

NG: Neil Gardner

RB: Russ Boatright (Detective)

RB: This will be a pre-tape. Detective Boatright reporting, uh, I.D. eighty-two-O-six, uh, present, uh, for the shoot team interview is myself, um, Officer Brian Thompson with the Arvada Police Department and Deputy Neil Gardner, I.D. number three-zero-one-zero, uh, with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Time now is, um, seventeen thirty-five hours and we're located at the Lynnwood, is that right? Leawood Elementary School. Um, Neil, why don't you tell me, what, what year did you start with your department?

NG: Eight-four.

RB: Nineteen...

NG: November of eighty-four.

RB: And what have been your duty assignments since, uh, you started there?

NG: Uh, the jail for five years, then I went to civil for a couple, and then on patrol ever since.

RB: Okay, a couple years in civil, I'm sorry.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. And then.

NG: The rest of time on patrol. And I've been assigned at Columbine for, this is my second year.

RB: And you're the, uh, S.R.O., the school resource officer.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. And, I'm sorry, this is your second year assigned at the, at the high school there?

NG: Correct.

RB: Okay. And I think for, for purposes of the Shoot Team, you may have other information related to, uh, the investigation just because of your knowledge of these individuals.

NG: Okay.

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RB: But I think initially what we'll do is just go through the, the incident itself and then we can deal with, uh, some of the other aspects if we need to at that point. Okay?

NG: Okay.

RB: Um, your current assignment is the, is the S.R.O. position, correct?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: And when you're not doing, uh, the S.R.O. position, it's a patrol position, then, after that?

NG: Yeah, my, eight, five days, eight hours a day, uh, here at the school, Monday through Friday.

RB: Okay.

NG: Um, and, um, I don't do any, you know, I take outside calls, um, in the neighborhood when there's not enough deputies (inaudible). But I'm usually in the school.

RB: That just depends on manpower, then, right.

NG: Right.

RB: And what about, um, um, uh, during spring break, uh, those types of things, summer vacations, you're, you're back in a patrol rotation then, at those times?

NG: Yes. Um, this spring break I just took, uh, comp time and, uh, uh, a couple vacation days.

RB: Okay.

NG: And usually in the summer, um, we take the bulk of our vacation and then the rest of the time we spend back on in the district on patrol.

RB: Okay. In any kind of specific training you have received, um, specifically related to SWAT, anything there?

NG: No.

RB: Okay. Is that your normal, uh, uniform?

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NG: No. This, this is, we also patrol on bikes.

RB: Okay.

NG: Being at the school and within that I have Clement Park.

RB: Okay.

NG: I patrol the Clement Park area, the lake area, on the bike, bicycle, that's what this is all about.

RB: Okay.

NG: I guess they want us to be seen.

RB: Okay.

NG: Bad day to wear yellow.

RB: So the Clement Park assignment is coordinated through the, the S.R.O. position at Columbine, then.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. And it's probably due to the traffic of the kids back and forth from the park to the school and...

NG: Correct.

RB: (Inaudible) black, uh. Now the, the uniform that you're wearing today, that's for the bike patrol?

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Standard bike patrol uniform or. . .

NG: Most every day I wear it cause when it's, when it's nice out I'll wear this so I can do the bike patrol.

RB: Okay.

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NG: I know I took a lot of stuff from the kids for wearing this (inaudible).

RB: Now if you, and then when you're not wearing it, like in the winter time or whatever, you're just wearing your regular uniform at that time?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: I know this sounds ridiculous but this just came up the other day. You, you had to go through some kind of training for the bike, didn't you?

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: And that's primarily for liability reasons again.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. And I think, too, I think with our, uh, um, our school resource officers, they also attend some specialized training for that. Did you do anything there?

NG: For the S.R.O. program?

RB: Um hmm.

NG: Yes.

RB: What was, what did that entail?

NG: Um, it was forty hours of, um, what the job was gonna be, what to expect and, um, how to set up classroom lectures and, uh, just pretty basically how to deal with the kids.

RB: Okay.

NG: In that kind of environment.

RB: So it basically encompassed all the aspects you'd be dealing with, um, with that



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population at the school.

NG: Yeah, they even were trying to teach you how to, to do a class, for 'em, do some classes for 'em. Like the DUT goggles shows you what it's like to be drunk without actually being drunk...

RB: Oh, okay.

NG: I taught a lot of those classes.

RB: And how long was the bike training?

NG: It was, uh, thirty-eight hours.

RB: Okay. And again, that was primarily just to deal with just the mechanics of riding the bikes and how to be safe and...

NG: Right.

RB: And if you fall, how to fall, that kind of...

NG: Yeah, and how to do take downs on...

RB: Oh, okay.

NG: On prisoners, how to do, I would never do a traffic stop, but how to do a traffic stop.

RB: Okay. And then you said you primarily work, uh, right now you're working a Monday through Friday...

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Schedule.

NG: And work eight to three.

RB: And again we already covered what happens on those days when school's not in session, what your, what your duties might be, uh, regarding that. Um, so obviously you've, you've been off over the weekend and then you came on to work, um, yesterday was Monday...

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NG: Yeah.

RB: So today would have been your second day back?

NG: Yeah. I did work. uh, the after prom on Saturday night from midnight to six in the morning.

RB: Okay.

NG: And I was off on Sunday.

RB: So normally your first day of the week is going to be Monday, but this weekend you had, uh, you did a special...

NG: Special event. And I was flexing tomorrow for it, so.

RB: You said, you said, you said Saturday was, uh, after prom party?

NG: Right. At the school.

RB: Okay. And that was from when to when?

NG: Midnight to, I left here at five o'clock in the morning.

RB: Did you do that alone or were you working with anyone?

NG: I was, did that alone.

RB: Okay.

NG: I mean, there was a lot of volunteer parents. I mean, there was as many parents as there was kids.

RB: Okay.

NG: But, I was the only officer.

RB: Okay. Um, so, just, just so we're clear on it, you worked, the previous week you worked Monday through Friday and then you did a special, uh, the special event Saturday night,

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you were off Sunday.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Umm, and then Monday started your regular work week again.

NG: Right.

RB: I need to kind of run through with you, too, um, the time, what time did you go to bed last night?

NG: Nine o'clock.

RB: How'd you sleep last night?

NG: Good.

RB: Normal night's sleep?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Um, and then what time did you wake, this morning?

NG: Six fifteen.

RB: Now, again, that's pretty much normal time. And then you reported to, uh, you report straight to work? Or to, uh...

NG: No, I have to go to Golden and get a patrol car in case I have to transport.

RB: Okay.

NG: So I go to Golden, from Lakewood, I live in Lakewood, from Lakewood I go to Golden, which takes about fourteen minutes.

RB: You say Golden, you talking about the S.O.?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. So you report to the S.O., about what time do you get there?



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NG: I get there about seven-twenty, between seven-twenty and seven-thirty.

RB: And, do you have a briefing? Do you brief with anybody or you just...

NG: I go to briefing one day a week and it's usually on Thursday.

RB: Okay. Uh, so then basically today all you do, normally all you do is just go to pick up a, pick up a unit...

NG: And get to the school.

RB: Okay. And of course you've got your bike with you in the, the patrol unit, right.

NG: I leave it locked up at school.

RB: Oh, okay.

NG: This is probably a good, I mean, today I had an unmarked car. It wasn't a marked unit.

RB: Okay, so it was different than a normal...

NG: Than a normal patrol car.

RB: Okay. So most of the time you are in a marked patrol unit.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. Um, today just happened to be a day you did not.

NG: Yeah, there's a lieutenant's car that they just put on patrol.

RB: Okay.

NG: And, uh, it was just in the garage, so I took it, so, it, I mean, it's got the spots and everything, the antennas all over it, but it was a plain, just a dark blue unmarked car.

RB: What's the make of that car, what is it, do you know?

NG: It's a Caprice, Chevy, I don't know what year it is (inaudible).

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RB: Okay. Is the first time you've taken an unmarked?

NG: No.

RB: Okay.

NG: No, I've taken it before.

RB: How often would you say?

NG: Probably, well, I used to take one, no one else would take it. I used to bring the gray one here all the time.

RB: Okay.

NG: But just rec... I brought the blue one yesterday and today. So, two times in the whole school year.

RB: Oh, so just twice, you've used...

NG: The blue one.

RB: The blue one. Okay.

NG: This year. It's usually a marked unit.

RB: You said something about a gray one you used to bring all the time?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: When was that? And again that's an unmarked.

NG: That, right, that was at, the same kind of car, that was at the beginning of the year from, uh...

RB: Okay.

NG: And then they gave it back to, uh, the lieutenants.

RB: So roughly for about a month, um, at the beginning of the year you drove the light, the

gray unmarked.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: And then primarily from then on you took a marked.

NG: Right.

RB: Within the last two days you've, uh, been using the unmarked...

NG: Right.

RB: Blue...Caprice. Okay. And, there was something else that came up with that. Um, oh, let's see, um, once a week you looked into briefing. Right?

NG: Right.

RB: And that's usually on a Thursday.

NG: Thursday. Cause that's, actually I'm assigned to, we're on teams, and I'm assigned to Team B and they come in, if they don't have a training day on Wednesday I know they're gonna be there on Thursday.

RB: You said you were assigned to team...

NG: B.

RB: Is that a, uh, is that a shift?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Designation.

NG: Right.

RB: Like we use, uh, watch one, watch two, watch three.

NG: No, that's just, um, see we split our weekends. You can either have Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, Saturday off, or Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.



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RB: Okay.

NG: And, and Team B is off Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, except for me.

RB: Okay.

NG: Because I work the Monday through Friday.

RB: You can't have a guy without a team.

NG: That's where my supervisor is, is on Team B.

RB: Okay.

NG: If I'm on Team A on a Monday or a Tuesday, then I would just, I just use the Team A sergeant.

RB: Okay, but technically you're assigned to, uh, the, the team designation just designates basically which end of the week.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Uh, what time did you have, um, did you eat breakfast this morning?

NG: Hmm, no I didn't.

RB: How about lunch?

NG: We had Subway right before this all went down.

RB: So prior to what time do you think?

NG: Um, we left for Subway at about, I think it was about ten thirty-five.

RB: And you're saying "we."

NG: Uh, I had a campus supervisor with me.

RB: And who would that have been?

NG: Andy Martin.

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RB: And you say campus supervisor, is that like an assistant principal or...

NG: No, it's what you would, they used to call the school narc.

RB: Oh, okay. We called them the yard guard.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. So they provide basically, R-one security type...

NG: Yeah, they're unarmed but. . .

RB: Right.

NG: They just know the kids. They do all the parking.

RB: Okay.

NG: And the in school rules.

RB: Um, any alcohol consumed over the last twenty-four hours?

NG: None. I don't drink it ever.

RB: You don't drink at all then?

NG: Hmm umm.

RB: Any, any prescription drugs, any (inaudible).

NG: High blood pressure.

RB: Okay. What time did you take that?

NG: Uh, right before I left, around seven.

