

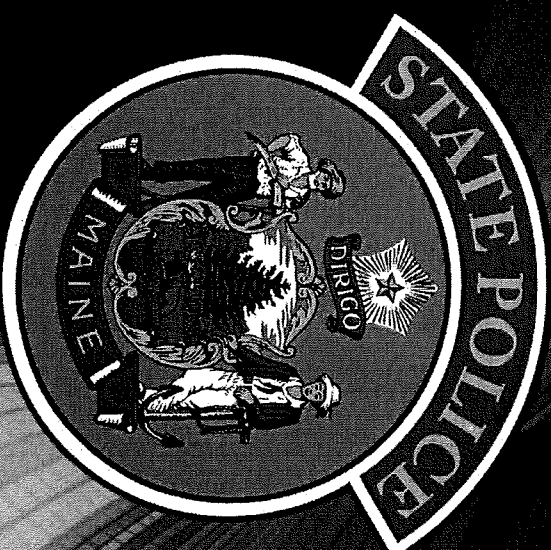


Maine State Police Major Crime Unit North

LEWISTON18 TRAGEDY, CASE 235056156

Lieutenant Darrin Crane

Detective Sergeant Greg Mitchell



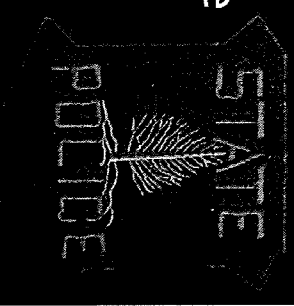
Helpful Definitions

Family Assistance Center (FAC):

Emergency management practice where secured facilities are established 24-48 hours after a major incident to provide crisis intervention, psychological first aid, needs assessments, child forensic interviews, personal effects return, and community service referrals to victims, to include the deceased next of kin families, injured, and present but not injured.

FAC serves as a “one-stop shop” of services for affected populations. Depending on the incident, different agencies may be responsible for FAC activation, while the FBI and American Red Cross (ARC) often supports the lead agency (MSP for this incident). Law enforcement investigations, including interviews and evidence collection, may be ongoing at a FAC.

FAC are a continuation of initial victim services started with the initial response.



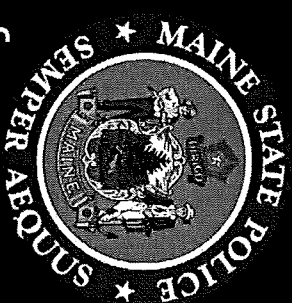
Helpful Definitions

Maine Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME):

A statewide medical system, that is charged with the investigation of sudden, unexpected, and violent deaths.

FBI Victim Services Response Team (FBI-VSRT):

A rapid deployment team comprised of victim specialists who work directly with FBI Special Agents and serve as the critical link to ensure that victims of crimes are connected to necessary critical support, services, and resources while supporting the lead agency (MSP for this incident).



