

Suspect of killing seven arrested after standoff

By Bruce Dunford
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A Xerox copier repairman suspected of killing seven co-workers was arrested Tuesday after a five-hour standoff with police.

Byran Uesugi emerged from a van he had parked near a nature center, walked to the back of the vehicle with his hands raised and then fell down on the ground.

SWAT teams raced toward Uesugi with automatic weapons drawn. No shots were heard and no injuries were reported.

Uesugi, 40, was believed to have been armed during the standoff.

Police believe Uesugi, a 15-year Xerox employee, shot seven fellow copier technicians at about 8

a.m. (1 p.m. EST) before fleeing in a company van.

He eventually stopped several miles away in a leafy, residential neighborhood. Police cordoned off the neighborhood and began negotiating with him about two hours later.

The gunfire erupted in an industrial section of Honolulu, far from the Waikiki tourist district. Five victims were found dead in a conference room and two other bodies were found nearby. All had been shot with a 9 mm handgun, authorities said.

"It appears as though it was a disgruntled employee who snapped," Mayor Jeremy Harris said. Police would not comment on a motive though.

All seven victims were male

Xerox employees who were shot on the second floor of the two-story building, authorities said. They ranged in age from 33 to 58.

"It's a shock for all of us. We have such a safe community with almost no violent crime," Harris said. "To have someone snap like this and murder seven people is just absolutely appalling."

Uesugi was a member of his high school rifle team and had up to 17 weapons registered in his name. "This could have been much, much worse," Harris said.

By late morning in Makiki Heights, a residential neighborhood near the shooting scene, negotiators were talking with the suspect through a bullhorn. He was seen pacing back and forth outside the van.

Police cordoned off a half-mile area around his van, which was near the Hawaii Nature Center. About 60 fourth-graders and 12 chaperones were on a nature hike when police told them to get to higher ground.

A school bus with two rifle-toting police officers then took the students to safety.

A separate group of first-graders on a field trip also were evacuated in the afternoon.

About 10 homes were also evacuated. Neighborhood residents set up lawn chairs in the streets to watch the situation unfold.

David Wallace was riding his motorcycle through Makiki's winding roads when he spotted the standoff.

"The cops were about a 9-iron away from the van," he said. "We were definitely in the line of fire."

Xerox employees were taken across the street from the building to be questioned by police and helped by counselors. Another Xerox building, in downtown Honolulu, was evacuated in case the gunman headed that way.

Xerox employs 92,700 people worldwide and 148 people in Honolulu.

Uesugi joined Xerox Corp. in 1984. As a customer service engineer, he traveled to various sites to service and repair printers and copiers, Xerox said.

It was the latest of several workplace killings across the United States this year.

Investigators foresee difficult recovery

By David Tirrell-Wysocki
The Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — Relatives sobbed, screamed and fainted Tuesday as crash investigators warned them there was little hope of finding intact bodies in the debris of EgyptAir Flight 990.

"Everybody was screaming and crying, because they weren't expecting to hear something like that," said George Arian, of Jersey City, N.J., who has been helping victims' families at a Newport hotel.

Arian said one relative was taken away in an ambulance after the briefing, which was closed to reporters.

All 217 people aboard the Cairo-bound flight were killed when the Boeing 767 plummeted mysteriously into the sea a half-hour after leaving New York early Sunday morning.

The Navy said its vessel Mohawk located what appeared to be the pingers for both of the plane's "black boxes" on Tuesday afternoon.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders could provide key clues for hundreds of investigators who are trying to determine why the plane fell from 33,000 feet without a distress call or any other hint of trouble.

Coast Guard Capt. Russell Webster said worsening weather, with seas of "8 to 10 feet and building," forced the Mohawk and companion vessel Whiting to leave the debris field and head for shelter in Newport. The bad weather was

expected to last two days.

Also reaching Newport was the USS Grapple, a sonar-equipped salvage ship carrying about 30 divers who will try to retrieve the black boxes and other debris from the 270-foot waters off Nantucket Island, Mass.