RB: Okay. And what is that?

NG: Lo-tin-son.

RB: Do you know how to spell it?

NG: No, not really, it's like, uh, L-O-T-I-S-Y-N or something like that.

RB: Okay. And that's a blood pressure medication, right?

NG: Yeah, for hypertension. The high number's high.

RB: And that's a normal medication you take daily?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. How long you been using that?

NG: Uh, about eight months now.

RB: Does it cause any noticeable side effects or any, can you even tell you're taking it?

NG: No, and I actually had to go to that because the stuff I was trying eight months ago was making me dizzy.

RB: Okay.

NG: But I don't remember what that was called.

RB: Okay, but you're not, I guess what I'm getting at with this medication, no side effects...

NG: Oh, no, I'm perfectly fine, yeah.

RB: Okay. And it's not the type of medication that you notice a change with when you take it.

NG: Huh uh.

RB: Okay. What I'm getting at is if you took a pain medication, you might feel drowsy or something like that.



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NG: Oh, yeah, no.

RB: Okay. This sounds like one of those medications if you take it, it really has no noticeable affect, for you.

NG: Right, yeah. If I forget to take it, there's just no difference.

RB: Okay. At least that you can tell, right.

NG: Right.

RB: And then let's see, um, we're thinking, do you have a ball park time frame when you think this event took place.

NG: Yeah, we went, we went to Subway and we got our sandwiches cause we wanted to come back because it, what normally happens is we go to, since the kids are eatin' at around like eleven, we go to the cafeteria and we actually eat right next to the kids.

RB: Oh, okay.

NG: But we went, I went there today and the camp, like Andy was with me and the campus supervisor, I says, oh, look, they're having teriyaki chicken, let's go to Subway real quick and bring it back.

RB: Okay.

NG: But normally we'd-a been where the shooting, inside where the shooting took place.

RB: So what you're saying is normally you eat your lunch in the cafeteria with the students.

NG: Yeah, right, yeah, the students are here and we're right here next to the faculty lounge is right next to the students.

RB: Okay. Oh, so you'll eat in the, in the faculty lounge.

NG: Right, yeah, right next to the students.

RB: And I'm not even familiar with the, with the layout of the school but there sounds like there's a separation with the faculty lounge.

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NG: Right, normally, that's our normal routine.

RB: Okay.

NG: Just because there's so many kids down there at that time and that's usually when, if they're gonna get in a fight, that's usually when it'll happen. But today we went to Subway and then once we got Subway, we went back to Clement Park in the parking lot.

RB: I got one other question.

NG: Okay, sorry.

RB: When you got the, uh, you said something about the teriyaki, I guess that's maybe what I didn't understand.

NG: Yeah.

RB: They were having teriyaki at school.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: That was the school...

RB: And you didn't want to eat, that.

NG: We didn't want teriyaki.

RB: Okay. Okay. So the teriyaki.

NG: We've had the teriyaki before

RB: Okay. So that's why you went to Subway.

NG: Right.

RB: And you, you just did a pick up order, um, and came back to the school.

NG: Yeah.

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RB: With that, uh, and you were saying normally you eat in the faculty lounge which is, uh, sounds like connected to the, to the, uh...kid lunch area.

NG: Yeah, it's a room right next to all the kids.

RB: Okay. And that, is that the lunchroom, is that what you call that?

NG: Right.

RB: Where the kids eat.

NG: Well, they call it the commons area.

RB: Okay. Um, let's see, now in the commons, okay, and I assume you have obviously quick access to the, to the commons area from the faculty lounge and you can see...

NG: One door and you can see everything.

RB: You can see what's going on.

NG: There, actually, there's cameras that should have been on during the shooting. We, they, they film the kids because they don't like them to leave trash and that's how they bring 'em in, so the, you know, but with all the pipe bombs and stuff going off they probably blew, blew all of those to smithereens.

RB: Okay.

NG: But usually the camera is running during the time.

RB: And then what time do you think you got back?

NG: It was shortly before eleven that we parked in the park.

RB: Okay, this is a little bit different because you didn't go into the, uh, the faculty lounge today.

NG: No. We took our sandwiches from Subway and drove from Subway which is at Coalmine and Pierce. We drove directly to the back, the south side of Clement Park because Andy wanted to watch, we have a smokers pit that's just off the school grounds.



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RB: Uh huh.

NG: And he wanted to see who was hanging out at the smokers pit. So we were eatin' our lunch watching the smoking pit.

RB: Um, how often do you do that?

NG: Probably, uh, we do that a lot. We don't eat lunch there but we'll, I'll, if I'm not on my bike making a loop through Clement Park, I'll be in the car making a loop because sometimes, they're, they're not allowed to be in Clement Park at the time during lunch periods.

RB: Okay, so this, okay. So the smokers pit basically is off limits during school hours, is that what you're...

NG: No. They get permission from their folks. And what it does is it keeps them from loitering in the neighborhoods smoking.

RB: Okay.

NG: So they give them a pit pass that's off, it's in Clement Park's jurisdiction. It's weird, welcome to our tobacco free school, but we still give them. . .

RB: So the students get a pit pass, they can go to Clements Park to smoke.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay.

NG: In that designated area.

RB: And it's not uncommon, uh, for you guys, for either you, yourself alone...

NG: Or Andy.

RB: Or with, your, uh, school, whatever he (inaudible) school campus supervisor, to be monitoring...

NG: Oh no.

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RB: That area. What you were saying was unusual today, though, to, to have not been...

NG: Yeah, cause normally we'd have been in the cafeteria.

RB: Okay, had there been other times during that lunch period where you'd monitor the pit or was this just like really a strange day as far as that was concerned.

NG: Uh, during lunch, not too often cause we're usually down in the...

RB: Okay.

NG: This was kind of a different...

RB: So this was, this was unusual as far as routine-wise for you.

NG: Right.

RB: Do you have a ball park how many days it would have been over a school year that you might not be in the cafeteria for lunch?

NG: When they have teriyaki chicken. No, I, I'm probably thinking maybe ten times the whole school year, so far that we haven't been in the commons area.

RB: Okay. And that may be for a variety of reasons...

NG: Cause they, the staff, the staff likes us down there during that time. We actually take our lunch usually at, uh, ten-thirty so we can monitor the kids.

RB: Okay.

NG: Who start about a little, I guess a little after eleven.

RB: What is their, what does their lunch period run, from about eleven, somewhere in there...

NG: Eleven, I think it's eleven-ten to eleven-fifty, that's lunch A, and then lunch B is from eleven-fifty to twelve-forty or something like that.

RB: Okay.

NG: I'm not definite on that.



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RB: And there's two lunch periods, lunch A and B?

NG: Right.

RB: Out of curiosity, how many students attend Columbine?

NG: Two thousand and twelve. I think that's what our enrollment is right now.

RB: Okay, so, let's see where we're at here. What had you done, had you, kind of give me a layout of what your day was that day, anything unusual happening that, today, um, do you have a, do you have a set routine that you go through when you, uh, when you get to the school?

NG: Okay. I, you know, I try to do the, the bike patrol, I didn't do the bike patrol today which a lot of times, you know, I'll be out at eight-thirty and I'll take a quick bike patrol around the lake and the park area. And then I usually do it again about ten o'clock before lunch and then I -u- and then I come to do lunch about ten twenty everyday so I take a quick couple in the morning and then I try to get one in the afternoon.

RB: So you do one when you arrive and then you have like a mid-morning, did I understand that right?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. Then you say one in the afternoon then?

NG: Uh, not every day, but...

RB: Okay.

NG: Sometimes I get out to for that.

RB: But today you hadn't done, you hadn't been able to do any of the bike patrol today.

NG: No, I was actu, the reason I didn't go this morning cause I was working on a third degree assault supplement in my office.

RB: Okay. Um, so you were doing a report?



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NG: Um hmm.

RB: Were you doing any interviews today?

NG: No.

RB: Um, anything about the early morning hours of this day that were particularly stressful, unusual for you...

NG: No. It was going really well.

RB: Comments. So basically just another day at the school.

NG: Yeah, a normal, a normal every day.

RB: Okay. I'm sorry, you said it was a trespass report?

NG: Uh, third degree assault. I was just finishing up the supplement that I had to write.

RB: So you weren't doing anything today that you felt in any way affected your, uh, affected you in any, notable capacity.

NG: None. None.

RB: Either from an emotional stand point or physical stand point or anything like that?

NG: No.

RB: Okay. Um, have you been, experienced any family problems at home or anything stressful recently?

NG: Well, yeah, I'm going through kind of a separation, right, I mean, my wife and I are separated but it's not like a major factor.

RB: Okay. About when, how long you been separated?

NG: Uh, three months.

RB: And then nothing unusual with that had happened...

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NG: No. Huh uh.

RB: Recently, over the weekend, the last week, or anything...

NG: Huh uh.

RB: Nothing...

NG: No fights.

RB: That's weighing on you or anything? Okay.

NG: Actually we're getting along better now than we have in the past.

RB: Okay. Do you have kids?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. Is that going okay?

NG: Yeah, real good. Actually, the oldest daughter is with me.

RB: Okay. How many kids do you have?

NG: Three.

RB: And your oldest is with you.

NG: Yeah.

RB: She's how old?

NG: Thirteen.

RB: Nothing going on with the kids, I, I guess what I'm kind of getting at, maybe the whole series of questions here, that, that pick at this, but was there anything going on in your life that was causing you great concern, side tracking you in any way, um...

NG: No. I mean I've been dealing with this for a while.

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RB: The, the separation?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Family issues and that.

NG: Yeah. And like I said, it's actually been going pretty good, so.

RB: Okay.

NG: It hasn't been a major problem. Yeah, sure, I mean there's that, you know, what's gonna happen to your family, but it's not like...

RB: But there hadn't been any, any...

NG: I wasn't, I wasn't thinking about it today.

RB: Okay. And there, there isn't anything going on with that that has changed in any dramatic way recently.

NG: No.

RB: Okay.

NG: It was.

RB: And you say, you say separation, is it leading to a divorce or is it just...

NG: We're not sure.

RB: Okay. So at this point you're just, you've separated...

NG: Yeah.

RB: And you're trying to feel your way through the situation and find out what's going on...

NG: Exactly. Yeah.

RB: And there isn't anything that's happened, uh, in any recent time that's...



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NG: No.

RB: Causing, causing you to lose concentration or uh, occupies your mind for any length of time or anything?

NG: No.

RB: Okay. Any recent, uh, work related problems?

NG: None.

RB: Have you had any stressful events at the school recently? I mean, outside of today?

NG: No. We were actually just talking about how good the year was going, a couple weeks ago.

RB: Is that, you, when you say "we," you and Andy?

NG: Yeah, and, and, well, there's another gal there, Sid, that is a campus supervisor. We talk a lot about the problems at the school, that it's been, they've been a little rowdy because of the, the good weather and stuff, but nothing major's been going on.

