

Officer shot in arrest attempt

OMAHA (AP) — An Omaha police officer who was shot in the shoulder during a shootout that left one man dead might have been wounded by another officer, police said Wednesday.

Officer Michael Diehm, 37, was in good condition Wednesday after surgery. The bullet traveled down his arm and exited through his elbow.

He was wearing a bulletproof vest when he was shot, police spokesman Sgt. William Muldoon said.

The man who was the target of the "no-knock" warrants, Donald Hurley, 43, died in an exchange of bullets Tuesday at about 10:50 p.m. He was wanted for felony assault and for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Muldoon said police were investigating whether the shot that hit the officer was fired by the suspect or another officer. Ballistic tests were being done on all the guns used in the shootout and results should be known later this week.

The city is still suffering from the aftermath of the Aug. 20 shooting death of Officer Jimmy Wilson Jr., who was killed in his cruiser after pulling over a van in a traffic stop. Kevin Allen, 18, was convicted last week of first-degree murder in that case.

About 10 homicide detectives and members of the Emergency Response Unit were called in to serve two arrest warrants and a search warrant on Hurley, who had a history of violent offenses, Muldoon said.

"I heard a big boom and bam, bam, bam, bam. The next thing I knew, police are here."

TERRY HUDSON
neighbor

Hurley had been convicted of manslaughter in the 1979 death of his wife. He was released on parole in 1994, Muldoon said.

Hurley escaped in 1983 from the penitentiary by slipping away from a prison guard while visiting his father at an Omaha hospital. He was recaptured in 1984 in South Carolina, where he was found with a group of Hell's Angels.

Hurley had been off parole since March 13, 1994, Muldoon said.

"This man had already shown a propensity to commit a very violent act, and he had threatened to kill," Muldoon said. Police decided to use the no-knock approach "so they could hopefully surprise the man so he would not resist arrest."

A no-knock warrant allows officers to enter a home without knocking. Police identified themselves as they went through Hurley's door, Muldoon said.

The warrants were the result of an investigation of a felony assault that had occurred March 15. At the time, a 21-year-old man had reported that Hurley had held a gun to his head, pistol-whipped him with a handgun and then threatened to kill him if he told anybody.

Muldoon said when officers entered the front door of the north Omaha home, they yelled "Police!" repeatedly. The door opened to a small entryway, and Hurley was in a living room on a sofa with a gun.

"He had the handgun, and he aimed it at them and started firing," Muldoon said.

Muldoon did not know how many shots were fired at police.

A neighbor, Terry Hudson, 33, said he heard five to six shots. "I heard a big boom and bam, bam, bam, bam. The next thing I knew, police are here."

Diehm is a 9 1/2-year veteran of the police force. Muldoon said he was talking with hospital officials before surgery.

Neighbors said Hurley was a construction worker. His girlfriend and her young son frequently stayed with him, they said. At the time of the shooting, police said Hurley was home alone.


Chief Jim Skinner said the incident would be investigated by the homicide unit and the department's internal affairs unit. In addition, the Douglas County attorney's office would be conducting an investigation.

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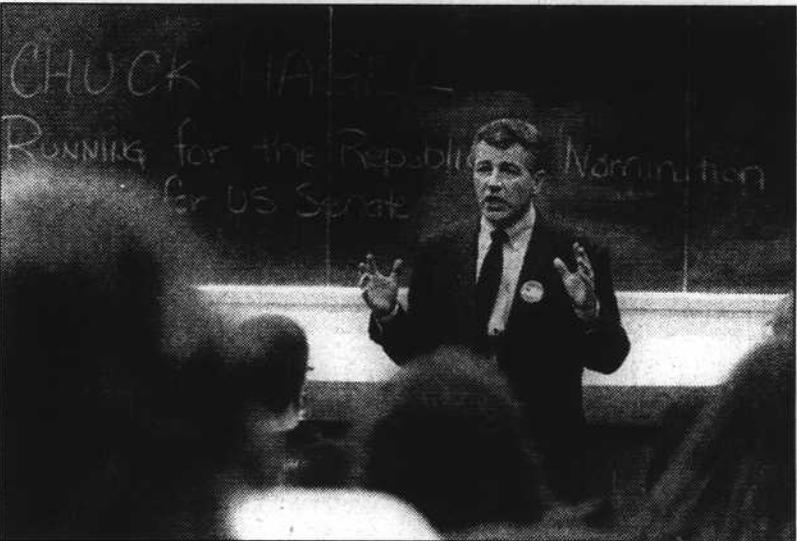
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Chuck Hagel, who is seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, spoke to an American Government class Wednesday morning at Hamilton Hall. Don Stenberg, the other Republican running for the nomination, spoke to the class two weeks ago.

Hagel

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do too big of a job and failed, he said. Hagel said he wanted to clean up the image of politicians and win back respect.

"Politics is not about ripping your opponent's head off. It's about bold, decisive leadership."

Hagel said he wanted to eliminate political action groups in Washington and relieve their influence through campaign contributions. Individuals should be the only ones contributing to their representatives' campaigns, he said.

Politicians should concentrate on uniting government and the nation, Hagel said, and that would be his priority.

"Politics is not about ripping your opponent's head off. It's about bold, decisive leadership."

CHUCK HAGEL
senate candidate

"I'm going to do it because I believe in things, because I stand for things."


The United States, with all its difficulties, is in a perfect position for change, Hagel said. Today's college students will be the ones who shape it.

"Our people are bigger and better than any challenges."

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