

REPORT DATE January 8, 2007	COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	FILE 2006-002834
TYPE REPORT Case Summary	REPORT BY Agent Chris Schaefer Agent Jim Fuller	AREA Town of Bailey, Park County, State of Colorado
NATURE OF CASE C.R.S., 18-3-102 Murder in the First Degree C.R.S., 18-3-301 First Degree Kidnapping		

**CASE
SUMMARY:**

On Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at approximately 1:00 P.M., Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Agents assigned to the Denver office responded to the Platte Canyon High School campus regarding a possible hostage situation. CBI Agents arrived at the Platte Canyon High School at approximately 2:00 P.M. Division Director JOHNSON met with Park County Sheriff FRED WEGENER and Eleventh Judicial District Attorney MOLLY CHILSON regarding the on-going incident. Sheriff WEGENER and District Attorney CHILSON requested that CBI assist with the criminal investigation.

CBI Agents worked closely with representatives from the Park County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Agents from the four regional CBI offices, Denver, Durango, Montrose and Pueblo, also responded to the incident at Platte Canyon High School.

Initial reports indicated that an unknown male, armed with a handgun, had entered Platte Canyon High School at approximately 11:40 A.M. and was holding several students hostage in classroom 206. Additional reports indicated the suspect was in possession of explosives, which he threatened to detonate if law enforcement attempted to intervene. The suspect had discharged at least one round from the handgun while inside classroom 206.

Additional law enforcement resources originating from the Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Clear Creek County Sheriff's office responded to the scene as the hostage crisis developed. Many of these assets were directed to establish an outer perimeter surrounding the campus and to man roadblocks along US Highway 285. The investigation later revealed that the PCSO communications center received a 911 call at approximately 11:41 A.M. originating from a member of the Platte Canyon High School administration. The caller related that a male subject, armed with a handgun, had entered classroom 206 located within the English Pod. The subject had reportedly discharged the firearm and was holding several students hostage within the classroom. A staff member issued a "Code White" alert over the school intercom system and the high school and middle school went into total lock down.

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PCSO uniformed deputies arrived at the campus within minutes of the initial 911 call. Four PCSO deputies immediately responded to classroom 206 and secured the only entry/exit to the classroom. The deputies formed an inner perimeter-surrounding classroom 206 and noted that the interior lights to the room had been extinguished. The deputies obtained a limited visual into the interior of classroom 206 via a narrow window adjacent to the door. Initial observations revealed that the suspect, later identified as DUANE ROGER MORRISON, Date of Birth 07/23/53, was holding a handgun to the head of a female hostage. The deputies confronted the suspect and ordered him to drop the handgun and to release the hostage. MORRISON refused to comply with their orders and demanded that the deputies leave the area suggesting he had "three pounds of C-4" plastic explosives in his possession. MORRISON was further overheard to state, "think what that would do to the school."

The deputies maintained their positions overlooking the doorway and began efforts to negotiate with MORRISON. MORRISON did not respond to the deputies' efforts to solicit conversation nor did MORRISON offer any insight regarding any possible demands or motive surrounding the hostage situation. It was further determined that the suspect was holding seven female students hostage.

Additional PCSO personnel responded to the scene and secured an outer perimeter surrounding the English pod. Sheriff's deputies then met with school administration and coordinated the evacuation of the remaining students and staff from the school's interior. It was learned that Platte Canyon High School staff had already initiated evacuation protocol upon the report of the hostage crisis. The Platte Canyon High School Evacuation and Safety plan consisted of teachers/staff sliding a green card under their respective classroom door(s) if their classrooms were secured or a red card if a problem existed within the room. During the evacuation proceedings, PCSO personnel would insert their department issued photo identification under the door signaling the instructor to unlock the door for their physical evacuation.

As the hostage crisis continued, additional requests were made for members of the Park County SWAT team and Hostage Negotiators to respond to the scene. It was further agreed among the first responders that deadly force was authorized if an opportunity to terminate the hostage crisis presented itself. It was also determined that a formal request for mutual aid was to be initiated and that members of the JCSO Bomb Disposal Unit be summoned to the scene in response to MORRISON'S threats to detonate an explosive device.

During the initial stages of the hostage crisis, MORRISON asked a number of the students their names. MORRISON then directed all of the male students, several of the female students and the classroom's instructor to exit the room. The classroom's instructor confronted MORRISON and said she was responsible for the students and could not leave without the remaining students. MORRISON demanded that the instructor leave, further threatening to harm the students if she did not comply. MORRISON advised the instructor that he was in possession of an explosive device. As

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the instructor left the classroom, MORRISON was observed to extinguish the lights and re-position the backpack. MORRISON was further overheard to tell the remaining female hostages not to tamper with the backpack as it contained explosives. MORRISON ordered the remaining seven female hostages to remain positioned with their faces against the blackboard.

