

# ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

5686 S. Court Pl. • Littleton, Colorado 80120-1200

PATRICK J. SULLIVAN JR., SHERIFF

09 001

(303) 796-4711

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

NAME: News Editors/ News Directors

FROM: The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

DATE: December 31, 2001

TIME: 2:15 P.M.

Total number of pages 2, including this page.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE CALL BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Phone: (303) 734-5101

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Arapahoe Deputy Jim Taylor Did Not Witness Columbine Gunfire

Recent media coverage regarding the Columbine High School tragedy have reported that Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jim Taylor may have been in a position to witness a law enforcement officer fire a weapon ("heard automatic gunfire to his left") during the April 20, 1999 incident. Deputy Taylor is alleged to have been in a position on the south/west parking lot of the high school when he is alleged to have heard several rounds from an automatic weapon.

When the information was reported, in the media this past weekend, Deputy Taylor was not available for comment as he was attending to family matters in Seattle, Washington. Deputy Taylor returned to Colorado during the early morning hours of Monday December 31, 2001 and was immediately interviewed by representatives of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office.

In a written statement, taken on December 31, 2001, Deputy Taylor states that on April 20, 1999 he was conducting his job related responsibilities in the area of South I-25 and E-470, when he was informed of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office request for mutual aid to Columbine High School.

(more)





Deputy Taylor responded to the law enforcement command post, on South Pierce Street, at the request of his supervisor, to receive a specific assignment. Deputy Taylor arrived at the law enforcement command post at about 12:05 P.M. and was immediately assigned to the east side of the school building. From 12:10 P.M. until about 4:40 P.M., Deputy Taylor remained at his assigned position, on the east side of the school, assisting with the evacuation of students, staff and faculty. Arapahoe County Sheriff's Deputy Jim Taylor was never on the south/west portion of Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, and as a result was never in a position to witness or hear a weapon being fired from that location. Deputy Taylor never heard any gun shots on April 20<sup>th</sup> and never saw any deceased victims on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Taylor has never met, nor spoken with, Denver Police Department Sergeant Dan O'Shea.

Deputy Jim Taylor and his family have been family friends with Danny Rohrbaugh, Brian Rohrbaugh and Ms. Sue Petrone for many years. Deputy Taylor states that he has not said anything to the Rohrbaugh family that could lead them to believe he witnessed any shots being fired at Columbine. Deputy Taylor has not spoken with Mr. Brian Rohrbaugh in over a year.

Deputy Jim Taylor of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office will be immediately available for any additional interview required of the special investigation currently being conducted by El Paso County Sheriff John W. Anderson.

For additional, contact Sheriff Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr. at 303.734-5101.

E N D



CR # \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENTDate: 12-31-01

I, JAMES D. TAYLOR, make this voluntary statement to \_\_\_\_\_, a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Arapahoe.

This statement is voluntary and is made by me without threat of punishment, and without unlawful coercion, influence or inducement.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Hm phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Wk phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wk Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**VEHICLE INFORMATION:** ( ) Suspect ( ) Victim

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Style \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 License \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Vin # \_\_\_\_\_ Damage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE:**JIM TAYLOR 8801THIS IS ABOUT THE COLUMBINE SHOOTING APRIL 20TH 1999

I AM ASSIGNED TO THE FUGITIVE UNIT AS A INVESTIGATOR.  
 ON APRIL 20TH 1999 I WAS ASSISTING CIVIL UNIT SERVING PAPERS  
 ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY AROUND E-470-I-25, WHEN I  
 HEARD DISPATCH CALLING FOR ASSISTANCE FOR ANY CARS. ABOUT 1140 AM.  
 I THEN RESPONDED TO COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED AT  
 SO. PIERCE CLOSE TO COLUMBINE RD. I SPoke WITH MY SUPERVISOR  
 SGT. RAY TORRES, ASKING WHERE SHOULD I RESPOND. I WAS TOLD  
 TO COME TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE SCHOOL AND WAIT FOR MORE  
 INFO. I ARRIVED ON THE ADTHEAST SIDE AND PARKED MY CAR.  
 I GRABBED MY VEST AND HELMET, ALSO MY MINI-14

I further state that I have read the foregoing statement, that I understand the contents and all the facts stated therein are true in substance and in fact.