RB: That was kind of another general question I was going to ask, as far as, as far as your assignment there. Is it, um, is, is, would you put it in a category of a high stress situation, or pretty relaxed.

NG: It is the best job I've ever had in this department.

RB: Okay.

NG: Which you know. . .

RB: So, you obviously enjoy it...

NG: Oh, yeah, I love it.

RB: And it's not...

NG: Getting paid to ride a bicycle, I mean, what more can you do. I mean, you, you, and you know what's good about, I mean, coming off the road, you think, everyone of these kids

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is a dirt bag, when you're on the road, but when you're in the high school, you see the really, you can see the really good ones, which...

RB: Sure.

NG: You know, (inaudible).

RB: Cause typically we deal with the ones that...

NG: There's some damn good kids here, yeah.

RB: That's right.

NG: And it's, it's been a real positive job for me.

RB: Okay. So, obviously this isn't something that you're looking to get out of, or...

NG: No.

RB: Tired of or anything.

NG: No.

RB: So, if you can...

NG: Of course this throws a wrench in it, it'll never be the same, as it was, but...

RB: Sure. Yeah. Uh, do you wear any type of prescription glasses, contacts?

NG: Um, I do have prescription sunglasses but I didn't, I didn't have them today. I had my patrol bicycle ones and they're not prescription.

RB: You say prescription sunglasses, I assume you have, you have prescription glasses for just regular...

NG: Yeah, I have stigmatism in my right eye.

RB: Okay. And I'll get in, probably here in a little bit I'll get into what you, sunglasses, what you were wearing today and that as we get a little bit further but. . .



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NG: Um hmm.

RB: But, um, you mentioned that you were on the high blood pressure medicine. Any kind of medical problems you've experienced recently?

NG: None.

RB: Last thing maybe might have been some dizziness when you were on that other, that other medication.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: As far as the, um, the weather conditions today, I mean it seemed like, I mean, there was, a pretty nice day.

NG: Pretty nice. Well, actually I thought it was going to be colder cause we can wear shorts too but I thought it was going to be a little cooler so I wore the long ones today.

RB: That's an option you have?

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Was it kind of overcast, do you remember?

NG: Yeah, it's off and on, mostly sunny.

RB: Okay. Partly cloudy, maybe.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Partly sunny? However you want to look at it.

NG: Most, mostly sunny.

RB: Okay. So as far as the weather was concerned, it was a non-factor today.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Even sun glare or anything like that wasn't really a factor. Okay. Uh, what kind of duty weapon do you carry?



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NG: Uh, Sigsauer forty-five.

RB: Can you give me the serial number off that...

NG: (Inaudible) G.

RB: G as in George?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay.

NG: One-seven-one-one-three-eight.

RB: So, that's G as in George, one-seven-one-one-three-eight.

NG: Correct.

RB: Okay. And how many round capacity is with that?

NG: Uh, seven and eight. Seven in the clip and . . .

RB: Okay, seven in the clip, one in the chamber, eight.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. How long have you owned your weapon?

NG: I've had it for eight years.

RB: Okay. And then, you carry additional ammunition with you?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay, you've got two additional, uh...

NG: Now, one's in there now and the other clip is in my pants, the one I emptied.

RB: Okay.

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NG: That one's actually short a bullet.

RB: Okay, so each of those, um, each of those magazines should have eight, I'm sorry, seven.

NG: Seven.

RB: Okay. And we'll get into what all you have left here in just a second.

NG: Okay.

RB: Um, and then as far as, um, I, I assume you go through qualifications regularly. What is your, what is your schedule on those?

NG: Every three months.

RB: Okay.

NG: And I'm, I'm trying to think if I made the last month.

RB: That's what I was going to ask, when the last time was if you remember.

NG: God, I'm, I'm thinking it was February that I went. But I, you know, I'm not, don't hold me to that cause.

RB: Okay.

NG: I hope I made this quarter.

RB: Possibly February?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay, if you hadn't made it in February, would that be, uh, where you hadn't qualified for a quarter or...

NG: Yeah, January, February, March. That would mean I hadn't qualified yet.

RB: Okay. Do they normally notify you, though, when you haven't qualified?



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NG: Right.

RB: Okay. So. And you hadn't received notification that you didn't?

NG: No, no.

RB: So if somebody came in and said, hey, we just found out you're not, you haven't qualified...

NG: Yeah.

RB: The last quarter, that would be news to you. Okay. Um, do you always qualify?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: As far as. . .

NG: Oh yeah.

RB: Do you know what your range scores normally are? What, like an average.

NG: Well, they're all, they're different courses.

RB: Okay.

NG: I usually, eight times out of ten shoot expert, um...

RB: Okay.

NG: If don't shoot expert I, I've never been low, below marksman, which would be an unqual, you know, under marksman you don't qualify, but I've never not qualified.

RB: Okay, so never below marksman.

NG: Right.

RB: So they don't give you necessarily percentages, they just give you, uh, uh, a standing (inaudible).

NG: Yeah, some courses are, I think the cut off is one-thirty.



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RB: Okay.

NG: Never shot under a one, probably one-forty, I'll probably never shot under one...

RB: What, what I guess what I'm understanding from you, you're proficient with your weapon obviously. Okay. Do you know, so you've had this for eight years and you basically qualified quarterly with the weapon.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Could there have been other times where...

NG: There's been a few time, or probably maybe in the fifteen years I've been here, I probably haven't made a qualification three times, I either spaced it out or...whatever.

RB: Okay.

NG: But they always notify you.

RB: What's the model on that Sig, do you know?

NG: Uh, two-twenty, P-two-twenty.

RB: What type of ammunition are you carrying?

NG: Spear hollow point.

RB: It looks like it's got a copper, uh, copper jacket. Have you been involved in any prior, uh, shooting situations?

NG: I, this is the first time I've shot back. I've been shot at before but I never.

RB: The first time you returned fire.

NG: Right.

RB: I guess this would be the first time you've fired your weapon...

NG: Right.

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RB: On duty.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. Outside of the range.

NG: Right.

RB: How many times have you taken fire?

NG: Uh, twice, other than this, other than today.

RB: Okay, so two outside of today.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. Briefly, what were the, what were the incidents there?

NG: Both, both were drunk suicidal males, um, we pulled up to one house.

RB: Let's start with the first one, what year about was that?

NG: Oh, my God. I would say eighty or ninety, yeah, probably ninety.

RB: Okay, nineteen-ninety.

NG: Yeah.

RB: And the other one would have been what year?

NG: It was ninety-two.

RB: Okay. Um, the incident in nineteen-ninety, what, what happened briefly?

NG: I was covering on a call and, um, I parked behind the other deputy and as we were getting out of the car, the guy stuck a high powered rifle out the front door and shot over our heads.

RB: Okay, was it, was it obvious to you, he wasn't trying to shoot you, it was a warning shot,



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or was it...

NG: I think he shot high on purpose.

RB: Okay.

NG: Cause we didn't see it coming.

RB: How many shots did he fire?

NG: Just one.

RB: Um, was that a situation where you thought you could have returned fire?

NG: No, we couldn't see him.

RB: Okay.

NG: We, we saw the muzzle flash and then we just took cover and then, um, they called SWAT out.

RB: Okay.

NG: It ended up he'd shot himself in the house.

RB: And then the second one in ninety-two. What was that?

NG: Um, I was working graveyards and I got called up to a house in Soda Creek where the guy had just bought a gun and he had just found out that he was dying of kidney cancer and that he was intoxicated and he was going to shoot himself. So we went, I went to the house...

RB: Is this your call, or are you covering on it?

NG: No, this was my call.

RB: Okay.

NG: Um, we went to the house and I, you know, was checking the windows. And I could see, when I, when I got to the side window on the door, I could see him behind, he was behind



a, a bar, and he, he took a gun and he put it up in the air like this and then I ducked back and he like went like this like, see ya, goodbye, then I watched him walk, he walked up the stairs and then I lost sight of him, he went into a bedroom and then I heard a, a gunshot go off. So by that time, the cover car was there and we told the dispatcher we think he just shot himself and we're gonna kick the door.

RB: Okay.

NG: So, as I was, I kicked the door twice. Well, during that time he came back, he didn't shoot himself, he came back to the top of the stairs and he shot through the door but the bullet went through the door jamb and the wood splinters went through my hair.

RB: Okay.

NG: And, uh, that's another case where we ducked down into cover and waited for SWAT and then they ended up, smoking him out.

RB: So that was, uh, another situation where you, you really weren't in a position to return fire, with him at that point.

NG: Right.

RB: It sounds like you hadn't got the door open yet.

NG: Right. I couldn't kick the door.

RB: Okay.

NG: It's probably a good thing because that was a suicide by cop.

RB: Okay.

NG: Kind of deal.

RB: Has anybody handled your weapon since, uh, since the incident, other than yourself?

NG: Hmm mm.

RB: Why don't, let's run through today then.

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NG: Okay.

RB: As far as what, um, what happened today. I'll just let you just kind of give me a narrative.

NG: Okay. So after the Subway sandwiches...

RB: Let's start, let's start at the beginning of today. You pick up your car...

NG: Oh. Okay.

RB: You, you get to, to the S.O., you pick up your, your unmarked, you bring it to the school and...

NG: And, yeah, I get here about, eight o'clock.

RB: Okay.

NG: So what I did then, I made a couple...

RB: This will be side two, um, continuing with the interview of, um, Officer Gardner. Time now is, uh, eighteen twenty-five.

NG: Okay. I arrived at the school about eight o'clock. I was gonna make some phone calls but then I got, I started my supplement report and probably finished that at about eight twenty. And from eight twenty to approximately ten fifteen, I was in my office. I was doing some, I was getting rid of some reports and...

RB: I'm sorry, ten fifteen?

NG: Yeah, around, probably around then.

RB: Ball park?

NG: Yeah.

RB: I'm sorry, you were doing what, at that point?

NG: I was just kind of like house cleaning and sitting there talking to Andy for a while. Really doing not much of anything.



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RB: Okay.

NG: Just cleaning out my desk drawers and, um, and about, he goes, I remember him telling me it was about lunch time, so at about ten twenty-five we went down to the cafeteria. We drove. We took my car from the upper parking lot and drove down to the school.

RB: Okay, why don't you give me a little better description of that.

NG: Okay. Okay. I'll try. Um, okay, let's say this being, this being the front of the school...

RB: Okay, and it faces what direction.

NG: This is, this is north.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay. Uh, I usually park on the north side of the building right here.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay. The lunchroom is down here and this, this is the student lot. And this is the faculty lot.

RB: Okay. So you park in the north lot.

NG: Right.

RB: And you drove down to the south lot.

NG: We drove down and parked in the side parking of the student lot. So we both got out of the car and went into the cafeteria area, the commons area, and looked on the, just outside of the kitchen on the board and that showed that they were having chicken teriyaki. So I told, I told Andy, I said, you, ew, do you want chicken teriyaki, I said let's go to Subway and he said okay, that sounds like a plan.

RB: Let me ask you, what time did Andy come to your office today, do you remember? Ball park.

