

# Expert recreates bomb that killed officer

—By Stephen Walsh  
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BOSTON — With the flick of a switch, a federal explosives expert set off a simulated bomb yesterday during the federal trial of Thomas A. Shay, 21, of Quincy.

With a hiss, two small lightbulbs substituted for blasting caps blazed briefly, bouncing light off the family of a police officer who was killed by the original bomb in a Roslindale driveway in 1991.

"Three, two, one, fire," Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agent Thomas Waskom yelled from the last row of the audience gallery, where he held a white plastic remote control box.

Shay is on trial for conspiracy in planting the bomb that resulted in the death of a Boston Police bomb squad officer Jeremiah Hurley, 50,

and the maiming of his partner, Francis X. Foley, 49.

The prosecutors allege that Shay and another Quincy man, Alfred Trenkler, 36, conspired to use the bomb to try to kill Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay of Boston. Trenkler will be tried separately.

Yesterday, the fourth day of testimony, Waskom said the bomb that exploded on Oct. 28, 1991, was constructed with a remote control system similar to those used in model airplanes.

A receiver on the bomb, which was powered by four AA batteries, was activated by flicking a switch, Waskom said. A signal from a hand-held transmitter located up to a mile away started a motor that turned a toggle switch. That sent current through five 9-volt batteries, which produced 45 volts of power to two blasting caps.

The caps set off two or three sticks of dynamite wrapped in the pages of a magazine and covered with tape.

The device was packed in a black wooden casing roughly the size of an inch-thick shoe box, held together with nails and a substance similar to a fast-drying glue.

Prosecutors Paul V. Kelly and Frank Libby Jr. yesterday set up a simulated version of the bomb for the jury. Pieces of the original bomb were recovered from the blast site and have been entered into evidence.

The simulated bomb was laid out on a labeled board on an easel about 8 feet in front of prosecutors and about 15 feet from Hurley's family members, who were seated in the front row of the audience gallery.

Kelly and Libby say they will produce a receipt from a Radio Shack store showing that Shay purchased

parts used in the bomb, including the toggle switch, and may have tried to conceal his identity by transposing middle letters in his last name and numbers in his telephone number.

The store is near where investigators say Trenkler was making the bomb.

Kelly said that Shay and Trenkler planned to split the money from a \$400,000 lawsuit the elder Shay had pending against the landlords of his Dedham auto body shop. Kelly also said Shay was abused by his father, but admitted to the jury that much of the evidence is circumstantial.

Defense Attorney Nancy Gertner suggested that federal bomb investigators did not fully examine all potential evidence against the elder Shay by searching his workplace or immediately seizing scraps of wood in a garage near the blast scene.