X

(Your signature)

Witnessed by: [Signature] 26-03



CR # \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT (continued)

I MET UP WITH SGT. RAY TORREZ, AND THEN ASSISTED WITH REMOVING KIDS FROM THE SCHOOL. AT NO TIME WAS I ASSIGNED TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE SCHOOL. DURING MY ASSIGNMENT I DID NOT HEAR OR SEE ANY GUN FIRE OR SEE DANIEL ROHRBOUGH GET SHOT.

BRIAN ROHRBOUGH <sup>FRIDAY IT</sup> HAS BEEN A FAMILY FOR 20 YEARS. SUE PETROVE WAS MY WIFE'S BEST FRIEND IN HIGH SCHOOL. DANIEL ROHRBOUGH ~~HE~~ WAS SHOT AND KILLED ON APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 1999 BY UNKNOWN GUN FIRE.

I WOULD SEE BRIAN ON A REGULAR BASIS AROUND HIS STERO SHOP ON OLD HAMDEN AVE.

~~AFTER~~ AFTER <sup>OF IT</sup> APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 1999, I SPOKE WITH BRIAN ROHRBOUGH ON A NUMBER TIMES. I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM HIM ON APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 1999 ABOUT TEN PM, HE STATED TO ME THAT DANIEL NEVER CAME HOME. I TOLD HIM I WOULD SEE WHAT I COULD FIND OUT. THE NEXT TIME, I SAW BRIAN WAS AT THE GRADE SCHOOL BY COLUMBINE. I SPOKE WITH THE FAMILY FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

I THEN SPOKE WITH BRIAN AT HIS STERO SHOP ABOUT A MONTH LATER. WHERE <sup>HE MADE IT</sup> SEVERAL STATEMENTS WERE MADE ABOUT NOW BAD COLUMBINE INVESTIGATION WAS GOING.

I SAW BRIAN AGAIN AND HE SPOKE OF A GUY NAMED BOB ENYART, THAT WAS IN JAIL AT JEFFERSON SHERIFFS. AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING, ENYART CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN PHOTOS OF COLUMBINE CRIME SCENE WHILE IN JAIL.



STATEMENT (continued)

I THEN STOPPED SEEING BRIAN ROHRBOUGH AS HE WOULD ALWAYS BRING UP THE SHOOTING.

I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM SUE PATRONE ABOUT LATE APRIL 2000, ASKING IF MY WIFE AND I WOULD LIKE TO COME OVER TO THEIR HOUSE FOR SNACKS AND A MOVIE. WE WENT TO THEIR HOUSE AND RICH AND SUE PATRONE TALKED WITH US ABOUT THE KIDS AND ABOUT THE COLUMBINE SHOOTING. RICH PATRONE ASKED ME ABOUT WHAT WENT ON AT COLUMBINE AND I MADE STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT I HAD SEEN ON TV OR IN THE NEWSPAPER. THAT DANIEL WAS SHOT BY THE KILLERS IN THE SCHOOL. RICH PATRONE ASKED ME IF I KNEW HOW DANIEL WAS KILLED AND DID I THINK IT WAS BY A COP. I TOLD HIM NO. ALSO BRIAN ROHRBOUGH SHOWED UP WITH HIS WIFE, TALKING <sup>ABOUT IT</sup> HOW BAD THE INVESTIGATION WAS GOING.

THE NEXT DAY AFTER VISITING THE PATRONES, I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM ATT. JIM ROUSE ASKING ME IF I WOULD LIKE TO COME IN AND TALK WITH HIM ABOUT THE CASE, I STATED THAT I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY I'M NOT THE SMOKING GUN. AND I WOULD HAVE TO GO THRU THE COUNTY ATTORNEY. ROHRBOUGH'S ATT. ASKED IF I HAD CREDIBLE INFORMATION.

