equipment mounted on the TAV, the window was breached, and a video equipped drone was deployed into the residence. From the live video feed, WO1 observed the AP moving inside the trailer and could see his upper body and head. The AP was wearing a light top, blue gloves, and had something strapped to his chest. His face was initially visible, but he subsequently donned a painter-type mask. The AP was holding a sword, and several additional swords were visible inside the residence. The AP was known to be in possession of a handgun and had advised the negotiator that he also possessed an assault style rifle and approximately 10 pounds of C-4 explosives, and that the front door was booby-trapped with explosives.

The negotiator advised that the AP was armed and anticipated that the incident would end in violence. Shortly after the drone entered the residence, the AP destroyed it with the sword he was carrying, resulting in the loss of the video feed. The AP remained antagonistic towards negotiations and tactical intervention was therefore deemed necessary.

Chemical agents were deployed into the residence, which resulted in the AP exiting the trailer onto the deck. The AP had changed clothing, and was now dressed entirely in black, wearing a bag containing a

white powder on his chest, and carrying a large sword. A sniper positioned to the west advised that the AP was holding a handgun. Due to safety concerns, officers did not dismount the TAV. A less-lethal 40-mm direct impact round was fired at the AP's lower body, causing him to wince, but not relinquish his weapons. WO1 fired a second 40-mm less-lethal round directed at the AP's upper body, which caused the AP to collapse. Officers then dismounted the TAV utilizing a shield. As they approached the AP, another 40-mm round was deployed, as the AP continued to disregard commands to show his hands.

Upon reaching the AP, he was observed lying face-down and bleeding from his face. EMS arrived shortly thereafter and provided medical assistance to the AP. WO1 did not hear any firearms being discharged during the final encounter with the AP. He noted that the diesel engine of the TAV, combined with the discharge of 40-mm rounds, generated significant noise and echoing within the TAV.

Witness Officer #2 (WO2)

ASIRT investigators interviewed WO2.

WO2 is a member of ERT and serves as the team's medic. On the date of the incident, he was requested to attend the AP's residence to assist. While en route, he monitored radio communications, receiving role assignments, and updates from the CNT. He heard the AP described as "closure motivated," which he understood to mean that the individual expressed a desire to die. Negotiations with the AP were reportedly unsuccessful.

WO2 was assigned the dual roles of medic and lethal overwatch. Upon arrival, he loaded his equipment into the TAV and reviewed a copy of the Feeney warrant, which outlined the objective of arresting the AP on outstanding warrants. He was also aware that the AP was a suspect in the arson of the Tofield RCMP detachment.

A drone was deployed into the AP's residence, and WO2 observed the live video feed. He noted the presence of numerous swords displayed on a wall inside the trailer and observed the AP strike and disable the drone with a sword, after which the video feed was lost.

WO2 subsequently learned that the AP had advised CNT negotiators that he possessed an M-16 rifle with armour-piercing ammunition, along with a large quantity of C-4 explosives. Based on this information, WO2 assessed the level of risk as high and believed the situation could escalate, with the AP potentially becoming hostile toward police or posing a risk to the public. A chemical agent deployment plan was discussed, and WO2 launched three chemical canisters into the residence through a window. A subsequent radio update indicated that the AP had exited the residence armed with both a firearm and a sword.

WO2 was positioned behind WO1 who was deploying less-lethal 40-mm rounds. After exiting the TAV, WO2 observed a 40-mm round strike the AP, though it appeared to have little effect. The AP began moving quickly toward the end of the deck, at which point WO2 heard snipers discharge their weapons. He observed WO4 retrieve a ballistic shield as officers prepared to advance on the AP who was then lying prone with a sword beneath him and an object strapped to his chest, believed to possibly be an explosive device. Medical aid was then initiated for the AP.

Witness Officer #3 (WO3)

ASIRT investigators interviewed WO3.

WO3 is a member of ERT. While en route to the call, he received information through the CIP group

chat and standard radio communications. He learned that general duty members had attended the AP's residence to execute arrest warrants. He was also advised that the AP was a suspect in the firebombing of the Tofield RCMP detachment, raising concerns that the AP could be armed with incendiary devices. General duty members encountered the AP at the door holding a handgun, prompting them to disengage and request ERT assistance.

Upon arrival at the scene, WO3 awaited the arrival of the TAV. His assigned role was to provide a less-lethal use of force option utilizing a 40-mm impact launcher.

