

South Dakota Highway Patrol Officer Involved Shooting Summary Detailing the Events that Took Place April 1, 2025

On April 1st, 2025, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was requested by the South Dakota Highway Patrol (SDHP) to investigate a shooting in Union County, at exit #42 of southbound Interstate 29. The suspect, Samir Yasser Albaidhani, fired a handgun at two SDHP Troopers and two Beresford Police Officers. During the incident, an SDHP Trooper fired at Albaidhani and struck him in the right arm. Another SDHP Trooper struck Albaidhani with a patrol vehicle. Before the shooting in Union County, Law Enforcement engaged in a pursuit with Albaidhani after he was involved in a shooting in Sioux Falls. Albaidhani had shot a Sioux Falls Police Officer with gunfire before stealing a vehicle and fleeing the area. The following is a summary of the events that occurred in Union County and the result of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

SYNOPSIS

On April 1st, 2025, at approximately 4:02 PM, Sioux Falls Police Officers attempted to contact and arrest Samir Yasser Albaidhani near W. 12th and S. Elmwood Ave. in Sioux Falls, SD. The Sioux Falls Police Department (SFPD) had been searching for Albaidhani as he was a wanted parole absconder and had outstanding felony warrants. The SFPD Officers learned from an associate of Albaidhani that he was using methamphetamine, carried a handgun in his waistband, and made statements about not going back to prison alive. Two Sioux Falls Police Officers located Albaidhani driving a stolen Hyundai SUV and attempted to apprehend him. Albaidhani fled from the vehicle, and during a foot chase, fired a handgun at the two pursuing SFPD Officers. One SFPD Officer was struck and injured by gunfire. The details of the SFPD Officer involved shooting will be included in a separate DCI shooting summary.

At approximately 4:14 PM on April 1st, 2025, Sioux Falls Metro Communications received a 911 call of a running vehicle being stolen from a Sioux Falls residence. The vehicle, a maroon 2005 Chevy Trailblazer, was stolen near the last known location of Albaidhani, shortly after the shooting in Sioux Falls. Information regarding Albaidhani and the stolen Chevy Trailblazer was broadcast to Law Enforcement in the Sioux Falls area.

Shortly after the report of the stolen Trailblazer was broadcast, SDHP Trooper #2 reported spotting a vehicle matching that description traveling southbound on I-29. Trooper #2 announced this information via radio communication and requested Law Enforcement to be on the lookout. At approximately 4:43 PM, two Officers from the Beresford Police Department observed the maroon Chevy Trailblazer, matching the description of the stolen vehicle, traveling southbound on Interstate 29 near the Beresford SD exit #47. Beresford PD Officer #1 and Beresford PD Officer #2 rode together in a marked Beresford Police patrol vehicle. BPD Officers followed the maroon Trailblazer as it exited onto the southbound exit #47 off-ramp. The vehicle would later be confirmed as the same Chevy Trailblazer stolen from the area of the Sioux Falls shooting. The sole occupant of the stolen Trailblazer would later be identified as Samir Albaidhani. BPD Officers followed as the Trailblazer, then returned to southbound I-29 via the southbound onramp. BPD Officer #1 activated the emergency lights on the marked patrol vehicle and pursued the Trailblazer south on I-29. Speeds reached over 100 mph as Albaidhani failed to stop. At the time of the pursuit, the weather conditions included rain and wind.

SDHP Trooper #1 was in the area and joined the pursuit south of Beresford. Trooper #1 took the lead position in the pursuit as it continued south on I-29. Trooper #2 was further north and trailed the pursuit. The stolen Trailblazer exited onto the southbound off-ramp of I-29 at exit #42. Trooper #1 followed in pursuit as Albaidhani headed west onto 302nd Street at exit #42. The vehicle lost control on the wet pavement and entered the southwest ditch at 302nd Street. As Trooper #1 entered the same ditch, the Trailblazer vaulted back onto the roadway and struck a delineator post, which punctured the passenger side tires. As the Trailblazer returned to the paved roadway, the vehicle spun and turned back to face the southwest. Trooper #1 stopped his marked patrol vehicle along the shoulder. At this time, the stolen Trailblazer and the marked SDHP patrol vehicle were facing each other at approximately one vehicle width separation.

