

THE Blue Line

Fairfax County Police Department

Spring 1993

CIA - The Untold Story

by
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CIA shooting shows cruisers to the rear of the victim's car. Facing the camera from left: PFC G. S. Benn, Inv. R. G. Kokinda, Off. T. S. Payne

The morning of January 25, 1993 was cold and blustery with not a cloud in the sky. At 7:51 AM Public Safety Communications Assistant Paul Krusynski at the Fairfax County Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) received a frantic call from Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) police on the direct phone line between PSCC and CIA. The caller advised that there were two people shot at the main gate to the CIA. Krusynski relayed the information to Second Lieutenant Bob Hersey, PSCC Supervisor, who was dispatching to the McLean and Reston District Stations on channels three and five. The PSCC daywork shift was short staffed and Bob had volunteered to work late so that no one would have to be called in on a day off.

As more complete information was received, Krusynski realized that police and rescue units had to be dispatched to

assist additional shooting victims on Dolley Madison Boulevard. The number of calls immediately following the incident from citizens who witnessed the shooting increased dramatically and calltakers were faced with the task of sifting through the information to provide responding officers with the most accurate update possible. An officer responding to any emergency situation has to rely totally on the information provided by the dispatcher, and a dispatcher can only be as effective as the information the caller provides to the calltaker. Krusynski kept the first caller on the line for nearly an hour and due to his professionalism he was able to calm the caller and extract pertinent information.

What was it like in PSCC right after the call came in? "Total chaos until you can get a first unit on the scene and get a progress report," said PSCC Assistant Shift Supervisor Sherry Clay.

Officers Troy Payne and Jack Hardin of the McLean District Station were working daywork this Monday morning. The morning had been quiet and both were preparing their dockets for traffic court at 9:30 AM. When Lt. Hersey sounded the beep tones their bodies tensed and their hearts began beating faster.

"Start for 930 Dolley Madison Boulevard. CIA. Just received a call—we're trying to get further now. Apparently we got two people shot. They're supposed to be at the main gate." Seconds later, Hersey advised, "Units responding, for your information. Apparently we got three more people down on Route 123. CIA units on the scene. They do not have a perpetrator yet. Update is we have a total of five people shot."

Payne and Hardin heard the busy radio traffic as members of their squad radioed response as backup, but their minds were not comprehending what was being said. Their minds were leaping ahead, trying to think of all the possibilities they might find once they arrived on the scene. Where was the shooter? Was this a traffic altercation that had gone bad? How far away was rescue? Are there any witnesses? Or is this a hoax call from someone with a warped sense of humor? Both officers had dealt with "false calls" from the CIA before, and both did not really believe the reported shooting until they arrived.

Officer Payne was on the scene in less than three minutes and arrived before rescue personnel. Hardin arrived seconds later. They located the first scene in the left turn lanes of Dolley Madison Boulevard at the entrance to the CIA and stopped their cruisers to the rear of the victims' cars. Neither had any idea where the suspect or suspects were and both were concerned about the possibility of sniper fire from high ground that overlooked the area. Payne approached to check on the victims' conditions, using the cars stopped in both lanes as cover. The victims had been gunned down as they sat in their cars. Hardin was approached by one of several armed CIA police officers who advised that a witness

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the shootings was waiting to the rear of air cruisers.

Payne found three victims and radioed SCC. "Scout 320B. I definitely have a vehicle on the road with gunshot wounds. My lookout is a white male." Two victims were dead and one was conscious but critically wounded. Payne comforted the wounded man and as he looked up he was grateful to see rescue personnel making their way through the bumper-to-bumper traffic. Hardin stopped traffic on northbound Dolley Madison Boulevard to allow rescue access and to protect the scene. Payne left the victim with rescue and quickly located the witness. He ascertained that the lone gunman responsible for the carnage had fled the scene. As a result of Payne's witness interview he was able to broadcast an updated lookout for a white male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, wearing dark pants and a dark jacket. The suspect was driving an older model dark car last seen northbound on Route 123 and was armed with a long weapon, possibly a shotgun.

A second scene had developed at the intersection of the CIA where two additional victims trapped in their cars as the gunman fired had fled for assistance.



Investigators from Fairfax County and other agencies discussing CIA case.

The well-trained and dedicated staff at the DC was now in a flurry of activity. The Shift Supervisor and Assistant Shift Supervisor Pete Kirby made the required event notifications. A lookout was provided to the Washington Area Warning Alert System which alerts local federal agencies. A type flash message, which provides a hard-copy lookout to all police jurisdictions in the National Crime Information Center network, was sent immediately. Under the cooperative agreement this is the first time our communications personnel have seized control of the Mutual Aid Radio for Fairfax

County's exclusive use," said Kirby.

As his officers arrived, the McLean squad supervisor, Second Lieutenant Dorian Portee, instructed them to set up a perimeter. Officers of the Traffic Division and the Tactical Team responded to assist with traffic control and remained on the scene for over six hours. In coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation, alternate routes were plotted, Dolley Madison Boulevard was closed in both directions, traffic caught in the area of the perimeter was rerouted and the traffic information signboards on the Beltway were updated. Morning rush hour traffic caught in the web of the police perimeter had to be rerouted. Hardin helped with traffic control at Route 123 and Potomac School Road until he left to go to court. Payne canceled traffic court for the day.

Back in the communications center, channels three and five were split. Hersey continued to handle the radio traffic for the CIA incident on channel three while Public Safety Communications Assistant Nancie Sperling resumed normal traffic for McLean and Reston on channel five. While patching the remaining units to another console Hersey experienced problems with his microphone. Technicians from Planning Research Corporation, who staff PSCC around the clock, were available to remedy the problem. Public Safety Communications Assistant Wrentree Kelly assisted Hersey at his console until she and Kirby were transferred to staff the command bus. Once the command bus was in position at the scene Kirby and Kelly took over radio traffic for the incident and Hersey continued to monitor from PSCC. "Everybody in the center did an excellent job. They were coordinated and worked together as a team," said Hersey.

Payne spoke with the witness until Criminal Investigations Bureau investigators and Crime Scene Section officers responded and then he took a position as perimeter security and remained until the road was finally opened many hours later. In his preliminary investigation report, Payne provided an excellent diagram of the crime scene which included the suspect's movements as he exited his vehicle and shot into the victims' vehicles and then fled northbound on Dolley Madison Boulevard. The detailed diagram included the positions of seven vehicles, five victims, the witness, the suspect, and the spent rounds. The diagram was invaluable to investigators faced with the task of solving the case.

On the morning following the incident

Traffic Division officers, Criminal Investigations Bureau investigators and Virginia State Troopers spent three hours canvassing drivers in the area and distributing hundreds of wanted posters.

What had been the thoughts of the first officers to arrive on the scene? "You fight like you're trained," said Payne, a former Marine. "I was just thinking about what I had to do." Hardin said after the incident "I was shocked. You couldn't explain why he did it. When I went to court it was as if nothing had happened, as if everything was normal." Both said that even now, months later, when stopped in traffic they scan their mirrors and leave enough room between their cars and the cars in front of them... an escape route if necessary.