The CNT established communication with the AP and advised officers that little progress was being made toward a peaceful surrender, as the AP was adamant that he would not submit to arrest. Once the TAV arrived, WO3 entered the vehicle with several other ERT members. Their initial task was to advance the TAV into the driveway of the AP's residence to assess the AP's reaction. This action did not result in any observable change in the AP's behaviour. Due to snow and traction concerns, the TAV was briefly backed off the property to install tire chains before re-entering and positioning in front of the trailer.

CNT continued to report that negotiations were unsuccessful and that the AP remained non-compliant. Snipers advised that the AP appeared to be holding an object. Using the TAV's hydraulic arm, officers breached a front window to allow for the deployment of a drone. A drone was flown into the residence, and WO3 briefly observed the live video feed before the AP struck the drone with a sword, disabling it and causing the feed to be lost.

CNT further advised that the AP claimed to have C-4 explosives positioned near the door and stated that he was armed with a rifle loaded with armour-piercing ammunition. Given the AP's suspected involvement in the firebombing of the Tofield detachment, officers were unable to discount these threats entirely.

CNT eventually advised that negotiations had reached an impasse. A decision was made to deploy chemical agents to make the environment uncomfortable and encourage the AP to exit the residence. The gas plan was approved, and WO3 was tasked with deploying three chemical canisters using his 40-mm launcher. His first canister struck the side of the trailer and landed in the snow. The second canister entered through the centre window. As WO3 prepared to deploy the third canister, the AP exited the residence through the front door. WO3 observed that the AP was armed with a three-foot long double-edged sword, which he held by a central handle, and was also in possession of a black handgun. Officers sought to prevent the AP from returning inside the residence, so WO3 deployed the third chemical canister through the open window to deny re-entry. He then heard someone state, "He's down."

WO3 exited the TAV with other ERT members and they advanced toward the AP, with WO4 positioned at the front holding a ballistic shield. WO3 transitioned his 40-mm launcher from chemical canisters to less-lethal rubber baton rounds. He observed the AP lying on his back on the front deck of the residence. The sword was visible off to his side; however, WO3 could not see the firearm the AP had been holding. Upon direction from another ERT member, WO3 fired a 40-mm baton round at the AP, though he was unsure whether it struck him. At that time, WO3 was not aware that the AP had been shot with a firearm. WO2 and WO4 then began medical interventions on the AP.

Witness Officer #4 (WO4)

ASIRT investigators interviewed WO4.

WO4 is a member of ERT and serves as a breach specialist and medic. On the date in question, he was deployed to the incident near Tofield. Initial information indicated that general duty members had attended the AP's residence to execute an arrest warrant and that the AP had answered the door while brandishing a pistol. The attending members disengaged, and ERT was requested. Further information was provided that the AP was also a person of interest in the firebombing of the Tofield RCMP detachment and had made threats involving explosives toward the Sherwood Park RCMP detachment.

WO4 attended the designated staging location and awaited the arrival of additional ERT members. Once the subject officers arrived, he assisted in setting up their observation post on a neighbouring property. When the TAV arrived, WO4 took a position inside the vehicle with other ERT members. The CNT continued to provide updates by radio, advising that the AP claimed to be in possession of an assault rifle with armour-piercing ammunition and had rigged C-4 explosives. CNT further reported that the AP stated he was wearing an explosive device and repeatedly indicated that he did not expect to survive the day.

A decision was made to breach a window using the TAV to facilitate the deployment of a drone into the residence. Once the TAV was positioned, WO4 operated the hydraulic arm to breach the picture window on the left side of the main door. CNT remained in continuous communication with the AP, who continued saying that he was not going to make it through the day and refusing to surrender. WO5 deployed a drone into the residence. Snipers reported the AP's movements and observed that he was wearing a bulky object beneath his clothing, possibly an explosive vest. The AP subsequently destroyed the drone using a sword.

ERT developed a plan to deploy chemical agents into the residence to disorient the AP and compel him to exit. WO4 was not involved in the deployment of the chemical munitions and was unsure of the quantity introduced. ERT members inside the TAV were equipped with a less-lethal 40-mm launcher to engage the AP should he exit onto the deck.

WO4 observed the AP open the front door and step onto the deck holding a pistol in his right hand, which he placed on the railing. The AP appeared nonchalant. Although WO4 did not personally observe a sword, he heard another officer indicate that the AP was armed with one. The AP had a bulky object concealed under his clothing and moved further onto the deck while holding the pistol.

