

State of Connecticut
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Report Concerning the
Use of Deadly Force by the New London Police Department
on November 26, 2023

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Inspector General

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Acknowledgements

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Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services

New London Police Department

New London Judicial District State's Attorney's Office

INTRODUCTION

On November 26, 2023, at approximately 3:35 p.m., at Room 221 of the Clarion Inn, 269 Frontage Road, New London, Officers Joseph Nott, III¹, Seth Bolduc², and Anna Agnew³ of the New London Police Department shot and wounded Christopher Nolan⁴. As required by statute⁵, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated this incident. The results of that investigation are contained in this report.

The investigation establishes that on November 26, 2023, at approximately 1:52 p.m., New London police officers were called to the Americas Best Value Inn, 380 Bayonet Street, New London on a report of a shot being fired from a second-floor window. Responding officers determined that the suspected shooter was no longer at the Americas Best Value Inn but had gone to the Clarion Inn next door. At the Clarion Inn, police met with Witness 2 who said that the man the police were looking for was “Chris” (later identified as Christopher Nolan). When officers went to Witness 2’s room, they found Nolan standing near a window. He was behind a curtain. Officers gave Nolan verbal commands to show his hands. Nolan responded by saying “I’ll shoot” multiple times. When Nolan raised his right arm up, an officer stated that he observed that Nolan was holding a revolver and pointing it in their direction. Officers Nott, Bolduc, and Agnew then discharged their firearms striking and wounding Nolan. Police later recovered a loaded revolver from the windowsill of the room.

The use of deadly force by the New London officers was in response to what they reasonably perceived to be the imminent use of deadly force against them and others in the room. Such use of deadly force was objectively reasonable and justified under Connecticut law.

¹ On November 26, 2023, Officer Joseph Nott, III was a Caucasian male, age 33. He had been a New London police officer for 1 year and 6 months, and he has no disciplinary history.

² On November 26, 2023, Officer Seth Bolduc was a Caucasian male, age 36. He had been a New London police officer for 3 years and 5 months, and he had no disciplinary history.

³ On November 26, 2023, Officer Anna Agnew was a Caucasian female, age 25. She had been a New London police officer for 2 years and 10 months, and she had no disciplinary history.

⁴ On November 26, 2023, Christopher Nolan was an African American male, age 42.

⁵ As relevant here, General Statutes §51-277a(a)(1) provides: “Whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such officer’s duties, uses physical force upon another person and such person dies as a result thereof or uses deadly force, as defined in section 53a-3, upon another person, the Division of Criminal Justice shall cause an investigation to be made and the Inspector General shall have the responsibility of determining whether the use of force by the peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22.”

INVESTIGATION

Police Reports

Sergeant Michael Lewis

Sergeant Lewis was day shift supervisor on November 26, 2023. At approximately 1:52 p.m., New London Police Dispatch received a call reporting that a single shot had been fired from the second-floor window of the Americas Best Value Inn located at 380 Bayonet Street, New London. Sergeant Lewis responded to the address along with other New London officers. Prior to Sergeant Lewis' arrival, these officers had contacted the complainant, Witness 1. Witness 1 was staying in room 259. She told officers that she was meeting with a male in the parking lot at the time the shot was fired.

Witness 1 further stated that the person who fired was known to her only by the nickname "Cease" or "Ceaso." She indicated that her relationship with him could be described as "friends with benefits." Witness 1 said that this male (identified as Christopher Nolan) was jealous of her having "hickey" marks on her neck and believed that they had come from the male that she was meeting in the parking lot. Witness 1 believed this prompted Nolan to fire a shot in her direction from the hotel room window. Investigation established that no person or property was struck by this round.

Officers searched Witness 1's room with her consent. The window was open but there were no shell casings or firearm-related evidence in the room. Witness 1 stated that she was not sure if the sound that she heard was from a real firearm or a BB gun. A review of the hotel's CCTV footage showed the suspect leaving out a side door and jumping a fence that borders the property and leads to the Clarion Inn parking lot at 269 North Frontage Road. Witness 1 believed the suspect used a room at the Clarion Inn from time to time for reasons unknown to her.

At approximately 2:40 p.m., officers contacted staff at Clarion Inn. Officer Daquan Stuckey made contact with a woman (identified as Witness 2) in the lobby who said that she knew who the police were looking for. She called the subject using her cell phone and told him that the police were looking for him and for him to come and speak with them. The subject said no and would not tell the woman what room he was in.

New London officers then commenced a room-by-room check of all the Clarion Inn's occupied rooms. After clearing the first floor, officers again encountered Witness 2. She said that she was in room 221 and would let officers into her room.

The report continues:

"At the top of the stairs [Witness 2] speaks with Sgt. Buzzelli again briefly and officers make their way towards room #221. Sgt. Buzzelli and Officer Nott III met the female at the door and immediately pushed her out of the way and began to yell "Police" multiple times and yelled "show me your hands." Sgt. Buzzelli, Ofc Nott III, Ofc Bolduc, and Ofc Agnew already had their firearms drawn given the nature of the original call and Ofc Bolduc had his secondary rifle. Sgt Buzzelli, Ofc, Nott made entry into the room while continuing to yell "show me your hands" and Ofc Bolduc entered and was followed by Ofc Agnew and myself. The male subject could be observed at the very back of the room attempting to open and or break the window. After repeated comments to show his hands, the male continued to blade his body back and forth and refused to obey commands from the officers that had him at gunpoint. I radioed dispatch to "99" the air while the incident was escalating, and Officers on scene discharged their weapons at the suspect at the same time."

After being shot, the suspect still refused to obey commands from the officers. Officer Nott III utilized his Taser which caused the suspect to fall to the floor. Sergeant Lewis radioed "shots fired" and told Witness 2 to remove her children from the room. Once the suspect was secured, officers called Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and commenced medical aid.