NG: Uh, probably about a little after ten we started talking in my office.



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RB: Okay, so he got there about ten.

NG: Yeah. Yeah.

RB: I'm sorry, go ahead, so you guys decided no teriyaki and you were gonna go to Subway.

NG: We were gonna go to Subway and then he wanted to go back to Clement and check out the, the smoking pit.

RB: And just, just for clarification again, you guys, um basically left, uh, to go to Subway about ten thirty-five.

NG: Right.

RB: Got a pick up order, uh, and then returned, um, like you said, to the, uh, Clement Park.

NG: About, I would guess around five 'til eleven.

RB: (Female talking in background) - - Okay, um, we're just going through the narrative of the day, so it'll be, it'll be a little bit still. Okay.

Where is the smoking pit located in the park?

NG: Okay, this being the north side of the school, and this being the west side, it's right in the northwest corner. The tennis courts are right here, on the northwest and the pit pass is right caddy corner to the tennis courts.

RB: Okay, so it's, it's located in the northwest area of the park.

NG: Right.

RB: Basically.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: And then from the Clement Park parking lot, you, you have a direct view to the smoking pit area.

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RB: Okay.

NG: And that's where we were eating our lunch in the car.

RB: Okay. There's a little, it looks like there's a little, uh, covered area somewhere. I was over there earlier. I'm just trying to get my bearings, but we seem to be on the east side of the park, so where would you guys be, and, and the school seemed to be south from where we were earlier today.

NG: Okay.

RB: I'm trying to just get a mental picture of where you guys were.

NG: Okay. We would have been west.

RB: Okay.

NG: From there.

RB: Okay.

NG: From where all the people are on Pierce.

RB: Okay.

NG: We'd-a been kind of, kind of southwest, in a southwesterly direction.

RB: Okay. But, but to say that the smoking pit's generally located in the northwest area is accurate.

NG: Right.

RB: And you can see that area from the parking lot.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. And you guys stayed in your car?

NG: And ate our sandwiches. We were totally done eating.



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RB: How long do you think it took you to eat?

NG: I'm guessing like, it's gotta be pretty close to eleven fifteen when we were done. And, and as soon as we were done, we have, we each have school radios.

RB: Okay.

NG: I heard Jay, the janitor, say, Neil, I need you in the lunchroom quick.

RB: And who's the janitor?

NG: Jay.

RB: Do you know Jay's last name?

NG: Um.

RB: Or is that an initial?

NG: No, I don't know his last name.

RB: But his first name is Jay.

NG: Right.

RB: J-A-Y?

NG: Yeah. So we...

RB: And, I'm sorry, he called who?

NG: He called us, he just keyed the radio and said, Neil, I need you in the lunchroom.

RB: Okay, so he was actually calling for you though.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Can you describe his voice?



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NG: Um, shoo, shoo, shaken. It was obvious he was in a panic.

RB: And he said, Neil, I need you in the lunchroom?

NG: Right. As I exit the park and turn south on Pierce...

RB: He didn't give you any other information at that point.

NG: No, none.

RB: Okay. His voice was...

NG: Not at this time.

RB: Okay.

NG: Not at this time.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay.

RB: So, once you get that message, you, you can detect in his voice some panic?

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Some urgency, I assume, is what...

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Correct.

RB: Um, and, um, from there you left immediately, left the park immediately, you and Andy.

NG: And drove to the student lot. But, I mean, a lot happens between...

RB: Oh, okay.

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NG: Coming down Pierce...

RB: But, but you left immediately.

NG: Right.

RB: That's where I'm at. Okay, so when you...

NG: Pretty fast.

RB: Alright. So, as soon as you leave...

NG: Cause I could tell that, I, I thought maybe there was a big fight, at the time I thought maybe there was big fight.

RB: Just, just from his request and the tone in his voice, this was, sounded serious to you.

NG: Yes. It was a panic stricken voice.

RB: Okay, yeah. Had you ever heard him like that before?

NG: Never.

RB: Had you ever gotten a call like that before?

NG: Umm hmm.

RB: Okay, and that usually...

NG: On a fight.

RB: Okay, and that usually meant there was something serious occurring and they needed you...

NG: Right.

RB: Quickly. Okay. And don't want to put words in your mous, mouth but this was, sounded serious to you when you left.

NG: Yes it did.



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RB: Okay.

NG: But I, I still at this time don't know what's going on.

RB: You don't know the details. Right.

NG: Right.

RB: But just the little bit you got, it sounded...

NG: It, it made me race out of the parking lot to Pierce.

RB: Okay, okay. Go ahead.

NG: Okay, once on Pierce, um, we get stopped at the light at, at Fair. The, this, I hear the, I remember hearing the dispatchers say, she called, I think she called...

RB: I'm sorry, Fair?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Is that F...

NG: F-A...

RB: F-A...

NG: I-R.

RB: Okay.

NG: Fair Drive. Okay we're stopped at the light at Fair Drive. I hear the dispatcher dispatch one...

RB: You're talking about your dispatch.

NG: Right. Jeffco dispatcher, dispatch, I don't know why they didn't dispatch me but they dispatched car one-forty-seven. I believe, and I don't know for sure exactly what she said, but I thought she said there is a female down in the parking lot.



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RB: Okay.

NG: So at this point I bust the light, lights and siren. Because, and, and now I'm thinking, and this has happened before, that...

RB: You're referring to a code three?

NG: Right.

RB: Run.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: And, I mean, it's just a short little hop after the light down to the parking lot. But I'm thinking, Andy and I are thinking, somebody must of got hit, run over again, cause we got a girl down in the parking lot.

RB: Is that what your discussion is with Andy...

NG: Right.

RB: You're thinking somebody was run over?

NG: He's going, you know, maybe somebody's run over or something.

RB: Okay.

NG: So we pull...

RB: Again this is something that's definitely caused you some concern, based on what the janitor said.

NG: Right.

RB: But now you've heard the dispatcher say, so your, your radar's on at this point, I mean, you're...

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NG: Exactly.

RB: Okay.

NG: I, and, and we pull into the lot and we could see several kids running. They were just running. And we, we.

RB: So you'd be going south to get into...

NG: No, now we're going west cause we're into the parking lot. Now we're going west again.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay. Into the student lot.

RB: And you're still, you're still running code?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Um, and you see students running?

NG: Right. I mean my car, it don't have the overheads but they do have the spot in the middle and on the back.

RB: Right. And you have the siren.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. How many students do you think you saw?

NG: Three or four. Just off to the, the corner of my eye. I, I'm still looking for somebody at this point in the parking lot.

RB: Okay.

NG: Or a bunch of people around in the parking lot. And I don't see anything.

RB: Had you made any transmissions to your dispatch?

NG: I said, as soon as I pulled west in the lot, I said seventy-one, I'm on scene.



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RB: And this is about the time you see these three to four students running?

NG: Right. I'm airing that I'm on scene as I see these kids running.

RB: And so you, your call sign was seventy-one.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: You said seventy-one on scene?

NG: Right.

RB: And obviously that identified your, your dispatch, that that, you were at the scene of the school.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. And then you're, at this point you're still looking for this, this party, this female that's down in the parking lot.

NG: Right. So we pull, as you come around there's a little driveway and then you get into the bulk of the parking. And as we get into the bulk of the parking, I kinda stop.

RB: So there's kind of a driveway.

NG: Yeah. I stop because I didn't know whether to go, cause you can go left into the parking lot or right into the parking lot.

RB: What, you just call it like the main parking area?

NG: Right. Yeah.

RB: Okay, so you reached the main parking area and you were trying to decide which way to go.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

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NG: Yeah. And at this time as I'm stopped, I hear, um, Peter Horvath, who is the dean of students, on the school radio.

RB: I'm gonna need that name, uh, Peter, how do you spell that?

NG: H-O-R-V-A-T-H.

RB: And he is...

NG: The dean of students.

RB: Okay, he's on the school's radio.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: And he said what?

NG: He says, Neil, I need you in the, the school, there's been a shooting.

RB: Okay. Describe his voice to me. But, what, how did he sound?

NG: Uh, scared.

RB: Okay.

NG: He sounded scared, and, he's a pretty mellow guy. For the most part, he's pretty mellow.

RB: And when you say scared, what, what identified that for you?

NG: Uh, just the way he, he was saying, he was, Neil, I need you in the, I need you in, in the building now, there's been a shooting. And it was just like really fast and...

RB: Okay, so speaking rapidly.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay, something not normally...

NG: That he...



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RB: Not his normal tone.

NG: Usually his talk is nice and slow and clear so you can understand him on the radio. I mean, I think he makes it a point on the radio to make sure he's nice and clear.

RB: Okay.

NG: And he talks, usually talks really slow.

RB: So, for sure it was rapid speech which was distinctly different from other times that he had, uh...

NG: Right.

RB: Contacted you. Alright, so now, now you've been informed that there's potentially a shooting, um, or there has been a shooting, I guess you've been told that. What, what's going through your mind now, what are you thinking?

NG: What's, what, I, I don't, at this point I still don't know where to go and then Andy tells me, Neil, there's smoke at the end of the lot which would be the far west end. There's a big puff of smoke, white smoke, and we could see that.

RB: Okay, Andy points out, what?

NG: A big puff of smoke. And I could see, I also did see it too, after...

RB: What color was the smoke?

NG: White.

RB: White.

NG: Yeah. And I don't know how it came from, where it came from, I don't know what it was.

RB: And it was, I'm sorry, where in the...

NG: The very far west end by the, the cars on the very west side of the student lot.

RB: Okay, so a lot of things have happened. The, the janitor has notified you in a panicked

voice that there's been, uh, that he needed you, um, in the lunchroom.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. As you're responding, your dispatch notifies you, or at least you hear over the air that there's a female down in the parking lot.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. As you proceed further into the scene, then you're hearing from your, uh, dean of students in a, in a scared voice, what you described as scared voice...

NG: Um hmm.

RB: That there has been a shooting.

NG: And I, and that he needed me inside of the building.

RB: He needs you inside the building. And then Andy points out to you a puff of smoke.

NG: Look, look at the, go to the smoke, he actually, I think he said go to the smoke.

RB: Okay, now, would that have been a way to enter the building or was this like, again something that...

NG: We're still at this point trying to find the shooter, somebody down...

RB: Okay, that's...

NG: That's what I'm, I'm looking for a shooter or somebody down. I'm not even, the shooter's that way and I'm not even actually looking that way because we see the puff of smoke, so I race over to the puff of smoke. It's not 'til I turn back towards the building that I see some windows shot out.

RB: Okay. But, I guess what I'm getting at here, is you've got a variety of things going on.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Which all may or may not be connected.



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NG: Right.

RB: I mean, probably you're assuming that an event took place but you're not real clear what's even going on, really, for the most part, other than...

NG: Until I know that I had, have a shooter in the building.

RB: Okay. I mean, you knew that from the principal.

NG: Right, right.

