

Veteran killed in shoot out 'freaked out' after war

By The Associated Press

AURORA, Ind. — A 30-year-old veteran killed in a gun battle with police after firebombing a store and shooting three officers was an "extremely disturbed" man who was changed by his service in Vietnam, his father says. Michael J. Tandy, 30, who died Sunday, was "a different person" and would "change personalities" after returning from Vietnam, said his father, Joe.

He said his son never spoke about his time as a Marine in Vietnam.

"But when you live with someone all their life, you know when there's something wrong," he said. "He was extremely disturbed."

The war "freaked him out. I was scared of that guy," said Donna Goodpaster, whose parents' business was destroyed in the firebombing. She said that when Tandy returned from Vietnam he talked of soldiers cutting off people's ears and "putting them on necklaces."

Police said young Tandy sometimes wore a robe and told people he was Moses.

"He had many friends and didn't get into trouble" during his high school years, the elder Tandy said. "But when he came back from Vietnam, he didn't want anything to do with anybody."

Early Sunday, Tandy, wearing military camouflage fatigues, tried unsuccessfully to firebomb the police station in this town of about 3,000. He then fired a 12-gauge shotgun at dispatcher Julie Svava, who was slightly injured, police said.

Tandy fled and firebombed an upholstery shop, destroying it and damaging a card shop next door, police said.

While firemen battled the fire, he "just ran around, firing anywhere," said Police Chief Gary L. Watts. "He had a rifle and some Molotov cocktails in his parked truck, like he was on a military mission."

During an exchange of shots between Tandy and sheriff's deputies between Tandy and sheriff's deputies and officers from Aurora and two other towns, sheriff's Lt. Thomas Bauer and town Patrolman Tom Cochran were wounded. Cochran then shot and killed Tandy, police said.

"We determined there were 26 shots fired from Tandy and a total of 12 handgun rounds and four shotgun rounds returned from police," state police Sgt. Lyman P. Conley said Monday.

Bauer was listed in fair condition yesterday in intensive care at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. Cochran was treated there in 1975.

Joe Tandy said the family had tried to get help for his son through the Veterans Administration but the VA "didn't seem too concerned."

Kitty Hess, a spokeswoman for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Cincinnati, said yesterday that Tandy was treated there in 1975.

"He was here for two months . . . but we don't have any record of him or his family applying for help here in the last eight years," she said.

Tom Harris, of the Indianapolis Veterans Center, said

he believes Tandy, who recently returned to Aurora from an oil rig job in Louisiana, may have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, also known as delayed stress syndrome.

"When veterans are under certain kinds of stress, they revert back to a combat situation," he said.

Conley said Tandy had been "on the brink" and that police had watched him for years but never made an arrest.

"He had kind of a pattern," he said. "He'd come into town, become involved in a minor disturbance, leave the area and then return again."

"We all realized sooner or later we were going to have a problem with him. He told more than one person he was Moses and had a deep infatuation with religion. He was seen walking around with a robe, carrying a staff."

Goodpaster said Tandy would "go down to the Ohio River and try to baptize people. He did baptize people. He was eerie. He always shaved his head and wore a beard. He was always . . . in Army clothes."

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- Barge
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- Peignoir
- Guido's note
- Australian bird
- Facile
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- A Tracy
- Holly
- Song sung in World War I
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- Intent

Minneapolis airline faces bad publicity over accidents

By JOHN LUNDQUIST
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — These are turbulent times for Republic Airlines, the Minneapolis-based airline plagued by several well-publicized accidents and a loss of more than \$100 million since Jan. 1.

But President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel F. May said the incidents, which began in April, have been exaggerated, and that getting the airline back into the black is his major concern.

"With the unfavorable and inaccurate publicity we have received recently, some consumer confidence was lost," May reported to Republic's 14,700 employees in a letter earlier this month.

"I think we have been snake bit," he said later in an interview. "When you have an incident or two, anything that happens is blown out of proportion."

The latest occurred Aug. 7 at Las Vegas, Nev., when tread from a re-capped tire flew off a Republic DC-9, tore a hole in a wing flap and was sucked into the right engine.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said heat from the runway may have caused the tire cap to tear loose. The case is still under investigation.

In other incidents: A DC-9 flying from Minneapolis to Los Angeles in April lost power over Utah and dropped to a few thousand feet before landing at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nev.

In May, another DC-9 made an emergency landing at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Ariz., after its base near Phoenix, Ariz., after its captain was dismissed a week after the incident and the co-pilot was suspended for six months.

A takeoff at McCarran was aborted in June when an engine caught fire and passengers slid down an emergency chute.

Last month, an airliner failed to generate enough power on takeoff but landed safely at San Diego.

"There are in excess of 80,000 flights a day by U.S. airlines," said Mort Edlstein, FAA regional public affairs officer in Chicago. "I would have to think these occur with all airlines and that the media has blown (the Republic incidents) way out of proportion."

Other airlines haven't been in-

emergency landing at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Ariz., after its base near Phoenix, Ariz., after its captain was dismissed a week after the incident and the co-pilot was suspended for six months.

Federal investigators are trying to determine whether the computers that help operate the new aircraft contributed to the overheating.

And in May, rubber seals were left out of plugs of the three engines of an Eastern Airlines L-1011, causing the engines to fail on a flight from Miami to the Bahamas. The pilot restarted one engine and returned to Miami.

Fred Jesperson, principal FAA operations inspector assigned to Republic, said the airline's performance is "not out of line with what's happening with other carriers. I'm convinced Republic is a good airline. The

media has been jumping on every incident doesn't seem to be right."

Redmond Tyler, a Republic spokesman, said the publicity hurt business. He said the airline had 46,763 seat reservations by phone the first week of August, but that number slipped to 43,538 the following week. Normally, they'd be about the same, he said.

Republic has accused employees of Northwest Orient, another airline based in Minneapolis, of spreading rumors that Republic was headed for bankruptcy.

May told the St. Paul Pioneer-Press in an interview that "it's not abnormal for an aggressive sales staff to do things without executive approval."

Still, analysts are skeptical, and Mike Garbisch of Dain Bosworth Inc. says "there's no guarantee you can save the company even with employee concessions."

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