During a search of the room, a loaded revolver was located on a windowsill near where Nolan was standing at the time of the incident.

Officer Daquan Stuckey

Officer Stuckey responded to the Americas Best Value Inn on the original shot fired report. From there he went to the Clarion Inn. He was on the first floor when the shooting in room 221 occurred. He immediately went to the second floor where he saw Witness 2 with her children attempting to leave. Witness 2 told Officer Stuckey that Nolan threatened to kill her and her children and any cop that came through the door. She stated Nolan said that he was not going back to jail.

Sergeant Joseph Buzzelli

On November 26, 2023, Sergeant Joseph Buzzelli was working as street sergeant for the afternoon shift (3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.). After being briefed on the shooting investigation, he responded to the Clarion Inn. There, Sergeant Buzzelli participated in the systematic checking of rooms for the suspect in the shooting at the Americas Best Value Inn. He was present when another officer spoke to a woman who said that she knew the male that the police were looking for and his name was "Chris." This ultimately led Sergeant Buzzelli and other officers to room 221.

Sergeant Buzzelli's report states:

“As we believed the room was only occupied by the female and her children, one of which was autistic, I holstered my firearm prior to knocking so as not to scare the children. The first time I knocked, I did not get a response. Thinking that the female was dealing with her children, I did not think much of the lack of an answer to the door. I knocked again a short time later and heard a female say “coming” or something to that effect. When the door opened, the female that we had been talking to turned her body and pointed with her arm and stated something to the effect of “that’s him” and she stepped to the side and pressed her body up against the wall.

“The female was indicating towards a male who was pressed up against the window with his back to us. The male appeared to be attempting to open the window. As Officer Nott and I entered the room, I could see a small child walking in the middle of the room. Attempting to stay away from the child, I took a knee next to the dresser on the right-hand side of the room. Officers immediately began to give the male, now known as the Suspect [Nolan], verbal commands to show his hands. As we were giving him commands, he stated multiple times something to the effect of “I’ll shoot.” While giving commands, I could not see the Suspect’s hands as he was facing away from me. Officers to my left then fired multiple times at the Suspect.”

Nolan fell to a seated position on the floor. Sergeant Buzzelli and other officers then proceeded to handcuff Nolan. It was during this time that Nolan denied having a gun; to which Officer Nott responded, “He absolutely has a gun, I saw it in his hand.” Officer Nott went to the window and told Sergeant Buzzelli that he had located the firearm. Officers provided medical aid to Nolan while awaiting the arrival of the New London Fire Department medics.

Sergeant Buzzelli had his body-worn camera (BWC) activated during the incident. To view the relevant portion of the BWC recording, click [here](#).

Officer Nicholas Benjamin

Officer Nicholas Benjamin arrived at the Clarion Inn after the shooting incident had occurred. He went to the second floor and was told by Officer Stuckey to stay with a woman, Witness 2, and make sure that she didn’t go anywhere. Officer Benjamin’s report states:

“[Witness 2] was on the phone, and I overheard her talking about the incident. [Witness 2] stated the suspect, identified a Christopher Nolan, was let into her apartment by one of her children and she told him to leave because she knew the police were looking for him. [Witness 2] stated Nolan was high on prescription medication and said he would shoot everyone in the room. [Witness 2] then stated when police knocked on her door, she opened it and got out of the way and then Nolan was shot.”

Statements

Witness 2

On November 26, 2023, Witness 2 gave the following statement to the New London Police Department:

"I [Witness 2] can read and write the English language and I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"It is my statement that I do know a male named Christopher Nolan who I have known for approximately 12 years. I know Christopher Nolan as a friend, and he is from New York. Over these years Christopher has been in and out of prison.

"I have been living at the Clarion Inn for the last 3 weeks staying in room 221. This Monday I ran into Christopher in the hallway of the Clarion, and we spoke, and he gave me his phone numbers. One is his Connecticut phone (860) 961 4433. New York phone (718) 902-6822. I know he has always had a 2nd number.

"On that Monday Christopher told me that "the other day" he was in New London and had fallen asleep in car and was woke up by a police officer. He told me that he took off and there was a pursuit because he has (2) guns and drugs in the vehicle. Christopher said it was on Michael Rd and he ditched the car and got away on foot. He was aware that the car was towed by Shea's in New London. At his request to do so I did call Shea's for him to check the status. Christopher was worried because he said there was still a gun and the drugs were still in the car. When I spoke with Shea's, they told me there was a police hold on the car. He wanted me to help him try to get the car back but I told him "No." After that I looked up his name and could see there was an FTA for Court.

"Yesterday I saw Christopher in the hallway and he used my phone to make a call to his son because his phone died. While he was using my phone I overheard him talking about having a fight with some female he kept referring to as "Crazy Girl." All I know is he said she is [crossed out in statement] sister. I don't know what they were fighting about but he didn't have a coat and was sweating in the cold.

"I do not know who this female is but I do know a female named [Witness 3] who is staying at the Clarion Inn. I know that she and Christopher used to date and I am assuming that he has been staying here at the Clarion Inn with her.

"Today at approximately 3:20 p.m. I returned from Shop City at which time I saw [Witness 3] leaving. As we passed each other outside I saw a police car and I asked her "What's going on

out here?" and she replied "It was worse in there" which I assumed she was referring to inside the motel. I saw [Witness 3] get into dark black Hyundai with tints and she left.

"As I got outside I overheard a police officer speaking with a female and asked "If she looked familiar?" When I asked him if he was talking about me, the officer said "No" but recognized me from a prior incident. We then encountered each other again so I asked the officer if he was looking for the short Hispanic male? When the officer said yes, I told him he "was here" meaning in the Clarion Inn. I motioned that he is usually on the other side which is where the pool is located. I left my room to do laundry.