RB: When he notified you of that. But I guess what I'm saying to you too, is there's, there just seems like there's a lot of information coming at you which all sounds very serious.

NG: Right.

RB: And you're trying to assess the situation at this point.

NG: Exactly.

RB: Trying to figure out what exactly do I have here.

NG: And I, and I, you know, I'm thinking about me and Andy, if there is a shooter, you know, I don't know if he's on the soccer field, I don't know if he, where he's at, because at this point I don't hear any, any gun fire.

RB: So you, you're definitely focused on this, on the information you received about the shooter.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. But then Andy has directed you to the puff of, he's kind of indicating that would be where to go.

NG: He says, look over there, smoke. So we...and which actually put us in pretty good position compared to where we could have been.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

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RB: I guess, too, what I'm getting at, there wasn't any defined, I mean, there wasn't an obvious place to go at this point, I mean, you've been told to go to the lunchroom, you've been told there's a shooting, go to the school.

NG: Right.

RB: You, you may have somebody down in the parking lot. And now you're seeing a puff of smoke.

NG: Right. And see, and the school is this way, we're still faced this way going to the puff of smoke.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay.

RB: And that is again, you're driving so you'd be going in a westerly direction.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Right.

RB: I'm sorry, now go ahead, so you're going towards that puff.

NG: Then I get to the, as far west as I can go, then I turn back up north in the lot. The very last row in the lot. And then I hear gun fire. Coming from the library area. Which is the upper area of the school.

RB: You got your windows down?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay. Describe the gun fire.

NG: Loud.

RB: And you could...



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NG: Once I had turned around and got parked, I could see some windows were blown out on the upper...

RB: Is that prior to hearing the gun fire? Or is that after you hear the gun fire?

NG: That's right after.

RB: Okay, so you hear the gun fire, and you say it's loud.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Was it rapid or was it?

NG: That, and that may have been one of the pipe bombs.

RB: Okay.

NG: I'm not clear if it was...

RB: That's what I was gonna get to. Was it one or was it one loud one...

NG: One big one.

RB: Okay.

NG: And then probably twenty seconds after that, it was...

RB: Is that when you noticed the windows though?

NG: Right.

RB: Okay, so you hear the one loud, the one loud noise.

NG: Boom. And I look up to where the, I think the noise is coming from and I already see the window is like shot out.

RB: And this is a library window?

NG: Uh huh.

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RB: And those windows face which direction?

NG: They face northwest. I, I'm sorry. Southwest. It's on the south side of it.

RB: It's okay.

NG: Southwest.

RB: And you see one of those windows break out.

NG: Shot out. Well, no, it was al-r, I didn't see the glass fall out, it's, it's out.

RB: Okay, it's broken. It's gone.

NG: It's gone.

RB: Okay.

NG: Big hole in it. There's jagged edges around it.

RB: Okay, let me, when you hear the one loud noise, was it, um, would you describe it as gunshot or would you, cause you said.

NG: It was too loud. I think it was.

RB: Okay, so you think it was an explosion.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: But that was followed up by several like rifle shots.

RB: And that's after you, so, hear the noise, you look to the southwest library window, see at least one window that is broken out, jagged glass, um, then you start hearing what you think is gunshots at that point.

NG: Right. Rapid fire gunshots.

RB: How many do you think you heard?



NG: Eight to ten.

RB: Can you tell what, what type of gunshots they are? Okay, so you're just hearing what you, what you understand to be gunshots.

NG: Right.

RB: Um, about eight to ten. Where are they coming from? Do you know?

NG: Upper library area.

RB: Okay. Okay. Um, at this point do you have a handle on what's happened yet or are you still trying to assess...

NG: Yeah, I have a good idea someone's shooting up the school.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: That, that's what's going through your mind now.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay, now, are, I don't want to put words into your mouth here but...

NG: I, I, right, I told Andy, I said, we got a shooter in the building Andy. Get down on the floor. So he got down on the floor board of the patrol vehicle in the front, the passenger side. And I told him to stay there.

RB: I'm sorry, you said, we got a shooter in the building, get on the...

NG: Get on the floor.

RB: Okay. Why did you tell him that?

NG: Cause I didn't want him to get shot.

RB: Okay, what did you recognize that situation to be?

NG: A shooting and a possibility that we could become under fire any minute. Because once, now after the gunshots and I tell him to get down on the floor, I glance over to the, the doors and the doors to the window are all broken out. The doors to the, the southwest entrance, I noticed those were all shot, they're all busted out too. There's two windows and they're all busted out on the doors.

RB: Okay, again, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but you got, you got somebody that you know is in the building, you, you've had reports somebody down, you've got reports from somebody calling for help to the, to the cafeteria, yeah, the lunchroom, principal's identified shooter, you've pretty much verified you've got somebody in the building shooting.

NG: Right.

RB: And I guess based on your experience as a cop, you, you understand this to be pretty much a life threatening situation. That's why you're telling Andy to, to get down. You don't want him getting shot.

NG: Correct.

RB: Okay.

NG: So at that point I open, I tell the dispatcher, um, I, I give a code thirty-three.

RB: Which means what?

NG: Which officer needs assistance, as fast, you know, as fast as you can get here. That's our code.

RB: Is that an emergency?

NG: Yes.

RB: And when do you typically, when do you hear code thirty-three's going out? Typically.

NG: Um.

RB: When are you taught to use a code thirty-three?

NG: When an officer's gonna need assistance or be in trouble.



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RB: Okay, so when an officer's...

NG: And at, and at this, at the time I'm doing the code thirty-three, the suspect comes out the doors that had been shot out. He, he steps outside of the door. As I'm telling that.

RB: Okay, these are the same doors that you had already mentioned that, uh, had the windows shot out of them, or they were broken.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay, had you seen the shooter up to this point at all?

NG: No.

RB: Okay, hadn't...

NG: No. But you could, then there was another loud, there was another loud bang just before he came out somewhere else in the building.

RB: Before you, okay, now, you say he came to the, uh, you said he came to the doors. He hasn't come out yet, right, you're just seeing somebody at the door, at the doors?

NG: No. As I'm doing the code thirty-three, I look up and he's outside of the door, he's got a flack jacket on, it was dark colored, I believe...

RB: I'm, I'm gonna get to that in just one second, but, okay, so he's actually outside, right?

NG: Right.

RB: Outside the doors.

NG: Right.

RB: How far outside the doors?

NG: Um, probably a good two feet outside of the southwest doors.

RB: And you said just prior to that, you heard another...

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NG: Big loud boom inside the building.

RB: Okay, you're describing an explosion?

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: So, is this prior to you giving the code thirty-three or as you're giving the code thirty-three?

NG: As.

RB: Okay. And this, um, can we call it an explosion, is that what you heard?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: So you hear an explosion as you're giving this code thirty-three. And it came from inside the school?

NG: Right.

RB: Can you tell where?

NG: Huh uh. It was deeper inside of the school. Somewhere.

RB: Okay. So now you've given the code thirty-three, this explosion you've heard, you're looking up and you see, uh, this person you're going to describe to me about two feet outside the door, right? And what, okay, describe this person to me.

NG: Light colored hair, um, it wasn't too long, I guess it was about to here.

RB: You're talking white male?



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NG: White male. Dark baseball cap on. Uh, flack jacket and a white...

RB: Are you saying collar length hair?

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. I'm sorry, he had on a...

NG: Flack jacket, blue, dark blue. And a white t-shirt on underneath. And I didn't, I can't tell you what kind of pants they were wearing other than they were dark.

RB: So dark blue flack jacket, white t-shirt?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: And you said something a hat?

NG: Yeah, a baseball cap on backwards.

RB: Do you know the color?

NG: No. I know it was, I, I can't tell you what color it was.

RB: That's okay.

NG: It was a darker color.

RB: About how tall was this person?

NG: Five-ten, six foot. He was pretty tall.

RB: Okay, uh, weight?

NG: Skinny.

RB: Okay. Um, anything else about him, physical appearance you noticed?

NG: No, other than he was holding a rifle.

RB: How was he holding the rifle?

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NG: He had it, he was out the door like this and he was kind of like this and then...

RB: Okay, so you're kind of describing a crouched...

NG: Yeah, he was...

RB: Position with uh...

NG: With the rifle. And then he...

RB: Now the rifle, is the rifle pointed slightly up?

NG: Yeah, in the air.

RB: Okay.

NG: It looked like he was fidgeting here somewhere, doing something, I mean this happened so fast.

RB: Right.

NG: And then, then he sees me. And he sees the, the car. Cause, well, it's not hard to see me in this and they know what I wear. And, um, he sees me and he pulls the rifle up.

RB: How far away are you from him?

NG: Probably...

RB: You're kind of describing a Port Arms.

NG: Sixty yards. Sixty to seventy yards.

RB: Okay, so when he sees you, what did he do?

NG: Well, as, as I...

RB: Are you still in your car?

NG: No, I'm out. I'm, I'm moving out. When I see him, I move out, I, I'm getting behind the



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car tire that was right next to my patrol vehicle. Cause I wanted to take cover behind the tire.

RB: Okay, so you're getting behind the driver's side front tire?

NG: Right. Back. Back tire.

RB: Back tire.

NG: It was a little Blazer, a mini Blazer. Cause it...

RB: This isn't, you're, you're not getting behind your vehicle?

NG: No.

RB: You're behind...

NG: See, cause once I pulled back this way to, so I can see the school, that's when I call it out.

RB: Right.

NG: And I get out of the vehicle, after I tell Andy to get down I do the code thirty-three and then, um, I get behind the tire.

RB: So you moved to another vehicle to hide behind?

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: And you thought it was a what? A Blazer?

NG: Yeah, it's a white Blazer. Chevrolet Blazer.

RB: Okay, now, so you're in this position when he starts to, to bring the weapon around towards you.

NG: Right.

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RB: Okay.

NG: And he fired...

RB: What, what you described was he pointed the weapon at you.

NG: He fired two shots.

RB: Okay. Is the weapon pointed at you?

NG: Yeah, it's, it's hitting, it hit the Blazer.

RB: Just to take one step back, when you, this, this rifle that you see, does it have a scope on it, does, what does it look like?

NG: I can't tell. It, it almost looks like...

RB: Does it look like a rifle as opposed to a shotgun?

NG: It looked like more of a little long automatic type of rifle. It, I mean, it was hard to see cause I was, you know, I saw him and I kind of went down under the car again and then he shot twice.

RB: You're looking around the car or are you looking through the window?

NG: No. No, I'm looking through the window. Cause of the window inside here...

RB: Okay.

NG: And then he shoots twice and one hits the, the windshield of the car. The front windshield.

RB: Which round hit the windshield.

NG: I mean, I mean, they were like bang, bang, like that.

RB: Okay, so it was rapid.

NG: Yeah. And, and at that point after the two went down I just ducked behind the tire like



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this.

RB: Okay, so you're taking cover again at that point.

NG: Right. But it was just for a second.

RB: Okay.

NG: Cause then I did a peek back up and he was crouched down again with his gun. He was, he was going like, he was doing, I don't know if he was changing clips or whatever but he was fiddling with his gun.

