



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-
INVESTIGATION REPORT (DPS-302-E) (REVISED 2/3/06)**

Report #: 1200704559 - 00019772

Report Type: Initial Report: Prosecutors Report: Supplement: Re-open: Assist: Closing:

Attachments: Statements: Teletype: Photos: Sketchmap: Evidence: Other:

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| CFS NO 1200704559 | INCIDENT DATE 12/14/2012 | TIME 09:41 | INCIDENT DATE 12/14/2012 | TIME | PRIMARY OFFICER JEWISS, DANIEL E. | BADGE NO 0336 | INVESTIGATING OFFICER SALMERI, JOSEPH P. | BADGE NO 0207 |
| INCIDENT ADDRESS 00012 Dickinson Dr/ Newtown 06482 | | | | | APARTMENT NO | TOWN CD | TYPE OF EXCEPTIONAL CLEARANCE Not Applicable | CASE STATUS Active |

FIRST RESPONDER ACTIONS:

On 12/14/2012, at approximately 0937 hours, I was on duty supervising the day shift along with Sergeant William Cario #149 when a radio broadcast was heard over the Troop A radio frequency advising of an active shooter situation at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. At the time of the broadcast, I was working inside the troop at my desk and Sergeant Cario was in the field. I heard Troop A Deskman, TFC Christopher Kick #811 state that he was going down the hall to advise the Lieutenant and Master Sergeant of the incident. I observed TFC Kick immediately return to the desk area and exit the building through the Sergeant's Office. I verified the incident address and contemporaneously ensured that the Barracks Commander, Lieutenant Hofbauer#040 and the Barracks Executive Officer, Master Sergeant Davis#089 were aware of the situation as they came into the Sergeant's Office. I provided the location of the incident and immediately departed for the scene, as did Lieutenant Hofbauer, Master Sergeant Davis, and Sergeant Wagnblas. TFC Richard McDaniel #1373, who was on duty (light duty) and at the Barracks, remained in the radio operations area to monitor the radio calls and provide security at the Troop.

I traveled to the scene via I84W exiting the highway at the exit 10 off ramp, turning left at the end of the ramp and traveling north on Church Hill Road. While travelling to the scene, I heard a transmission to turn left at the lighted intersection at the bottom of the hill and did so while encountering a construction site at Rt 34 and traveled west on Glen Road. I quickly realized that this was incorrect observing that TFC Kick was travelling east on Glen Road signalling to follow him. I reversed direction, travelled east on Glen Road, turned left onto Riverside Road, then right onto Dickinson Drive to arrive at the scene. Responding with my lights and siren activated, I arrived at the scene at approximately 0947 hours. Upon my arrival, I stopped my patrol vehicle at the east side of the main parking lot of the school a short distance from the front entrance area, north of the east corner of the school building. Sergeant Wagnblas' patrol vehicle was parked directly in front of my vehicle as we arrived simultaneously. I observed numerous emergency vehicles in the area and a full parking lot of civilian vehicles. As I exited my vehicle, I heard Sergeant Wagnblas call to me and we proceeded to search for the shooter(s), and any survivors/victims along with officers from the Newtown Police Department. Prior

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| INVESTIGATOR SIGNATURE: /SGT JOSEPH P SALMERI/ | INVESTIGATOR I.D.#: 0207 | REPORT DATE: 04/25/2013 05:05 am | SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: <i>[Signature]</i> | SUPERVISOR I.D.#: 130 |



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to the start of our search, I observed several sworn personnel at the front entrance of the school building. I took the point position, as our team traversed the grounds in a clockwise direction. We started at the front left (northeast) corner of the school building and continued around the outside of the building, searching for a way into the building. We were intercepted at the southwest corner of the school building by additional sworn personnel who were searching in the opposite direction. As our team met with Lieutenant Michael Perry #046 near the southwest corner of the building, Sergeant Wagnblas found a way into the school building. We entered the school building through the doorway at the southwest corner that lead to the rear hallway near the school library/media center. During our movements outside the building, I did not observe anyone exit the school building, nor did I see any subjects inside the school building. Our team, Lieutenant Perry, Sergeant Wagnblas, a Newtown Sergeant and I entered the building and continued the search for any threats, shooters, and victims/survivors.

Our team cleared several classrooms in the rear hall area of the building and assisted in evacuating children and staff who were found hidden in safe areas in those classrooms. In one specific area in particular, the school library/media center, we found multiple staff and children hidden in a closet that was located inside an adjoining break room. Movement had been observed in the library/media center by Lieutenant Perry; however, we could not identify who made the movement. Our team made several attempts to access the area not knowing whether or not the occupants were hostile or friendly, calling out "State Police", while only silence prevailed. Key access was necessary to gain entry through both doors of the adjoining break room and the secondary closet door to determine the occupant(s) of the closet. As previously stated, we found multiple staff and children hidden in that area and assisted with their safe evacuation.

Following the clearance of the library/media center and several classrooms, sworn personnel were posted outside those areas and I joined with a second search team that included Sergeant Cario, TFC Edward Benecchi #1413 and others to assist with clearing additional rooms adjoining the hallway on the east side of the school building. I also assisted with clearing the school gymnasium on the west side of the building. During the building search, neither I, nor any member of our search team observed a second shooter. Following the completion of our search, I went to the front of the building via the east side hallway. I observed the scene in the front hallway/classroom area of the school building. I met with Lieutenant Hofbauer and was advised to return to the command post, located at the Sandy Hook Fire Station, to assist with operations. I was advised by Lieutenant Hofbauer that it appeared that the shooter had fired rounds that exited the building and traveled in the direction where Sergeant Wagnblas and I had originally exited our patrol vehicles and started our search. Later, Sergeant Wagnblas advised me that he had heard the popping sound of gunfire as we exited our vehicles upon first arrival.

