Mystery Kent State Figure Linked to Probe Reopening

By William Claiborne and E.J. Bachinski

Washington Post Staff Writers Three years and three months after a 13-second fusilade of Ohio National Guard rifle fire erupted at Kent State University and left four students dead, Terrence B. Norman has surfaced as mysteriously as he appeared on the troubled campus quadrangle that spring day.

A 24-year-old self-described "gun nut." who now works for Washington's police department, Norman is being linked to the surprise announcement on Friday that the Justice Department has reopened its investigation into the May 4, 1970, tragedy.

Sen. Birch Bayb (D-Ind.) said in a letter to Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson that "it is quite possiole" that Norman, who worked as an undercover informer for the FBI, fired the first shot during the campus antiwar protest of the U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

Moreover, Bayh said, the FBI appears to have shown little interest in Norman and a state grand jury in Ohio did not interview him in the aftermath of the shootings.

Bayh's interest in Norman was piqued, the senator said, when he received a letter from a National Guard company commander purporting to implicate Norman, also a Kent State student, in the shooting.

The company commander, whose name was withheld by Bayh, quoted a lieutenant in his unit as saying he heard Norman say, "I think I shot one of the students"— something Norman has denied.

Guardsmen have said they opened fire on the students after a sniper shot at them. Tape recordings of the demonstration record a single shot of unknown origin, fol-

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A 1970 photo of Terrence B. Norman being disarmed by police after the Kent State University shootings. Norman now is em-ployed by the D.C. police department.