"I went to my room and Christopher was in my room. I told him he has to leave and I told him "there is like 20 cops out there." He said "I'm not going down for this" and said this as he motioned with his hand like he fired a gun. I told him again he had to go and the police have a K-9 and they would get him. Christopher said "No I already saw the K-9 officer here."

"At that time Christopher was on his phone (the New London phone) but I don't know who he was talking to. While he was on the phone he said he had a female call 911 and report a shooting at the State Pier so he could get the police to leave the Clarion Inn. I don't know who the female is who called for him.

"I assumed the police were looking for Christopher because of the prior car chase and the FTA I saw online. While he was still on the phone he wanted me to leave the room and see where they were. I wanted to just see if he could get out so I could get him out of the room. I was concerned because I had (5) kids in my room, (4) of the children are mine and (1) was my brother's kid. The ages range from 2 years old to 12 years old.

"Before going back to my room I spoke to the police again and they asked me if they could search my room. They told me they were searching several/all the rooms. I told them "Yes" and as I returned to my room I thought they were going to search other rooms first. My intention was to tell Christopher they were searching rooms so I could get him out but the police were quick to arrive at my room. When I got to the room I told them they were coming. He sort of laughed.

"About 20 seconds later the police knocked and he began slamming the window to get it open and get out. When I opened the door Christopher slammed it shut hard and yelled at me to not let them in. I quickly opened the door again to let the police in as Christopher ran back to the window as the police entered.

"Before the police came in, I heard Christopher say "he was turning it up" which I took to mean he was not going to go easy.

“When the police entered the room they yelled at him to put the gun down or drop the gun. Christopher yelled something to the effect of “I don’t have a gun” but then he put his hand out the window and was motioning with something in his hand and said “I’ll shoot everyone in here” as he was waiving his hand in a threatening manner like he was holding a gun. I’m not sure what he had but I thought maybe a black in color cell phone. But I can’t be sure. When this happened that’s when the police started shooting from the doorway and he was at the window. As this happened my kids were on the bed.

“I believe that as this happened Christopher was high on prescription medications or something. I heard him say he was doing percocepts (sic) pills on the night he got into the police pursuit.

“After the shooting the police got me and my kids out of the room. I remember hearing Christopher yelling something like “You shot my arm off.”

“It is my statement that I never let Christopher into my room or provided him with a key. Christopher got into my room by knocking and my children/kids unknowingly let him in.”

Officer Anna Agnew

Officer Anna Agnew provided a written statement to OIG inspectors on December 14, 2023. The statement recounts her activities at the Americas Best Value Inn and Clarion Inn during the afternoon of November 26, 2023.

Officer Agnew initially responded to the Americas Best Value Inn to investigate a complaint that someone had shot a gun out of the Inn’s window into the parking lot. Once there, she spoke to Witness 1 who related that she was in the parking lot with a person identified only as “Sky” when her friend “Ceezoo” leaned out of her hotel room window with a silver item in his hand. She then heard a “pop” that caused Sky to run to his vehicle and drive off.

Using the hotel’s security footage, Officer Agnew tracked the suspected shooter to the Clarion Inn that is directly next to Americas Best Value Inn. She and other officers went to the Clarion Inn to attempt to locate the suspect. After clearing the first-floor rooms, officers proceeded to the stairwell to the second floor. A black female with a child was there and spoke with the officers. Due to her location some distance away, it was difficult for Officer Agnew to hear what was being said. The conversation ended with the woman requesting that, if the officers were going to search the second floor, she be given time to get her autistic son out of the room.

Officer Agnew’s statement continues:

“Officers followed her to the second floor. She later opened the door to her room for officers. Sgt. Buzzelli was first in the stack and had the initial contact with the female at the open doorway. It was clear that children were inside the room as I could hear loud crying coming from inside. Sgt. Buzzelli then drew his firearm and pointed it inside [the] room. He then announced “police” and told someone inside the room to show their hands. Ofc. Nott then moved towards the doorway and told someone in the room to show their hands. Sgt Buzzelli, Ofc. Nott, Ofc. Bolduc and I funneled into the hotel room.

“Upon entering the room, the female stood to the right side of the doorway allowing for officers to enter. As I entered, I observed that there were approximately 5 small children in the room. The children were wearing diapers and walking at the foot of the beds located on the left side of the room. They then jumped and sat on the bed as officers continued to announce themselves and give the command, “show me your hands.”

“Sgt. Buzzelli quickly knelt behind a TV stand on the right side of the room. I observed that Sgt. Buzzelli was yelling at the male, who I now saw concealing himself behind the window curtain on the far-right side of the room. Ofc. Bolduc was standing on the left side of the room closer to the beds. Ofc. Nott stood to the right of Ofc. Bolduc and I stood in-between Sgt. Buzzelli and the right-hand wall. All officers had their weapons drawn and were pointing towards the right corner of the room where the male was attempting to hide.

“I observed that the male was continuously trying to conceal himself behind the window curtain. As officers gave commands to show his hands, the male’s head was sticking out of the curtain looking back at officers. From my perspective, his hands were still behind the curtain, and he was blading his body away from us. Officers gave multiple commands for the male to show his hands, to which he repeatedly yelled, “I’ll shoot.”

“Given the facts and circumstances surrounding the investigation thus far, the male’s behaviors, which were consistent with someone attempting to conceal a weapon, and his statements of “I’ll shoot,” led me to believe that the male hidden behind the curtain was in possession of a firearm.

“The male began to turn his body towards police. I feared that he was turning to engage police in gunfire. At that time, I still could not see his hands. I then heard a gunshot and simultaneously heard Ofc Nott yell “Gun.” I believed that it was the male who had fired a shot and fearing for the safety of everyone in the room, I discharged my weapon. I fired one or two rounds in an attempt to stop the threat against officers and the children.”

