

Jailed suspect eyed in new bomb threat

By L. KIM TAN

Thomas A. Shay Jr., the suspect in a bomb explosion that killed a Boston Police officer last October, is being investigated for allegedly making a bomb threat over the weekend from the jail where he is being held.

Sources familiar with the probe said Shay, 20, allegedly placed a collect call to a Brighton woman Sunday afternoon, telling her "there is a bomb" in her Commonwealth Avenue apartment.

The sources said Shay hung up before the woman could tell the telephone operator if she would accept the charge for the call.

The operator was able to trace the call to the Suffolk County Jail on Nashua Street, where Shay is being held awaiting trial on charges of calling a bomb threat to the MBTA's Back Bay station in November 1990 and common streetwalking, the sources said.

Suffolk County Sheriff Robert Rufo confirmed yesterday an investigation is under way, but declined further comment.

The woman who allegedly received the call from Shay said last night she did not know Shay. "I basically received a random phone call," she said.

Shay's attorney, William C. McPhee, could not be reached for comment.

Shay, who was arrested in San Francisco last month, is a suspect but has not been charged in the Oct. 28 blast in Roslindale that killed Officer Jeremiah Hurley Jr. and injured Officer Francis X. Foley.

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Police say threat phoned from jail

Thomas A. Shay was being investigated yesterday in connection with a bomb threat to a Brighton home that was apparently made during a phone call from Nashua Street Jail. Gerard Lydon, spokesman for the Suffolk County sheriff's department, said Boston police were investigating the threat, which occurred at about 4:30 p.m. Sunday. According to Lydon, Boston police traced the phone number to a pay phone in the jail that Shay was logged in as using at the time. Boston police would not comment on the ongoing investigation. Shay, 20, was picked up in San Francisco and returned to Boston last week for defaulting on a charge of phoning a bomb threat to the MBTA. Last Oct. 28, a bomb exploded in driveway of Shay's father's home, killing Boston Officer Jeremiah J. Hurley and wounding officer Francis X. Foley. Shay has claimed that the bomb was meant for him. No one has been charged in that case.