

Shay denies role in fatal bombing

By John Ellement
GLOBE STAFF

Thomas A. Shay, a suspect in the bombing last year that killed one Boston Police officer and wounded a second, yesterday proclaimed his innocence and offered to take a lie detector test to prove he had nothing to do with the murder of Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley.

Shay, 20, was brought back to Boston by Boston Police detectives, who picked him up in San Francisco where he had been in custody since last week when police and agents of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms tracked him down.

Shay is in default in Boston Municipal Court where he has been charged with two offenses dating from 1990: telephoning a bomb threat to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and being a common nightwalker. No bomb was found in the MBTA case. Shay is expected to be arraigned today.

At a press conference at Logan Airport, Shay read from handwritten notes held in shaking shackled hands as he addressed reporters.

"I want to start off by saying I am not guilty of any crimes. I am not part of any person or any crimes that took place in the dealing with the Roslindale bomb blast that killed Officer Jeremiah Hurley and injured Officer Francis X. Foley," he said.

"Except that I am related to Thomas L. Shay, who is my father and owns the land where the bomb blast took place at."

The Oct. 28 explosion occurred at the Eastbourne Street home where Thomas L. Shay lives with his girlfriend, Mary A. Flanagan. Through his attorney, the senior Shay has denied any involvement in the incident.

At his press conference, the younger Shay spoke mournfully of his life. While just 20 years old, Shay has spent a great deal of time in eight different institutions, beginning at the age of 5, according to records.

"I've already had a hard life," he said. "My life is pretty screwed up."

Shay said he first spoke out about the bombing because "I was just looking out for my family. That's all I wanted to do. Now, I have to look out for myself."

Shay said he needs an attorney, although he has been represented for the past several months by William C. McPhee.

Shay's press conference was videotaped by two police officers. It was the second time investigators have memorialized Shay's pronouncements on videotape, the first occurring last November when Shay met reporters and claimed he was the target of the bomb.

While Shay insists he is innocent, a federal grand jury has been investigating the explosion for the past



Thomas A. Shay, linked to a fatal bomb blast last year, arrives at Logan Airport yesterday in the custody of Police Detective Mike Craven.

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / TOM HERDE

several weeks, and investigators have unearthed information they believe indicates that Shay played a role in the incident.

Shay's allusion to not having any ties to anyone else suspected of involvement was an apparent reference to a Quincy man Shay implicated earlier this week.

In that statement, Shay said the grand jury is looking at the Quincy

man as the possible builder of the bomb. Shay has described the man 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."

Sources said the Quincy man is a person of interest to investigators who are still trying to discover who built the bomb and why it was placed under Thomas L. Shay's car.