RB: Is the barrel of the weapon pointing down at this point or is it...

NG: Yeah, it's, it's down.

RB: Can you tell anything about the weapon, at all?

NG: Hm umm.

RB: I mean, the color...

NG: No, other than it's a dark, dark colored, some type of a long rifle. And, and the way he was, afterwards the way he was shooting it, it was almost like a semi-automatic type rifle. But I didn't know that at the time.

RB: Okay. You couldn't see a, you couldn't see a magazine or, or anything? Okay. Um, and then, okay, so you've, you've peeked back up. You see him kind of bent over the gun...

NG: Right.

RB: That's what you were kind of describing.

NG: Right.

RB: And you described like a fiddling with it, you're not quite sure what he's doing with it.

NG: Right. He's crouched down...

RB: He's reloading it or...

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NG: I don't know what he's . . .

RB: Maybe there was a jam and you don't know what he's doing.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Uh, let's see. What happens at that point?

NG: I move to the front tire so I can get over the hood, you know, the front of the hood like this.

RB: Okay.

NG: And I try to get in front of the engine block and the tire.

RB: An the reason is in case he's...

NG: Starts shooting again I, I...

RB: Okay.

NG: I tried to stay right as much behind the front tire as I could get.

RB: Okay. So you've got your weapon over the hood?

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Alright, go ahead.

NG: He starts back up with the rifle so I take, I take four quick shots over the hood of the car.

RB: Have you announced yourself...

NG: No, I didn't do that.

RB: Okay.

NG: I took four quick shots.



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RB: Well, you were saying that he, based on the uniform you had on, that the kids would have been able to recognize what that is.

NG: Oh yeah. Yeah.

RB: It's a bright yellow shirt and...

NG: Right. And I'm around the halls all day long. They, they know what I wear. Is it, at the, at the time that I get over to the top of the vehicle, he's bringing the, the rifle back up.

RB: I think you said he was bringing up the weapon again?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: I assume leveling at you, pointing at you?

NG: Right. It was starting to come my way so I took, I shot four quick rounds off.

RB: Was he bringing it up or was he bringing it over.

NG: He was bringing it this way.

RB: Okay. So he's bringing it across his body.

NG: Over this way.

RB: Okay, so at the point the weapon, is it pointed at you at the time you...

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: And what happens at that point?

NG: I take four quick and I'm back underneath the tire. I'm, my back's crouched underneath the tire because now he's shooting a volley.

RB: How many do you think he has fired at you at this point?

NG: Uh, six or seven.

RB: Did he fire first again, or had you, you got your four shots off.

NG: I got boom, boom, boom, boom. I shot for times and I crouched back down. But when the, the first time I shot, that's when I was telling you, that when I shot, he spun around like that, again, and then he came back...

RB: This is with that first four shots?

NG: The first, it had to be the first one. Because I saw it.

RB: Okay.

NG: Cause after the fourth one I just ducked back down again. I don't know if it was close, it scared him, if it hit his flack jacket or, or what.

RB: And he spins, which direction does he spin?

NG: He spins, he spins this way and he comes back. And then he starts his...

RB: Okay, give me a, give me a right/left.

NG: Okay. That would be, he would spin all the way around to his right.

RB: Okay. In a full circle?

NG: Uh huh. And you could see him kinda, he really got down low as he was spinning.

RB: Okay.

NG: And this, I mean, this all happened so fast.

RB: And this is when you think you possibly hit him with that first round.

NG: Right, yeah. It either hit him or it, it came real close.

RB: Could you tell where, if you hit him, where you hit him?



NG: It would of, the way he spun or whatever...

RB: You're thinking maybe in his right shoulder?

NG: Yeah, cause I was. It didn't get a real good beat on center mass but maybe the right upper.

RB: Okay. You can't confirm at this point that you actually (inaudible).

NG: No, because the way he ran back in the building, I didn't think that maybe I didn't get him.

RB: So what happens after he spins around, you fired your four rounds, he spun around.

NG: I see him spinning and I'm back ducking down and then I hear a volley of probably seven to eight shots. I, I mean, you could hear 'em, they were going over, you could hear 'em (whistling type sound effects).

RB: So he's, he's firing at you.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: And then how many rounds to you think?

NG: Uh, seven to eight. I mean whatever, he was just poppin' 'em off.

RB: Could you tell where they were hitting or...

NG: Hm mmm. It sounded to me like, they weren't hitting, it didn't seem like they were hitting in front of me, it seemed like they were going...

RB: Okay.

NG: They all went over.

RB: Okay. Um, and again, this Bronco was very close to where you stopped your car I assume. Is that...

NG: Yeah.

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RB: What I'm gonna end up doing is have you draw me a diagram.

NG: Okay.

RB: So I can get a better picture of it.

NG: Yeah, my car's here and the Blazer's right here and my car door's open right here.

RB: Oh, okay, so you, you're at the rear of the Blazer.

NG: Oh yeah, yeah.

RB: Okay. So you get out and that's why you're at the rear originally, you're peeking up, seeing through the glass, you can see the door, him and all that, and then you move up towards the front, okay.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: Then you're moving up towards the front. Alright. Um, so you have these seven to eight rounds that, uh, that are fired at you by him at that point. What do you do then?

NG: I, I just stay ducked.

RB: Okay.

NG: And then once I, after they, um, the fire was gone I peeked up again and he was gone. He was gone.

RB: Do you know where he went?

NG: He went back inside of the doors I'm sure. Because I would have seen him going down, that's the only way he could have gotten back in.

RB: So, based on a educated assumption, or your knowledge of the school and the conditions right then, he had to have probably gone back inside.

NG: He had to of. Cause he, I would have seen him go to the left and I would have seen him go to the right. He woulda had to go down a big huge stairwell.

RB: Okay, so he went back inside.



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NG: He had to have.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: What happens at that point then?

NG: That point, cars start pulling up. Another...

RB: You talking about...

NG: Jeffco.

RB: Okay.

NG: Another Jeffco came from...

RB: Is this immediately right at, right at this point, or...

NG: Right after the volley.

RB: Okay.

NG: So they probably heard the volley. And then I see them up on top of the hill.

RB: How many cars did you see?

NG: One. At this point. Plus.

RB: You said they. Is there more than one in a car.

NG: There was a motorcycle unit with another dep, with one-forty-four, which is unit one-forty-four. Somehow they hooked up together before they got up, up there.

RB: So he's in, he's in the vehicle.

NG: Right.

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RB: The motorcycle officer.

NG: Right.

RB: Correct? Okay, so you've got two in a unit.

NG: Right. Well, he's actually, they're, they're moving real slow but he's actually behind the door as they're moving up. He's on the passenger door.

RB: Okay. Okay. So they're taking a tactical position trying to come up on the school.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. What happens then?

NG: Then we're, we're holding perimeter, um, unit one-forty-four is pretty much directing the other cars come in and we get a solid perimeter around the school. Before anything... You can hear, you can hear bombs and then, and then right after that everybody's in position. There was a big fire ball blast in the lower commons area.

RB: Okay, now you, you're starting to establish your perimeter.

NG: We've got it established.

RB: With unit one-forty-four. How long did it take you to do that?

NG: After that last volley of fire, probably three minutes.

RB: Okay, so, so about three minutes to establish your perimeter.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. And this is other units coming into the area also.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: How many do you estimate came in?

NG: About five.



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RB: Okay. So about five units are used, uh, that's counting you and, and, uh one-forty-four?

NG: Um hmm.

RB: And three additional.

NG: One-forty-nine.

RB: Okay.

NG: One-forty-four. One-forty-seven. And one-forty. Were all there.

RB: Okay. And then you're seventy-one, did you say?

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. So that's the five units. Alright. So you've got your perimeter, about three minutes to get that established. Um, what I'm gonna do is have you just diagram, um, basically what happens and how you establish your perimeter when we get finished here.

NG: Okay.

RB: So we don't have to, to go through all that. But, you've got your perimeter established, what happens next?

NG: Um, we're, we're just holding the perimeter. We've got, uh.

RB: You mention, I'm sorry, you mention an explosion.

NG: Yeah. Then there was an ex, a fir, you could see the fire ball in the, the lower commons area. A really loud bang and then a big fire ball.

RB: Okay. And then.

NG: And then what happens after that, I am watching the upper windows and the lower windows of the commons and library area.

RB: Okay.

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NG: Um. Unit, the M.C. unit that was with forty-four, so that was actually a two man car now.

RB: Okay.

NG: Um, they're up checking the doors where I had shot at the guy. They're watching that part and I'm watching...

RB: Just so I can clarify this, do you recognize this person you've shot at?

NG: No.

RB: Do you know who he is?

NG: No.

RB: Okay. Do you believe that he was a student there? I mean, are you saying, do you know everybody that goes to school there?

NG: I have no idea who he was. Other than he was a, a young adult.

RB: Okay. He could have been a student.

NG: Whatever. Yeah. I don't know if he's a student or, or what.

RB: Okay. You didn't get a good enough look at him to identify him.

NG: No.

RB: So he could have been a student you would have recognized had you seen him.

NG: Right. Up close and without him shooting at me.

RB: I think when we were getting to the description, I made an assumption that he was probably a young adult but you estimate him to be what age.

NG: Late teens, early twenties. Would of been my guess.

RB: Okay. Facial hair that you saw?



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NG: I don't know.

RB: Unknown. Okay. Alright. I'm sorry. So unit one-forty-four with the motorcycle unit are checking the doors.

NG: They're watching the door southwest doors.

RB: They're watching it or they're checking it?

NG: They're, no, they're, they're, we're all just, just establishing a, cause we know at this point we're gonna need SWAT.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay.

RB: So this is part of what their assignment was and the perimeter was to, to watch that.

NG: Right. Now after the volley of fire and we get the perimeter set, we could see two kids, um, from the door area. They were laying way over here to the right in the gravel area. One, one wasn't moving and one was moving their hand up and down on occasion. We could see two, two victims. Uh, the actually the M.C. unit and one-forty-four could see 'em. I couldn't see 'em. I could occasionally see...

RB: So you were...

NG: I could occasionally see the person's hand up in the, up in the air.

RB: And these, these two victims were in a, what area?

NG: They were at the, um, just to the far right of the, the southwest doors. It, it's real hard to explain, it's hard to do without a diagram. But the doors are here and then there's a little gravel area that goes down a hill. They were laying over here. And there were other, uh, victims laying down in front of the commons area.

RB: You know what I'm gonna do to make this easier for both of us? I'm gonna, I'm gonna stop the tape and give you like five minutes...

NG: Okay.

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RB: Just to do a little quick diagram.

NG: Okay.

RB: Uh, do you need any water or anything?

NG: No, I'm fine.

RB: Okay. I'll give you that. Do you want to write on something or is that...got that. I'm gonna, I'm gonna stop the tape here. It's, um, nineteen ten, and I'll be resuming at, um, at the point we resume the interview.

