Press Release

Arrests made in homicide case.

Three suspects arrested for the murder of JBLM soldier.

Lakewood, WA. October 7, 2013:

On October 6th, at approximately 3:40PM, Lakewood Detectives were contacted by a military sergeant who told them he had information on the stabbing death that had occurred early Saturday morning. The sergeant told us that another soldier had come forward with very good information on who may have been responsible for the stabbing death of JBLM Soldier Tevin Geike.

The soldier had told his sergeant that another soldier in his unit, Jeremiah Hill, had asked for first aid for a knife wound on his right hand on Saturday afternoon. The soldier stated that Hill told him he cut his hand when he stabbed a guy to death over the weekend. The soldier didn’t believe him initially, but told his sergeant about what happened. The sergeant confronted Hill about this information, but Hill said he cut it while chopping vegetables. The soldier ended up taking Hill to Madigan Hospital for treatment, where Hill told hospital staff he cut his hand cutting parachute cord.

Information is then obtained on another person involved in the crime and he is brought in for an interview. The 21 year old soldier is cooperative and admits that he was at the scene. He tells detectives that he was in a vehicle with four of his friends driving on Pacific Highway when words are exchanged between the males walking on the street and his friends in the car. He said they stopped to talk to the victims, but nothing happened once they discovered they were all active duty soldiers. As the suspects were walking back to their car, Hill appeared to “bear hug” the victim and pushed him to the ground. The soldier told us that Hill was covered in blood when he got into the car and they discovered he had stabbed the victim and cut himself. They fled the scene and disposed of the knife. Another cooperative suspect (19 year old) is brought in as well and he corroborates the accounts given up to that point.
Detectives then attempt to interview Hill, but he does not make a statement and asks for a lawyer. The other 3 suspects are brought in for interviews and they give statements. The suspect vehicle is located and seized by detectives. Barracks rooms are searched and multiple items of evidence are located. Three suspects are arrested and booked for Murder. Jeremiah Hill (23 year old), Cedarium Johnson (21 year old) and Ajoni Runnion-Bareford (21 year old) were booked into the Pierce County Jail this morning.

It appears from interviewing everyone involved that race was not a motivating factor in this homicide. The main suspect, Jeremiah Hill, did not make a statement; so it’s unknown exactly why he did this.

The five suspects are all active duty JBLM soldiers assigned to a combat infantry unit. The victim was an active duty JBLM soldier assigned to a combat aviation unit.

This case will be presented to the Pierce County Prosecutor for charging.

Please contact Lt. Chris Lawler for additional information.

Lt. Lawler can be contacted at the numbers listed below for more information;

- Office 253.830.5011
- Cellular 253.606.6981
- Fax 253.830.5069
- clawler@cityoflakewood.us