WO4 was aware that officers were attempting to evacuate neighboring residents or have them shelter in place, but some individuals remained in the area. He believed that if the AP moved beyond the immediate vicinity of the residence, nearby residents and officers would be at risk. Less-lethal munitions were deployed at the AP from the TAV, specifically, 40-mm foam sponge impact rounds intended to achieve pain compliance. Some rounds contained a chemical agent designed to cause eye and respiratory irritation. WO4 observed at least one orange "poof," indicating the presence of a chemical agent. He could not determine whether this occurred before or after the AP moved away from the doorway and was unsure how many rounds were fired or struck the AP due to limited visibility from the TAV's port.

The AP moved southbound, appearing to run across the deck. WO4 advised that he was preparing to lower his firing port and bring his carbine to bear, to prevent the AP from fleeing into an area occupied by civilians and other RCMP members, given the AP's apparent suicidal behaviour. No lethal force order had been issued, and members were required to make individual threat assessments. When WO4

lowered the port, the AP was no longer visible. He then heard the radio transmission, "Blue shots away," indicating police gunfire. He was unable to see the AP, who had fallen behind debris on the deck after being shot.

WO4 retrieved a ballistic shield to enhance protection as the team exited the TAV and advanced toward the AP. As they approached, WO4 observed the AP still moving slightly and called for another ERT member to deploy an additional 40-mm impact round for pain compliance. He was unsure which member fired the round or where it struck the AP. The AP did not exhibit further movement, which indicated to WO4 that medical attention was required.

WO4 initiated first aid. He cut away the AP's clothing and observed a tensor back brace securing a vacuum-sealed bag containing a white substance to the AP's torso. He observed no visible wiring and carefully removed the item. Noting blood in the AP's mouth, WO4 positioned him on his side to reduce the risk of aspiration. He identified a significant injury near the right mandible in front of the ear, consistent with severe trauma. The AP was semi-conscious and experiencing respiratory distress. WO4 performed a surgical airway procedure. EMS arrived shortly thereafter, and WO4 maintained the airway while paramedics administered medication. Despite continued resuscitative efforts, the AP was later pronounced deceased.

Witness Officer #5 (WO5)

ASIRT investigators interviewed WO5.

WO5 is a member of ERT. On December 23, 2024, he received an alert notifying him of an ERT callout to Tofield. He was aware that detachment members had attended the AP's residence to execute an arrest warrant and that the AP had answered the door holding a firearm while stating he would not submit to arrest. General duty members disengaged, established containment around the residence, and requested ERT assistance.

Approximately 45 minutes to one hour after the initial callout, ERT members assembled at a staging area near the AP's residence and conducted a briefing while awaiting the arrival of the TAV. WO5 was assigned responsibility for deploying technological equipment from within the TAV as required. Once the TAV arrived, ERT members boarded the vehicle and advanced toward the trailer. Sniper observers were also deployed. The CNT maintained ongoing contact with the AP, and radio updates to the TAV indicated that the AP refused to surrender peacefully and had made threats to kill police. The AP further claimed to possess an M-16 rifle, multiple pounds of explosives strapped to his body, and C-4 explosives inside the trailer.

The initial plan involved breaching the bay window of the trailer to allow a drone to be deployed inside to obtain visual intelligence via a live video feed. Once the drone entered the trailer, WO5 observed that the AP had an object strapped to his chest. The AP watched the drone momentarily before striking it with a sword, disabling it and resulting in the loss of the video feed.

In response to the AP's actions and continued non-compliance, a decision was made to deploy chemical agents into the residence to compel him to exit. The deployment was effective, and the AP exited the trailer onto the deck. WO5 then heard someone say that the AP was armed with a gun and sword. The next tactical step involved the deployment of less-lethal 40-mm impact rounds, which were fired by WO1 and WO2. Shortly thereafter, WO5 heard the radio transmission, "Blue rounds away," indicating that police firearms had been discharged. The AP fell to the deck but continued to move. WO1 deployed an additional less-lethal round in an effort to gain compliance and prompt the AP to

drop his weapons and show his hands. ERT members then advanced to take the AP into custody and began providing medical assistance.

WO5 stated that his primary objective throughout the incident was to prevent the AP from gaining access to public areas, as the AP posed a significant risk to police officers and civilians due to his access to firearms, possible explosives, and swords.

