

Informant warned officers before Talihina shootout - McAlester News-Capital & Democrat (OK) - July 2, 2018

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An informant warned law enforcement officers several times to "be careful" before a May 11 search warrant operation that ended in a shootout and explosion in downtown Talihina that left five Oklahoma State Troopers injured, historic buildings destroyed, and the suspect dead.

Bradley Daniel Webster, 52, of Talihina, was identified by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol as the suspect that was shot and killed by law enforcement officers who were attempting to execute a search warrant on the morning of May 11.

Four troopers – Brett Stephens, Brandon Seward, Sammy Lee, Chris Bunch, and Chance Tuttle – suffered minor injuries from either shrapnel from the explosion or from gunfire; the fifth trooper was struck in his bulletproof vest, which stopped the round from penetrating and "ultimately saved his life," according to OHP.

The no-knock warrant was authorized by LeFlore County Associate District Judge Marlon D. Fry on May 10.

According to an affidavit for search warrant prepared by District 16 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force member Rodney Derryberry, the agent was involved in the investigation of felon in possession of firearm and had probable cause that the following property constitutes evidence of a crime as defined under Oklahoma Statutes in Title 21, felon in possession of firearm:

"One black in color Uzi pistol and one dark in color assault rifle (AK-47) with magazine and all other firearms, projectiles, spent shell casings, ammunition, blood, hair, fibers, fingerprints, palm prints, items containing DNA, clothing, and other microscopic, biological, and physical evidence, including any device or apparatus used for concealment such as holsters or items used for transporting a firearm, together with any bills, letters, titles, or other documents identifying the occupants of the residence to be searched."

Derryberry wrote in the search warrant affidavit that on May 9, Talihina Chief of Police Rodney Faulkenberry arrested an informant for active warrants and brought the individual to talk with Derryberry.

Upon arrest, the informant told Faulkenberry that he saw a loaded AK-47, and an "Uzi style" pistol while in the main living area of Webster's residence on May 5, the affidavit states.

The informant said he asked Webster about the firearms because he knew that Webster was a convicted felon, according to the affidavit. Webster allegedly responded that he had "them and more because he was not going back to jail and was ready to go on a shooting spree at City Hall," the affidavit states.

Derryberry wrote in the affidavit that the individual believed that the firearms were replicas, until the informant picked up the assault rifle and charged the bolt and a live round ejected out of the chamber.

The informant knew "this was not good" because of Webster's past criminal history and that Webster had told the informant "he had previously shot and killed two guys in the past," the affidavit states.

According to the affidavit, Derryberry found news stories from April 2006 in Mena, Arkansas, stating that Webster shot and killed two people, plus shot a third person in the face during an attempted robbery of a "marijuana grow."

Faulkenberry observed counter surveillance cameras attached to the residence to be searched facing the west alleyway and also facing Second Street, the affidavit states.

The informant told the investigators that he would be a named informant on a search warrant, when asked why, the informant said, "because he doesn't want to see anyone killed," and told the investigators twice "to be careful" if investigators went to the residence, the affidavit states.

The court was asked to recognize the threat to law enforcement and public safety that Webster had used deadly force in the past to protect criminal activity for the request of the no-knock search warrant, the affidavit states.

LeFlore County Associate District Judge Marlon D. Fry authorized the search of Webster's property "in the daytime to make a search of said persons, residence, vehicles, and/or buildings and premises, the curtilage thereof and appurtenances thereto belonging to the described property, for said property, and if found to seize the same, and make a written return hereof according to law; a no knock warrant for immediate officer safety and public safety is authorized by the court," the search warrant states.

According to a second affidavit for search warrant prepared by Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Scott Miller, with OHP's Troop Z, at approximately 6:04 a.m. May 11, members of the OHP Tactical Team began to make entry into the residence to be searched while assisting in the execution of a search warrant.

Miller wrote in the affidavit that shortly after troopers breached the door, they deployed a diversionary device on a pole through a window and then extricated the device, the affidavit states. Then a resident inside the structure began firing a weapon at the entry team, the affidavit states.

According to the affidavit, the entry team visually observed only three entry points to the residence and saw the suspect did not exit the residence.

Troopers also noticed a small fire inside the residence before it consumed the building and spread into an adjacent building, according to the affidavit. The affidavit states the interior of the residence contained evidence of a crime.

The trooper requested in the search warrant for permission to thoroughly search the residence both from the ground and from the air with a drone camera.

The search warrant was directed to the Sheriff of LeFlore County or any of his duly appointed and authorized deputies, any constable or peace officer of the State of Oklahoma, including any Drug Task Force Officer/Investigator with the Sixteenth Judicial District, Trooper of Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Agent of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug, Agent of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, or Special Agents and Task Force Officers of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Special Agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, or any other state or federal peace officer.

The second search warrant was authorized by Fry at 11:10 a.m. May 11 for any officer executing the search warrant both on land and by air including the using a drone camera to facilitate the search in the daytime or nighttime, the search warrant stated.

The warrant was returned May 15 by Miller and the inventory of the search seized from Webster's residence include:

28 cartridges

64 casings

52 projectiles

Five magazine springs

Firearm suppressor components

One AR type firearm

One Uzi type firearm

One handgun type firearm (barrel, slide, and trigger mechanism)

One BB type rifle

One diversionary device (flash bang)

One propane torch head

Two ballistic plates

Two keys

One pill bottle

One ballistic scope ring

One cigarette lighter

One cell phone

One unknown piece of metal

One magazine

One knife

One television

Four fire debris samples (collected by ATF)

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