Albaidhani exited from the driver's door of the Trailblazer and immediately raised his right arm and extended a handgun towards Trooper #1. Albaidhani fired two (2) rounds at Trooper #1. As Albaidhani fired, Trooper #1 began to exit the patrol vehicle, and one of the fired rounds struck the front driver's door glass. BPD Officer #1 and BPD Officer #2 were stationed near the southbound exit #42 off-ramp stop sign at 302nd Street. Trooper #2 entered the area in a marked patrol vehicle. Both the BPD patrol vehicle and Trooper #2's marked patrol vehicle had emergency lights activated. After firing at Trooper #1, Albaidhani ran to the southeast. As he ran, Albaidhani turned and raised the handgun to the north. Albaidhani fired three (3) rounds to the north, in the direction of BPD Officer #1, BPD Officer #2, and Trooper #2.

After he retreated to the rear of his patrol vehicle, Trooper #1 fired his duty weapon at Albaidhani. Albaidhani ran to the southeast through the grass embankment area toward the southbound I-29 traffic lanes. Trooper #2 drove his marked patrol car into the same area in pursuit of Albaidhani. Trooper #2 struck Albaidhani with the SDHP patrol car. After he was struck, Albaidhani fell to the ground. As Albaidhani was on the ground, he was observed reaching toward his waistband. Trooper #1 fired additional rounds at him and struck Albaidhani in the right arm. After he was struck with gunfire, Albaidhani was taken into custody, and a tourniquet was applied to his arm. An ambulance was summoned to the scene, and Albaidhani was transported to a Sioux Falls hospital for treatment of the non-life-threatening gunshot wound to his arm.

Officers recovered a Glock 43X 9 mm handgun near the location where Albaidhani was struck and taken into custody. The handgun's magazine was dislodged and found nearby. The handgun's slide was forward, and a round was chambered.

INTERVIEW: SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER #1

SDHP Trooper #1 was interviewed by a DCI Special Agent on April 3rd, 2025. Trooper #1 was at his residence on April 1st when he overheard radio traffic of an Officer being shot in Sioux Falls. Before arriving at his residence, Trooper #1 was in training and was not wearing a full SDHP duty uniform. After learning of the shooting in Sioux Falls, Trooper #1 responded to the area to offer K9 assistance. As Trooper #1 traveled north on I-29, he received information that the suspect was possibly in a stolen maroon Chevrolet Trailblazer. Trooper #1 advised that Trooper #2 was ahead of him on the interstate and radioed that he observed a Trailblazer matching the description, traveling south on I-29. Trooper #1 continued north on I-29 and was advised that Beresford Police had located the Trailblazer. BPD provided a partial plate, which matched the initial description of the stolen Trailblazer. At this time, Trooper #1 was approximately three miles south of the Beresford exit on I-29.

Trooper #1 observed the Trailblazer traveling south on I-29 and noted the description matched what had been broadcast. Trooper #1 reported the driver of the Trailblazer matched the description of the Sioux Falls shooting suspect, and that the two made eye contact. Trooper #1 turned around, onto southbound I-29 to catch up to the Trailblazer. Trooper #1 stated that his patrol vehicle was marked, and the suspect observed him in the interstate median, which made the side markings of his patrol vehicle visible. Trooper #1 caught up to the fleeing Trailblazer near southbound I-29, north of exit #42. He reported the speeds of the pursuit were around 100 mph. Trooper #1 pursued the Trailblazer down the southbound off-ramp at exit #42 and reported the vehicle spun and entered the ditch. Trooper #1 followed the vehicle into the ditch. Trooper #1 believed the tires on the Trailblazer became deflated after they turned onto the roadway and spun around. After the Trailblazer spun on the roadway, it faced Trooper #1's patrol vehicle.

Trooper #1 reported he was face to face with the Trailblazer as he observed the driver (Albaidhani) move his hands to his waist area and raise a hand to point at him. Trooper #1 reported that it was clear Albaidhani had a gun in his hand. Trooper #1 opened his door, exited, and moved to the back of his patrol vehicle for cover. At this same time, Trooper #1 reported he heard glass break and knew shots were being fired at him. He stated he feared for his safety and tried to get his bearings after shots were fired at him. Trooper #1 stated he fired rounds from his duty weapon at this time. Trooper #1 recalled that Albaidhani ran away, toward the interstate.