Officer Agnew had her body-worn camera (BWC) activated during the incident. To view the relevant portion of the BWC recording, click [here](#).

Officer Joseph Nott, III

On the afternoon of November 26, 2023, Officer Joseph Nott, III was among several New London officers dispatched to Americas Best Value Inn on a report of a shooting. Through a combination of investigative efforts, officers learned that a shot had supposedly been fired from the second floor of the hotel and the suspected shooter ("Ceeso") had fled into the Clarion Inn next door. Officer Nott participated with other officers in a search of the Clarion Inn's first floor for the suspect that met with negative results. Officer Nott was present when other officers spoke with Witness 2 who told them she was aware that the police were looking for a person whom she identified as "Christopher."

Officers proceeded to the second floor to check Witness 2's room. Officer Nott did not expect to find the person police were looking for in the room. Officer Nott described what occurred in the room as follows:

"... As the female opened the door, I could hear loud sounds of children screaming and crying. Sgt. Buzzelli was in front of me and pushed open the door announcing ourselves as "Police". I immediately saw a male in the northwest corner of the room, and he appeared to be trying to open / jump out of the window. The male had draped himself in a curtain and I was unable to clearly see him. I ordered the male at least 4 times to "put his hands up". I heard as other Officers echoed my commands for the male to put his "hands up". The male didn't comply.

"While ordering the male to put his hands up, I noticed a child walk into my field of view. I told the small child to "come here" around two times, but the child walked towards a bed and out of view. Sgt. Buzzelli and I pushed further into the room, and I observed at least 5 young children on two different beds off to my left. The reason I pushed deeper into the room was to protect and ultimately remove from the room the small child I had seen walking.

"At this time, Sgt. Buzzelli was to my right and I was not aware where any of my fellow Officers were positioned. I withdrew my taser as I saw Sgt. Buzzelli had the male at gunpoint and I wanted a less lethal option readily available. As Sgt Buzzelli and I pushed into the room, the male stated clearly four times, "I'll shoot, "I'll shoot, "I'll shoot, "I'll shoot". Hearing the male shouting he was going to shoot caused immediate concern for my safety, my fellow officer's safety and the children in the room's safety. I holstered my taser at this time and pointed my service weapon (Pistol) at the male. As the male said 'I'll shoot' for the fourth time, I saw him raise and extend his right arm outward. I very clearly saw the male had a handgun, more specifically a revolver, in his right hand. As the male extended his right arm, he was standing with his left side of his body towards me, and the right side of his body towards the window. I tried shouting "he has a gun" but was only able to get out "he has" because the male began turning towards his left, towards me and my fellow officers. The male's right arm was raised just above chest level with the handgun clearly visible as he began turning. The way the

handgun was raised was a position where one could accurately fire a weapon. It should be noted my weapon mounted light was activated and the male was standing in front of an open window with sunlight coming in through the window, assisting my ability to clearly see what the male was holding (revolver).

“At this point in time, I believed the male was about to start shooting my fellow officers or myself. I had this belief due to the following information known to me at the time. The male was already suspected of shooting at someone at Americas Best Value Inn. Furthermore, upon entry into the room, the male stated four times out loud “I’ll shoot”. The male then produced a handgun, raised in a shooting position and began turning towards where I and my fellow Officers were standing. I believed every word the male had stated (I’ll Shoot), and the male’s physical actions of drawing, raising, and turning with a handgun left little doubt in my mind as to the male’s intention. As a result, I discharged my service weapon at the male. I believe I fired around 4 rounds and the male fell to the ground, falling on his left side. The male as he fell, fell with his back towards Officers.”

Once Nolan was down, Officer Nott assisted other officers in removing the children from the room. He then assisted in taking Nolan into custody. Nolan remained uncooperative and Officer Nott deployed his Taser which allowed officers to place Nolan in handcuffs. Once Nolan was secured, Officer Nott inspected the room visually and saw a revolver on the windowsill. He announced this to other officers.

Officers then administered medical aid to Nolan. Officer Nott cut Nolan’s jacket and shirt and observed multiple gunshot wounds. Officers used a tourniquet and bed sheets to try to control the bleeding from these wounds until fire department medics arrived.

While tending to Nolan, Officer Nott heard him say, “I’m sorry Ya’ll, I would never shoot at Y’all.”

Officer Nott had his BWC activated during this incident. To view the relevant portion of the BWC recording, click [here](#).

Officer Seth Bolduc

Officer Seth Bolduc responded to the Clarion Inn on November 26, 2023, to assist other officers in checking rooms for the suspect allegedly involved in the shots fired incident at the nearby Americas Best Value Inn. He carried his department-issued patrol rifle. Officer Bolduc was with other officers when they encountered a female in the stairwell. She said that she had been in contact with the suspect via telephone. She was cooperative with officers and agreed to let the police search her room.

Officer Bolduc's statement continues:

"Sgt Buzzelli went to the door after the female and knocked to enter the room. Someone inside opened the door. Sgt. Buzzelli began giving loud commands to someone in the room. Ofc. Nott went into the room after Sgt Buzzelli, and I followed Ofc. Nott. At that time, I saw a male suspect standing in the rear of the hotel room close to the window. I saw multiple children in the room; one was standing between the suspect and officers. Ofc. Nott told the child to move out from between the suspect and officers, the child moved quickly to the other children who were to my left between the bed and the wall. I began ordering the suspect to show me his hands and surrender. The suspect began yelling "I'll shoot!". I began giving further commands to show me his hands. Other officers in the room were giving similar commands. I saw a pistol in the right hand of the suspect and began ordering him to drop the gun. The suspect kept yelling "I'll shoot" and made a sudden movement towards the officers. At that time, I fired my department issued rifle 3 times. The suspect fell to the ground. Ofc Nott then tased the suspect who was on the ground when he continued not complying with the officers' orders. Ofc. Nott ordered the male to show his hands multiple times, the male kept his hands out of sight and made no attempts to comply with officers' commands. At that time, Ofc. Nott tased the male. The male complied with officers, I provided cover for other officers with my rifle while officers handcuffed the male and rendered aide to the suspect, until FDNL arrived on scene to transport the suspect to the hospital."