Witness Officer #6 (WO6)

ASIRT investigators interviewed WO6.

WO6 is a member of the CNT and was assigned as the primary negotiator with the AP. WO6 contacted the AP on his cell phone and initiated a dialogue. The AP presented as calm, coherent, and conversational, and did not appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. From the outset, however, the AP was not receptive to surrendering or submitting to arrest and clearly stated that the situation would not end peacefully. The AP did not express interest in a resolution or exit strategy and repeatedly escalated his statements, claiming that he had C-4 explosives strapped to his body that he was prepared to detonate if police entered the residence. He also claimed to be in possession of a machine gun fitted with armour-piercing ammunition. The AP explained to WO6 that he answered the door holding a firearm when RCMP members initially attended to arrest him on the outstanding warrants because he always remains armed while at home, which he asserted was his right.

After the TAV arrived on scene, a window of the residence was breached, and a drone was deployed inside the trailer. The AP destroyed the drone shortly after its entry. In response, the AP accused police of escalating the situation, stating that they had driven a “tank” onto his property, damaged his tree, broken a window, and flown a drone into his residence. Throughout the negotiation, the AP provided multiple irrational or inconsistent narratives to justify his actions and remained adamant that he would neither disarm nor surrender.

WO6 made repeated efforts to encourage the AP to de-escalate and resolve the situation peacefully, but these efforts were unsuccessful. When chemical agents were later introduced into the trailer, WO6 heard over the radio that the AP had exited the residence onto the deck. At that point, WO6 believed the situation was nearing a critical juncture and made final attempts to persuade the AP to surrender. WO6 then heard the impact of 40-mm less-lethal rounds, followed shortly by gunfire, after which the telephone connection with the AP was lost.

Subject Officers

Subject officers, like all individuals under criminal investigation, have the constitutional right to remain silent. They are not obligated to participate in an ASIRT interview or to provide any information. In this case, however, both subject officers decided to participate in an interview with investigators.

Subject Officer #1 (SO1)

SO1 has 27 years of experience with ERT and was serving as the ERT Coordinator in K Division at the time of the incident. His assigned role during this event was as a sniper.

Prior to deploying to the location of the standoff, SO1 received a briefing outlining that the AP was wanted on multiple warrants. CRU and general duty members had attended the AP’s residence to execute the arrest, at which time the AP met officers at the door armed with a handgun and stated he would not submit to arrest. The attending members disengaged and established containment. SO1 was further advised that the AP was a person of special interest, being a suspect in the arson that

destroyed the Tofield RCMP detachment, and in threats to bomb the Strathcona RCMP detachment. Based on this information, SO1 assessed the incident as presenting an extreme risk to both police and the public.

SO1 met up with SO2 and they proceeded to a staging area near the AP's residence. A copy of the Feeney warrant authorizing entry into the residence to arrest the AP was shared via group chat. SO1 and SO2 deployed as snipers, using an unmarked F-250 to establish an observation post approximately 54 metres from the residence. SO1 used the rear passenger seat floor area as a firing base, employing a tripod-mounted sniper rifle and binoculars to monitor the residence.

Due to the AP's repeated claims that he had explosives affixed to his body, the EDU was also deployed. SO1 observed the AP briefly exit the residence apparently unarmed, discard a small object from the deck, and return inside. Through the front picture window, SO1 noticed the AP appeared bulkier than previously observed, suggesting the possible presence of an explosive vest. The AP was wearing a white button-up shirt with a bulky white object visibly protruding beneath it, though the specifics could not be discerned through the glass.

SO2 joined SO1 at the observation post and established a sniper position outside the driver's side of the truck. The CNT advised that the AP had no intention of surrendering and was claiming to possess a significant quantity of C-4 explosives, including an alleged booby-trap at the front door. SO1 observed that the AP appeared calm and unconcerned by police presence. He noted the AP holding a small cylindrical object in his left hand without visible wiring, which he believed could have been a detonator.

As negotiations stalled, the TAV was deployed onto the property and later repositioned temporarily to install tire chains, in part to facilitate movement, and also in the hope of de-escalating the AP. CNT relayed that the AP claimed to possess an M-16 rifle with armour-piercing ammunition and had a gas mask. SO1 observed the AP wearing a respirator consistent with a commercially available 3M unit capable of filtering tear gas. CNT further advised that the AP was repeatedly expressing suicidal ideation and stated he did not expect to survive the day.

