



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

Report #: 1200704559 - 00029067

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

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

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 PERRY, MICHAEL	BADGE NO 0046
INCIDENT ADDRESS 00012 Dickinson Dr/ Newtown 06482					APARTMENT NO	TOWN CD	TYPE OF EXCEPTIONAL CLEARANCE Not Applicable	CASE STATUS Active

On 12/14/12 at approximately 0940 hrs, I was fueling my assigned Chevy Malibu at Troop A in Southbury. I was dressed in business attire and driving a "soft" vehicle due to my assignment in the Statewide Narcotics Task Force. I observed Det Zullo enter the Troop parking lot at a high rate of speed, exit his cruiser in civilian clothing, retrieve a bullet proof vest from another vehicle and exit the parking lot at a high rate of speed. It was obvious that he was responding to an emergency call so I turned on my portable radio and immediately began hearing communications related to an active shooter at a school off of exit 10. I entered my vehicle and entered I-84 westbound based on the directions provided by dispatch. I contacted Sgt Bennett of the North West SNTF office and informed him that there was an active shooter situation at a school within close proximity to his office. Sgt Bennett assembled his team and responded to the scene in the office raid van. En-route, I received a call from Captain Hourigan regarding a narcotic investigation with our East Office. I informed him that I was responding to an active shooter situation and later learned that he and Sgt Eric Murray responded to the scene from Griswold.

I was not familiar with the area but was able to follow the directions provided by dispatch and arrived at the school. I parked my vehicle toward the east side of the school parking lot near several civilian vehicles and observed some cruisers already on-scene. I exited my vehicle and put on my department issued bullet proof vest and raid jacket. While removing my department issued AR-15 from the truck, I instructed two bystanders to move away from the area. I proceeded in a westerly direction across the parking lot attempting to use the two rows of civilian vehicles as cover as I approached the school. During this time, I observed a uniformed officer running between the rows of cars carrying a young girl in his arms. The girl appeared to be unconscious and the officer was running away from the school yelling for an ambulance. I observed a Newtown Officer taking cover behind a dumpster at the North West corner of the school so I tactically maneuvered down the west side of the school. I radioed the Troop and informed them that undercover personnel were on scene and to ensure that they were to wear their raid gear to prevent any friendly fire situations. I observed Sgt Salmeri and Sgt Wagnblas along the west side of the school and asked if they had heard any recent gunfire to which they replied "no." I asked if they knew if there was an active shooter team inside the school to which one of them replied that there was one team of approximately

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INVESTIGATOR SIGNATURE: /LT MICHAEL PERRY/	INVESTIGATOR I.D.#: 0046	REPORT DATE: 07/02/2013 11:00 am	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE /SGT JOSHUA PATTBERG/	SUPERVISOR I.D.#: 0130



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five. All of the doors on the west side of the school were locked but one of the Sergeants was able to gain entry from a door at the southwest corner of the school. We immediately formed a three man team and began searching the school moving in an easterly direction in the south hallway. I was in the point position with an AR-15 and one Sgt flanked me on each side while we proceeded down the hallway. We encountered a Newtown Officer in the hallway who directed us to the 4th grade section of the school because he was able to smell the odor of gun powder. I also was able to smell gun powder so we entered a small hallway, cleared several classrooms and lavatories in the modular section of the school. We did not contact any individuals in this section so we returned to the south hallway.

Our team then moved in an easterly direction and turned left onto the east hallway. At this point we were traveling in a northerly direction toward the front of the school. At some point, I recall TFC Spraggins had joined our team. Many of the classroom doors were locked and we were not able to see any students. Approximately halfway down the east hallway, I observed broken glass on the ground next to one of the doorways. A Newtown officer was standing in the hallway and stated that he had seen movement in the library (listed as the art room on the school map). I instructed him to remain at that position as we were beginning to get enough uniformed personnel in the building that we could maintain an interior perimeter. A short distance from there, I observed a 12 gauge shotgun shell on the ground. We began to encounter other law enforcement officials in the hallways and I continued to attempt to access the situation. We continued north to the northeast corner of the school and turned left onto the north hallway. We proceeded westerly where I observed a 30 round magazine lying in the hallway. It still contained rounds which appeared to be .223 rounds. Several Troopers were in this hallway and I observed two adult females lying against the wall. They appeared lifeless and were bleeding from several locations. I entered a classroom and observed a large number of children who all appeared to be deceased from gun shots lying against the south side of the classroom. There was also a male individual lying deceased with an apparent gunshot wound to the head and a semiautomatic handgun near him. He was located near the doorway of the classroom. A Trooper stated that the deceased male was the shooter and that the room had been cleared with no survivors. I exited the room and observed several spent .223 casings on the ground in front of the main office doorway. The large glass window in the lobby was shattered and there were bullet holes in the wall and in a glass display in the lobby. Outside the main entrance of the school, I observed several more spent .223 casings on the pavement along with trails of blood. We did not see a shotgun in any of the rooms and believed there to be a second shooter that could still be in the building or escaped.