Officer Bolduc had his body-worn camera activated during the incident. To view the relevant portion of the BWC recording, click [here](#).

Christopher Nolan

On November 27, 2023, OIG Inspectors interviewed Christopher Nolan at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven. After he was advised of his *Miranda* rights and signed a *Miranda* waiver form, he was asked to describe what happened the day before in New London.

Nolan said that he was in a hotel, and they said that he had run from another hotel where shots were fired. He was in a woman's room. He said that he could tell that the woman had set it up for the police to come to the room. He identified the woman as Witness 2.

Nolan said that he was trying to go for the window. The window slid open slightly but did not open fully. When the woman opened the door, the police were about seven feet away from him. There were seven or eight officers who discharged multiple gunshots.

After being shot, Nolan went down. He said that the police then tased him. He felt like his arm had been blown off. Nolan said that he had been shot in the shoulder, arm, and stomach.

OIG Inspectors then asked some follow-up questions to learn further details about the incident. Nolan said that he came to visit Witness 2 in her hotel room and that they were friends. He said that he had been in the room for ten minutes before the cops came.

Nolan admitted that he had been involved in the incident at the other hotel (Americas Best Value Inn). He said that he was trying to help someone – a female. He identified the female as “[Witness 1].” A man (whom Nolan believed was someone named “Shorty”) was bothering Witness 1 and Nolan fired off a round in the air. This caused the man to scatter. Nolan described the gun he used as a small caliber silver colored revolver. Following the shooting, Witness 1 came upstairs, and Nolan left and went to the Clarion Inn.

At the Clarion, when the police entered the room, Nolan said he had the gun in his jacket. He was behind a curtain trying to toss the gun through the open slot in the window. The police were saying, “Freeze, freeze. Put your hands up.”

When the police had Nolan on the ground, he said “What is this for? I never shot at you guys.” Nolan told the inspectors that he would never shoot police. He admitted smoking weed on the date of the incident but denied consuming alcohol or using any other drugs.

Nolan was charged with multiple offenses including criminal possession of a firearm (53a-217), illegal discharge of a firearm (53-206), risk of injury to a child (53-21) (five counts), and carrying a pistol without a permit (29-35(a)). His case remains pending in the New London Superior Court under docket number KNL CR24-0380620-T.

Scene

On November 26, 2023, during the evening hours, Eastern District Major Crime Squad (EDMCS) detectives responded to the Clarion Inn, 269 Frontage Road, New London, to process the scene for evidence. The primary scene was Room 221. It was a standard hotel room with two beds, a bathroom and a bureau with a television. There was a fair amount of clutter in the room.



[Clarion Inn]



[Door to Room 221]

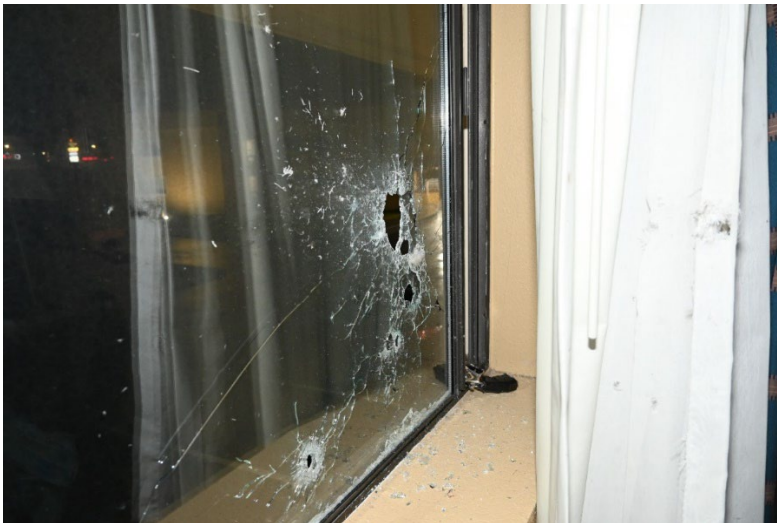


[Room 221]

Both the window curtain and room window had defects consistent with bullet strikes.



[Curtain and window]



[Bullet strikes to curtain and window]



[Bullet strikes to window]

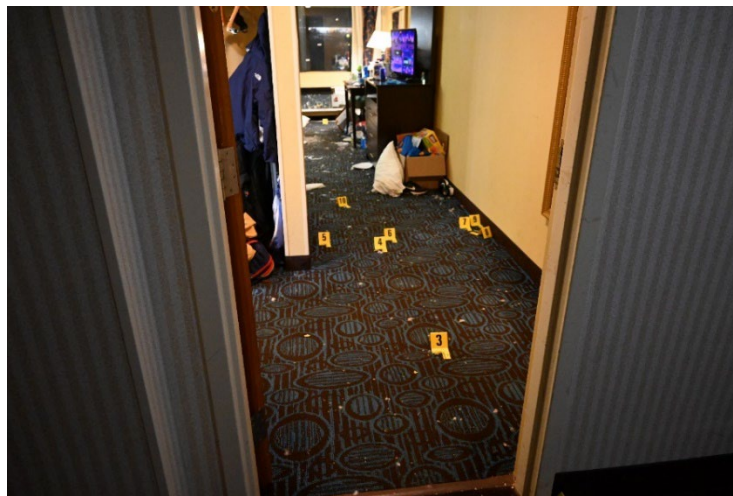
The detectives documented and seized firearm evidence consisting of six 9mm shell casings, four .223 shell casings, and one copper projectile. These items were photographed in place and identified by a numbered yellow placard.



