

\$50,000 reward put up in fatal bomb probe

By John Ellement
GLOBE STAFF

A police union and a federal agency yesterday offered rewards totaling \$50,000 for information leading to those responsible for the bomb that killed Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. and injured Officer Francis X. Foley on Oct. 28 in Roalindale.

Acknowledging that they could use help to find the killer, Terrence McArdle, special agent in charge of the Boston office of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Donald L. Murray, president of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, announced the reward offer yesterday at a press conference.

Both insisted the reward was not a sign that the investigation into the death of Hurley has stalled, but they also indicated investigators could use new leads.

"This case is not as viable as it was a week ago," said McArdle, whose office is lending investigative and technical assistance to the Boston Police Department. "So we could use a little help. We're not at a dead end."

Murray said the reward is designed to "help speed things up. We're only as good as the information we receive" and to demonstrate that catching the bomber is of "utmost importance" to the union and law enforcement.

Hurley and Foley, members of the police bomb squad, were called to the Eastbourne Street home of Thomas Shay to inspect a device in the back yard that Shay said he had put there after he had found it attached to the bottom of his car the day before.

While the two officers were in the yard the device exploded, fatally injuring Hurley and putting Foley in the hospital for two weeks.

Hurley died that night in Brigham and Women's Hospital. Foley, who lost his left eye in the explosion, was released from the same

from other injuries, relatives said. "He just wants to take some time," his brother, Edward Foley, said yesterday. "He had the scare of his life, plus he lost a personal friend."

McArdle said firearms bureau technicians have built a duplicate of the device that exploded on Oct. 28, and investigators are now attempting to track down the materials used in the bomb.

But McArdle said many of the components of the bomb are readily available in "hundreds" of stores and through mail order catalogs, magnifying the task of tracing purchases. He said some of the components are not generally available but declined to identify those.

"They know everything about it, but it's very difficult to track down," McArdle said of the agents and Boston detectives. "They are so general it may be impossible to trace" them.

McArdle declined to describe the type of explosive used in the bomb, but said the device was "sophisticated," more complex than a pipe bomb.

"It was constructed by somebody who knew what they were doing," Murray said.

The union's \$25,000 reward will be distributed when a conviction is obtained. The \$25,000 offered by the firearms bureau will be released when a person is arrested and prosecuted for the crime.

A reward offer was critical to the department's 1987 investigation into the death of Detective Roy J. Sergei, who was shot Oct. 2, 1987, as police investigated a reported break-in.

A union official said the \$25,000 reward offered in that case led an Ohio prison inmate to contact authorities and provide information that focused the investigation on Ted Otsuki as Sergei's killer. Otsuki was eventually convicted.

The officials said people with information should contact the Boston Police Homicide Unit at 247-4470 or the firearms bureau at 565-7040. Information given to either agency will be shared by key investigators,

Police offer \$50G reward for info in fatal bombing

By JACK MEYERS

Hoping to heat up the investigation, the Boston Police union and federal authorities have put up a \$50,000 reward to help crack the Roalindale bombing case that killed one officer and wounded another.

"I don't care where we have to reach or who we have to reach," said Donald Murray, president of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, which is putting up half the reward money. "We feel it's of the utmost importance that we find the perpetrators of this most heinous crime."

Terence J. McArdle, special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' Boston office, said the money is being offered as an incentive to get information as quickly as possible.

"The case isn't as viable as it was a week ago. We want help," said McArdle. The bureau is putting up the other \$25,000.

"We're not at a dead end. Could it be solved without the reward? Yes," he said. However, the reward could lead to the breakthrough much sooner, he said.

Boston bomb squad officer Jeremiah Hurley Jr. was killed Oct. 28 when a bomb at 39 Eastbourne St. exploded. His colleague, Francis Foley, was injured in the blast.

Thomas J. Shay, who lives at the house, told police he found the box containing the bomb under his car the day before. Shay's son, Thomas A. Shay, has been questioned by police about the bomb incident.

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