Trooper #1 reported he believed he was alone with Albaidhani for an extended time, but later realized that Trooper #2 was very close. Trooper #2 struck Albaidhani with a patrol car. Trooper #1 reported that Albaidhani fell to the ground after being struck by Trooper #2's patrol vehicle. Trooper #1 believed that Albaidhani still had the gun in his hand when he was on the ground. Trooper #1 recalled Officers yelling loud, verbal commands for Albaidhani to drop the gun. Trooper #1 also feared that Albaidhani could get to the interstate and engage with civilians traveling along the road. Officers eventually recognized that the gun was lying in the grass away from him.

After Albaidhani was taken into custody, Trooper #1 assisted in rendering aid, as Officers realized Albaidhani had been shot in the arm.

INTERVIEW: SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER #2

SDHP Trooper #2 was interviewed by a DCI Special Agent on April 4th, 2025. Trooper #2 was working his regularly scheduled shift on April 1, 2025. While on duty, Trooper #2 heard dispatch communications from Sioux Falls that shots were fired, and an Officer had been struck by gunfire. Trooper #2 was on patrol south of Sioux Falls and proceeded north to assist with the incident. Radio communications indicated that there was a vehicle stolen from the general area of the shooting, and a BOLO (be on the lookout) was communicated with further information. This information included the description of a stolen maroon Chevy Trailblazer.

While traveling north on I-29, Trooper #2 observed a vehicle matching the BOLO description traveling southbound on I-29. Trooper #2 reported his observations to dispatch and requested that Officers to the south be on the lookout. Trooper #2 also turned his marked patrol vehicle around to catch up with the vehicle and verify the license plate. While Trooper #2 was trying to catch up with the vehicle, Beresford

Police identified the suspect vehicle traveling southbound on the interstate. Trooper #2 stated Beresford Police initiated a pursuit with the suspect vehicle. Trooper #2 was behind the pursuit, but he was in radio contact with Trooper #1

As the stolen Trailblazer approached exit #42, Trooper#2 recalled seeing the lights of law enforcement units ahead of him. Trooper #2 recalled seeing Trooper #1's patrol vehicle and the maroon Trailblazer at the bottom of the exit #42 ramp. He stated the maroon Trailblazer came up out of a ditch and skidded to a stop in the middle of the roadway on 302nd Street. Trooper #2 recalled hearing gunshots at that point, but initially could not see the suspect. He observed who he believed to be the occupant of Trailblazer (Albaidhani) running away toward the east. As Albaidhani was running, Trooper #2 observed him turn to face the west/northwest and shoot. Trooper #2 recalled seeing smoke coming off the extension of Albaidhani's arm. Trooper #2 stated Albaidhani continued to run towards the grassy embankment area along the west side of I-29 in an eastern direction, toward the interstate.

Trooper#2 said that as Albaidhani ran up the embankment, he knew that this was a deadly force situation. Trooper #2 was concerned for the safety of the public, as the suspect ran toward the interstate. Trooper #2 drove his patrol vehicle toward Albaidhani and struck him from behind with the front end of his marked SDHP Ford Explorer patrol vehicle. Trooper #2 recalled the suspect partially elevated over the patrol car hood before he disappeared under the front of the patrol vehicle. Trooper #2 did not know where the weapon was located and was concerned that Albaidhani might be able to ambush other responding Officers. Trooper #2 reversed his vehicle until he could see Albaidhani more clearly.

Trooper #2 exited his vehicle, drew his sidearm, and gave commands to Albaidhani. At that point, other Law Enforcement were also converging. Albaidhani did not immediately put both of his arms out to his sides, but eventually complied with orders and was taken into custody. Trooper #2 radioed that he had struck the suspect with his vehicle and requested an ambulance to the scene. Law Enforcement on the scene rendered aid to Albaidhani, which included the application of a tourniquet. Trooper #2 observed what he believed to be a bullet wound and blood on Albaidhani's right arm.