Okay, we'll be resuming the interview. Time now is nineteen, looks like thirteen. Sorry, go ahead.

NG: Okay, this is the pa, patrol car here.

RB: Which way is north?

NG: Um, this is north.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay, and this is west here.

RB: So this is the southwest parking lot you've described.

NG: Right. Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: And I am behind this Blazer here. I mean, there's cars everywhere.

RB: Okay.

NG: All of these cars are here. Andy's in the floor board down here.

RB: Why don't you just put an X on the rear of your vehicle there so we can identify that.  
Okay.



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NG: Okay. These are the doors.

RB: And the vehicle directly, um, adjacent from your vehicle is going to be the Blazer.

NG: Um hmm.

RB: The white Blazer.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: And there's, I think you can see a, there's a bullet hole, there might be two bullet holes. I, I know there's one right here on the window.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay. And then I think he hit the door or something like that. But anyway, there's a, there's victim here.

RB: Okay.

NG: And this victim's not moving. These are stairs. They go up to the doors.

RB: Okay, that's what I'm saying, there, there must be some kind of hill here.

NG: Hill. Yeah.

RB: Okay.

NG: And then the one-forty-four now is right here.

RB: Why don't you put one-forty-four on this.

NG: Okay. One-forty-four is right here. And we've got an officer behind this door, well, actually they're, I'm sorry, they're more kinda caddy corner this way, I'm sorry.

RB: Just cross that one out then.

NG: One-forty-four. And then we got the M.C. unit right here.

RB: Okay.

NG: And then the...

RB: And that's at the rear of the vehicle.

(TAPE TWO):

RB: Continuing with the statement. I'm sorry I think we ended where we had identified the other deputy that was behind the engine block as one-forty-four.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Go ahead from there.

NG: So, we're communicating back and forth. Deputy Smoker tells me Neil you've got upper library and lower common windows.

RB: Okay, and that's what you already indicated you were watching.

NG: Right.

RB: And this was all part of how you established your perimeter.

NG: Right. One-forty-four and MC unit and one-forty-four are going to watch the doors.

RB: Okay.

NG: Uh one-forty-nine pulls in and we set him up here on the south end of the school because these windows also come out here and then there's a main entrance right here so he's watching this side behind.

RB: I'm sorry, and that's one-forty-nine.

NG: Yeah, one-forty-nine, and then, I can't tell you exactly where one-forty-seven was but he was here on Pierce, then we had one-forty on this side of the school.

RB: That's gonna be the far north side.



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NG: Right.

RB: And I'm sorry, one-forty-nine would have been to the south.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay and then one-forty-four is basically kind of north...

NG: Northwest.

RB: Or northwest. Okay and you're still in your same, your same position.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Alright everybody has their assignments and you've identified the two people that are basically down, one not moving, the other moving an arm periodically that you can see, but you can't see the one that's down and not moving.

NG: Right I can see this on.

RB: And that's the one closest to the doors.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay.

NG: He's probably about, he's on the ground probably about twenty feet from the door.

RB: Okay.

NG: In the gravel, this is a gravel area.

RB: Okay.

NG: He's laying in the gravel area.

RB: And again that's the one moving.

NG: Yeah I can see his hand going up and down every now and then and then he would just

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drop it but this one here is not moving at all.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay. Um, so these windows are all...

RB: I'm sorry to interrupt you but this would have, these people probably would have been here prior to your arrival or...

NG: Well yeah, they were, they were already down, yeah.

RB: Okay, okay, and you hadn't seen them yet though.

NG: I hadn't seen cause I...

RB: Cause you were dealing with what was going on at this point.

NG: Yeah and actually this car told me that they were down on the ground by the building.

RB: Okay, okay.

NG: And then we had, we had, God, I can recall we had a girl down here, she was down.

RB: Are you describing another victim...

NG: ----- she's rolling in some serious pain.

RB: Okay, which is gonna be east from almost just across from you, east, looks like in the roadway that leads into the parking lot.

NG: Yeah she was actually just on the edge of the sidewalk area of the roadway.

RB: Okay now had you come in this way.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay did you see her before there.

NG: Uh uh.

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RB: Okay.

NG: Did not see her.

RB: More than likely she probably was there, is that...

NG: More than likely, yeah.

RB: You're focused on some other things, I understand that.

NG: Yeah, yeah, yeah but we don't. for some reason we don't see her because we didn't see her actually until the paramedics showed up.

RB: I'm sorry, go ahead with your statement.

NG: Okay, then as, as I'm watching this and they're watching this the shooter at this window, okay the doors are like this and it's all metal down here and this window is all broken out like this, okay...

RB: And that was already broken out.

NG: Yeah, and this one's kind of shattered, so this is all glass right here so I could see...

RB: You're describing glass that's to the, which would be to the right as you look at the doors.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: I can see the white t-shirt and flack jacket coming back to the door and at the same time the MC unit pretty much simultaneously we both yelled shooter at the door.

RB: You're yelling this to each other or over the radio.

NG: To each other just by voice cause we're only like, this is really only about 30 yards away from the...

RB: Again, was it the MC.

NG: The MC guy, ah, Deputy Smoker.

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RB: And you said shooter.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: At the door.

NG: Uh huh. And then you could see the rifle being propped over the edge of the door here.

RB: That's the right door.

NG: Right. And the suspect crouches down behind the door.

RB: So he's down behind the metal.

NG: Uh huh.

RB:: Okay.

NG: With the rifle end sticking out and we yell shooter at the same time, then he starts, he starts a volley at I believe, cause I didn't hear anything, a volley at these deputies here and I can't, I mean it happened so fast, I don't know, I mean it was quite a few and then I could hear...

RB: More than what had been fired before.

NG: Right. And as he starts shooting, uh, I'm back on the front, I'm still on the front tire.

RB: Okay.

NG: I raise over the hood and I shoot four more times towards the door. I shot a total of eight shots and these two officers I believe were both shooting towards the door and at this time there's a Denver officer that comes up and he gets, uh there's another car here and he, he actually was down by this car and then he moved up to my car cause he had an automatic rifle.

RB: Okay.

NG: And this was just after this last exchange, so he had to hear the shots too.



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RB: Now these other four shots, do you know where they went.

NG: Towards the door.

RB: Okay, but one you'd indicated that possibly hit him would have been your first shot and these other ones you don't believe would have hit him.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay, you're not quite sure where they went but...

NG: I'm not sure.

RB: I mean in the area up here but

NG: Yeah, I mean I was directly aiming at, at the door, the door frame right here, because he was shooting at these deputies at that, at that point.

RB: Okay, so you're aiming at the door he's behind because he's obviously firing at...

NG: Right, other deputies.

NG: Right. Uh huh.

RB: Okay. Plus you have other people that are down...

NG: Right

RB: In the area.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah. And you can't, if, with this person didn't raise their hand, you can't see them lying there.

RB: Okay.

NG: From where I'm at cause it's such a big hill.

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RB: Do you, when you're standing here knowing the layout of the school, could you see those people there do you think.

NG: Oh, oh, yeah, definitely.

RB: Okay, so the shooter would have had access to not only your deputies here, you, but anybody that may have, these three people you identified as being down in the area.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay.

NG: Now at this point we've got, then several other Denver officers come up on their side here and I can't tell you how many but they all have automatic, you know they have the short rifles, the automatic.

RB: Is that what he had.

NG: Yes.

RB: Short rifle.

NG: And he is right here, and the next time I see the suspect which is, I mean we're talking just a few minutes later after this last volley, you can see him in his flack jacket up in the library and that's when the DPD officers and I don't know who else, I didn't shoot anymore, they started shooting at the upper window.

RB: So at least one DPD and others...

NG: Oh, I'm, I'm thinking three or four were shooting.

RB: Okay.

NG: I mean, I mean it was a lot of gunfire. I mean if this person, I don't know how he didn't get hit, if he didn't get hit with that exchange...

RB: How many rounds do you DPD fired?

NG: Oh my God, uh, I don't know, I mean it was so fast and it was just (sound effect of



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automatic gun), you know you could see the glass breaking up on top.

RB: How long did it last.

NG: Uh, probably about 15 seconds.

RB: So continuous rounds.

NG: Uh huh. And I believe the suspect even got some more volleys off from the top.

RB: After that or during that.

NG: During, during.

RB: Okay. so it's pointless to ask you how many rounds were being fired at this time. You know that there's about 15 seconds where DPD is firing continuing continuously, you're seeing glass breaking up in the library, the upper library window area, suspect's returning fire to some degree at that point.

NG: Short bursts...

RB: Short bursts.

NG: Yeah he didn't stay there too long. I, I, you know I would guess that he'd had to have been hit at some point, you know, they're saying that, that they maybe have self-inflicted wounds but you know he did have a flack jacket on, so I don't know, I don't know.

RB: Okay. Now let me, is this the same guy do you think that you engaged initially.

NG: I think that it's the same guy...

RB: The second time and now this third time up here.

NG: Right, I never did see a second suspect.

RB: Okay, you only saw one suspect and you think it was the same guy...

NG: In the dark blue and white t-shirt and I believe it to be the same guy.

RB: Okay. There wasn't anything that told you it could have been a different guy.

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NG: No.

RB: Okay, so if two guys were dressed identically and had similar features it could have been two but there wasn't anybody that was distinctly different from what you had seen originally.

NG: Uh uh.

RB: Okay, so basically from what your observations were you got at least one guy.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay, now after the last volley quieted down for about five minutes and you could hear shots going off deeper into the building, rifle shots going off deeper into the building.

RB: During this five minute period or there's five minutes of quit.

NG: Yeah, no during this five minute period the suspects had moved deeper into the building, you could tell by the muffled gunfire.

RB: So you're hearing shots inside the school.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Assuming it's the suspects.

NG: Right.

RB: Or suspect at that time. Was there anything that was telling you there was more than one guy at this point.

NG: No.

RB: Okay, so right now you think you're dealing with one guy...

NG: One guy...



RB: You know obviously thinking may be more but don't know for sure.

NG: I don't know for sure.

RB: Okay. And how many shots do you think are going off in this five minute period.

NG: I probably hear about six.

RB: Okay.

NG: (Inaudible word) muffled way in the background.

RB: And that's what telling you that it was further into the school.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay.

NG: So then we have a kid run out limping, he runs out to this door and he's kind of got his hands up and he's going 'don't shoot, don't shoot, don't shoot,' so we're saying stay low.

RB: This kid is what, a male, female.

NG: Juvenile male with no shirt on and just shorts.

RB: Where did he come from.

NG: He came from the lower commons door, he obviously had been hit the way, or I he was limping pretty bad.

RB: And he's yelling don't shoot.

NG: Yeah, yeah.

RB: He said that a couple of times, 'don't shoot, don't shoot.'

NG: Uh huh, yeah.

RB: And you thought he'd been wounded cause he was limping.

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NG: Right.

RB: Did you know this kid.

NG: No.

RB: Okay.

NG: I didn't recognize him.

