

Metro Region

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2 held in blast fatal to officer

Pair accused in plot
to kill father of one

By Matthew Breilis
GLOBE STAFF

Nearly 14 months after a bomb blast shattered the peace of a Roslindale neighborhood and killed a Boston police officer and maimed his partner, a federal grand jury yesterday indicted two men in connection with the explosion.

The five-count indictment charges that Thomas A. Shay, 20, and Albert W. Trenkler, 36, both of Quincy, conspired in the fall of 1991 to kill Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay, by attaching a bomb to the undercarriage of the elder Shay's 1986 Buick.

The bomb exploded Oct. 28, 1991, killing Officer Jeremiah Hurley and maiming his partner, Francis X. Foley. Both were members of the bomb squad that had been called to the elder Shay's home on Eastbourne Street.

Law enforcement sources said that financial gain and revenge for a childhood allegedly punctuated by abuse and neglect were motives for Shay trying to kill his father.

The indictment charges both men with conspiracy and two counts each of receiving an explosive device in interstate commerce and attempting to maliciously destroy by explosive a building, vehicle or real property used in interstate commerce. Sources said investigators can place the two men together on numerous occasions, one of them being a night that Shay spent at Trenkler's apartment.

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Two indicted in Roslindale bomb

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■ SHAY

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US Attorney A. John Pappalardo said that if the two are found guilty, two of the four charges dealing with the explosives could result in the death penalty or life imprisonment because an individual was killed as a

result of the device.

Officials have not decided whether to seek the death penalty. Even though capital punishment is not allowed under state law in Massachusetts, such a case could be brought in federal court, Pappalardo said.

Foley declined to comment last night, citing the pending trial. Members of Hurley's family could not be reached.

Trenkler, who runs a telecommunications company in Weymouth called ATNS Inc., was arrested on

DEFENDANT'S
EXHIBIT

97 ID

blast that killed police officer

Morrissey Boulevard near Neponset Circle without incident.

Assistant US Attorneys Paul V. Kelly and Frank A. Libby Jr., who are prosecuting the case, urged US Magistrate-Judge Marianne B. Bowler to hold Trenkler without bail because he is a danger to the community and a risk in terms of flight. A detention hearing will be held tomorrow morning. Until then, Trenkler will be held in the Plymouth County Jail.

Trenkler's attorney, Terry Segal, argued that his client had considerable ties to the community and was not a risk to flee.

"Alfred Trenkler is innocent of

all charges," Segal said in a statement.

Shay is in the Essex County Jail at Middleton awaiting a federal trial, on other charges, that is scheduled to start Monday. He was charged with using a telephone to make a bomb threat while in the Nashua Street Jail and will be arraigned this morning on charges relating to the Roslindale bombing.

Shay's attorney, Francis J. O'Rourke, said Shay will plead not guilty. In a telephone call to the Globe last month, Shay said he expected to be indicted this week on charges connected to the bombing, but would not say whether he had plotted to kill his father.

The indictment charges that Trenkler and Shay conspired to make a remote-controlled bomb after they "discussed and agreed to kill Thomas L. Shay."

"In or about September 1991, Trenkler, who had a background in electronics, agreed to construct a remote-controlled explosive device, knowing the same would be used by Shay in an attempt to kill his father," the indictment states.

"On or about Oct. 18, 1991, Shay purchased and acquired electrical components needed for the construction and testing of the explosive device," and allegedly Trenkler built the bomb which consisted of "dynamite, blasting caps and other materials," according to the indictment.

Sources have said that investigators found an Oct. 18 Radio Shack receipt that lists various items including a toggle switch said to be the same model found in the remnants of the bomb and that the Radio Shack clerk identified Shay from a series of photographs as the customer who purchased the equipment.

When Boston police and agents from the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agency collected all the bomb



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / JONATHAN WIGGS

Bomb squad officer Francis X. Foley, injured in the October 1991 explosion, appears at yesterday's announcement of indictments.

fragments, it enabled them to rebuild the bomb at an agency laboratory in Maryland. But with few apparent motives, the investigators appealed to the public for help and offered a \$50,000 reward.

At the time of the bombing, the elder Shay was a plaintiff in a civil lawsuit in which he was seeking \$400,000 in damages.

According to sources, the younger Shay found out on Sept. 13, 1991, that since his father had already given his deposition, the suit would continue even if he died and that his heirs would be the beneficiaries if the suit was successful.

The younger Shay began making bizarre statements and holding press conferences in which he said he was the target of the bomb and law enforcement officials began to investigate him.

He is in custody on charges of using a telephone to make a bomb threat.

The senior Shay was too upset yesterday to comment, his attorney, Alan J. Pransky, said. "He is very saddened by this whole situation and does not want to make a comment to the press," Pransky said.