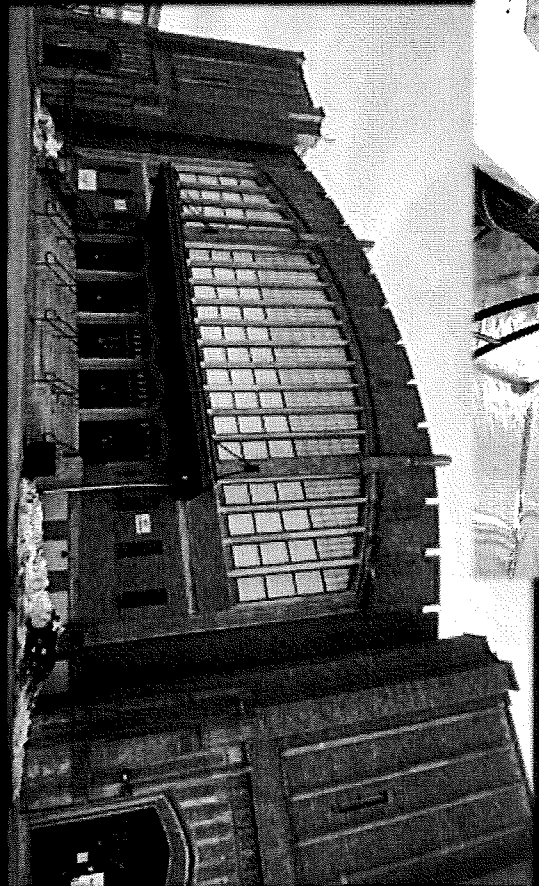
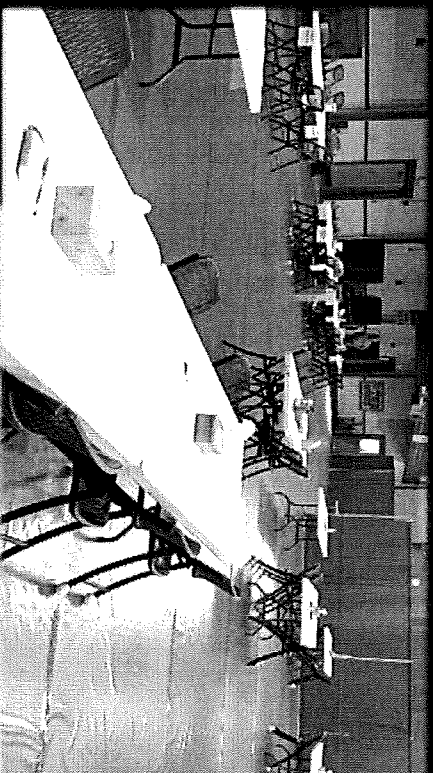
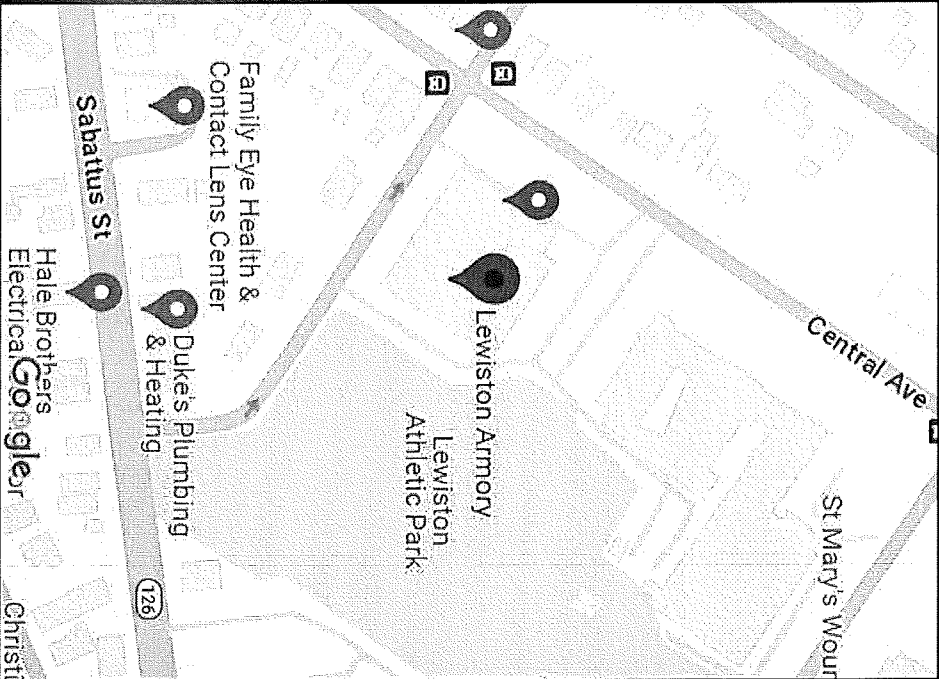
Assignment to Family Assistance Center (FAC)

- October 27, 2023 Det. Sgt. Mitchell was notified by Lt. Darrin Crane that he and three members of his detective team had redirected from the Central Maine Medical Center to the Lewiston Armory located at 65 Central Avenue in Lewiston.
- Det. Sgt. Mitchell was assigned as the Director of Victim Services for the Maine State Police. Lt. Crane was assigned as the Officer in Charge (OIC) providing support.
- Det. Sgt. Mitchell was directed to help organize several different stakeholders who were tasked with forming a Family Assistance Center (FAC) in response to the Lewiston mass shooting incident.