RB: Okay

NG: When it's 2000 it's, anyway, we get him to a point right here.

RB: So he's running in a westerly...

NG: Right...

RB: ----- a southwesterly direction...

NG: And I make him get behind the rear of this one car here just to the right of my, or actually to the left of my patrol vehicle.

RB: Okay.

NG: So since there isn't any gunfire going I had Andy move out of the car into the back car here and just crouch down behind.

RB: Is that DPD's car or just -----

NG: Just a car in the parking lot.

RB: And that's gonna be on the west end of that parking lot.

NG: Right, yeah.

RB: And that was for his protection.

NG: Right.



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RB: Okay.

NG: So I yell over to the kid I said, "Did you see the suspects" and he said, "There's a big suspect," the only one he saw was dressed all dark clothing, so at that time I knew there were some more.

RB: But he gives you a description of a different guy.

NG: A different guy.

RB: Give me what he says to you.

NG: He said it's a big guy dressed in all dark clothing. I said, "Do you know who he is" and he says, "I have no idea."

RB: Based on what he said, this identifies to you another possible suspect.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: So now you're thinking you got a couple of gunmen in there.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. Go ahead.

NG: So I asked the kid if he was alright, he says no I think I've been shot in the upper hip area. I couldn't see any blood or anything, I don't think he took shrapnel from a pipe bomb or what, so what I did was I got in the patrol car and I rolled it over to him and picked him up.

RB: You say roll, you drove over.

NG: Yeah, I drove over and picked him up.

RB: I mean obviously you're relatively certain based on what you've seen so far, this wasn't a suspect.

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NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Right.

RB: You're confident (inaudible).

NG: I'm confident he's a victim, he's scared to death.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay, I pick him up. I swing the car back around to an empty space right here.

RB: So you just basically turn around in the parking lot and drive, parking...

NG: Yeah, open this door and I kind of position my vehicle here where he could slide into the vehicle.

RB: Okay.

NG: Okay then I swung around and then took an empty space and told him just to stay down in the car. And then the gunfire kind of quit totally and then as the gunfire had quit for about 10 to 15 minutes, we started having kids, the SWAT team moved in and they started getting kids out (inaudible).

RB: So for about 10 to 15 minutes you don't have any gunfire...

NG: Uh uh...

RB: You stay with this kid at the car here.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay, have you taken up.

NG: I'm staying with him.

RB: You're, okay.



NG: Cause I've got the, when I, when I pulled out here I had everybody cover me in case they went here cause I wanted to evac this kid here so they uh, the DPD guy was here and I have plenty of cover when I did that.

RB: This kid's alert, he's not, I mean...

NG: Right he's in pain but ...

RB: Right. But it's, I mean obviously it could have been serious but it wasn't at a point where you thought he might die.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Uh, I'm sorry, so for about 10-15 no gunfire, ...

NG: No gunfire...

RB: Swat's arriving.

NG: SWAT's, everybody's getting into position and our SWAT is actually in the front and most of these SWAT guys were Denver guys.

RB: Okay. So basically SWAT's arrived at this point.

NG: But as they're, as they're staging and getting ready, I mean we're having kids just pile out of that back door, I mean they're running, they're running everywhere.

RB: How many kids would you estimate.

NG: Twenty, twenty to twenty five.

RB: Between this 10-15 minute period.

NG: Uh huh, after the gunfire had quit, they all, they couldn't stand to be in that building anymore and they just started running out.

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RB: And again, about twenty you think.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Did you say twenty.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. Okay.

NG: I mean there was a lot more after SWAT finally went in and could evac but at that point they called me.

RB: Where were these twenty kids going, I mean when they came out, they're coming out that same exit that you said that...

NG: Yeah. well up here, up here just above us there's a big metal shed and we got a lot of cops back here and we got a lot of evac'd people back here. What we were doing is uh Deputy Swederman was now, he's the Zebra-1, the main bike guy, he's there now on scene so he's helping us evac. What we're doing is we're sending to the back car where Randy is and then we're getting them over the fence and then he's loading him up and then he's driving right back up and putting them back behind here.

RB: So basically you're evacuating these kids to a safe location.

NG: Right.

RB:: Okay, which is to the west of the school.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay.

NG: Behind the athletic shed, it's actually a cinder block building.

RB: Okay.

NG: And then we just pretty much just stayed there and watched the windows I would guess for a good hour.



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RB: Okay.

NG: And then they...

RB: No additional gunfire.

NG: No, no. And they actually called me back to the Command Post because they needed help with the layout of the school.

RB: Okay. And that's what you did after about an hour, went back to CP and uh...

NG: And what I would do is I would uh, at the Command Post screen people to make sure since I, now they're telling me who it is, it's the two suspects and now I know who, who they are.

RB: You know them by name.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay, who are they, who were you told were the suspects.

NG: Uh, Dylan Klebold and, ah, Jesus, I'm drawing a blank now, God, I don't know this kid as well but we had two Deans that did and I'm sorry I can't remember his name.

RB: If I said his name would you recognize it.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Eric.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Harris.

NG: Eric Harris, yeah, because I had the two Deans with me, I could recognize Klebold but I couldn't recognize Scott so the two Deans were with me.

RB: Scott or.

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NG: Dylan Klebold.

RB: Right you say you can recognize Dylan but...

NG: But not Eric Harris.

RB: Okay.

NG: Yeah, and we were screening kids as they were getting 'em evac'd to make sure we didn't have a bad guy with them.

RB: Okay. The suspect that you saw that you exchanged gunfire with, was he Dylan?

NG: I believed him to be Dylan.

RB: That's who, that's who you think...

NG: He was more in stature of Dylan cause Dylan's a lot taller than Eric Harris.

RB: But you wouldn't know Eric Harris, correct.

NG: Uh uh.

RB: Okay...

NG: I didn't know till I saw a picture of him.

RB: Okay. Did you recognize him from the photo then.

NG: No.

RB: Okay so you really don't know this kid at all.

NG: I had never dealt, I had never dealt with Eric Harris.

RB: So based on the descriptions you have given of the suspects and your knowledge of Dylan, you, based on what you saw occurring it's your belief it was Dylan that you exchanged the gunfire with...

NG: Correct...



RB: At the door.

NG: Correct.

RB: Okay, alright, but you can't I.D. him though from that.

NG: I couldn't tell, I couldn't tell you as I, we were exchanging gunfire and that was Dylan...

RB: Right, okay...

NG: All I know he was a younger male.

RB: Maybe with some 20/20 hindsight you think now it's your belief that it was probably Dylan that you were...

NG: Just based on the stature of Dylan compared to Eric is a shorter person.

RB: Okay, okay. Uh, anything else you recall from that incident that I didn't touch on.

NG: No, I mean, I mean we've been talking about (inaudible word) it like happened like so fast.

RB: I understand that and you've actually done a good job as far as what you can recall and...

NG: Yeah...

RB:: Handling these questions. I know they're

NG: Yea.

RB: A pain to go through.

NG: But that's the best of my recollection of, you know, of exactly what happened.

RB: Uh, had you, so I, assuming when you got back to the Command, I assume when you got to the command post you had related to them portions of what had occurred.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay. Just bringing people up to speed as to the incident and what they need to look for and what's potentially going on there.

NG: Right, right.

RB: Okay.

NG: I was giving them places where they could possibly hide and I was giving you know tactical information.

RB: And you related to them your, your experiences there too to some degree.

NG: And then once we knew it was Dylan Klebold, see he worked in the auditorium a lot and he knew all the rafter, boardwalks and everything cause he used to do the lighting for the plays.

RB: Okay.

NG: So I was relaying that.

RB: Now are you at Jeffco, are you at your Command Post, cause there were a lot of SWAT units that had Command Posts coming in...

NG: I was at mine.

RB: So you were at, okay.

NG: And I was, and then they sent me up to the top with Denver to screen people as they were coming out cause they didn't know the good guys from the bad guys.

RB: And you didn't do any evidence collection.

NG: Correct.

RB: Okay, and uh let me take a quick look at your magazine that you'd, no leave the one in the gun but just the two that you've got there. Okay, so you have one empty...

NG: Um hmm. And I don't know where that bullet is, that should be loaded, I didn't even use that clip.



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RB: Okay.

NG: This is the one I pulled out of here.

RB: You got one empty, one, and the empty one was in your pocket, right.

NG: Right.

RB: Your left front.

NG: Uh huh. I mean when I was, after I had run out I just shove it to the ground, I picked it up at a later time.

RB: Okay, I was going to go back and ask you that, I didn't want to interrupt at that point but at the point after you fired eight rounds you're going (inaudible word) eight...

NG: Right...

RB: Okay slide locked open. So you immediately reloaded at that point.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay, and you dropped what would be the empty, empty magazine right on the pavement and you left it there.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay.

NG: Just like training at the range.

RB: Right.

NG: All the training comes back.

RB: Now there's one round, um, this was from your, which pouch, this was on the outside or inside your gun, so your closest to the gun...

NG: Right.

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RB: Okay. Normally this would carry seven.

NG: Right.

RB: To your knowledge did you ever take it during this.

NG: No. I never took that one out, I used the first one.

RB: Okay, so it's unclear where that other round is for that.

NG: Yeah.

RB: Okay. And then you should have, let me see the magazine in that one real quick. You have one in the chamber now.

NG: Yeah, there should be cause there were seven to start with, there should be six.

RB: Okay and that's what's in here.

NG: Uh huh.

RB: Okay.

NG: Cause it, I mean you only get eight the first go around.

RB: Right.

NG: Then you get seven.

RB: Let's do this, can you just pull the slide just a little, I can't, there we go, okay, and then one in the chamber.

NG: You want me to clear that.

RB: Why don't you just leave it as is, just go ahead and put that, put that magazine back in it there.

NG: Okay.

RB: Okay. You can put that one back in there.



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NG: Okay.

RB: And you're the only one that's handled your weapon correct.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay. As we, I'm basically at the end of this, if you can just initial your diagram there.

NG: Okay.

RB: And I asked you this before. Any other information I didn't go through with you think was relevant to this.

NG: Not that I can recall.

RB: Okay, and then I think...

NG: You know there may have been more shots fired but I mean cause there was a lot of stuff.

RB: And I understand that you're not counting every round that getting exchanged when there's a lot of gunfire going on.

NG: No.

RB: Okay.

NG: I did see the big flash bang in the, I mean it was a big ball of fire.

RB: And that's the one you told me about.

NG: Right.

RB: Okay, uh and I mean it certainly there may be other aspects to this investigation...

NG: Right...

RB: In terms of what your knowledge is about who the potential suspects are and what their involvement in and may be other suspects peripherically involved which I'm not going to go into with you right now because our focus was simply uh the shoot...

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NG: The shoot...

RB: Deal with the shoot and uh, so I'm probably going to leave it at that right now and then whoever gets assigned with the follow-up and that we'll cover that aspect of it. Do you have any questions for me.

NG: Uh uh.

RB: Okay. Time now is 1945. End of the interview.