At approximately 12:15 P.M., a female hostage was released by suspect MORRISON. The hostage was escorted from the facility and debriefed regarding her observations while being held captive within room 206. The hostage added the suspect was seen to remove a handgun from his waistband. According to the hostage, the suspect began to wave the handgun around and randomly pointed the weapon at the students. The students and instructor complied with MORRISON'S demands and positioned themselves along the blackboard. A short time later, additional students, unaware of the situation in room 206, attempted to enter the room. MORRISON became highly agitated and demanded that the incoming students leave. MORRISON was further observed to discharge one round from the handgun in an obvious effort to intimidate the students.

The hostage further related that MORRISON began to systematically remove individual hostages from the blackboard and escort the girls deeper into the classroom's interior. The hostage indicated she overheard a number of the girls sobbing and pleading with MORRISON while in his immediate control. The hostage related that MORRISON eventually removed her from the blackboard and forced her to an adjacent wall. MORRISON then began to sexually assault her. When the hostage attempted to resist MORRISON'S efforts, MORRISON responded by placing the muzzle of the handgun against her neck and advised her that he would kill her if she continued to resist.

The hostage stated that during her captivity, she overheard law enforcement attempting to solicit conversation from MORRISON. The officers inquired as to the welfare of the students and asked if MORRISON was willing to release the hostages. MORRISON eventually responded by directing her to exit the classroom. The hostage advised that upon her departure, she witnessed another student in MORRISON'S immediate control. The hostage related the other hostage's pants were unbuttoned and unzipped and that the student was sobbing.

The information gathered from the initial hostage was disseminated to members in the incident command and the deputies staged outside room 206. Attempts at negotiations with MORRISON continued as the crisis developed. At approximately 12:30 P.M., the first elements of the JCSO began to arrive at the Platte Canyon campus. The JCSO officials conferred with members of the PCSO incident command. A schematic of the school's floor plan was obtained to better assist in the deployment of law enforcement and first responder assets. An attendance list was generated by school administration to better determine the number and identities of the remaining hostages. The incident command center was relocated from the campus complex across US Highway 285.

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As additional resources arrived, JCSO SWAT officers transitioned to the inner perimeter surrounding room 206. The JCSO SWAT team eventually assumed situational and tactical control surrounding room 206. The SWAT officers were augmented by JCSO hostage negotiators and members of the JCSO Bomb Disposal Unit.

Between the hours of 12:35 P.M. and 1:45 P.M., four additional hostages were released from classroom 206. The hostages appeared to be released sporadically throughout the hostage crisis. Each hostage was escorted from the classroom to awaiting investigators in an effort to obtain updated criminal and tactical intelligence. The hostages' individual observations and experiences corroborated the initial report provided by the first hostage. Each of the four hostages corroborated the existence of a large backpack that MORRISON advised contained plastic explosives. The hostages related that MORRISON was overheard threatening to detonate the device if law enforcement attempted to intervene.

According to victim statements, MORRISON continually menaced the remaining hostages with a semi-automatic handgun and displayed sporadic fits of rage, periodically screaming at the remaining hostages and threatening to blow-up the school. The four released hostages each recounted their respective sexual assaults at the hands of MORRISON.

According to hostage statements, MORRISON had suggested that the students attempt contact with their immediate families via their cellular phones. The last hostage released from room 206 informed officers that MORRISON had retreated to the far wall overlooking the doorway. MORRISON had placed his back to the wall and had positioned the remaining two hostages immediately in front of him.

It became evident to both PCSO and JCSO negotiators that MORRISON was increasingly utilizing the hostages to communicate with law enforcement. MORRISON denied negotiators' attempts to foster communication via the introduction of special "drop telephone" system and refused direct contact with the landline within room 206. Negotiators further attempted telephonic contact with a hostage's cellular phone but were unsuccessful.

Sniper and observer elements were also positioned across the library in an effort to gain a visual into the room. Tactical officers and incident command discussed their mutual concerns regarding the lack of light within room 206 and the corresponding approach of nightfall. JCSO Bomb Disposal team members responded to the inner perimeter and began constructing the necessary components in anticipation of a possible explosive breach into room 206.

JCSO SWAT officers staged outside room 206 deployed a pole mirror. The device offered a very restricted view into the room's interior. Additional efforts to deploy a fiber-optic camera were unsuccessful due to the lack of illumination within the room. Sometime during the deployment of the fiber-optic camera, suspect MORRISON became

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aware of its existence and became highly agitated, demanding the officers withdraw the device. MORRISON'S fit of rage and the hostages' panicked reactions following its discovery could be overheard by the officers staged outside room 206.

