

Fake officer case ends with standoff, 1 arrest

By Claire Osborn

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

A man suspected of impersonating a police officer on four occasions was arrested at a San Marcos apartment early Thursday after a two-hour standoff that ended when Hays County SWAT officers used tear gas and drawn weapons to reach him.

San Marcos police arrested Timothy Logan Taylor, 35, at 3 a.m. at the Graystone Apartments, 1113 San Marcos Parkway. He is charged with impersonating a public servant, a third-degree felony, and was jailed at the Hays County Law Enforcement Center on \$150,000 bail.

An investigation identified Taylor as the man who posed as a police officer in two incidents Wednesday, police said. He is also a suspect in two other incidents, one Jan. 12 and one Sunday.

San Marcos police began investigating Jan. 12 after receiving reports of a man who was posing as a police officer and taking money and wallets on Laredo Street. The second incident took place in the parking lot of Triple Crown Bar at 206 N. Edward Gary St. But police had a limited description of the suspect until Wednesday, when a woman told police that she was followed on Saltillo Street by a gold-colored Jeep Cherokee that started flashing

"She drove to a place where she knew other people would be, and she did not approach the subject."

Bill Glasgow

San Marcos police commander, commending a woman who was pursued by a fake police officer

its headlights.

The driver appeared to be displaying a badge through the front window, but the woman didn't stop until she got home, according to an arrest affidavit. When she got out of her car, the driver pulled up and asked if she had cashed a check at the Money Box. She said no, and when asked again, according to the affidavit, she just said, "What?"

The driver said, "You must be the wrong one," and sped off, according to the affidavit.

Officials said the woman, whose name they did not release, wrote down the suspect's license plate and called police.

"This woman did exactly the right thing," San Marcos police Cmdr. Bill Glasgow said in a

statement. "She drove to a place where she knew other people would be, and she did not approach the subject when he called her over to his vehicle."

Later Wednesday, a man was approached at an Arby's fast-food restaurant on Texas 80 shortly after he had cashed a check at Max's Cash Express, police said. The suspect flashed a badge and told the man that he needed to return to Max's Cash Express because of an error. The suspect took the money from the victim and drove off.

Police investigators traced the Jeep to Taylor's mother, which led to the apartment, which is rented by Taylor's girlfriend. When police attempted to serve the warrant early Thursday, Taylor barricaded himself inside the bathroom and told officers that he had a gun.

A neighbor, Sandy Falcon, said police asked her and her family to leave the building at midnight. They spent the next three hours in the complex next door, she said. The scene outside was busy, she said.

"They had everything on God's green earth out there; SWAT, cops and the sheriff's department," Falcon said. Anyone with information about the incidents or additional victims is asked to call the Criminal Investigations Division at (512) 753-2300.

cosborn@statesman.com; 445-3871

Man accused of making fake arrests faces real justice

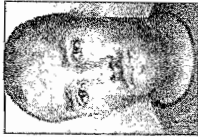
By Frank Eltman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Henry Terry had all the right accessories to impersonate a police officer, prosecutors say: authentic-looking uniforms, a car with lights and sirens, a pair of handcuffs.

But Terry took it a step further, setting up a personal police station where he kept records of possible crimes and sometimes

interrogated "suspects" who were handcuffed to a chair, said Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota.

Following the 24-year-old's arraignment last week on charges of grand larceny and impersonating a police officer, the dingy fourth-floor office where he ran his operation was empty except for some computer discs, a few papers on the floor, a pair of black dress shoes and a nameplate on a shelf. "Cpl. H.



Henry Terry
Set up a personal police station where he processed 'suspects,' authorities say.

Terry, Unit Supervisor."

On the building directory downstairs, the space is listed as the "New York Enforcement

Asset Recovery Bureau's District 2 Operations."

The office, now frigid because of broken windows, was also used for a time for the Holbrook resident's security company, and investigators were unsure when Terry started his alleged police impersonation.

"We have reason to believe the defendant has been posing as a police officer for some time," Spota said in a statement.

To convince civilians he was a

police officer, Terry bought badges, uniforms, handcuffs and other law enforcement paraphernalia from catalogs and the Internet, Spota said. He would stop motorists, ostensibly for traffic violations, and before his interrogations he would photocopy each "suspect's" ID, just as real police do.

Terry pleaded not guilty and his attorney, George Dazzo, said Terry didn't attempt to "harm or threaten" anyone. But

prosecutors said he asked some victims for cash in exchange for their release. They were never taken to a real police station.

The grand larceny charge stems from an incident in which Terry is accused of persuading the owner of a sport-utility vehicle to give it to him to use in a supposed undercover investigation. Terry is accused of swapping the driver's vehicle for another one and \$600 cash, the district attorney said.

METRO & STATE

Austin American-Statesman statesman.com ■ austin360.com

A PLAN TO REVIVE PECOS

Mayor is trying to restore past glory to West Texas city's downtown ■ E7

| MORE STATE AND

TRAVIS COUNTY

MAR 29 2008

Rapist posed as police officer, officials say

By Patrick George
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

The Travis County sheriff's department said it is investigating a sexual assault involving two men who impersonated police officers.

Sheriff's spokesman Roger Wade said that a woman's car was pulled over by two men in a white Ford Crown Victoria sedan with red and blue flashing lights on the dashboard about 10 p.m. Saturday in the 10200 block of Decker Lane northeast of Austin.

The woman said the driver was dressed in

camouflage pants and a black T-shirt with the word 'police' on it, Wade said. He pulled the woman out of her car and handcuffed her before placing her in the Ford, Wade said. He then drove her to a remote location while the other man, who wore similar clothes, followed in the woman's vehicle, Wade said. The driver of the Ford then sexually assaulted the woman, Wade said.

One of the assailants was described as a black man, about 6 feet tall with a barbed-wire tattoo on his right arm. The other man, who Wade said was not involved in the sexual assault, was de-

scribed as a bald Hispanic man with a goatee. Wade said that when drivers are pulled over, they should make sure the police vehicle is marked and that the officer displays a badge.

"If you're alone at night and have reservations about stopping in a dark area or you're not sure it's a real peace officer, signal that you see the officer behind you and slowly drive to a well-lit, populated area," Wade said.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Detective Chris Rowland at 854-3245 or CrimeStoppers at 472-8477.

pgeorge@statesman.com; 445-3851