

# Judge asked to link blasts

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BOSTON — Federal prosecutors in the conspiracy trial of a Quincy man asked a judge on Friday to allow the linking of a 1986 Quincy fish truck bombing to a 1991 blast that killed a Boston police officer.

The prosecutors in the trial of Thomas A. Shay, 21, of Quincy, who is charged with planting the 1991 bomb, say the jury needs to know that Shay's alleged co-conspirator, Alfred Trenkler of Quincy, made a similar bomb in 1986.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Frank Libby Jr. and Paul V. Kelly say Shay's defense attorney is trying to pin the blame for the 1991 bombing on her client's father, Thomas L. Shay of Roslindale.

"Simply put, the defense has sought, and will continue to seek, to create reasonable doubt on Shay Jr.'s behalf by ... pointing the finger directly at Shay Sr.," the prosecutors said in a motion filed Friday.

The elder Shay reported finding a bomb under his car in his Roslindale driveway and notified police on Oct. 28, 1991. The bomb later exploded, killing Boston Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah Hurley, 50, and severely injuring his partner, Francis X. Foley.

Prosecutors say the younger Shay wanted to kill his father to collect money from a \$400,000 lawsuit the elder Shay had pending against the landlords of his Dedham auto body shop. Prosecutors also say Shay and his father had lived apart during Shay's childhood and had frequent arguments in the years leading up to the 1991 bombing.

Libby and Kelly had asked Judge Rya Zobel at the start of the trial last week for permission to mention Trenkler's involvement with the 1986 blast. Trenkler, 36, will be tried separately.

Zobel held off on a ruling to determine if the 1986 information would prove to be necessary in this trial.

In their motion, prosecutors say Trenkler admitted to designing and building a bomb that damaged a Capeway Fish Market delivery truck on Willard Street in West Quincy on Labor Day 1986.

The blast at about 2:15 a.m. was loud enough to be heard up to a mile away, but did little damage to the truck, police said.

In the 1991 blast that killed the officer in Roslindale, investigators say the 6-pound, remote-controlled bomb was attached to the bottom of Shay's car with magnets strong enough to hold nearly 70 pounds.

The motion also credits a Quincy police detective, Thomas Tierney, with coming up with the information that allowed them to link the younger Shay to Trenkler.

Tierney showed investigators the similarities between the two bombings. That information proved vital when Shay was arrested on an outstanding Milton default warrant on Oct. 31, 1991, carrying an address book.

Investigators later spotted Trenkler's name in Shay's book, and confirmed that the two were friends. Trenkler was arrested at his apartment on Atlantic Street in Quincy on Nov. 5, 1991.

Throughout the trial, defense Attorney Nancy Gertner has suggested that the elder Shay could have built the bomb, and during cross examination asked him if he helped police investigate his son "because it took the heat off you."

In her opening statement, Gertner also urged the jury to try to understand the 1991 bombing "where the police start, not with Tom Shay Jr. but with Tom Shay Sr."

Gertner has argued that police did not search thoroughly enough in the autobody shop where Shay worked part-time at the time of the 1991 bombing.

In testimony Friday, Boston police Patrolman William Bridgeforth said the younger Shay told him the day after the blast that he "wished he could turn back the hands of time to make it not happen."