At approximately 3:32 P.M., the verbal negotiations surrounding the hostage crisis had stalled. MORRISON failed to respond directly and utilized the two remaining hostages to communicate with law enforcement. The hostages were overheard to say that law enforcement would have to wait until 4:00 P.M. that afternoon. The hostages conveyed that the crisis would be over at "4:00 P.M." Negotiators asked for MORRISON to comment on the significance of the 4:00 P.M. deadline but he refused to respond.

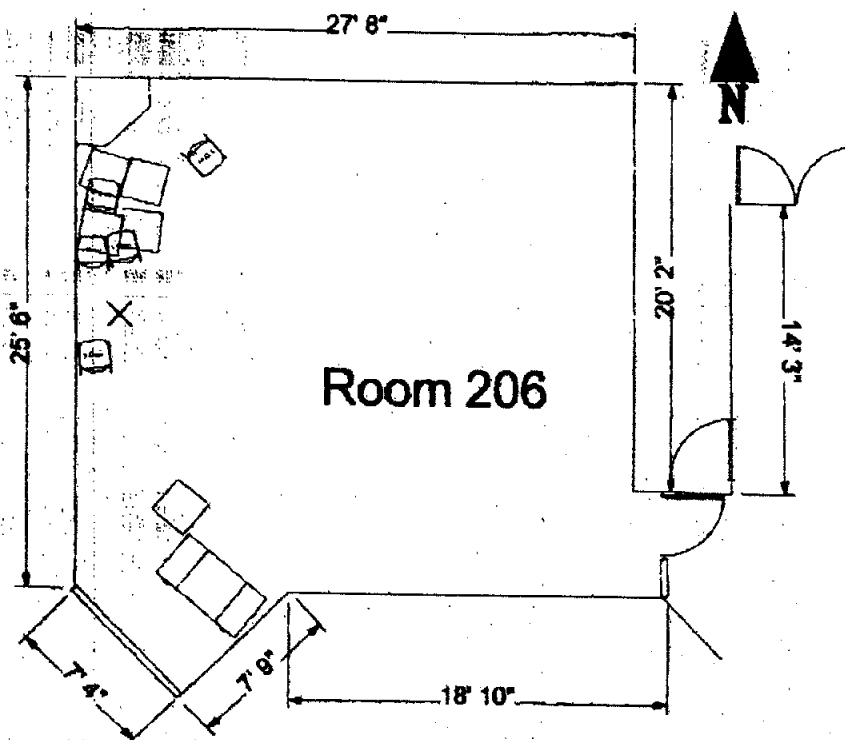
Hostage negotiators and incident command staff discussed their mutual concerns regarding the pre-determined "4:00 P.M. conclusion" referred to by MORRISON. It was feared that the "4:00 P.M. conclusion" was the time in which the explosive device was to be detonated or that MORRISON was going to initiate some other violent action. Incident Command staff further learned from the explosives technicians that in order to safely disarm a potential explosive device, the device would have to be examined well in advance or well after the suspected detonation time.

Members of the Incident Command Staff, to include PCSO Sheriff WEGENER, PCSO Undersheriff GORE, JCSO Sheriff MINK, JCSO Undersheriff FLEER, JCSO Division Chief SHRADER, JCSO Captain DOMENICO and JCSO SWAT Commander POCSIK all agreed that law enforcement needed to intervene and attempt a rescue of the remaining hostages. This collective decision was further confirmed by Eleventh Judicial District Attorney MOLLY CHILSON and Deputy District Attorney SHAWN PARIS.

Following the Incident Command staff's collective decision to intervene, the decision for entry was communicated to the JCSO SWAT team. The tactical entry was initiated at approximately 3:35 P.M., preceded by an explosive breach of the classroom door and the detonation of a water impulse charge positioned along the south wall of classroom 206. Two additional simultaneous diversions were also deployed to include a "flash bang" (diversionary concussion grenade) and a physical porting of the only window located in room 206.

The water impulse charge was designed as a distraction to provide SWAT personnel visual access as well as an additional "gun port" into the room's interior. The explosive breach of the door was designed and implemented to provide a physical means of entering the doorway, which had been locked during the hostage crisis. It was learned that all of the above detailed devices performed as designed.

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Morrison and the hostages were located on the west side of the room.

During entry, the SWAT officers advanced on MORRISON'S position along the far wall. It was learned through interviews of the SWAT team officers, that MORRISON was seated immediately behind hostage EMILY KEYES, leaving only half of MORRISON'S head visible. MORRISON was seen holding KEYES' head in his left arm. MORRISON was observed pressing the muzzle of his handgun to the right side of KEYES' head. The remaining hostage was seen to run from her earlier position and was grabbed by SWAT personnel and rushed to safety. The SWAT officers recounted that as they continued their advance on MORRISON'S position, MORRISON shot EMILY KEYES in the right side of her head. As MORRISON was raising the weapon, SWAT officers simultaneously fired on him.

