



Houston Police Department

CHIEF HURTT – NASA MURDER-SUICIDE – APRIL 20, 2007

- *Yesterday*, a troubled, lonely contract employee for NASA took the life of a NASA civil servant, held another colleague hostage, before taking his own life.
- *Today*, we gather together as a community to learn how this incident unfolded.
- *In the days to come*, we hope that the facts gathered as part of our investigation will lead all of us toward a better understanding of why these types of events occur and how future tragedies can be prevented.
- As we outline yesterday's tragic events, two things will become immediately apparent:
 - First, this unprecedented act of violence at the Johnson Space Center was quickly and efficiently contain and controlled by NASA security forces and law enforcement personnel. Coordination, cooperation, and teamwork kept the incident contained without greater loss of life to other employees.
 - Second, and more importantly, we saw two ordinary people confronted with a nightmare situation respond in a heroic fashion.
 - Mr. David Beverly and Ms. Fran Crenshaw are the names to remember and celebrate as testaments to grace under fire.
- At present we have determined that Mr. Beverly was a career NASA civil servant in charge of quality assurance issues. He had reported job performance deficiencies associated with the suspect.



- On March 16, 2007, an email was created and sent to the suspect describing his performance deficiencies and set out a plan to address these job issues.
- The suspect printed out the email on March 18, 2007. That same day, the suspect purchased a 5-shot, Smith & Wesson revolver and 20 rounds of hollow-point ammunition.
- On April 20, 2007, the suspect reported to work as usual. The suspect was considered an *odd man*, but on this day at least one co-worker noted that the suspect seemed “more odd than usual.”
- At approximately 1:30p.m., the suspect entered the office suite housing Mr. Beverly and Ms. Crenshaw with the gun purchased in March in his left hand.
- The suspect blamed Mr. Beverly for being responsible for his negative job performance situation.
- Ms. Crenshaw reported that Mr. Beverly spoke in a calm, soothing manner, offering a number of options for job improvement, including a transfer. The two talked for several minutes before the suspect raised his weapon and shot Mr. Beverly two times.
 - Once in the leg and again in the chest.
- The suspect exited the office suite for a few seconds allowing Mr. Beverly to move to protect himself and Ms. Crenshaw.
- Despite being critically wounded, Mr. Beverly attempted to block the suspect from re-entering the office by pushing his desk against the door.
- Unfortunately, the suspect was able to take advantage of Mr. Beverly’s weakened state and force his way back into the office again firing at Mr. Beverly, shooting this heroic man again.



- Mr. Beverly fell, mortally wounded.
- The suspect then barred the door to the office suite, taking Ms. Crenshaw as a hostage.
- Ms. Crenshaw was taken to the far corner office, bound by her wrists and arms with duct tape.
- Ms. Crenshaw remained a captive until the suspect took his own life.
- During her captivity, Ms. Crenshaw was able to talk with the suspect. She maintained her composure throughout the ordeal.
- Once freed, Ms. Crenshaw was shaken, but composed herself quickly. My officers were impressed by the fact that Ms. Crenshaw was able to comfort her daughter over the phone within minutes of her release.
- Ms. Crenshaw was evaluated at a local hospital and agreed to meet with investigators within hours of the incident. She found the strength and resolve to provide investigators with the critical information needed to bring us to where we are today.
- The message that I hope comes from this horrific incident is one of courage. NASA has a long tradition of courage, ingenuity, and strength. That strength by two NASA employees was demonstrated yesterday.
- The team work philosophy at work everyday in the space program was also evident. HPD combined with the Johnson Space Center Security, the FBI, Precinct 8 Deputy Constable Sandlin, and ATF agents all contributed to the containment and rescue of Ms. Crenshaw.
- If we have learned one thing at this point, it is that heroes don't just fly in space. Sometimes heroes work in the next cubical.



- Now, I will ask Assistant Chief Vicki King to discuss the containment issues and Lieutenant Larry Baimbridge to provide a detailed timeline of events.