Navy spokesman David Sanders said the Grapple will dock for at least 36 hours to load additional supplies, then head to a major debris field that has been located by sonar.

By Tuesday afternoon, more than 150 relatives had arrived in Newport, where the search for wreckage and human remains was being coordinated. About 70 of the relatives flew in from Egypt, accompanied by 39 Egyptian aviation and government officials.

"I wish it had been me who had been sacrificed," EgyptAir chairman Mohammed Fahim Rayan said before boarding the flight from Cairo.

The investigation is looking into all possibilities: human error, mechanical failure and sabotage. About 600 FBI agents have joined in the investigation.

Egyptian officials confirmed Tuesday that 33 Egyptian military officers, including two brigadier generals, were on the plane, returning home after undergoing training in the United States. The officers' ranks had been kept off the passenger list for security reasons. Egyptian military officials have been key targets of attacks by Islamic fundamentalists.

The victims also included 106

Americans, many of them retirees embarking on tours to Egypt.

According to Arian, National Transportation Safety Board officials told relatives that identifying victims could be extremely difficult because of the small pieces being retrieved. Only one body has been recovered, and even that one was not intact.

"Everybody here from the Egyptian families expected to see his loved one, his brother, his sister, as a body that they could identify easily," Arian said. "The news was a shock to all of them."

This makes it impossible for families to follow traditional Islamic rites, which call for a ritual washing and shrouding of the body and a quick burial, usually within two days.

A morgue was set up in a gymnasium, and a team including forensic pathologists, dental experts, X-ray technicians, forensic anthropologists and the FBI disaster squad was assembled to identify the remains. The investigators may also have to use DNA.

Outside the Newport hotel where the relatives are staying, a tearful Sayed Gabr of Los Angeles held a photo of his 54-year-old sister, Fatima, as she turned to wave before boarding the doomed plane in Los Angeles.

"I came here hoping I get my sister out of the water. I'd like to take her back home — I'd like to bury her body back to Egypt," he said, sobbing.

Jury begins deliberating gay beating case

By Robert W. Black
The Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The jury in the beating death of gay college student Matthew Shepard began deliberating Tuesday after a defense attorney argued that the man on trial flew into a rage when a sexually aggressive Shepard grabbed his crotch.

Shepard "was innocent, but he was also forward, and people reacted to that," attorney Dion Custis said. "We know you people may not like us trying to demean Matthew Shepard in any way, but don't hold that against Aaron McKinney."

Prosecutor Cal Rerucha countered, "Matthew Shepard was not an animal to be hung on a fence."

Shepard, a 21-year-old freshman at the University of Wyoming, was robbed of \$20, lashed to a fence on the freezing prairie and pistol-whipped in the head last year in a case that led to

calls for hate-crime laws that protect gays.

Police said that robbery was the main motive but that Shepard may also have been singled out because he was gay.

Russell Henderson, 22, pleaded guilty to murder and kidnapping and is serving two life sentences. McKinney, 22, could get the death penalty if convicted.

Defense attorneys have said Shepard's sexual advance triggered painful memories of homosexual encounters McKinney had as a boy.

Custis said the deadly assault began because Shepard grabbed McKinney's genitals, and continued because McKinney was under the influence of chronic methamphetamine use.

"He's not a calculating cold-blooded murderer. His nickname is Dopey. He's a drug addict," Custis said.

Rerucha paused for 60 seconds during his closing argument to let jurors reflect in silence on the one-minute beating inflicted on Shepard before he was left to die.

"Think what 60 seconds was to Matthew Shepard," the prosecutor said. "It's a short time if you're eating an ice cream cone. It's a long time if you're descending into hell."

The jury of seven men and five women could convict McKinney of murder or a lesser charge, such as second-degree murder or manslaughter.

As deliberations began, about a half-dozen death penalty supporters gathered next to the courthouse and staged a mock execution by simulating the beating of Shepard.

"We came here to request that the murderer be handed over for an execution," said demonstrator Doug McBurney.

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