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'Like the OK Corral'

Bank robbery suspect shot dead by off-duty cop

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Article Text:

A man who robbed a Union City bank Tuesday morning was shot and killed by an off-duty police officer moments later during a gunbattle, authorities said.

The man, said to be in his early 20s, collapsed after being shot by a Fulton County officer about 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot of a shopping center at 4650 Jonesboro Road.

County medical examiners have identified the man but withheld his name until his relatives, who live out of state, were notified.

"People were saying it was like the OK Corral here," said Union City Police Chief Mike Isome.

Police arrested a suspected accomplice about two hours later at a bus stop a few blocks from the bank.

The FBI, which is investigating the robbery, said Eric Dewan Green, 26, of Panama City, Fla., was to be the getaway driver. He will be charged with participating in an armed bank robbery resulting in a fatality at a hearing today before a U.S. magistrate, said Special Agent Joe Parris. The vehicle, rented several days ago in Panama City, was found at a motel near the bank, Parris said.

A man entered RBC Centura Bank and jumped on the counter, brandishing a handgun and demanding money, authorities say.

He held a gun on the uniformed officer and ordered him to the floor, Parris said. The unidentified officer, who was off duty and stopped at the bank en route to a court appearance, complied so as not to "endanger those inside the crowded bank."

The man left the bank with an undisclosed amount of money. The officer followed, and the two shot at each other, authorities said.

"We've had some witnesses say the guy was firing over his shoulder as he ran," Isome said.

"There were upwards of 10 shots fired."

The suspect was hit roughly 50 feet from a Wal-Mart entrance. The bag of money and gun, which Isome said appeared to be a .380-caliber semiautomatic pistol, lay next to him.

Police found single bullet holes, apparently from stray shots, in two customers' cars in the parking lot, but no one else was hurt.

Caption:

Photo: Georgia State Patrol Officer B. Knight and Union City police Officer M. Mustic help search the Jonesboro Road exit of I-85 for suspects. / JOHN SPINK / Staff

Photo: Union City police arrest a man they believe was to be the getaway driver in Tuesday's bank robbery on Jonesboro Road. The man was arrested in front of Hollywood Video, on a day

filled with cinema-like derring-do. / JOHN SPINK / Staff
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