

Quincy man made bomb, Shay says

By John Ellement
GLOBE STAFF

In a press release and interview from San Francisco County Jail, Thomas A. Shay yesterday implicated a 32-year-old Quincy man in last year's Roslindale bombing that killed a Boston police officer and injured a second member of the bomb squad.

Shay, 20, is the son of Thomas L. Shay, at whose Eastbourne Street home the bomb exploded on Oct. 28, killing Officer Jeremiah Hurley and injuring Francis X. Foley. Foley has retired from the force because of his injuries.

Shay has a lengthy psychiatric history and was arrested by federal authorities earlier this week as a fugitive from justice in San Francisco where Shay had been living under a pseudonym. Shay has failed to keep court dates in Boston Municipal Court.

In a two-page statement faxed by a friend to Bay Area newspapers and in a later telephone interview with the Globe, Shay said the Quincy man is skilled in building satellites and he had been told by Boston Police Det. Francis Armstrong that the man is suspected of building the bomb that killed Hurley.

In the interview, Shay identified the man by name, describing him as "a friend of mine for a couple of years. . . . He builds satellites and he's the only high-tech guy in my phone book."

Neither the man nor his attorney could be reached for comment yesterday. A source familiar with the bombing investigation said the man is a "subject" of the probe and had been accused in 1986 of making incendiary devices in Norfolk County. Other details could not be confirmed last night.

Shay and sources have independently said investigators obtained the younger Shay's address book shortly after the bombing and have been combing the individuals listed for a link between Shay and the bombing.

Sources said federal authorities are pursuing the theory that Shay had someone prepare the explosive device, and they hope to convince the builder of the device to provide evidence against Shay.

Shay said the investigation has caused

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tremendous pain to some of his friends.

He said the telephone interview was taped and monitored by Armstrong and an agent of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who were with him when he contacted the Globe.

The commander of the homicide unit, Lt. Detective Edward McNelley, declined comment yesterday and referred all questions about the case to Assistant US Attorney Paul Kelly, who is handling the federal grand jury that has been investigating Hurley's murder. Kelly could not be reached for comment.

The bureau and homicide detectives are jointly investigating the case, but the prosecution likely will be federal because of stronger sentencing laws and the greater ease with which the federal grand jury can probe suspects, sources have said.

Shay said he has been living in San Francisco for about three months or so and had opened a massage business. He apparently had not told his roommate his true name.

In his two-page statement, Shay outlined his version of the events prior to the explosion and for a few days afterward. However, he made several errors in his recitation. For example, he said the bomb exploded Oct. 29; the explosion occurred Oct. 28.

He also said his father went to the West Roxbury police station and returned accompanied by Hurley and Foley. In fact, the bomb squad team was dispatched to the home at the request of uniformed officers who had already arrived on the scene.

Moreover, Shay said agents of the Central Intelligence Agency were at the Eastbourne Street home the day after the bomb exploded. A special team from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms joined the Boston police conducting the examination, officials have said.