IT WAS ONE YEAR LATER OR SO BEFORE I HEARD FROM SUE PATRONE, SHE CALLED THE HOUSE AND STATED THAT BRIAN WAS GOING PUBLIC WITH INFORMATION AND WANTED TO TALK WITH ME. I STATED THAT I COULD NOT TALK ABOUT THE CASE BUT I WOULD CALL BRIAN. THE NEXT DAY I LEFT A PHONE MESSAGE ON HIS CELL PHONE WITH MY FAGER NUMBER. I NEVER HEARD FROM HIM.

JEP



CR # \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, make this voluntary statement to \_\_\_\_\_, a Deputy Sheriff for the County of Arapahoe.

This statement is voluntary and is made by me without threat of punishment, and without unlawful coercion, influence or inducement.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Hm phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Wk phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wk Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**VEHICLE INFORMATION:** ( ) Suspect ( ) Victim

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Style \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

License \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Vin # \_\_\_\_\_ Damage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE:**

ON 12-31-01 I RETURNED WITH MY FAMILY  
 TO THE DENVER AREA AND WAS TOLD THAT MY NAME WAS  
 LISTED IN THE NEWS PAPER REGARDING BEING A WITNESS  
 TO THE COLUMBINE SHOOTING AND STANDING NEXT TO A DENVER  
 OFFICER WHILE HE SHOT (THAT IS NOT TRUE)

THE ONLY THINGS THAT WERE STATED TO ROHRBOUGH FAMILY BY ME  
 WAS SEEN ON TV OR REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPER.

I'M SORRY FOR THEIR LOSS

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT I SAW DANIEL ROHRBOUGH GET SHOT  
 OR ANY OTHER PERSON AS STATED IN THE NEWSPAPER.

I further state that I have read the foregoing statement, that I understand the contents and all the facts stated therein are true in substance and in fact.

X

(Your signature)

Witnessed by: Sgt. [Signature] 7603 Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office  
 5686 South Court Place  
 Littleton, Colorado 80120



Excerpt of meeting between Rich and Sue Petrone and Jim and Pam Taylor.

Track 6 - 2:07

Rich Petrone Well, I wonder if Dan got shot on the stairs and fell down then? Was he...I mean you actually saw Dan get shot?

Jim Taylor What I seen was a boy coming down the sidewalk you know, kind of running, you know a fast trot but there was 20 or 30 other kids around, you know I don't even know the number. They were just runnin in mass chaos and I seen a boy drop and that's...and that's...I didn't know who it was.

Rich Petrone And he was there on...you think it was Dan though or you don't know.

Jim Taylor It was Dan and I didn't know that until I seen the photo the next morning in the newspaper that it was the boy that was seen.

Rich Petrone So it was...ok now so he was on the sidewalk, he wasn't falling from the stairs?

Jim Taylor No, he was on the sidewalk.

Track 7 - 0:08

Jim Taylor What I remember is the slant on the sidewalk you know seems to stand out in my mind...you know the sloping sidewalk. You know, cause when he was face down and stuff, that's what I remember. Cause at the time I'm pullin up on scene and the radios goin nuts and my commanders' callin for Arapahoe County to respond to the East side of the building. I'd already pulled in the parking lot so I'm tryin to beat feet to the East side of the building cause I think they got somebody comin out of the building and so basically I'm comin into the parking lot and don't even get out of my car and I'm right there and I see this through my window and I'm gettin called to respond to the other side of the building cause they got a shooter on the East side of the building.

Track 7 - 1:07

Jim Taylor And there's a, there was already some officers on scene then when I got there. You know there was a Denver cop there, I remember a Denver cop or a Lakewood cop off to my left-hand side. And that may have been the car that was up close. The one right there initially



Track 7 - 1:07...

2 of 2

Jim Taylor When I come around I pulled into the parking lot and I come in there pretty fast and I could hear glass breaking above where I was at, you know, where I come in. Now I've only been to that school once, that was that day. I come around there and I'm facing actually Eastbound when I come in there cause I cranked a Uay and kids were still runnin out of the building and you know, you could hear glass breaking, you could see kids runnin everywhere and that's when I see the boy comin down the sidewalk you know, and I see him just fall down. That's the first thing I told Pam was that you know, I seen some kid get shot.

Pam Taylor He did, no kidding, he walked in that night and he says "I just, I'll never get rid of this", he goes "seen this". And he said "This kid reminded me of Brad."