INTERVIEW: BERESFORD PD OFFICER #1 / BERESFORD PD OFFICER #2

Beresford PD Officer #1 and Beresford PD Officer #2 were interviewed by a DCI Special Agent on April 1st. Both BPD Officers were on duty, in uniform, operating in a marked Beresford Police patrol vehicle when they became aware of the shooting in Sioux Falls. BPD Officer #1 was driving the marked patrol unit, and BPD Officer #2 was in the front passenger seat. The Officers reported observing the maroon Trailblazer traveling southbound on I-29 just north of Beresford. They observed the first digits of the license plate, which matched that of the stolen Trailblazer. The Officers advised Albaidhani exited onto the Beresford exit #47, but then re-entered southbound I-29 from the same exit. BPD Officer #1 activated the emergency lights of the patrol car to stop Albaidhani and the Trailblazer, but he failed to stop and led Officers on a pursuit southbound on the interstate. BPD Officer #1 advised that speeds reached approximately 110 mph. During the pursuit, Trooper #1 became involved as the lead pursuing vehicle.

BPD Officer #1 observed the Trailblazer lose control and spin at the bottom of the exit #42 offramp, along 302nd Street. BPD Officer #1 stopped the patrol vehicle at the bottom of the southbound exit off-ramp. BPD Officer #1 reported seeing Albaidhani with a handgun in his hand and knew Albaidhani was firing rounds from the handgun. BPD Officer #2 reported exiting the patrol vehicle and hearing shots fired. BPD Officer #2 did not know at the time who was firing the shots. Both Officers witnessed Trooper #2 strike Albaidhani with the SDHP patrol vehicle. BPD Officer #1 reported that Trooper #1 fired rounds around the same time Trooper #2 struck Albaidhani. BPD Officer #1 placed Albaidhani in handcuffs, and Trooper #2 placed a tourniquet on Albaidhani's right arm.

SCENE INVESTIGATION

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI and produced items of evidentiary value, which corroborated statements from Law Enforcement. Video footage was also obtained from the involved Law Enforcement.

The two SDHP Troopers were processed by DCI Agents. Trooper #1 was wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and tan tactical pants. The sweatshirt had a K9 insignia, and a police badge was on the back along with the lettering "Police Service Dog". Trooper #1's duty-issued handgun was a Sig Sauer P226 .40 caliber handgun. Trooper #1's Sig Sauer .40 caliber handgun had one round in the chamber and five (5) rounds in the magazine, for a total of six (6) unfired rounds. When fully loaded for duty, Trooper #1's handgun magazine would contain twelve (12) rounds, and one (1) round in the chamber, for a total of thirteen (13) rounds.

Trooper #2 was wearing a full, black-colored standard SDHP K9 handler uniform. The uniform included an embroidered badge and SDHP patches. Trooper #2 had a duty belt which contained additional equipment, including his duty-issued .40 caliber handgun. Trooper #2's handgun and magazine were at full capacity of twelve (12) rounds in the magazine, and one (1) round in the chamber. Trooper #2 did not fire during the incident.

Five (5) 9 mm fired shell casings were located at the scene along 302nd Street in the same area where Albaidhani fired at Law Enforcement. Four (4) fired .40 caliber shell casings were in the grass area along 302nd Street in the same area where Trooper #1 began firing. The three remaining .40 caliber fired shell casings from Trooper #1 were not located in the grass embankment area.

A Glock 43X 9 mm handgun was located on the ground near the location where Albaidhani was apprehended. The handgun contained one round in the chamber, and the magazine was found dislodged from the handgun in the same area. The magazine did not contain any rounds. The Glock 43X was reported as stolen from a vehicle in Sioux Falls between March 26th and March 27th, 2025.

The stolen maroon Chevy Trailblazer was documented as facing northwest at the intersection of 302nd Street and the exit #42 southbound on-ramp. The vehicle was running and in drive. Both front and rear passenger tires were flat. Trooper #1's marked SDHP patrol truck was facing northeast. Trooper #1's patrol vehicle had a shattered driver's front door window from the impact of a fired bullet near the upper right side of the window.