The TAV subsequently re-entered the property and breached the front picture window using its hydraulic arm. A drone was deployed into the residence to assess the AP's claims of explosives and booby-traps. The AP remained dressed in the white shirt over the bulky object. At approximately 3:47 p.m., CNT advised via group chat: "Based on subject behaviour, counter measures, and lack of movement, and high risk for public safety...CNT has no tangible solution. Will assist in delay for tactical intervention." The CNT had determined that they had no viable options remaining to influence the AP's peaceful surrender and would support tactical intervention. This assessment was highly significant, as such determinations are rare.

A chemical agent plan was verbally approved by the incident commander. The objective was to overwhelm the AP and compel him to exit the residence. Chemical agents were introduced into the main living area. SO1 anticipated the AP would don his respirator; however, shortly thereafter, SO2 advised that the AP exited the residence.

SO1 observed the AP standing on the deck holding a handgun in his right hand, resting it on the railing, and a sword in his left hand, facing the TAV. SO1 was acutely aware of nearby officers and civilians, including two intoxicated individuals across the street who had refused to comply with evacuation or shelter in place directives. He recognized early in the incident that should the AP leave the property while armed with a firearm, it would be incumbent upon him to intervene.

ERT members engaged the AP with at least three 40-mm less-lethal impact rounds. SO1 observed the rounds strike the AP and dispersed a powdered chemical agent. The first two rounds caused minimal effect and appeared to agitate the AP. When a third round struck, the AP became enraged, turned, and began moving toward the steps off the deck while holding the pistol and sword.

SO1 assessed that if the AP left the deck, he would pose an immediate lethal threat to both officers and civilians. Losing sight of the AP would place dismounted ERT and general duty members in a direct confrontation and significantly increase the risk of an uncontrolled exchange of gunfire. Based on this assessment, SO1 decided to engage the AP to prevent his departure. SO1 tracked the AP and discharged a single rifle round nearly simultaneously with SO2. He observed the AP fall forward but was unsure whether his round struck the AP or whether the AP had been incapacitated by SO2's shot. SO1 broadcast, "Blue shots away," to advise that police gunfire had occurred. He later learned through drone footage that a less-lethal round had also struck the AP at approximately the same time.

SO1 confirmed that he did not confer with SO2 prior to firing, nor was any lethal force order issued. His decision to discharge his firearm was made independently, based on his individual assessment of the imminent threat.

Subject Officer #2 (SO2)

SO2 is an ERT member trained as a sniper. He received notification of the ERT deployment to Tofield via group chat, advising that officers had attempted to arrest the AP on weapons-related warrants and were met at the door by the AP holding a handgun. Containment was established, and a Feeney warrant was obtained authorizing arrest.

Upon arrival, SO2 initially assisted in preparing the Immediate Action team, while SO1 and other members established sniper positions. He reviewed Real Time Operations Centre intelligence identifying the AP as a suspect in the Tofield detachment arson, being subject to recent conditions for uttering threats, and having outstanding warrants for assault with a weapon and uttering threats. The information also noted a prior suicide attempt in custody and an attempt to disarm an officer, significantly elevating SO2's threat assessment.

SO2 later joined SO1 at the sniper observation post. He was aware that nearby residents had refused evacuation orders, increasing the risk due to the proximity of uninvolved civilians. He noted the presence of exterior security cameras at the residence, which he believed provided the AP with situational awareness.

SO2 received ongoing updates from CNT indicating the AP claimed to have explosives and a rifle with armour-piercing ammunition, that he had booby-trapped the residence, and indicated he did not plan on surrendering or making it through the day. SO2 noted that he did not receive any indication that the AP planned to take his own life.

After the window breach, SO2 observed the AP pacing inside the residence and wearing what appeared to be a vest with a pronounced rectangular bulge on his torso. A drone was deployed into the residence, which the AP destroyed with a sword.

After CNT concluded that negotiations had failed, the chemical agent plan was approved. The TAV deployed the chemicals, and SO2 observed rapid saturation of the residence. The AP exited shortly thereafter wearing all black, holding a double-edged sword in his left hand. The AP then produced a handgun and rested it on the railing. SO2 focused intently on the firearm, preparing to fire if the AP

raised or aimed it. The AP appeared to be speaking on Bluetooth, possibly with CNT. The bulge at the AP's torso remained concerning, as SO2 believed it could contain explosives, significantly restricting viable target areas.

