
NEWS RELEASE

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POLICE STANDOFF 1310 W. MIRACLE MILE - WESTSIDE POLICE STATION

Yesterday, the Tucson Police Department was threatened by an individual advising he was going to blow-up his RV at the Westside Police Station. After a 10-hour standoff, the subject was taken into custody and no one was injured.

On January 6, 2016, just before 7:30 A.M., 37-year-old Thomas Scott Mills Jr. drove his RV into the parking lot of the Tucson Police Department's Operations Division West. He drove over the curb and on to the sidewalk area, parking the RV next to the police building. The station was not yet open, so Mills pushed the button on the emergency call box that is located in front of the police station. When officers arrived to speak with him, he had returned to his RV and would not come outside. Mills then called 911 and advised that he was parked next to the police station, armed with automatic weapons, tactical gear, an RV full of propane and was threatening to blow up the RV on site. Officers immediately backed away from the RV and evacuated the building. A large portion of Miracle Mile had to be shut down and several nearby businesses and residences were also evacuated.

The Tucson Police Department Bomb Unit, SWAT Team, Hostage Negotiation Unit, K-9 Unit and the Mental Health Support Team all responded to the incident. Several other agencies responded to assist, including the Tucson Fire Department, Pima County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Public Safety.

During the investigation, Mills was refusing to exit his RV. While speaking with hostage negotiators, Mills advised that he had a large amount of explosives in his vehicle. At one point, Mills held up a fuel can from inside the RV. He was also seen holding a large hammer and was waving a knife around. A Bomb Squad robot was used to approach the RV and investigators were able to see inside of the vehicle using a camera affixed to the robot. Investigators saw Mills starting to light fires inside of the RV. With the assistance of Tucson Fire, large amounts of water were sprayed into the RV in an attempt to soak the interior and prevent any fires from being spread or possibly detonating any explosives. Mills was still refusing to exit the vehicle so CS Gas, CN Gas and Pepperballs were deployed into the RV. When Mills again refused to come out, SWAT Team members entered the RV at approximately 5:30 P.M. and took him into custody without incident.

Inside of the RV investigators located the fuel can, which contained a small amount of gas. The lid had been removed and placed elsewhere in the vehicle. A sufficient amount of propane, capable of a large gas explosion was located inside of the



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tank belonging to the RV. No other explosives were located. The knife Mills had been holding was located inside the RV, but no firearms or tactical gear were found.

After investigating the scene and speaking with Mills, he was booked into the Pima County Jail on one count of "Terrorism" (Class 2 Felony) and one count of "Hoax" (Class 4 Felony). Mills' booking photo is attached below.

A special thanks to all personnel from the Tucson Police Department and the agencies that assisted in bringing this incident to a safe end.



Thomas Scott Mills Jr.

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