On 12/14/2012, at approximately 1135 hours, I arrived at the Command Post and observed numerous victim/survivors, witnesses, and citizens

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milling around. I met with Detective Rachael VanNess #1431 and soon after with Major Warren Hyatt Jr. #014. I observed that Detective VanNess was directing and grouping civilians to aid with the investigative and identification process. I also observed that the media was already staging in an area immediately adjacent to the Command Post with no buffer. I was directed by Major Hyatt to check on the status of the children in the adjacent nursery school and report back with my findings.

On 12/14/2012, at approximately 1200 hours, I met with Judith Sims (dob [REDACTED] 03 [REDACTED]) Director of the aforementioned nursery school that was located at 14 Riverside Road, Newtown. The nursery school is known as the Children's Adventure Center. Ms. Sims advised me that all children and staff at the nursery school were present except for those who had been released to a parent or guardian. I provided this information to Major Hyatt and Major Crime Sergeant Mark Davison #204.

On 12/14/2012, at approximately 1230 hours, Major Hyatt directed me to work with [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] (dob [REDACTED] 03 [REDACTED]) to assist with obtaining school directories/lists of staff and students assigned to the school. [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] at the school and deemed the main point of contact for the school in the absence of the victimized school administrators. I met with [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] and escorted her to the scene in order to retrieve the aforementioned lists then escorted her back to the Command Post. Upon return to the Command Post, [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] immediately met with the school staff and utilized the lists to determine the accountability of staff and students. This action assisted in determining the identity of the lost/deceased victims. A copy of these lists were provided to Sergeant Davison. During this activity, Detective VanNess requested assistance with encouraging the school staff to participate with providing written statements to the Major Crime Detectives. Through [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED], an announcement was made advising the school staff of the importance of providing written statements. I continued to work with [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] intermittently and provided additional assistance as needed for much of the day.

On 12/14/2013, at approximately 1325 hours, I received a cell phone call from Sergeant Michael O'Donnell #272, who was still at the main scene. Sergeant O'Donnell advised that there was a need to obtain photographs of the missing children to aid with the identification of the deceased children and staff. Sergeant O'Donnell advised that these photographs were believed to be on a computer drive in the main office of the school. [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] indicated that the school [REDACTED] 04, 03 [REDACTED] was available and in route to assist with obtaining the photographs. Upon the arrival of [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] at the Command Post, I escorted her to the scene to retrieve the photographs. [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED], assisted by Lieutenant Perry and Lieutenant Michael Jagoda #044 secured color photographs of the missing children and staff to assist with the investigation. The photographs were provided to Major Crime Detectives. Following this action, [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] was escorted back to the Command Post. Upon arrival at the Command Post, I was directed by Major Brian McClean #009 to transport [REDACTED] 04 [REDACTED] to the Investigative Command Post

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located at the Fairfield Hills facility, so that she could assist with identification of the victims that were sent to Danbury Hospital. [REDACTED] 04 was left in the care of the Major Crime Detectives at the Investigative Command Post. Upon completion of this assignment, I returned to the Command Post at the scene to provide further assistance.

On 12/14/2012, at approximately 1645 hours, I continued to assist the Major Crime detectives with identification tasks. I was tasked by Captain Dale Hourigan #028 to assist with the identification of a missing school staff member. The staff member was a special education teacher for the school district and her car had been discovered in the main parking area of the school while her whereabouts was still unknown. The aforementioned car was registered to Ms. Rachel D'Avino. With the assistance of [REDACTED] 04, several phone calls were made and we were able to determine that Ms. D'Avino was at the school during the incident. Ms. D'Avino was later positively identified as one of the 6 adult deceased victims. Following this task, I continued to shadow [REDACTED] 04 to assist with any additional issues or concerns.

On 12/14/2012, at approximately 1915 hours, after checking in with Major Hyatt, I contacted Sergeant Paul Hufcut #159 in the Command Post vehicle and advised him that I was clearing from the scene. I advised [REDACTED] 04 that I would be leaving after being assured that she no longer needed my services. [REDACTED] 04 final request was to provide transportation to Richard Thorne. Mr. Thorne was the school custodian who made one of the original 911 emergency calls reporting the active shooter incident. I escorted Mr. Thorne to my patrol vehicle and transported him to the center of Sandy Hook to meet with his family. During the short ride to Sandy Hook Center, Mr. Thorne described his actions of the day and was very distraught about his inability to do more to help the children and staff at the school. I stayed with Mr. Thorne, offering any assistance possible, until his family arrived to transport him home. I left Mr. Thorne with his family and returned to Troop A.

It should be noted that the times listed in this report are approximations. Exact times were not readily available due to the nature of the incident and the lack of access to the audio tapes for review. (NICE System is current under repairs at Troop A) I checked the CAD and observed that the dispatch/arrival times listed under my badge number were not accurate. I re-enacted the route taken by me to the scene under similar road conditions and substantiated the initial response time estimate of approximately 4 minutes as documented in this first responder report. It should also be noted that during the building search, attempts were made to remain in contact with Troop Communications via our portable radios; however, outgoing transmission to the Troop did not function while inside the building.

Case Status - ACTIVE

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