[Shell casing]



[Shell casing]



[Shell casings]



[Shell casing]



[Shell casing]



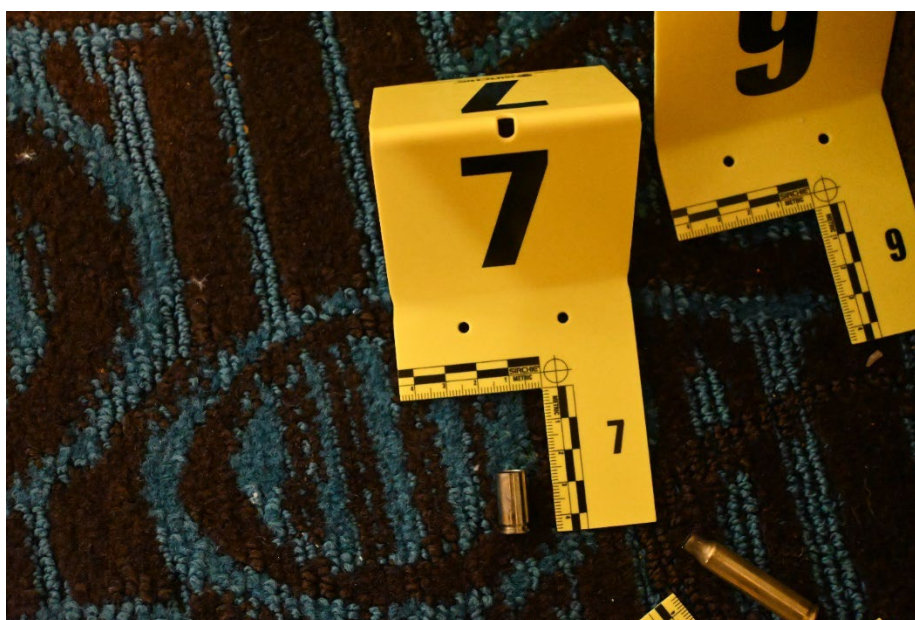
[Shell casing]



[Shell casing]



[Shell casings]



[Shell casing]



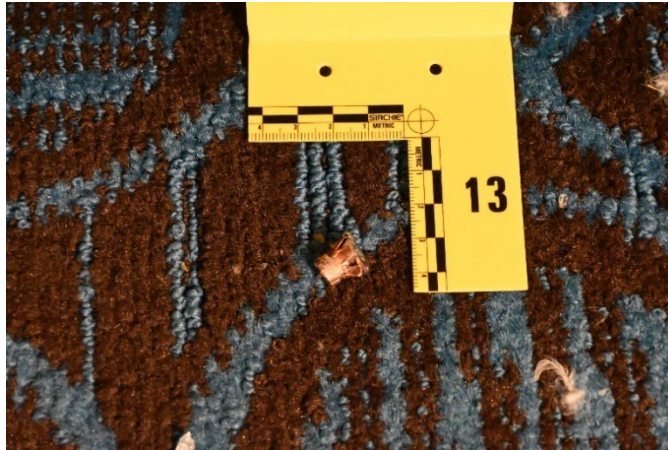
[Shell casings]



[Shell casings]



[Shell casing]



[Projectile]

Detectives also seized five firearms:

1. Glock 45 pistol (S/N BLKF601) (Ammo 12 plus 1). This was Officer Nott's duty pistol.



[Officer Nott's duty pistol and magazine]

2. Glock 45 pistol (S/N BLKF592) (Ammo 16 plus 1). This was Officer Agnew's duty pistol.



[Officer Agnew's duty pistol and magazine]

3. Glock 45 pistol (S/N BLKF586) (Ammo 17 plus 1). This was Officer Bolduc's duty pistol.



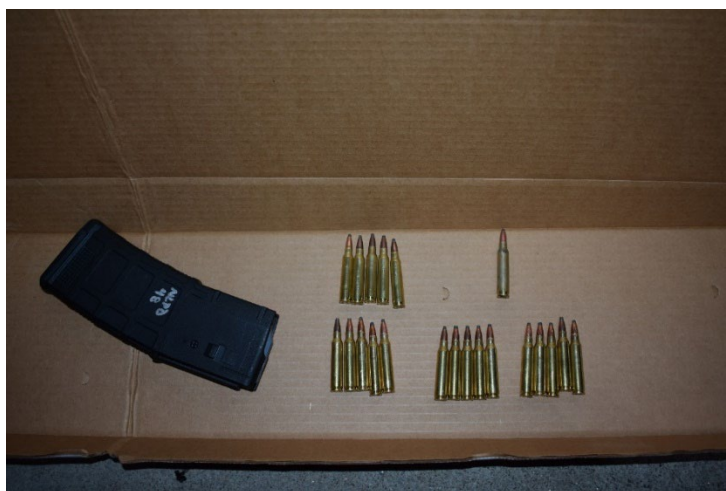
[Officer Bolduc's duty pistol]



[Officer Bolduc's magazine]

4. New London Police Department Bushmaster .223 police rifle (S/N BFI619859) with magazine and 21 rounds. This was Officer Bolduc's patrol rifle and was recovered from his police cruiser.