It was later determined that a total of three rounds were fired by the SWAT officers, one (1) round striking MORRISON in the head and two (2) rounds striking him in the right shoulder. It was also discovered that MORRISON fired a self inflicted gunshot wound to his head. MORRISON was pronounced dead on scene at 3:57 P.M.

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EMILY KEYES was airlifted to Saint Anthony's Central Hospital where she was later pronounced dead at 4:32 P.M.

This critical incident involved the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers. The officer involved shooting aspect of this investigation was handled by the First Judicial District Critical Incident Team and has been documented under a separate report.

During the hostage crisis, MORRISON had claimed that his backpack contained C4 plastic explosive. SWAT officers responded by removing all the backpacks and bags from classroom 206 and the adjacent hallway. These articles were transported outside the school to awaiting bomb squad technicians. The officers also located a number of plastic bags resembling possible explosive devices. These fabricated devices were eventually determined to be inert. At 3:52 P.M., and 4:35 P.M., bomb squad officers conducted searches of the classroom for explosive devices. No explosive devices were discovered. The backpack that DUANE MORRISON took into classroom 206 was located on the grass outside the main entrance. Found inside the backpack were rolls of duct tape, handcuffs, knives, stun gun, rope, scissors, massage oil, a dildo, a vibrator and numerous rounds of ammunition.

At 5:11 P.M., a Laboratory Agent from CBI, the Park County Coroner and two members of the JCSO Bomb Squad entered classroom 206. MORRISON'S body was searched for explosives and his wallet was removed. No explosives were found. At 6:15 P.M., JCSO Bomb Squad team members conducted cursory searches of the remainder of the building for any suspicious or explosive devices. No devices were found during this search.

During the investigative process, a review of the Platte Canyon High School security video system revealed that MORRISON had conducted pre-surveillance of the school on September 26, 2006 at 11:32 A.M. Additional review of the security video revealed MORRISON'S vehicle in the same lot again on the morning of September 27, 2006 at 8:42 A.M. MORRISON'S vehicle left shortly thereafter and returned to the parking lot at 9:44 A.M.

AUTOPSY OF EMILY KEYES

On Thursday, September 28, 2006, the autopsy of EMILY KEYES was conducted by Dr. MICHAEL DOBERSON, Arapahoe County Coroner. The autopsy report on EMILY KEYES revealed the following:

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES

A perforating contact gunshot wound to the head, direction of fire is from right to left.

OPINION

"At autopsy, there were no other injuries which could be considered a contributing cause of death. Her death is attributed to severe craniocerebral trauma due to a perforating

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contact gunshot wound to the head. Toxicologic analyses of bodily fluids obtained at the time of autopsy were essentially negative."

AUTOPSY OF DUANE MORRISON

On Thursday, September 28, 2006, the autopsy of DUANE MORRISON was conducted by Dr. MICHAEL DOBERSON, Arapahoe County Coroner. The autopsy report on DUANE MORRISON revealed the following:

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES

1. Perforating gunshot wound to the head, direction of fire is from right to left.
2. Penetrating contact gunshot wound to the head, direction of fire is right to left.
3. Perforating gunshot wounds (two (2) in number) to the right shoulder, direction of fire is front to back.
4. Superficial gunshot associated injury to the right hand.

OPINION

"His death is attributed to severe craniocerebral trauma due to gunshot wounds (two (2) in number) to the head. Two other gunshot wounds to the right shoulder were seen at autopsy along with a gunshot associated injury to the left hand. Toxicological analyses of body fluids obtained at the time of autopsy were remarkable for a trace amount of opiates on a urine drug screen. A blood drug screen was negative."

SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION

On Thursday, September 28, 2006, Special Agents with the BATF initiated firearm traces on the two handguns recovered from MORRISON in classroom 206. The handguns were identified as a Glock 22 .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol and a Smith & Wesson .357 caliber revolver.

The trace of the Glock Model 22 .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol revealed it was purchased on 10/31/2000 by DALE ALAN ERVIN JR. The investigation later revealed that DALE ERVIN JR is the nephew of DUANE MORRISON. It was determined that ERVIN JR purchased the weapon on the behalf of DUANE MORRISON who was present with ERVIN JR, at the time of purchase. ERVIN JR later admitted to having transferred the weapon to MORRISON after leaving the place of purchase.

The trace of the Smith & Wesson Model 66 .357 caliber revolver revealed it was purchased on 12/03/2001 by ARIEL GURION. GURION sold the revolver to MORRISON in the fall of 2001. The serial number on the weapon matched the serial number of a .357 revolver that MORRISON had reported stolen on 05/31/2005.