A less-lethal 40-mm round struck the AP causing little reaction. The AP adopted a bladed stance, with the pistol pointed down alongside his right leg. A second round was deployed shortly after. The AP then moved off the deck at a brisk pace. SO2 assessed that he was about to lose his line of fire as the AP moved southbound. Given the AP's armed status, proximity to civilians, and alleged explosives, SO2 concluded that lethal force was necessary to prevent imminent harm. SO2 aimed for the AP's head to avoid striking the suspected explosive device and fired a single round. He heard SO1 fire shortly thereafter. The AP immediately fell from view. After the shots were fired, SO2 repositioned to the south side of the property to establish a new line of overwatch and support officers approaching the AP.

SO2 confirmed that he did not coordinate the decision with SO1, nor was there a lethal force order issued. His decision was made independently based on his assessment of immediate risk.

Video Evidence

The RCMP had video from multiple sources, including their helicopter and a drone that had been flying outside of the AP's residence during the standoff. The drone video captured the best footage as its vantage point was the closest and documents the sequence of events leading up to the AP being shot. The drone video proximate to the tactical interventions and shooting are most relevant.

The TAV approached the AP's residence and used its hydraulic arm to break out a front window (Figure 3).



Figure 3 - TAV positioned in front of the AP's residence after breaking the trailer window. Both the TAV and window are identified by red squares.

A drone was subsequently flown through the opening and was disabled by the AP.

The rear doors of the TAV were opened and two officers exited onto a step. One of the officers, believed to be WO3, shot three projectiles, which appeared to be gas canisters, at the home. One of them missed a window and left a black mark. The second and third entered the broken window. Another window, to the left of the main window, was struck by something that penetrated the glass and caused a hole.

The front door of the residence then opened. The AP dressed in black, exited the residence and closed the door behind him. The AP had a double-edged sword in his left hand. After standing outside for a moment, he reached behind his back and pulled out a pistol with his right hand. The AP stood at the top of the stairs with his hands to the sides both resting on the wood railing of the porch (Figure 4).



Figure 4 – The AP stood outside his residence holding an apparent gun and sword in each of his hands

Gas smoke was observed billowing out of the broken window (Figure 5).



Figure 5 - Gas billowed out of the trailer's broken window

The AP appeared to be speaking, as his mouth could be seen moving, but there was no audible sound on the video recording. The AP was believed to still be speaking with the negotiator, WO6, at this time.

The AP was then struck in the torso with what appeared to be a less-lethal round. He looked down after that happened and put his hand to his right abdomen, feeling where he was struck. Another less-lethal round can then be seen bouncing off the window area to the AP's right, followed shortly

thereafter with a less-lethal round striking the trailer to the left of the AP's head. The AP looked at the TAV for a moment and then briskly walked down the steps and turned to his left and began moving away from the trailer (Figure 6).



Figure 6 – The AP began walking away from his trailer still armed with an apparent handgun and a sword

The AP took five brisk steps before a less-lethal projectile appeared to strike him in the head or at least hit near him. A puff of yellow smoke was also observed. The AP immediately fell forward to the ground. ERT officers from the TAV then carefully moved towards the AP's location and made physical contact with the AP.

Analysis

ASIRT investigates where serious injury or death is caused by a police officer, in addition to other sensitive investigations of police officers. These are criminal investigations only.

Here, the actions under investigation are the shots fired by the subject officers that caused the AP's death.

Section 25 Generally

Under s. 25 of the *Criminal Code*, police officers are permitted to use as much force as is necessary for execution of their duties. Where this force is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, the officer must believe on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the self-preservation of the officer or preservation of anyone under that officer's protection. The force used here, discharging a firearm at a person, was clearly intended or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm. The subject officers therefore must have believed on reasonable grounds that the force they used was necessary for their self-preservation or the preservation of another person under their protection. Another person does include other police officers and members of the public. For the

defence provided by s. 25 to apply to the actions of an officer, the officer must be required or authorized by law to perform the action in the administration or enforcement of the law, must have acted on reasonable grounds in performing the action, and must not have used unnecessary force.

All uses of force by police must also be proportionate, necessary, and reasonable.

Proportionality requires balancing a use of force with the action or threat to which it responds. This is codified in the requirement under s. 25(3), which states that where a force is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, the officer must believe on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the self-preservation of the officer or preservation of anyone under that officer's protection. An action that represents a risk to preservation of life is a serious one, and only in such circumstances can uses of force that are likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm be employed.

