

Brink's offers reward for info after \$7 million heist



NATIONAL

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Brink's Inc. officials on Wednesday offered a \$300,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the armed robbers who burst into an armored car depot and escaped with about \$7 million.

Investigators believe two or three people were involved in the Tuesday evening holdup, FBI special agent Van Harp said. The robbers were armed and masked, and at least one was wearing a Brink's uniform, he said.

"We have no specific suspects at this point," Harp said. He said it is too early to say whether the robbery was an inside job.

Police Chief Roy Irving said investigators were trying to determine whether there was any connection between the heist and last week's robbery of \$8.27 million from a vault at the Hudson Armored Car and Courier Service in New York. No one has been arrested in that case.

Harp described the uniformed robber in Tuesday's heist as a white man, about 6 feet tall, with a muscular build. Employees didn't see the others because they were forced to lie on the ground with their heads covered, he said.

The robbers "surprised the people inside and forced them to the floor," Irving said.

One of the employees, retired police officer Tom O'Connor, turned up two hours after the robbery at a

restaurant about five miles from the depot. O'Connor told police he was abducted by the robbers, but did not see them because his head was covered with a bag.

On Wednesday, O'Connor was being followed by FBI agents whenever he left his home, but Irving said he was not a suspect in the robbery.

Harp and Irving would not say why O'Connor was being followed or whether any other employees were being followed.

Police had said employees would be given lie-detector tests Wednesday, but Harp and Irving wouldn't comment on the results.

Investigators wouldn't say how the robbers entered the building or how many employees were there at the time.

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