Jim Taylor And I, I didn't know who it was, and I'm gettin called by my commanders to report to the East side of the building, and we got about 7 or 8 Arapahoe County guys you know, that responded because we were pretty close. We got over there, we started comin a you know, to try and make entry into the building and then they call us off and said that they had

Track 8 - 14:18

Joe Petrone Well, the guy at the Post, I guess they have a directive that they're not allowed to talk to anybody but John Stone or Steve Davis. I'm surprised they left John Stone on that cause he's not too accurate with his mouth either. But they don't want them talking to anybody, but he said they're getting pretty thin-skinned over there.

Jim Taylor That department is so jacked up.

Track 8 - 16:51

Jim Taylor Well, I still stopped down and seen Brian down at the shop quite a bit just like I have for 16 years. That's our friendship go down and bull shit with him for a couple hours once a month or every couple months. You know we don't socialize any other way than that. We get together and just have a good ole talk. It got to where I couldn't go down there anymore because he was interrogating me and want me to find out stuff that I couldn't dip into with the investigation going on and stuff. I just finally told him I can't step over the bounds, you know, I'll try and help you if I can. I want to help, but sometimes you can't.

Track 8 - 24:57

Jim Taylor And Bob Armstrong, my commander the day of, used to be partners with Stone and those guys back in Lakewood days, you know.

Jim Taylor He was, Oh they're shyaters, if they're hooked up with Armstrong, they're...

# ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

5686 S. Court Pl. • Littleton, Colorado 80120-1200

09 009

PATRICK J. SULLIVAN JR., SHERIFF

(303) 795-4711

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO:

NAME: Editors/ News Directors

FROM: Sheriff Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr.

DATE: January 9, 2002

TIME: 3:05 P.M.

Total number of pages 7, including this page.

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Phone: (303) 734-5101

## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

### DEPUTY TERMINATED FOR PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION

Recently, coverage by the media of the Columbine High School tragedy has reported that Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Deputy James D. Taylor was responsible for statements, which placed him in a position to have witnessed law enforcement gunfire during the April 20, 1999 incident. Since April 20, 1999, on at least four separate occasions, Deputy Taylor provided information to the family of Daniel Rohrbough, a Columbine victim, that he, Deputy James Taylor, was present when "a boy went down and shots were being fired".

On Monday, December 31, 2001, Deputy Taylor was interviewed by the Internal Affairs Unit of The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, regarding his statements, as reported by Denver area media. In a written statement, taken on December 31, 2001, Deputy Taylor states that on April 20, 1999 he was conducting





his job related responsibilities in the area of I-25 and E 470 when he was informed of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office request for mutual aid to Columbine High School. Deputy Taylor further states that he responded directly to the law enforcement command post, on South Pierce Street, to receive a specific assignment from his supervisor. Deputy Taylor states that he drove to Columbine High School by using West Bowles Avenue to South Pierce Street and parked his vehicle on West Bowles Avenue.

The deputy walked southbound to the law enforcement command post, from South Pierce Street and West Bowles Avenue, as South Pierce Street was impassable due to the congestion caused by the parked emergency vehicles of first responders. Deputy Taylor states that he was assigned to the east side of the school building from 12:30 P.M. until about 4:40 P.M. Deputy Taylor further states that, on April 20, 1999, he was never on the south/west parking lot area of Columbine High School and as a result never witnessed weapons being fired, never heard gunfire and never saw deceased victims at the school.

On Monday December 31, 2001, The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office initiated an internal affairs investigation, focused on determining the truth regarding the conflicts between the information provided by Deputy Taylor to the family of Daniel Rohrbough and his written statement of December 31, 2001.



During the internal affairs investigation, information obtained through the interview of eleven (11) individuals and documentation of the Sheriff's Office radio traffic of April 20, 1999 was closely evaluated. The Arapahoe County Internal Affairs Investigation has determined that Deputy Taylor was never in a position, on April 20, 1999, to witness gunfire, hear gunfire or personally see the bodies of deceased victims. Transcripts of Sheriff's Office radio tapes shows Deputy Taylor responding to Columbine High School at 11:59 A.M. and arriving at the intersection of West Bowles and South Pierce Street at 12:22 P.M. on April 20, 1999. The information from the Sheriff's Office radio tape recordings, is verified by Arapahoe County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Dugdale, who also drove to Columbine High School, leading Deputy Taylor to the site in a separate Sheriff's Office vehicle.

