

Snipings: A Bloody 'First'

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By ALLAN KATZ

A police spokesman said today there is "no precedent" in the history of the New Orleans Police Department for the sniper killing of one policeman and the critical wounding of another.

In separate incidents on New Year's Eve, a police cadet was killed by a sniper as he stood outside Central Lockup. Just 18 minutes later, another policeman was seriously wounded as he and his partner went to investigate a tripped burglar alarm at a warehouse at 1065 S. Gayoso.

The police cadet was Alfred Harrell. In critical condition at Charity Hospital is Ptn. Edwin S. Hosli Sr. who was shot outside the warehouse.

ASKED IF there was any precedent for the sniping attacks, a police spokesman said:

"We are not aware of any previous attack on police officers carried on at long range for no apparent cause ex-

cept to deliberately seek to kill police officers.

"The only similar incident in recent years was a sniping attack on a police car in the Desire Project during the 1970 crisis there. However, we are not suggesting there is any link between that incident and this one. On the 1970 occasion, we felt we knew who had launched the attack and it was related to the ongoing crisis at that time.

"This time, we know of no related cause that might have led snipers to fire on police officers."

POLICE SUPT. Clarence B. Giarrusso said the attacks on the police officers could have been carried out by militants. He said police are working on the theory that the two separate attacks were related.

On Sunday, one sniper, or more, apparently took up a position in the deserted area near the Pontchartrain Expressway and fired six shots into the Central Lockup at South White and Perdido about 10:50 p.m.

Harrell was shot in the chest while talking to Lt. Horace Perez outside the lockup. Perez was shot in the ankle but his wounds were described as "not serious."

About 18 minutes later, Hosli and his partner, Ptn. Harold Blapert went to the warehouse on Gayoso in response to the tripped burglar alarm.

HOSLI WAS shot in the back, from apparently within the building, while he was trying to get his police dog out of the patrol car. He underwent extensive surgery at Charity.

No arrests have been reported in the case, although one of the most extensive investigations in recent police history is under way.

The Crescent City chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police today offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Harrell's killer.

Alex Vega, president of the FOP

chapter, said persons with information on the shootings should contact the Police Department's Homicide Division. He said information will be held in confidence.

Giarrusso said whoever shot Hosli

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was either cut or wounded in the process because blood stains were found within and outside the building.

Yesterday, Giarrusso issued a statement to his "brother officers" in a police department newsletter saying, "The thin blue line that separates this community from anarchy has been depleted by the death of a fellow police officer and the serious wounding of another."

"**THE EXECUTIONER** didn't care for Police Cadet Harrell's race or color or religious preference. The executioner's prejudices were of a higher order—against law and order, against authority in any form against the dignity of man."

Giarrusso asked each policeman to pause in his work for one minute today to "join me in a silent prayer for the immortal soul of Cadet Harrell and the

recovery of Ptn. Hosli."

At the same time, Mayor Moon Landrieu issued a statement, saying, "I speak for the entire community when I express my shock at the tragic shooting which claimed the life of Police Cadet Alfred Harrell and wounded Ptn. Edwin C. Hosli Sr. and Lt. Horace Perez."

"This act of brutality is an outrage and an affront to the good conscience of man."

AT CHARITY Hospital, Sylvia Hosli, wife of the wounded patrolman, his relatives and members of the Tactical Unit of the Police Dept. maintain a vigil outside the surgical intensive care unit where the officer lies in critical condition.

A Charity physician said that Hosli is "doing as well as can be expected."

Members of the Tactical Unit have gone to the hospital to offer any assistance possible to the Hosli family.