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Questions Remain in 1998 Killing

Officials say many details in Officer Christopher Horner's death have yet to be released.

By AMBER SMITH
The Ledger

HAINES CITY — Investigators acknowledged Thursday that information being released about Christopher B. Gamble's role in the death of a Haines City police officer six years ago is sketchy, but they said that once the whole story comes out, it will make sense.

According to the federal indictment, Gamble was not the one who pulled the trigger and killed Officer Christopher Horner. It says he aided and abetted an unnamed person who actually shot Horner.

"All the pieces to this puzzle will fall into place," said Haines City Police Chief Morris West. "There are a lot of things I can't comment on yet. There is still an ongoing investigation and more people are going to be indicted. I don't want to give away anything that might hurt the case. This will all be wrapped up soon though."



Police say Christopher B. Gamble, indicted in the slaying of a Haines City officer, was in trouble since his early teens.

Horner was found March 3, 1998, in a Haines City cemetery shot in the head with his own gun, which was found underneath his body.

For years, Horner's death has been controversial, with some thinking his death may have been a suicide.

"There's no way this was a suicide," West said, declining to comment further on that theory.

Col. Gary Hester of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, which has led the investigation into Horner's death, said such speculation had hampered efforts to bring Horner's killers to justice.

"It's dangerous to speculate," Hester said. "That's what caused problems early on in this case."

Hester said it's not unusual for slain law enforcement officers to be killed with their own weapons. And leaving behind Horner's gun, free of incriminating fingerprints, is consistent with the methods of the criminal enterprise authorities say killed Horner and robbed numerous East Polk businesses.

"This organization had a practice of wiping down their stolen vehicles that they committed their robberies in to try and eliminate their prints," Hester said.

Leaving Horner's gun behind would have been less of a risk for his killers, who Hester said also wore masks and possibly gloves to hide their identities.

"If you're apprehended with a murdered police officer's weapon . . . that's pretty damning evidence," he said.

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Bombs Kill 192 in Spain



Firefighters carry a body from a bomb-ravaged commuter train following a 15-minute series of explosions in Madrid, Spain, on Thursday. More than 190 people were killed in the terrorist attacks.

Group claims responsibility for a wave of attacks on commuter trains in the name of al-Qaida.

By MAR ROMAN
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled one another, abandoning their bags and shoes, after the first of three bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Seven other bombings followed on other trains.

Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and was Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The attacks also reawakened terrorism fears among investors. Stocks fell in London and in New York, where the Dow Jones industrial average dropped nearly 170 points. Today, Tokyo stocks opened sharply lower.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute span, starting about 7:39 a.m., on trains along nine miles of commuter line from Santa Eugenia to the Atocha terminal, a bustling hub for subway, commuter and long-distance trains just south of the famed Prado Museum. Police also found and detonated three other bombs.

The Interior Ministry said 192 people were killed and 1,421 injured.

"An act of barbaric terrorism has engulfed Spain with profound pain, repulsion and anger," King Juan Carlos said on national television.

Worst hit was a double-decker train at El Pozo station, where two bombs killed 70 people, fire

INSIDE

■ Investigators struggle to figure out who is responsible.

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■ Madrid bombings send Dow industrials down 168 points.

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U.S. Citizen Charged With Spying for Iraq

By SHANNON McCAFFREY & RON HUTCHESON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A distant cousin of White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card was charged Thursday with working for the Iraqi Intelligence Service, after Card turned her in to the FBI for contacting him in the weeks before the war allegedly on behalf of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Susan Lindauer, 41, was charged with accepting \$10,000 for her work

with the Iraqi Intelligence Service, according to a federal indictment unsealed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan on Thursday.

The indictment alleges that Lindauer left a letter outside the home of an unidentified U.S. official on Jan. 8, 2003, outlining her extensive contacts with



Lindauer

the Iraqi dictator's government in what authorities described as an "attempt to influence United States foreign policy."

Two federal law enforcement sources, both speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the home was Card's.

"He (Card) cooperated fully with the FBI investigation. He reported the various attempts by her to contact him on behalf of the former regime to the appropriate officials," said White

House spokesman Scott McClellan late Thursday.

McClellan said Card had not seen or spoken to Lindauer since 2001. "It is a very sad and unfortunate incident," he said.

Five months after she allegedly left the letter with Card, the FBI was on her trail.

Lindauer is thought to be the first American charged with spying for

PLEASE SEE CHARGES, PAGE A14

INSIDE



ON TO THE FINALS
Winter Haven claws its way to a 57-74 overtime victory in the state 4A semifinals. **C1**

TIP OF THE DAY
"Seeing Stars in Dixie." Lake Wales Little Theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$10; \$7 for 18 and younger. **678-0662.**

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WEATHER
Today will be mostly cloudy in Lakeland with an expected high of 76 and a low of 47. **B6**

Buccaneers Tell Lynch He Won't Return

John Lynch, the Tampa Bay Bucs' five-time Pro Bowl safety, said Thursday the team had informed him he would not return in 2004 and that he was free to seek a deal with another team. Lynch, who played 11 seasons in Tampa, said he was "saddened and shocked." **Story, C1**



Court Halts Gay Weddings in California

By DAVID KRAVETS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ordered an immediate halt to same-sex weddings in San Francisco on Thursday as Massachusetts lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages in the only state where they have been ruled legal.

Teary-eyed couples were quickly turned away at San Francisco's City Hall, where 4,161 gay couples have tied the knot in the last month.

"We were filling out the application and they told us to stop," said Art Adams, who was the first to be denied as he and partner Devin Baker sought a license. "It's heartbreaking. I don't understand why two people in love should be prevented from expressing it."

On the other side of the country, Massachusetts legislators returned to the Capitol to consider a constitutional amendment that would strip gay couples of their court-granted right to marriage but allow civil unions.

The amendment won approval during two preliminary votes, but its final passage is far from certain. Gay marriage supporters were conducting procedural maneuvers that could ultimately lead to the proposal's defeat.

Massachusetts took center stage in the national debate over gay marriage following a landmark decision by its highest court in November that was reaffirmed last month. The rulings set the stage for the nation's first legally sanctioned gay marriages May 17.

Lawmakers seeking to put a gay



Jeanne Rizzo, right, and partner Pali Cooper were 10 minutes too late to be married Thursday in San Francisco.

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