I returned to the area of the library to determine if the officer was able to make contact with anyone to which he responded no. TFC Faughnan and TPR Poach were approaching me in the hallway in their tactical gear. I began assigning personnel posts within the school to maintain a secure presence of where we had already searched or where we had discovered locked classroom doors. Someone was able to locate a master key and we began to make contact with each classroom and verbalize that we were the police and wanted to escort the students and teachers from the

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building. We were able to gain entry to the library and perform a cursory search with negative results. We identified several locked doors in the process. TFC Faughnan, Poach and several other officers also made entry into the library and I pointed out the locked doors. TFC Faughnan was able to make verbal contact with someone behind two locked doors and slid a badge/patch under the door to prove our identity. Several people were removed from the storage closet and escorted from the building. This similar technique of evacuating the students and teachers was repeated multiple times due to the fact that we could only locate one master key and a majority of the classroom doors were locked. I continued to instruct personnel to remain at strategic locations of areas that were already cleared so that we didn't duplicate efforts yet maintained security within the school. I observed Sgt Bennett and his SNTF office personnel at the south east corner of the building and instructed them to maintain their position there while we continued to remove teachers and students from the building. A team of officers cleared all of the classrooms of students on the south side of the school in the same manner. I continued to monitor that we had personnel posted within eye sight of each other and in strategic places in the hallways. Troopers and Officers were providing verbal directions to the students and teachers as they were escorted out of the classrooms and out of the building. The students and teachers were in various emotional states from calm to hysterical. Troopers and officers continually provided words of encouragement while expediting the evacuation. At some point I made contact with LT Hofbauer and LT Jagoda who were in the lobby area of the school. I learned that the suspect vehicle was believed to be parked in front of the school and two black hoodies were observed on the ground in the vicinity of the vehicle. This information led us to believe that there still may be a second shooter within the school. I formed up some additional personnel and we performed another search of the west side of the school including the cafeteria and gym with negative results.

More uniformed personnel continued to arrive on scene. LT Hofbauer and LT Jagoda were in radio communication with the Troop coordinating efforts related to the suspect vehicle, sending a team to the registered owner's house, command post issues, etc. I advised them of the situation with the interior of the school. Once we had completed a preliminary search and secondary search, it appeared that the building's interior had been secured. I instructed personnel to remain at different locations throughout the school until the ESU tactical team arrived to conduct their search. To that point the only ESU personnel that I observed in the school were TFC Faughnan, TPR Poach and SGT Bartolotta.

We ultimately learned that the 12 gauge shotgun shell had been ejected from a first responder and this information was passed on to rule out the possibility of the missing shotgun. When the tactical team arrived, I informed them of the searches we had conducted and that uniformed personnel were staged throughout the building to maintain a secure presence. I informed them of the basic layout of the school and of the challenge of the locked doors and tried to provide them with any keys that we encountered while searching the rooms.

Once the tactical team completed their search of the building I exited the building to secure my AR-15 in the trunk. I observed several civilian

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vehicles in the front parking lot with bullet holes. I secured a roll of crime scene tape and instructed a Trooper to tape off all of the vehicles that had been struck. I examined the front windows of the school and observed several holes in the windows which appeared to have been caused by bullets exiting the classroom and then striking the parked cars. The location of the bullet holes in the parked cars appeared to be in a relatively small grouping.

We attempted to determine if there were any cameras in the school but were informed that there was a "buzz in" system at the front door. We were informed that the office could visually see who was requesting access but it was not recorded. At some point, I recall smelling an odor coming from the kitchen area which had already been cleared. I entered and observed that it appeared that multiple cooking appliances were left on when the staff evacuated the building. The appliances were all turned to the off position to prevent a fire or any other potential hazards.

I returned to the lobby area of the school where I learned that one of the deceased females in the hallway was believed to be the principal of the school. I entered the office and located the principal's office where I observed a purse on the ground. I was able to locate a CT driver's license and school ID card and provided it to a Trooper to assist with identification. I left the purse on a conference table within the principal's office. We began relieving personnel from the interior posts once the building had been deemed secured. I left one law enforcement officer at each intersection of hallways within eye contact to maintain the crime scene. Sgt O'Donnell and a Newtown Sgt acted as primary contacts in assisting the Command Staff within the school to effectively communicate and deploy resources.

At one point, Major Meraviglia located 04 [redacted] hiding in a storage closet in the nurse's office. They were able to provide witness statements so personnel were requested to escort them from the office and provide written statements. 04 [redacted] verbally stated that she heard gun shots from outside and observed one individual entering the school. She hid under her desk and heard him enter the office and proceed to stand in the doorway of the nurse's office. He left the office and she then heard more gun shots. 04 [redacted] then moved to the nurse's office where 04 [redacted] hid in the storage closet. 04 [redacted] stated that when she heard the gun shots, she hid under her desk, heard the shooter enter the main office and then observed his legs as he stood in the doorway to her office. The two witnesses were led from the office by Det Flockhart and a Major Crime detective to provide written statements. While escorting the witnesses from the office, they were instructed to close their eyes and were guided by the detectives out of the front door. This was done to prevent them from seeing the two deceased females in the hallway. Several of the .223 casings that were originally directly in front of the office door were disturbed due to the traffic of personnel and escorting the witnesses.

I assisted LT Jagoda who was working on the attendance for the school and lists of students per classroom. Ultimately 04 [redacted]

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04 was escorted to the main office by Sgt Salmeri where I assisted her in printing out class photos for three classrooms, Roig, 04 and Soto. 04 attempted to provide the names of each student on a separate piece of paper. 04 directed me to the student files cabinet and I pulled the same three classrooms to verify the names and faces of each student 04 was identifying. This information was placed in a box and I provided it to the major crime van to assist them in identifying the victims. While this identification process continued, the office telephones were ringing constantly. After several hours, this began to cause stress, anxiety and a distraction to personnel working within the office. I unplugged the phone lines on all of the phones ringing in the office to enable personnel to concentrate on their assignments. 04 was also escorted to and from the main office with her eyes closed to prevent her from seeing the victims in the hallway. I secured from the scene at approximately 1700 hrs.

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