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7/6/2012 6:01:00 AM

Anyone home?

'Standoff' ends in empty Kingman motel room; suspect nabbed later



Ahron Sherman
Miner Staff Reporter

KINGMAN - Armed to the teeth with automatic weapons and decked out in tactical garb, personnel from multiple law enforcement agencies had their guns aimed at one room at the Motel 6 near the corner of Andy Devine and Airway avenues Thursday morning.

They thought 62-year-old Clifford Dale Roberts, who had allegedly kidnapped a woman from a residence in Valle Vista, was holed up with the woman in the room.

At one point, a [Kingman Police Department](#) Bomb Squad robot was prepped with the intention of breaching the room and acting as the "eyes" of the first responders.

It was never fully deployed. Four hours after the "standoff" began, everyone found out the room was empty.

The would-be standoff may have ended anti-climatically, but Mohave County Sheriff's detectives located Roberts shortly afterward near Campolinda Lane in Valle Vista by tracking one of his cell phones. He was taken into custody without incident, and the woman was not harmed, said Sheriff's Spokeswoman Sandy Edwards.

Though it was a Sheriff's Department operation, the Kingman Police Department, the Arizona [Department of Public Safety](#) and members of several task forces were on hand to provide support. The Fire Department and River Medical were at the scene as well.

At about 6:15 a.m., [Mohave County Sheriff's Office](#) dispatch received a call from a woman who said Roberts had possibly kidnapped her friend, said Edwards. During the conversation, the woman told dispatchers that the victim was afraid of Roberts, she added.

The suspect was registered at the motel, the

woman's car was in the parking lot and witnesses heard an argument coming from the room's vicinity earlier in the day, said KPD Capt. Rusty Cooper.

"All information pointed to him being in the room with a gun," Cooper said.

Edwards said Roberts' vehicle was spotted at the motel as well.

Many of the people in rooms near the suspect's room were evacuated, and occupants were forced to wait the duration of the incident elsewhere, Cooper said. Many of them chose to gather near the motel's lobby.

It may have been an uncomfortable situation for those forced out of their rooms, but it was an essential move, designed to keep everyone safe, Cooper said.

Once located, both the victim and Roberts were transported to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office for further investigation, Edwards said.



JC AMBERLYN/Miner

First responders, along with Andy Devine Thursday night situation. The hotel room suspect and reported vic



AHRON SHERMAN/Miner

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 *Here We Come!*

Reader Comments

Posted: Monday, July 09, 2012

Article comment by: **Philip Martin**

Hey everyone thanks for your opinions on my post pro or con. Let me explain a little. Police officers are highly trained individuals. They should be able to BEFORE deploying all S.W.A.T teams, robots, bomb squad, etc. You are right life is precious and I thank god that nobody else had a real emergency while t room.

Posted: Sunday, July 08, 2012

Article comment by: **Concerned Citizen**

For all of you that's applauding the excessive use of force and equipment, check out a few things. The original caller never said the woman was kidnapped. Just that a man may have taken her friend! And where did her friend disappear to? In Valle Vista where she lives with a friend! Oh, I'm sorry! My bad! Wait until you see the urgent request for more funds for the Kingman PD!!! All to pay for cleaning the egg off our faces!

Posted: Sunday, July 08, 2012

Article comment by: **I, for one ...**

I, for one, support the local police and appreciate all they do for the citizens. Seems like the ones who do not appreciate them have either had a run in with them in a moment of panic. The few times we have had to call them- they came quickly and were professional and very kind. I would rather see them over PD and Sheriff's Dept. Keep up the good work!

Posted: Sunday, July 08, 2012

Article comment by: **Seemore Junk**

I wish law enforcement in Mohave County focused more on crimes with victims .

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **Doing Research**

Overkill?

So, considering the budget and all that, can someone please tell me how much the KPD is allowed to spend to potentially save a life?

I'd like to know how much you think a person's life is worth. How many lives can KPD save a year with a limited budget?

I'm pretty sure that the people talking about overkill are the same ones that fear the ACA because of the death panel myth -worried that someone will threaten to treat. But it's perfectly fine for you to say that saving a life from a violent untimely death, or saving someone from rape, or whatever else - that's too common.

It's the irony and selective hypocrisy that really makes my day. But you deserve to be called out on this one....

Phillip Martin - how much is her life worth?
dog and pony show - how much is her life worth?
just me here - how much is her life worth?
Capt Nice - how much is her life worth?

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **nnp**

several years ago, the \$500 million (as I recall) Grant grant to law enforcement encouraged them to buy all sorts of crap - thermal-imaging helicopters, Manned aircraft will be massively targeted while three-digit agencies smuggle in tons of drugs to finance illegal wars. Sit back and enjoy the nation's destruction: drones, two-faced psychopaths, and a whole host of other assets from their nazi arsenals used against you.

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **me, myself and I mr.c.**

Good picture, that must have been some kind of photo lens.

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **LOCAL COPS**

Well, To start with, I support our local cops so you can hate me right from the start. Now, in looking at the photo, doesn't it look like the green deputies are whoever that guy is? That really doesn't look like the place I would want to be when the shooting starts....especially since the green deputies don't even handle things properly...what on earth would happen when they pulled the trigger....talk about bullets flying all over. Sounds like something different needs to be addressed this year.

The cops thought someone was in the room, the light was on, after all - it was Motel 6....

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **Oh Em Gee Are You For Real?**

You'd think there would have been some cameras somewhere they could have checked...Probably would have taken less time than the 4 hours it took them to find the suspect.

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **I betcha**

That cool looking R2 D2 and its trailer probably cost more than a few local homes in a fine gated community.