[Officer Bolduc's patrol rifle and magazine]

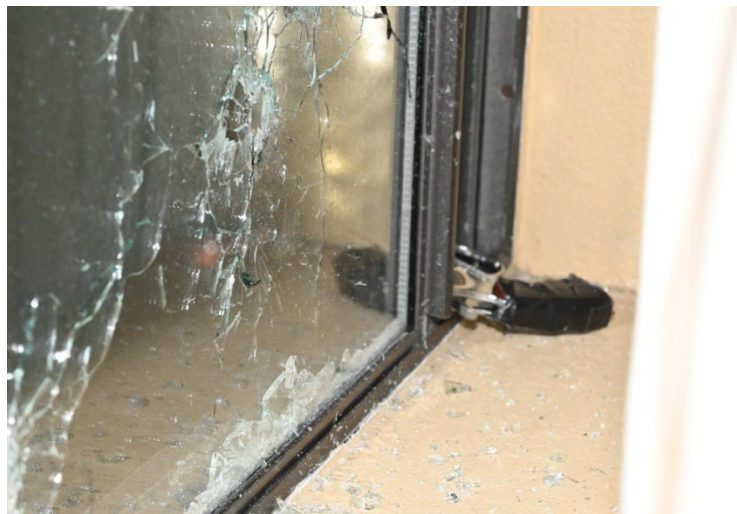
5. Silver and black revolver, Clerk .32 Smith & Wesson. This revolver had four live rounds, and one spent round in the cylinder. This item was recovered from the windowsill of Room 221. The gun was found with the barrel pushed through a partially open sliding window.



[Nolan's firearm]



[Rounds found in Nolan's firearm]



[Revolver pushed through window]



[Revolver pushed through window]

This firearms evidence was sent to the Forensic Laboratory for analysis.

Firearms Analysis

EDMCS detectives seized five firearms during their investigation:

Exhibit	Lab Number	Item
507	003	Glock 45 pistol, S/N BLKF601 (Ofc. Nott)
508	004	Glock 45 pistol, S/N BLKF592 (Ofc. Agnew)
509	005	Glock 45 pistol, S/N BLKF586 (Ofc. Bolduc)
510		Clerke .32 revolver S/N 141832 (Christopher Nolan)

In addition, detectives seized ten shell casings from Room 221 at the Clarion Inn.

Exhibit	Lab Number	Item
520	007	9mm shell casing
521	008	9mm shell casing
522	009	.223 shell casing
523	010	9mm shell casing
524	011	9mm shell casing
525	012	9mm shell casing
526	013	.223 shell casing

528	014	.223 shell casing
529	015	.223 shell casing
532	016	9mm shell casing

With the exception of the Clerke .32 revolver, all items were sent to the Forensic Laboratory's Firearms Unit for examination. The Clerke .32 revolver was sent to the Firearms Unit separately by the New London Police Department. The Firearms Unit determined that:

1. The three Glock 45 pistols that were the duty weapons of Officers Nott, Agnew, and Bolduc were operational.
2. The Bushmaster .223 police rifle was operational.
3. With respect to the recovered 9mm shell casings, lab numbers 007, 008, 010, 012, and 016 originated from the same source, namely, Officer Nott's Glock 45 pistol. Lab number 011 was fired from Officer Agnew's Glock 45 pistol.
4. With respect to the recovered .223 shell casings, lab numbers 009, 013, 014, and 015 originated from the same source, namely, the Bushmaster .223 police rifle.

In a separate examination conducted by the Firearms Unit, the Clerke .32 Smith & Wesson revolver recovered from the window shelf in Room 221 at the Clarion Inn was found to be operational.

Medical

Nolan was initially taken to Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London for treatment. He arrived at the hospital on November 26, 2023, at 3:58 p.m. The Emergency Department (ED) noted that Nolan suffered from multiple gunshot wounds to the shoulder, forearm and abdomen. The ED further noted that some of Nolan's wounds were from a 5.56 rifle⁶ used by Officer Bolduc. After their assessment, the ED staff determined that Nolan needed a higher level of trauma care than Lawrence + Memorial could provide. At 5:48 p.m., he was transferred, via ground transport, to Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) in New Haven.

Nolan arrived at YNHH on November 26, 2023, at 6:57 p.m. He would remain at the hospital for the next thirteen days. Upon arrival at YNHH, doctors determined that Nolan suffered from gunshot wounds to his left arm, left chest, and abdomen. He also presented with open fractures of his left humeral head, left scapula, and a transection of his ulnar artery at his left wrist. His toxicological screen was positive for cocaine and cannabinoid.

At YNHH, Nolan underwent a number of medical procedures including: (1) exploratory laparotomy, (2) exploratory celiotomy with a partial colon resection, (3) surgical stabilization of

⁶ A 5.56 rifle will shoot .223 ammunition.

the scapula and radius, (4) incision and debridement of left upper extremity, (5) peripheral angiogram, (6) ulnar nerve repair, and (7) surgical stabilization of proximal humeral – left.

Nolan was discharged from YHH to the custody of law enforcement on December 9, 2023.

FINDINGS

The investigation supports the following findings of material fact:

1. On November 26, 2023, at approximately 1:52 p.m., New London police officers were called to the Americas Best Value Inn, 380 Bayonet Street, New London on a report of a shot being fired from a second-floor window.
2. Responding officers to the Americas Best Value Inn determined that the suspect in the shooting had gone next door to the Clarion Inn, 269 Frontage Road, New London. Officers commenced a room-by-room search of the occupied rooms at the Clarion Inn.
3. During their search, officers met Witness 2 who said that she believed that she knew the person the police were looking for and his name was “Chris.” Witness 2 gave police consent to search Room 221 where she was staying.
4. Police assembled in front of the door to Room 221. Sergeant Buzzelli was the first in the stack followed by Officer Nott, Officer Bolduc, and Officer Agnew. When police knocked on the door, it was opened by Witness 2 who pointed to a man who was up against the window and said something to the effect of, “That’s him.”
5. Officers entered the room giving the man multiple commands to show his hands. The man (Christopher Nolan) did not show his hands but responded by saying, “I’ll shoot” multiple times.
6. Officer Nott in his sworn statement, indicated that he saw Nolan raise his right arm holding a revolver. When Nolan turned toward Officer Nott, he fired his handgun multiple times striking Nolan who fell. Later, Officer Nott deployed his Taser against Nolan to facilitate him being handcuffed.
7. Officer Bolduc was armed with his .223 patrol rifle. While in Room 221 with the other officers, he saw a pistol in Nolan’s right hand. When Nolan moved toward the officers, Officer Bolduc fired his rifle multiple times striking Nolan.

