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Suspect: Feds think buddy built death bomb

By SHELLEY MURPHY

A suspect in a Roslindale bomb blast that killed a Boston Police officer claims investigators have targeted his friend — a satellite-maker — as the builder of the deadly bomb.

During a telephone in-

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Roslindale bomb suspect says friend targeted in probe

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interview with the Herald yesterday from his San Francisco jail cell, Thomas A. Shay, 20, of Quincy, claimed investigators believe he tried to kill his father and enlisted a friend, Al Trenkler, of Quincy, to build the bomb.

But, Shay insisted, "I had nothing to do with the bombing in Roslindale." Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay, 47, called police to his 39 Eastbourne St. home in Roslindale on Oct. 28 after finding a suspicious box that had fallen from under his car.

The bomb exploded while being inspected, killing Boston Police bomb squad Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley Jr. and seriously wounding his partner, Officer Francis X. Foley.

"They think one of my friends built it," said Shay, referring to Trenkler. "I couldn't tell if he did or he didn't because I don't know."

Trenkler was charged with unlawful possession of an explosive in 1986 after a bomb was found under a Quincy fish company truck. The charge was reportedly dismissed by the state a year later.

Trenkler couldn't be reached for comment yesterday.

Shay claimed investigators started focusing on Trenkler after finding his name in Shay's address book and learn-

ing he built satellites for a living.

"I met Trenkler twice," said Shay when asked about the friendship. "I've known him a couple of years and I've gone out with him twice." Shay has a history of psychiatric problems dating back to when he was a toddler and spent time in various institutions.

When asked if his father abused him, Shay said, "I'm not going to say that he was the best father in the world and I'd give him a trophy. But, I'm not going to say he was even the type of guy I'd go up and punch in the face." Shay said he's never reacted to problems with violence and instead, writes things down to vent his feelings.

"I don't go out and try to kill people," said Shay.

Later, Shay said, "The hell with my father because he thinks I actually went out and tried to kill him, that's what the police told me. The hell with him, I'm looking out for my own ass now."

Shay was arrested Tuesday in San Francisco for allegedly fleeing Massachusetts to avoid prosecution on a state charge that he called in a bomb threat to the Back Bay MBTA station in November 1990.

A San Francisco municipal court judge ordered Shay held on \$5 million cash bail after he announced he'd fight his rendition to face the charge in Boston Municipal Court.

Shay said he decided to fight his removal because "all of the police in Boston think I had something to do with this case, they think I blew up a cop and I've already been assaulted twice in jail."

But, last night, Shay called

the Herald and said he changed his mind and had waived his right to fight rendition. Shay said he expected to arrive in Boston on Tuesday.

Boston Police detectives and federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents, who are investigating the fatal Roslindale blast, tracked Shay to San Francisco.

Investigators don't believe Shay has been fully cooperative during earlier interviews and hoped to question him again

about the Roslindale blast, sources said.

Shay insisted he had nothing to do with the Roslindale blast and has no information that could help the probe.

Shay claimed investigators offered him a deal in exchange for his cooperation. He claimed they told him he'd only have to serve 10 years in prison if he cooperated against the person who built the bomb that killed Hurley.

But, Shay claimed he reject-

ed the alleged offer because, "I did not do the crime and I will not admit to something I didn't do."

Asst. U.S. Attorney Paul V. Kelly, who is prosecuting the case, branded Shay's claims about a deal "absolutely outrageous. There have been no deals or propositions offered to anybody in connection with this investigation."

The Roslindale bomb blast is under intense investigation by Boston Police, ATF, and the offices of Suffolk County District Attorney Newman Flanagan and U.S. Attorney Wayne A. Budd.

Both of Shay's natural parents and many of his friends have been subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury.

The grand jury also issued a subpoena requiring the younger Shay to produce handwriting samples, fingerprints and photographs.

Shay issued a press release earlier this week to the San Francisco media that read, "The truth of it is that they can't find the person who built the device and put it under my father's car, so they're trying to mess with me."

Shay insisted police began targeting him because "I made a big stink back in Boston and told the news that the Boston Police didn't know what they were doing because they weren't wearing protective gear to look at the device."

Shay said he's innocent and has volunteered to take a lie detector test to prove he wasn't involved in the Roslindale blast.

"I don't want me to look like the bad guy because I'm not the bad guy," Shay told the Herald.