Necessity requires that there are not reasonable alternatives to the use of force that also accomplish the same goal, which in this situation is the preservation of the life of the officer or of another person under his protection. An analysis of police actions must recognize the dynamic situations in which officers often find themselves, and such analysis should not expect police officers to weigh alternatives in real time in the same way they can later be scrutinized in a stress-free environment.

Reasonableness looks at the use of force and the situation from an objective viewpoint. Police actions are not to be judged on a standard of perfection, but on a standard of reasonableness.

Section 25 Applied

Each of the subject officers were lawfully placed and acting in the execution of their duties while responding to the ERT callout relating to a standoff with the armed AP.

RCMP officers initially attended the AP's residence to execute several outstanding arrest warrants. When informed that he was under arrest, the AP produced what appeared to be a handgun and retreated into his residence. Officers disengaged for safety reasons, established containment, and requested additional resources. Given the seriousness of the AP's conduct, the RCMP activated their CIP, which resulted in the deployment of specialized personnel, including CNT members, tactical and technological specialists, ERT officers, and snipers.

Negotiations with the AP were conducted over several hours but were unsuccessful. In an effort to bring the incident to a safe conclusion, officers deployed chemical munitions to compel the AP to exit the residence. Although this tactic caused the AP to leave the residence, he continued to refuse lawful commands to disarm and surrender. Officers subsequently attempted to gain compliance through the deployment of less-lethal impact munitions, which were similarly ineffective.

Throughout the incident, the AP remained armed with what appeared to be a handgun and a double-bladed sword. Officers had no means of knowing that the AP's handgun was a pellet gun. In addition, the AP repeatedly claimed to have explosives strapped to his body, and officers observed indicators consistent with that claim. These factors significantly elevated the perceived threat level.

The AP also repeatedly made comments alluding to an expectation that he would not survive the incident, while remaining resolute in his refusal to disarm or surrender. These remarks appeared to reflect an acceptance of the consequences he believed would result from his actions, rather than an intent to provoke police into using deadly force. Although the AP's conduct was not overtly aggressive – he did not point the handgun at officers or brandish the sword toward them – his repeated claims that his residence was booby-trapped with explosives and that he was wearing an explosive vest were

inherently threatening. These statements appeared to be motivated by an attempt to compel police to withdraw, rather than by an immediate intention to carry out those threats.

The situation escalated critically when the AP moved across the deck while armed, and began heading toward the roadway, where other officers and civilian bystanders were present. At that point, it was reasonable for the subject officers to conclude that the AP posed an imminent and lethal threat to individuals in the area and was not going to stop voluntarily. The potential harm posed by the AP was substantial: he could have fired the apparent handgun, used the sword to stab or slash others, or detonated explosives he claimed to be wearing.

Faced with this imminent danger, the subject officers discharged their firearms to stop the threat. Their response was proportionate to the risk the AP posed and was necessary to prevent serious bodily harm or death to others. It was also necessary to act at that precise moment, as the AP appeared to be leaving his property, which would have further exposed officers and civilians to danger.

The fact that both subject officers discharged their weapons almost simultaneously further supports that the officers felt it was necessary to act quickly and provides mild evidence in support of the objective reasonableness of their actions. It could not be determined which subject officer fired the fatal round.

The autopsy report indicated that the fatal round entered the AP's right upper back. Shooting someone in the back requires a closer examination as oftentimes, this lends itself to an inference of the AP's retreat, and impacts on the assessment of necessity. In this instance, although the AP was moving away from where the subject officers were positioned, he was moving towards other officers and civilian bystanders. Shooting the AP in the back, under these circumstances was therefore necessary and justified. Any failure to intervene would have created an unacceptable risk of grievous bodily harm or death to others in the immediate area.

Both subject officers were required or authorized by law to act that day and acted on reasonable grounds. Their respective uses of force were reasonable, proportionate, and necessary. As a result, the defence provided by s. 25 of the *Criminal Code* is likely to apply to both S01 and S02.

Conclusion

In the circumstances, it was reasonable for the subject officers to believe that the AP risked the lives of officers and civilians in the immediate vicinity if they did not act. Their respective uses of force were proportionate, necessary, and reasonable. As a result, there are no reasonable grounds to believe that an offence was committed.

Original Signed

Matthew Block

Acting Executive Director

April 22, 2026

Date of Release