



MOSCOW POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

May 20, 2007

At 11:30 pm Saturday evening officers with the Moscow Police Department and deputies with the Latah County Sheriff's Office responded to the area around the County Court house in reference to shots being fired. Information given at the time indicated someone was shooting into the sheriff's office from the east parking lot.

Officers arrived in the area at 11:31 hours and reported shots being fired at 5th and Van Buren. As officers approached the area of 5th and Adams at 11:35 hours Officer Bill Shields and Lee Newbill came under fire. Officer Lee Newbill received multiple hits and collapsed. Deputies and officers set up a perimeter and activated a quick response team to evacuate Officer Newbill.

At 11:47 pm we received a report of a gunshot victim at 6th and Harrison. This individual was found in the parking lot on the east side of the court house. He was transported to Gritman Medical Center by Moscow Volunteer Ambulance.

During this time the shooter was reported to have entered the Presbyterian Church at 5th and Adams. Deputies with the quick response team evacuated Officer Newbill just after midnight and transported him to Gritman Medical Center. Deputy Sergeant Brannon Jordan who had participated in the response stayed at 5th and Adams after the evacuation and came under fire at 00:09 am, being struck multiple times. He was immediately evacuated and transported to Gritman.

A mutual aid request went out to our local law enforcement. Law Enforcement personnel with Pullman Police Department, Washington State University Police Department, Lewiston Police Department, Whitman County Sheriff's Office and the Idaho State Police Response. The church and surround area were secure.

At 5:51 am three SWAT teams entered the church. A white male who we believe was the shooter was located in the sanctuary area deceased from a gun shot to the head. One other deceased male was located in the church office. At this time no other victims have been identified.

DANIEL L. WEAVER
Chief of Police

Prepared by:

Assistant Chief David Duke

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Deputy Sergeant Brannon Jordan is currently listed in serious condition. The civilian victim is listed in stable condition. Officer Lee Newbill succumbed to his injuries and it is heartbreaking to report that he died in the line of duty, the first in the history of our department. Officer Lee Newbill has been with the department since March of 2001 but has been part of our police family for many years as our security contact with the University of Idaho before being hired. Our prayers go out to his family, including his police family here at the department, the University of Idaho and to all that knew him. He will surely be missed and his loss will greatly impact our department.

The homicide investigation will be conducted by the Idaho State Police. No identities have been determined of the two males in the church. We have scheduled a second press conference for tomorrow at 11:00 am in the council chambers to provide more details on this tragic and horrific event.

Inquires into this release are asked to call Assistant Chief David Duke at 208-883-7059. Additional details to this shooting will only be released during the press conference on May 21, 2007 at 11:00 am.