I guess that's better than a few more politicians living in fine gated communities in the taxpayer dime?.

Or not. How about selling that thing to Havasu PD and feeding some hungry elderly locals?

Then If Kingman needs a bombsquad "robot" .

RENT IT FROM HAVASU....

Posted: Saturday, July 07, 2012

Article comment by: **So Guys...**

4 hours? Really? I honestly have to assume that was some sort of misprint or exaggeration. Put yourselves in their place, would you stand outside in 100 degree heat for 4 hours? No, obviously not. You ascertain whether or not someone is in there, and then you make a decision. My point is, whatever the situation actually was, we can't just sit around and wait for someone to die.

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **I Too**

I too, wonder why they sent so many people out to take this situation under control. When I first moved out here, I called 911 because of a suspected intruder. My electric went out and I had no way of calling 911 again (before I had a cell) I ran to a neighbor, and called them again. The person on the line explained, "We can't go through a locked gate." First, I was the homeowner who called, second, the gate wasn't locked, third, anyone else who wanted to come in. What would it have taken to get protection for me and my home, a call to them as to a suspected kidnapping? Unfortunately, I was new to this area and an unfortunate incident with the police department. Fortunately, so far, since then, I haven't had to deal with it.

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **anonymous anonymous**

Between this story of an empty motel room and the angry republican delegate brandishing her pistol at the repo man, damaging her auto in the aftermath of silent movies of the key stone cops!
http://blogs.phoenixnewtimes.com/valleyfever/2012/07/sharon_holmes_gop_delegate_in_kingman_police_chase_says_she_wasnt_running_from_the_cops_

Seems like Kingman/Mohave county has now become in the state wide news and noticed the story even crept onto fox & friends web site, making it a national local media outlets!

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **Support Our Officers**

It's always better to be over prepared for this kind of thing. Everyone is quick to cry foul over the budget, but frankly speaking...is it worth it if a life is ever lost? Seriously guys, everyone here did their job with one thing in mind: keeping the public safe. The money 95% of the time is worth it. Get your priorities straight.

Also, the equipment they're using? If you paid attention over the past couple years, you'd realize that they had A TON of that bomb squad and SWAT equipment that were decommissioned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and acquired by MCSO and KPD via grants.

Once again, if you're going to cry foul over the budget, learn how things are purchased and where the money goes. Be a smart, educated citizen.

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **golden valley man**

you know id want this much fire power coming to help me if i was kidnapped and held at gun point so show a little support. Better safe than sorry

look at it this way spend the extra money on the extra units or spend three times as much on the funeral of the officer killed in the line of duty and possibly a kidnapper. then theres the law suit for not deploying enough

ku dos KPD

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **Other people's kids**

for all those people complaining about over kill.... it would sure be a different story if it was one of their family members in need of rescue.... or a member getting killed because someone "might have a gun" and ended up having arsenal at the ready.

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **Concerned Citizen**

Ref:Ron Mielke

In LA, I was there when it happened, there were reports of 2 heavily armed bank robbers on the streets. This was a report of a man in a Motel 6, with a woman, we thought!? Did anyone try to call the room and talk to the suspect. Did anyone try to listen on another reason for vacating the nearby rooms. Police have devices that can easily penetrate motel walls to listen. No sounds at all? No answer to phone? After an hour or two of all that, you have to assume someone is dead or not at home! Would you not?

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **Ron Mielke**

GOOD .BETTER TO HAVE OVER KILL THAN NOT ENOUGH FIRE POWER .LOOK WHAT HAPPEN TO THE POLICE AND CIVILIANS I L.A. WHEN THE WERE I LL PREPARED

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **Capt. Nice**

It is a good thing some one didn't decide to rob a bank because every cop within a 100 miles was at an empty room at Motel 6. I understand they were late because they could not find a 2 5/16 trailer hitch ball for some trailer they needed. Like someone saidover kill, but I'm sure lots of overtime was involved!

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **n np**

So how long did it take them to notice that it was an EMPTY room?
And why didn't they figure it out sooner?

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **support them**

philip Martin,

Do you think they would have done all of this if they knew these people were not in the room come to reality , If you were in there shoes would you want to call NO ,nobody knows what you are walking into till its over,So please dont say its overkill unless you can look in your crystal ball and let people know

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **jist me here, wondering**

I agree with Phil, with current economy, budget cuts and short falls, Law enforcement needs to step it down. maybe park some of their cars. car pooling would probably work too.

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **dog and pony show**

Showing off all the taxpayers investment in the local incarceration machine.

When you live in a county with only one industry. The only business to see the latest equipment to support the "back seat" job provider

when you live in a county with only one industry. Its not a surprise to see the latest equipment to support the "cash cow" job provider.

Knowing KPD has a bomb squad robot seems a bit paranoid for our little hick town. I wonder what that thing cost the lowly citizens. Those whom need to t officers dressed and armed to a level equal to combat troops.

One by product of the war on drugs over the last 40 years. The face of law enforcement. Its no wonder trust in authority has gone to the birds. Military inf

When the police come knocking with "robo cop" looking for a single person possibly in posesion of a gun. Maybe we have too much High tech big dollar ci

While I reading this article I hear Arlo singing in my mind. " Using All kinds of police officer equipment. Snapping 27 8x10 color glossy photos with circles of each one.

You can get anything you want at Alices Resturant. excepting Alice..

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **Sean Patterson**

No one checked to see if they were there. D'oh!

Posted: Friday, July 06, 2012

Article comment by: **gun owner 000**

Good practice! Now, they'll be ready for the "real thing".

It's great to see law enforcement is ready and trained well enough to deal with some of today's dirtbags with as much force as necessary.

Kudos! Guys.

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