Primary Objective: Ensure effective communication between agencies responsible for the activities of the FAC by identifying partner needs, coordinating / managing resources, and ensuring task completion as part of the existing Maine State Police Incident Command System (ICS). Also, to coordinate the ongoing MCU investigations at the FAC, including field interviews with victims / witnesses and collecting evidence needed.

FAC Location: Lewiston Armory

65 Central Avenue, Lewiston



FAC Partners



- Maine State Police
- Maine Attorney General
- Red Cross
- FBI Victim Services
- Androscoggin County District Attorney
- City of Lewiston
- Various other stakeholders & Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

Summary of FAC Services Provided

- Needs assessments for identified victims (i.e. injured, deceased next of kin, present but not injured, business, secondary family, friends, and others. All others who desired mental health assistance were referred to the Ramada Inn in Lewiston)
- Introductions / connection with Victim Witness Advocates
- Provide vetted, factual information related to incident
- Crisis intervention / psychological first aid with mental health professionals
- Child forensic interviews for child victims / witnesses
- Personal effects information, identification and returns
- Community services referrals
- Further law enforcement investigation in form of interviews with victims / witnesses

FAC Key Facts

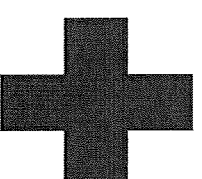
- After four days, on October 30, 2023, Det. Sgt. Greg Mitchell, Lt. Darrin Crane, Det. Chris Foxworthy, and Det. Larry Anderson were relieved of their FAC duties They were relieved by Det. Sgt. Jason Andrews and Lt. Christopher Tremblay of MCU-Central.
- FAC remained open to the public providing services for a total of six days (Oct. 28 until Nov. 2) during normal daytime hours.



OPEN

American Red Cross

- The Red Cross and their teammates provided Mass Care & Individual Disaster Care services to community partners and 155 clients at the FAC.
- Red Cross deployed a 109 person workforce to Lewiston, many in support of the FAC.

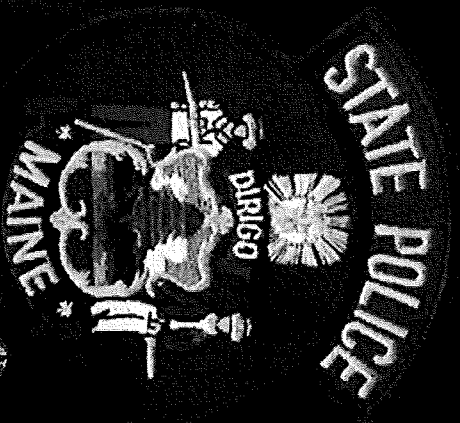


**American
Red Cross**

- Maine State Police MCU-North conducted seven interviews with witnesses and victims at the FAC. This included several members of the deaf community with assistance from FAC deaf interpreters.

- FBI Victim Services Response Team (FBI- VSRT) provided or facilitated services to 214 victims (injured, deceased next of kin, present not injured, business, secondary - family, friend, and others).





- FBI VSRT collected 475 total items of non-evidentiary personal effects (PE) from the Maine State Police and the Maine Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta, Maine.
- 462 total items of PE were cataloged, cleaned, and returned / released.
- 13 total items were destroyed per request.

FAC Lessons Learned

- Stakeholders faced challenges due to simply not knowing other stakeholders, but quickly defined clear roles and responsibilities leading to a smooth overall operation.
- Stakeholders faced the challenge of opening the FAC during the disaster response phase (prior to locating the suspect the evening of 10-27-23) which raised concerns for public safety. However, once the recovery phases began (after the suspect was located), the FAC opened to the public the following morning.
- The FAC location (Armory) had previously been used as a family reunification center during the night of the incident. Having witness / victims return to that location caused some stress on some of those same people returning for services.

Closure of the FAC

- On Nov. 1, 2023, community partners developed a tentative plan to open a Community Resilience Center (CRC) at the Peck Building at 184 Main Street, Lewiston, Maine on Nov, 13, 2023.
- The CRC was to be managed by Lewiston-based non-profit Community Concepts, the Community Action Agency serving Androscoggin County. The CRC will provide supportive services for victims, survivors, first responders, and families impacted by the mass violence.

