

Disgruntled Xerox employee kills seven

HONOLULU (AP) — In the latest outburst of workplace violence, a Xerox copier repairman shot and killed seven co-workers in his office building Tuesday morning, authorities said. He surrendered after a five-hour armed standoff with police.

Police believe Byran Uesugi, a 15-year Xerox employee, shot seven fellow copier technicians at about 8 a.m. (noon CST) before fleeing in a company van with a gun.

He eventually stopped several miles away in a leafy, residential neighborhood.

Police cordoned off the neighborhood and began negotiating with him about two hours later.

Some five hours after the shooting began, Uesugi emerged from the van, walked to the back of the vehicle with his hands raised and then fell down on the ground.

His brother had helped in the negotiations.

SWAT teams raced toward him with automatic weapons drawn. No shots were heard and no injuries were reported.

"It appears as though it was a disgruntled employee who snapped," Mayor Jeremy Harris said. Police would not comment on a motive though.

Uesugi, 40, was being booked for investigation of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory penalty of life without parole.

The gunfire erupted in an industrial section of Honolulu, far from the Waikiki tourist district. Five victims were found dead in a conference room and two other bodies were found nearby. All had been shot with a 9 mm handgun, authorities said.

Police found 20 9-mm shell casings at the scene. At Uesugi's home, they found 11 handguns, 5 rifles and two shotguns.

The victims — male Xerox employees — were shot on the second floor of the two-story building, authorities said. They ranged in age from 33 to 58.

"It's a shock for all of us. We

"It's a shock for all of us. We have such a safe community."

JEREMY HARRIS
mayor of Honolulu

have such a safe community with almost no violent crime," Harris said. "To have someone snap like this and murder seven people is just absolutely appalling."

Uesugi was a member of his high school rifle team and had up to 17 weapons registered in his name.

"This could have been much, much worse," Harris said.

By late morning in Makiki Heights, a residential neighborhood near the shooting scene, negotiators were talking with the suspect through a bullhorn. He was seen pacing back and forth outside the van.

Police cordoned off a half-mile area around his van, which was near the Hawaii Nature Center. About 60 fourth-graders and 12 chaperones were on a nature hike when police told them to get to higher ground. A school bus with two rifle-toting police officers then took the students to safety.

A separate group of first-graders on a field trip also were evacuated in the afternoon.

About 10 homes were also evacuated. Neighborhood residents set up lawn chairs in the streets to watch the situation unfold.

Xerox employees were taken across the street from the building to be questioned by police and helped by counselors. Another Xerox building, in downtown Honolulu, was evacuated in case the gunman headed that way.

Uesugi joined Xerox Corp. in 1984. As a customer service engineer, he traveled to various sites to service and repair printers and copiers, Xerox said.

Day recognizes Nebraska Respite

BY LINDSAY HENSHILWOOD
Staff writer

Almost all students would think it great if they could have a break from studying.

For other members of the community who need a break but have no way of getting one, Nebraska Respite provides the answer.

Today is Nebraska Respite Awareness Day, a program of the Nebraska Respite Coalition that is coordinated by the Young Women's Christian Association.

"Respite is something set up for families needing a break," said Lynette Carr-Grumis, a coordinator of Lincoln's Respite Services.

"These are families who have to care for frail, elderly people, or children with disabilities, and so need some time away occasionally," she said.

The idea of making people more aware of the need for respite began a year ago.

A grant was given to the coalition for one year to begin the program, and in that time it has become so successful that the state of Nebraska has taken over, Carr-Grumis said.

"The difference that just a few hours (of) break made to people was noticeable," Carr-Grumis said.

Gov. Mike Johanns will sign a proclamation for Respite Awareness Day in the Governor's Hearing Room of the Capitol today.

Under the proclamation, six areas within the state will be served by the Respite Services.

Carr-Grumis said respite is considered important for a number of reasons.

Many families who have to care for someone do not want that person to leave their home to be placed in permanent care, Carr-Grumis said.

It is often the case that some families find the emotional, physical and financial stress too much to cope with, she said.

In the worst cases, this can result in neglect or abuse. While respite can provide relief from this, it is also often a relief in the service delivery system.

This is because it enables the individual to remain in his home.

If respite is provided to a family at a cost of \$200 per month, it is still a savings to the \$4,000-\$5,000 per month in Medicaid costs for nursing home care that would otherwise be necessary.

"We are using Nebraska Respite Awareness Day to hopefully recruit more people to help as caregivers,"

said Judy Holstead, a co-chairwoman for the Nebraska Respite Coalition program.

A training program will begin at Lincoln's Young Women's Christian Association on Dec. 7 free of charge.

The program will be run on one evening per week and will last either four or five weeks, depending on the type of training scheme. For more information, call (402) 441-6710.

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