During the internal affairs investigation, conducted by the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Taylor states that he was never on the south/west parking lot of the school and that he never witnessed gunfire, never heard gunfire and never saw deceased victims at the school. Deputy Taylor states that the information provided to the family of Daniel Rohrbough was false and that his written statement of December 31, 2001 is



the factual and truthful account of his direct involvement in the April 20, 1999 tragedy.

The internal affairs investigation was conducted into allegations that Deputy James Taylor provided false information, to the family of Daniel Rohrbough, a victim of the Columbine tragedy. The internal affairs also focused on the allegation that by knowingly providing false information, regarding a situation, which has been permeated with controversy and distrust had been seriously aggravated.

Deputy James D. Taylor was found to have violated the following Policies and Procedures of The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office:

**ADM 310.A.1-Compliance with Sheriff's Office Value Based**

**Directive System -**

SUSTAINED - As the deputy admitted to providing false information, on several occasions, to the family of Daniel Rohrbough and others; failed to demonstrate organizational integrity and respect for others.



**ADM 310.A.3 - Truthfulness**

SUSTAINED - While the false information provided to the family of Daniel Rohrbough was done in "off duty" environments, the false statement were specifically related to the responsibilities of a Deputy Sheriff.

**ADM 310.A.4 - Respect for Others**

SUSTAINED - As the deputy admitted to providing false information to the family of Daniel Rohrbough and the deputy admitted that the false information resulted in aggravating a controversial situation and caused continued distrust. Providing false information demonstrated a serious lack of respect for those directly and indirectly involved in this matter.

**ADM 310.A.5 - Public Trust and Authority**

SUSTAINED - By providing false information, on several occasions, the high level of trust expected by the public for their law enforcement authorities and the criminal justice system has been seriously impacted.

**ADM 310.A.8 - Conduct**

SUSTAINED - By knowingly and repeatedly providing false information to the family of Daniel Rohrbough and others, the



reputation of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement organizations has been inappropriately brought into disrepute. Providing false information has discredited the reputations of the members of the organization and has had a negative impact upon the operational effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office and its members.

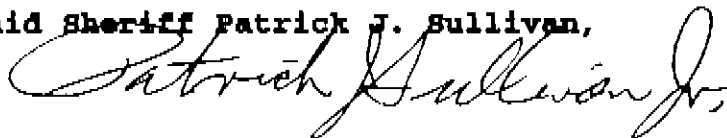
As a result of the sustained findings regarding violations of the Policies and Procedures of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, Deputy James D. Taylor has been terminated from his employment with the Sheriff. Deputy Taylor was provided with an opportunity to appeal the disciplinary decision, however he has declined, in writing, the "name clearing" appeal process.

The sustained findings and the termination of Deputy Taylor concludes the internal affairs investigation by The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy James D. Taylor was employed by the Arapahoe County Sheriff since January 15, 1988 and was a Senior Deputy at the time of his termination. During his fifteen year career, Deputy Taylor, never the subject of an internal affairs investigations, performed his responsibilities in an excellent manner. (Photograph of deputy available)



" I am extremely disappointed that false information regarding the tragedy of Columbine High School was provided to the families of the victims of Columbine by a member of my staff. I sincerely apologize for the unacceptable conduct of one former member of my organization," said Sheriff Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr.