Trooper #2's vehicle was a marked SDHP patrol Ford Explorer. It was facing a southeast direction in the grass embankment area between 302nd Street, southbound I-29, and the southbound exit #42 on-ramp. The vehicle's emergency lights were illuminated, and the front grill was cracked and had minor damage.

VIDEO EVIDENCE

Body-worn camera (BWC) and patrol in-car camera recordings captured the pursuit of the Trailblazer, as well as the shooting incident.

Trooper #1's in-car patrol vehicle camera was activated and recording. Trooper #1 was not wearing a body-worn camera. Trooper #1's in-car camera recording began at 4:43 PM on April 1st as Trooper #1 turned around on the interstate. The stolen Trailblazer was observed traveling at a high rate of speed south on the interstate in front of Trooper #1 as he turned around in the median. The video showed the Trailblazer exit onto the southbound off-ramp of exit #42. The stolen Trailblazer was observed on video turning west onto 302nd Street before it lost control and spun around to face the east. Albaidhani accelerated and drove the Trailblazer into the south ditch, and Trooper #1 followed. The Trailblazer turned back to the north, through the ditch, and struck a metal delineator post, causing the passenger side tires to deflate as the vehicle entered the paved roadway. The vehicle spun again and turned to face the southwest.

The Trailblazer came to a stop on the roadway facing southwest. Albaidhani was observed in the driver's seat through Trooper #1's camera. Trooper #1 emerged from the ditch and stopped the patrol car. As a result, two vehicles faced each other at approximately one car length's distance. Albaidhani exited from the front driver's door with a cigarette in his mouth. At 4:45:29 PM, Albaidhani raised his right arm as he exited the vehicle and held a black handgun. Albaidhani fired two (2) rounds from the handgun at Trooper #1. One of the two fired rounds struck the open driver's door window of Trooper #1's patrol vehicle as he exited. Albaidhani ran to the east and turned his head to the north. Additional video confirmed that at this point, BPD Officer #1, BPD Officer #2, and Trooper #2 were at the bottom of the southbound on-ramp. Albaidhani raised his right arm and fired three (3) rounds to the north, in the direction of the other three Law Enforcement Officers. At that point, Albaidhani ran out of the view of Trooper #1's in-car camera. The stolen Trailblazer began to slowly roll forward past Trooper #1's patrol vehicle. At 4:45:32 PM, Trooper #2's patrol vehicle with emergency lights activated was seen traveling through the intersection towards the south. At the same time, BPD Officer #1 and BPD Officer #2 were observed running to the south.

Trooper #2's BWC and in-car camera were both activated and recording during the incident. As Trooper #2 was traveling south on I-29 at 4:45 PM, the lights of the marked Beresford patrol vehicle were observed ahead as the vehicles exited onto southbound exit #42. Trooper #2's camera showed the Beresford patrol vehicle near the stop sign at the bottom of the ramp. The Trailblazer was observed driving through the south ditch, then entered back on the roadway and spun to face Trooper #1. Trooper #2 approached the stop sign at the intersection and briefly stopped the patrol vehicle. Albaidhani was observed running toward the east, away from the Trailblazer, and observed looking to the north towards Trooper #2 and the Beresford Officers. Albaidhani raised his right hand and fired three rounds to the north as he looked at the Law Enforcement at the bottom of the ramp. The video shows Albaidhani fired two (2) rounds in the direction of the Beresford Officers. He then shifted the aim slightly to the east and fired one (1) round towards Trooper #2.

Albaidhani ran with a black handgun in his right hand. Trooper #2 accelerated into the grass embankment area south of 302nd Street. As Trooper #2 entered the grass, gunshots could be heard from Trooper #1, and two rounds were observed striking the ground near Albaidhani as he ran with the handgun. At 4:45:38 PM, Trooper #2 struck Albaidhani with the front of the marked SDHP Ford Explorer. As he was struck, Albaidhani lost grip of the black handgun and fell backward onto the hood and then in front of the patrol vehicle. Trooper #2 stopped the patrol car and reversed. Albaidhani was observed lying in the grass directly in front of Trooper #2's patrol vehicle. Albaidhani sat up and attempted to stand. He reached towards the front of his waistband with his right hand. At the same time, a round fired by Trooper #1 (off camera) struck the ground near Albaidhani. As Albaidhani rolled over, two more rounds were fired by Trooper #1 (off camera), one of which struck Albaidhani in his right upper arm. At 4:45:53 PM, Albaidhani raised his hands above his head, and no additional shots were fired. Beresford Police and the two Troopers approached Albaidhani and yelled loud verbal commands. Law Enforcement placed Albaidhani in handcuffs. Trooper #2 requested an ambulance and placed a tourniquet on Albaidhani's right arm.