8. Officer Agnew observed Nolan concealed behind a curtain on the far-right side of the room. Nolan was continuously trying to conceal himself behind the window curtain. Nolan's comments 'I'll shoot' led Officer Agnew to believe Nolan possessed a firearm. Nolan began to turn his body toward police. At that point, Officer Agnew heard a gunshot and simultaneously Officer Nott yelled, "Gun." Believing that Nolan had fired a shot, Officer Agnew fired her weapon one or two times.

9. Nolan sustained gunshot wounds to his left arm, left chest, and abdomen. He spent thirteen days at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven.

10. While in the hospital, Nolan was interviewed by OIG Inspectors. Nolan admitted that he was involved in the incident at the Americas Best Value Inn. He said that he fired a round into the air from a second-floor room in order to help a woman who was being bothered by a man in the parking lot. He then left and went to the Clarion Inn. At the Clarion, when police entered the room, Nolan stated that he was behind a curtain trying to toss the gun through the open slot in the window. Nolan did not understand why the police shot him. He said that he would never shoot police.

11. The Firearms Unit at the Forensic Laboratory determined that six of the recovered 9mm shell casings were fired from Officer Nott's Glock 45 duty pistol; and that one of the recovered 9mm shell casings was fired from Officer Agnew's Glock 45 duty pistol. The Firearms Unit further determined that the four recovered .223 shell casings were fired from the Bushmaster .223 police rifle, assigned to Officer Bolduc. In a separate examination, the Clerke .32 revolver recovered from the windowsill in Room 221 was determined to be operational.

LEGAL STANDARD

The use of force by a police officer is governed by General Statutes §53a-22. The version of that statute in effect on November 26, 2023, in relevant part, provides:

"(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) ... of this section, a peace officer ... is justified in using physical force upon another person when and to the extent that he or she reasonably believes such use to be necessary to: (1) Effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom he or she reasonably believes to have committed an offense, unless he or she knows that the arrest or custody is unauthorized; or (2) defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of physical force while effecting or attempting to effect an arrest or while preventing or attempting to prevent an escape.

(c) (1) ... a peace officer ... is justified in using *deadly physical force* upon another person for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of this section only when his or her actions are objectively reasonable under the circumstances, and:

(A) He or she reasonably believes such to be necessary to defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force ..." (Emphasis added).

The statute further provides:

"For the purpose of evaluating whether the actions of a peace officer ... are reasonable under subdivision (1) of this subsection, factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, whether (A) the person upon whom deadly force was used possessed or appeared to possess a deadly weapon, (B) the peace officer ... engaged in reasonable de-escalation measures prior to using deadly physical force, and (C) any conduct of the peace officer ... led to an increased risk of an occurrence of the situation that precipitated the use of force," §53a-22 (c)(2).

Accordingly, a police officer is justified in using deadly physical force upon another person when the officer reasonably believes such force to be necessary to defend the officer or a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force. "Deadly physical force" means "physical force that can be reasonably expected to cause death or serious physical injury."

General Statutes § 53a-3(5). "Serious physical injury" means "physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health or serious loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ." General Statutes §53a-3(4).

The reasonableness of a police officer's belief under § 53a-22 is evaluated pursuant to a subjective-objective formulation. *State v. Smith*, 73 Conn. App. 173, 185, 807 A.2d 500, cert. denied 262 Conn. 923, 812 A.2d 865 (2002). Under this test, the first question is whether, based on the evidence, the police officer in fact honestly believed that deadly force was necessary to defend himself/herself or a third person. *Id.* If it is determined that the police officer honestly believed that deadly force was necessary, the second part of the test asks whether the police officer's honest belief was reasonable from the perspective of a reasonable police officer in the officer's circumstances. *Id.* at 198.

The United States Supreme Court has explained: "The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on scene rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. ... [T]he calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance of the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396-97, 109 S. Ct. 1865, 104 L. Ed. 2d 443 (1989).

ANALYSIS

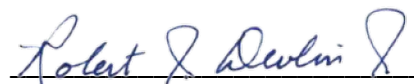
The New London police officers who responded to the Clarion Inn on November 26, 2023, knew that the suspect that they were seeking had reportedly discharged a gunshot at the hotel next door. When the officers entered Room 221, they immediately ordered Christopher Nolan to show his hands. Nolan ignored these commands and instead yelled "I'll shoot" several times. While the sun glare in the room restricts the officers' body-worn cameras' ability to record what Nolan was doing exactly behind the curtain, I fully accept Officer Nott's statement that he saw a gun in Nolan's hand.

These factors led the New London officers to believe that they, and Witness 2 and the five small children in the room, faced an imminent threat of the use of deadly force against them. I conclude that under these circumstances, this belief was reasonable, and their use of deadly force was justified. The fact that Nolan may well have been trying to shove the gun out the hotel window does not require a different result. His possession of the gun, threat to shoot, and refusal to show his hands were perceived by the officers as a grave risk of harm to them. This was not an unreasonable perception.

CONCLUSION

The investigation establishes that the use of deadly force by Officers Seth Bolduc, Joseph Nott III, and Anna Agnew against Christopher Nolan was justified. The Office of Inspector General will take no further action on this matter.

Submitted this 13th day of May 2025.


ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL