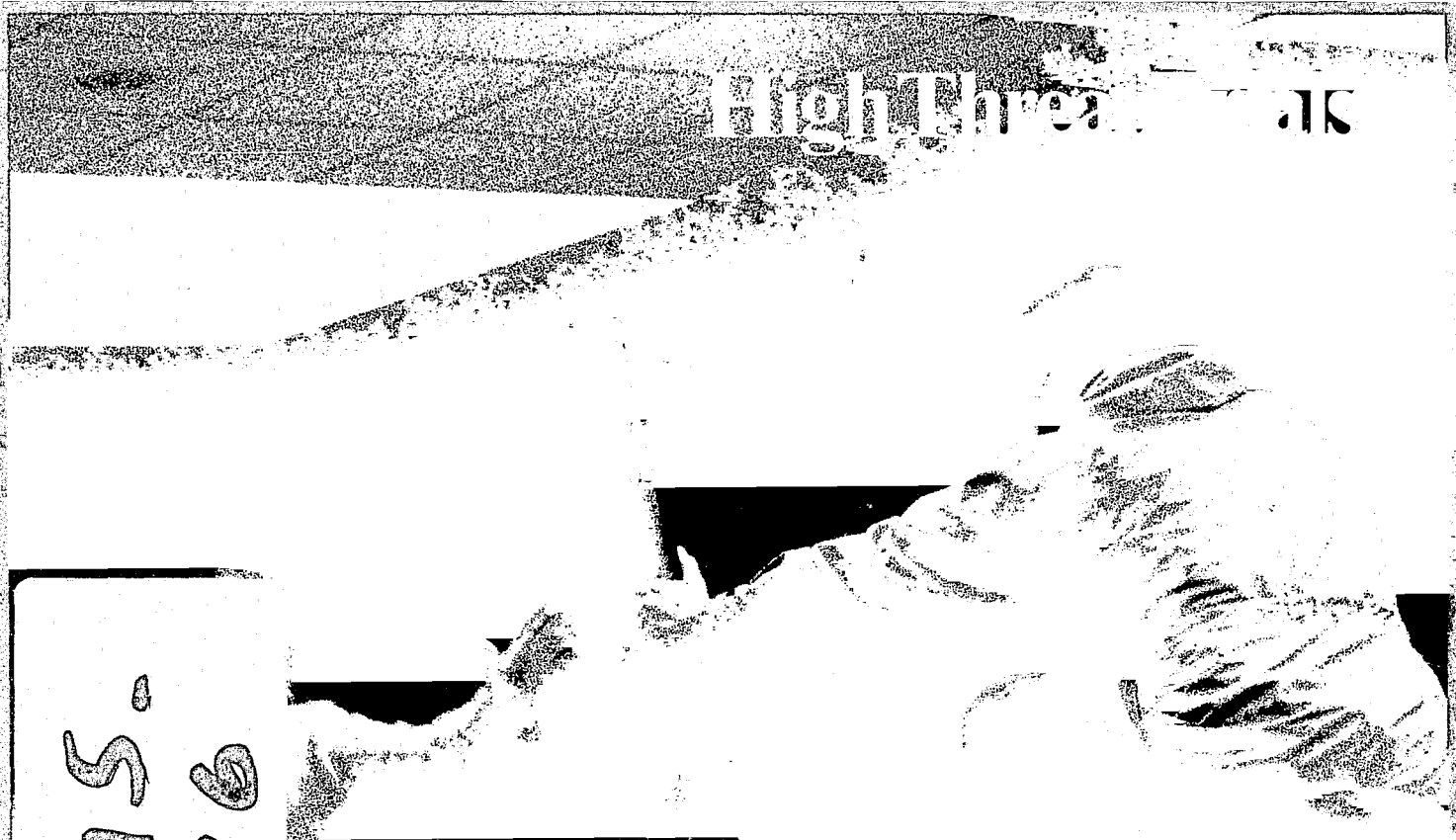


High Threat

Volume No. 1

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High Threat

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FILM WITH EACH ARTICLE

The Pentacle

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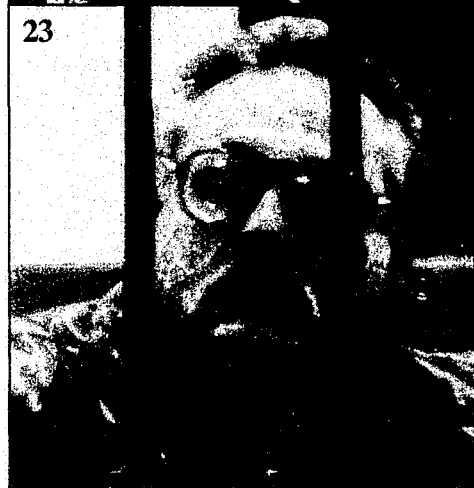
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Dramatization of a high threat trial
incident staged by Deputy Marshals from
the District of Minnesota. RANDY GERBER

The Attorney General has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of the Department of Justice.



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ACQUISITIONS

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Taking All the Necessary Precautions



The Marshal surveys the courtroom as the spectators scramble through the door and fill the benches. Today is the first day of a highly publicized trial for

16 suspected terrorists, and it's a day like many more to come, when nothing can be taken for granted. The defendants are charged with murder, armed robbery, and other violent crimes. Threats to disrupt the proceedings have come in regularly since the defendants were charged.

Extensive security plans have been devised and rehearsed; everybody knows his part. Deputy Marshals are in place both inside and outside the courthouse. A bomb-sniffing dog was brought in this morning before the doors were opened.

Reporters and camera crews have been camping out on the courthouse steps since dawn. Several late arrivals come rushing through the door now to the seats reserved for them near the front of the room. A courtroom illustrator is struggling to make a place for his portfolio in the front row. As the Marshal passes the aisle, a reporter asks about the security requirements for the trial. The Marshal tells him every necessary precaution is being taken, but that he can't discuss the specifics. The reporter nods; he knows the security procedures can't be discussed, but it was worth a try.

The Marshal makes one more check with the Deputies stationed in the back of the room. These men and women will monitor who come in and out of the courtroom. Everything seems in place here so the Marshal heads for the door.



Security is tight in Pittsburgh as Deputy Marshals escort Eugene Gesuale (3rd from left) who was indicted on cocaine charges and believed to be a major narcotics dealer. Gesuale and three others on trial are transported back and forth from the local jail by Deputy Marshals (from left) Paul Pongrace, William Oskin, and Myron Galaida.

JOHN C. BOWMAN/BUTLER EAGLE

A metal detector has been set up at the entrance to the courtroom. The equipment is so sensitive a nail in a woman's shoe has just triggered the alarm. Handbags, umbrellas, and newspapers are collected at the door and cannot be brought into the trial. The Marshal hears an attorney arguing with one of the Deputies because her briefcase has to be searched. The Deputy explains that everyone must follow the rules and continues to check out the woman's case.

When the Marshal reaches the lobby, he sees a line of people waiting to pass through another metal detector at the main door. A large crowd was expected because of all the media coverage. The Court Security Officers, who screen visitors at the entrance to the building, seem to have it all in hand.

Outside the building, security measures are also in place. Armed with machine guns, Deputy Marshals line the roof of the courthouse building, scanning the area with binoculars. A helicopter makes a pass overhead every 15 minutes.

The prisoners are housed in a jail 30 miles from the courthouse and are brought in each day by a heavily-armed convoy. The route is varied to prevent an ambush. As the convoy approaches the courthouse, the doors to the underground parking garage are opened by a Deputy monitoring the street by remote camera inside the building. The line of cars speed down the ramp, and the door is closed quickly behind them.

Using back passageways, the prisoners are moved into the courtroom. An individual Deputy has been assigned to each of the

prisoners, and they sit side-by-side in the courtroom. If any disruption occurs during the trial, each Deputy has been instructed to stay with the prisoner at all times. That one prisoner is his responsibility.

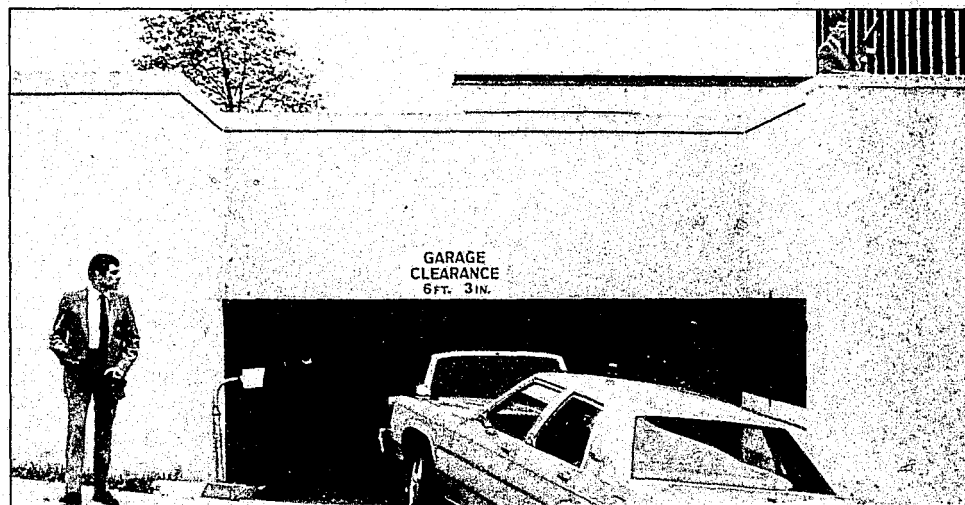
It will probably take several weeks to select the jury and the judge has already decided that they should be sequestered because of all the publicity surrounding the trial. They will stay at a local hotel under the care of Deputies.

The Marshal makes one more check on his hand-held radio with the Deputies stationed in the back of the courthouse. Everything is quiet there, too. Satisfied that all is in place, the Marshal heads back into the courthouse. Another day has begun.

This scenario could be taking place in any of the 94 judicial districts across the country. Trials involving terrorist groups, major organized crime figures, international drug cartels, and paramilitary groups with histories of violent protest have become the norm in Federal criminal courts.

"When other law enforcement agencies' responsibilities end with the arrest of dangerous criminals, our problems begin," said Stanley E. Morris, Director of the U.S. Marshals Service. "We must house and transport them—we must produce them in court and assure that they are not freed by force. In addition, we must protect the judicial family against intimidation or assault during the trial process."

Sensitive trials usually involve suspected drug cartel, organized crime, paramilitary or terrorist group members. Trials involving defendants considered an escape risk or violent because of past incidents may also be considered sensitive. Sensitive trials have other characteristics as well. They usually draw a great deal of media attention because of the organizations and charges



U.S. Marshal Wayne D. Beaman, W/VA (left), holding a semi-automatic weapon and Inspector Gary L. Alderman (on roof), provide security during a drug trial last winter in Roanoke, VA. Miguel Alvarez (in car) and nine others were accused of smuggling cocaine from Bolivia to Virginia.

involved. During the trial, the Marshal must weigh the reporter's right to know with the necessity to protect security information. It can be a difficult balancing act.

Associates in Court

Another problem inherent with sensitive trials concerns the spectators who attend the trial.

"There may only be one or two defendants in custody, but you never know how many of their associates are in the courtroom," said Morris. "Many defendants and their followers are confrontational and use the courtroom as a forum for their cause. They can become violent and disrupt the proceeding for publicity," the Director said.

"In addition, because of connections with drug groups and organized crime, many of the people standing trial have the money to finance an escape. Some defendants could be facing long prison terms if convicted, so the thought of escaping may appear very tempting."

The circumstances surrounding sensitive trials all add up to very dangerous operations for the Marshals Service. Fortunately, many security precautions have already been taken at courthouses around the country.

Effective Shield

Working in cooperation with Judicial Security Committees established by the courts in each judicial district, the Marshals Service employs a variety of techniques and modern technologies to provide for the safety of Federal judges, their staffs and, when appropriate, members of the judges' families. Closed-circuit television monitors, electronic alarm systems, and other devices have been installed in courthouses, judges' chambers and elsewhere to provide an unobtrusive but effective shield against those who might pose a danger.

WAYNE DEEL/ROANOKE TIMES AND WORLD NEWS

In addition, the Marshals Service, in cooperation with the judiciary in each Federal district and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, implemented a Court Security Officer (CSO) program in 1983. CSOs are hired under competitive contracts to perform some of the building perimeter security functions, screen persons coming into the court building, and augment the extra security details assigned to sensitive trials. There are more than 1,000 CSOs in place.

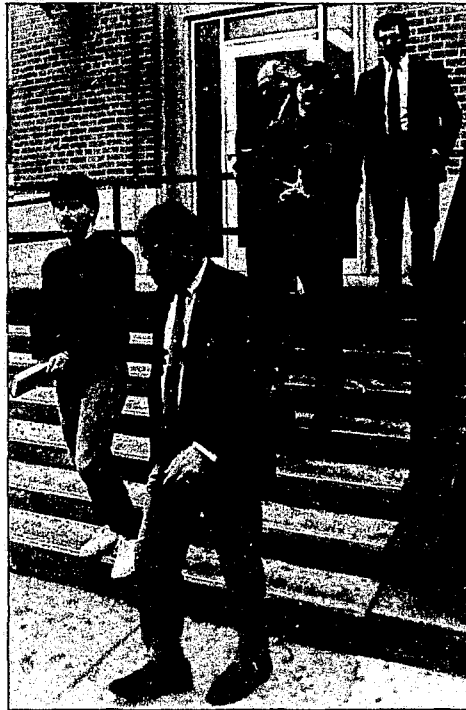
A Threat Analysis Group (TAG) has also been developed in the Marshals Service. Its mission is to provide an immediate assessment of the validity of any threat against a Marshals Service protectee or operation. In cooperation with other Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the threat analysis specialists collect and examine the available intelligence information and help determine the degree of risk involved in a threat situation. TAG collects data on drug cartels, terrorist groups, outlaw motorcycle gangs, organized crime, and anyone else who might pose a threat.

The Need for Security

The Court Security programs have become increasingly critical in recent years. The number of high threat trials continues to grow as Federal prosecutors target organized crime groups, drug cartels, and terrorist groups. In 1982, 77 sensitive trials were reported. By 1986, the number had grown to 207. In the first three quarters of 1987, 190 sensitive trials have been scheduled.

Expensive Trials

High threat trials are a tremendous drain on Marshals Service resources. Everything involved with these trials requires the highest security which means extra personnel, additional vehicles, and sophisticated



Tony Wydra (far left) and Steve Miller (middle, carrying books) are escorted out of the Federal courthouse in Elizabeth City, NC, by USMS guard J.C. Spears (behind Miller) and Deputy Marshals Mike Wilson (top right) and Dennis Meehan (second from left). Wydra and Miller, members of the White Patriot's Party, were charged with conspiracy to obtain stolen military weapons and explosives.

CURTIS MILLS/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Another case in point is the trial currently in progress in the Federal District Court in Hartford, Connecticut, involving the prosecution of 16 alleged members of the "los Macheteros," a Puerto Rican terrorist organization. This is the group accused of the violent attack on a U.S. Navy bus in Puerto Rico in 1979, the destruction of nine U.S. military aircraft at the Muniz Air Base in Puerto Rico in 1981, and numerous other bombings, murders, and robberies. The provision of security in connection with the pretrial hearings alone (arrest, arraignment and detention hearings), cost the Marshals Service more than \$548,000.

"We project that security for the actual trial which is scheduled to last 24 weeks will total at least \$1,169,440," said Morris. "The total security cost for the trial will probably exceed \$2 million."

Additional Resources

Larry Diefenbach is an operations officer in the Court Security Division at Marshals Service Headquarters. He collects data on sensitive trials and monitors their progress. More importantly, he assists the district offices if they need additional resources to support judicial proceedings.

"We can help by advancing funds, organizing additional manpower, and reimbursing the districts for expenses they incur during a sensitive trial," he said.

Technical assistance, particularly for high risk trials, is also available from the 14 Marshals Service court security inspectors

communications systems and weapons. To meet the demands of high threat trials, people and money are shifted to locations where they are needed, resulting in additional costs for overtime, travel expenses and per diem. These proceedings also cause work backlogs in both the districts where the trial takes place and the other districts which must "loan" their personnel to assist in the trial.

For example, a trial held in the Eastern District of New York which convicted members of the United Freedom Front, a terrorist group charged with 10 bombings, required extensive security. The trial was handled with exceptional economy; nevertheless, the cost exceeded \$165,000.

CHARLES MASON/DAILY NEWS, ANCHORAGE



A protected witness testifies in a murder trial in Anchorage, Alaska with Deputy Marshal Richard Knighten, Metro Unit, at his side. The District of Alaska provided security details for this trial as well as three others involving this witness. In addition, he testified in organized crime trials in Seattle.

assigned to the judicial circuits. This assistance ranges from basic advice on how to cope with a difficult security situation to actually coordinating a team of security personnel and supporting equipment for a sensitive trial.

"Whether it concerns procuring additional magnetometers and closed-circuit cameras, or arranging security details for a sequestered jury, an inspector can be sent to assist a district," said Diefenbach.

Protecting the Jury

As the number of high threat trials increases, the number of sequestered juries also seems to grow. Because of publicity or threats of interference, many judges

presiding over high threat trials require sequestered juries, which then are the responsibility of the Marshals Service. These assignments, which consume significant amounts of resources, are necessary not only for the physical protection of jurors, but also to ensure that the jury's objectivity is not tainted by outside influence. In FY 1986, the Service provided protective services for 29 sequestered juries. For the first three quarters of this year, 32 sequestered juries have already been protected by the Service.

Meeting the Goal

"Our most significant accomplishments in the court security field can be seen in terms of what does not happen," said the Director.

"If no prisoner successfully escapes from a courtroom; no threatened judicial officer is harmed; and no judicial proceeding is disrupted to the extent that a trial is curtailed, then we have met our goal."

The articles that follow give insight into the requirements of high threat trials and how they affect the Marshals Service's workload. They also illustrate why the Service must take court security assignments so seriously. Preserving justice has become a very dangerous business. ★