The review of Law Enforcement video was consistent with the statements provided by Law Enforcement and showed that Trooper #1 fired a total of seven (7) rounds and Albaidhani fired a total of five (5) rounds during the incident.

SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on the Sig Sauer .40 caliber duty handgun fired by SDHP Trooper #1, as well as the Glock 43X 9mm handgun fired by Albaidhani. The SDFL also conducted testing on the fired shell casings recovered from the scene.

The testing concluded that Trooper #1's Sig Sauer .40 caliber duty handgun was functioning properly. The lab concluded that the four (4) .40 caliber fired shell casings recovered from the scene were fired from Trooper #1's handgun. The remaining three (3) casings were not recovered.

The lab concluded the stolen Glock 43X 9mm handgun fired by Samir Albaidhani was functioning properly. The five (5) fired 9mm shell casings found at the scene were fired from the Glock handgun used by Albaidhani.

MEDICAL REPORTS

Samir Albaidhani was struck in the upper right arm by a fired bullet and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. He received emergency medical treatment immediately following the shooting and was transported via ambulance to a Sioux Falls hospital for additional treatment. No Law Enforcement Officers were injured during the event.

Blood and urine testing were conducted on Trooper #1 and Trooper #2. The testing results showed neither had any amounts of illegal drugs or alcohol in their samples.

Blood and urine testing was conducted on Samir Albaidhani. Albaidhani tested positive for Cannabis and methamphetamine.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

A review of Samir Albaidhani's criminal history showed previous felony arrests and convictions. At the time of the shooting, Albaidhani was a wanted parole absconder in South Dakota. He was also wanted out of Pennington County, SD, on a failure to appear warrant for eluding and traffic charges. He had an active warrant in Codington County, SD, for aggravated eluding, and a warrant in Lyon County, IA, for theft of a motor vehicle and burglary. Prior arrests include aggravated assault, simple assault, resisting arrest, obstructing Law Enforcement, eluding Law Enforcement, first-degree burglary, grand theft, possessing a firearm with an altered serial number, and drug offenses.

CONCLUSION

Based on the totality of the circumstances, two SDHP Troopers present at the scene utilized lethal force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Officers attempted to apprehend Albaidhani after he was identified as a suspect in the shooting of a Police Officer in Sioux Falls. Albaidhani was also wanted for outstanding warrants and was a wanted parole absconder. Officers utilized marked patrol vehicles and emergency lights during the pursuit. Albaidhani was immediately non-compliant, fled the stolen vehicle he was in, and fired a handgun at four Law Enforcement Officers. Albaidhani fired at Trooper #1 before he fired additional rounds at BPD Officer #1, BPD Officer #2, and Trooper #2. After firing at Officers, Albaidhani ran from the scene while still armed with the handgun. He demonstrated a clear and present danger to Law Enforcement Officers by firing a deadly weapon at them. Trooper #2 utilized his patrol vehicle to strike the armed Albaidhani, ultimately leading to his apprehension.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, Law Enforcement Officers' statements, video review, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the described events that occurred on April 1st, 2025, in Union County, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that SDHP Trooper #1 was justified in firing his duty weapon and using lethal force.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that SDHP Trooper #2 was justified in utilizing deadly force with his patrol vehicle.

Photo 1



Albaidhani exiting the stolen Trailblazer, raising his firearm, pointing and discharging it at SDHP Trooper 1.

Photo 2



Albaidhani pointing his firearm a SDHP Trooper 1's vehicle (white hood at bottom of screen/ green arrow)

Photo 3



Albaidhani pointing and discharging his firearm at incoming SDHP Trooper 2 (green) and (out of frame to the left, Beresford PD unit) as he runs away from law enforcement.