E N D



# ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

5686 S. Court Pl. • Littleton, Colorado 80120-1200

09 016

PATRICK J. SULLIVAN JR., SHERIFF

(303) 795-4711

January 10, 2002

Sue Petrone  
6260 S. Valley Lane  
Morrison, CO 80465

COPY

Dear Ms. Petrone:

As a result of recent media coverage regarding the April 20, 1999 tragedy at Columbine High School, I became aware that a Deputy Sheriff of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office had provided information, previously unknown to me, your family and others. On Monday, December 31, 2001, during an interview with our internal affairs investigators, Deputy Taylor voluntarily completed a written statement, which was in dramatic conflict with the information reported to have been provided to your family.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office initiated a formal internal affairs investigation into the alleged misconduct, with a focus of determining the truth regarding the obvious conflicts between the information Deputy Taylor provided your family and his written statement of December 31, 2001. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office internal investigation, completed in a thorough and expeditious manner involving many interviews and a review of our records of our involvement on April 20, 1999, determined that the deputy had provided false information to your family. The deputy violated the policies and procedures of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and as a result of his misconduct, has been terminated from employment with my office.

I am extremely disappointed that a member of my staff would have provided false information to the families of the victims of Columbine. I sincerely apologize for the unacceptable conduct of the former member of my organization. I am sorry for the unnecessary heartbreak and stress on your family caused by this unfortunate matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr.  
Sheriff

Enclosure

COPY

SAME LETTER to ALL  
Families that lost  
children on 4-20-99





09 017



# Thornton Police Department

9500 Civic Center Drive  
Thornton, CO 80229-1220

## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Lt. Frank Frazier, Jr.  
El Paso County SO

FROM: Lt. Leroy Cross  
SWAT Commander

DATE: 1-16-02

PAGES: 3 (including cover sheet)

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any trouble receiving this transmission,  
please telephone 303-528-7475

FAX NUMBER: (303) 538-7369  
VOICE NUMBER: (303) 538-7475

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**NORTHGLENN / THORNTON POLICE DEPARTMENT SWAT TEAM**

Jefferson County "Columbine High School" Incident Assist  
April 20, 1999

**SWAT PERSONNEL PRESENT****COMMAND ELEMENT:**

Team Commander	Lt. Leroy Cross
Team X.O	Sgt. John Vermilye
Crisis Negotiations Commander	Lt. Lori Moriarty

**ENTRY ELEMENT:**

Team Leader	Sgt. Rick Holman
Element Member	Ofc. Steve Chin
Element Member	Det. Brad Bailey
Element Member	Det. Karl Scherck
Element Member	Ofc. Jim May
Element Member	Ofc. Scott Hopkins
Element Member	Ofc. Shane Hendrixson
Element Member	Ofc. John Maldonado

**CRISIS ACTION TEAM ELEMENT**

Team Leader	Sgt. Troy Smith
Element Member	Ofc. Jerry Peters
Element Member	Ofc. Greg Reeves
Element Member	Det. Mark Quintana
Element Member	Det. Kurt Barnes
Element Member	Ofc. Jeremy Sloan
Element Member	Ofc. Bernard Donin

**SNIPER / OBSERVER ELEMENT**

Team Leader	Ofc. Fred Kitchens
Element Member	Ofc. Ron Osgood
Element Member	Ofc. Scott Hughes
Element Member	Ofc. Chris Owen



EVENT TIME LINE 04/20-21/99

1535 Hrs Mutual aid for SWAT received.

1645 Hrs Team arrived on scene at the incident.  
Common post (Bowles & Pierce).

1652 Hrs Received situation report and mission brief from  
Sgt. Bill Black, Littleton PD SWAT.

2330 Hrs Joint and simultaneous entry made into Columbine  
High School as planned, to execute the mission.  
Additional SWAT Teams in support were Adams County  
Sheriff's Office., Boulder S.O., Boulder P.D. and  
Commerce City P.D.

0055 Hrs Building Cleared - Mission complete.

0155 Hrs Secured from scene after briefing and turning over  
information to Jefferson County Sheriffs Office.

0215 Hrs Arrived at Thornton Police Headquarters to secure  
for the day.

OPERATIONS MISSION

The mission assigned to our SWAT team was to work jointly and in cooperation with the other SWAT teams on scene. When given the "ORDER" to enter Columbine High School, we were to conduct a slow and very methodical search (in hopes of finding any possible survivors), to address any casualty first aid needs necessary, to record the location of any fatalities encountered, to record the location of all unexploded ordinance (bombs) and exploded ordinance not previously tagged and finally to report and engage with any hostiles we may encounter. We were advised that two suspects (shooters) might still be in the school.