Shootout replay staged on Broad Street

By Shankar Vedantam INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Under a circling helicopter, with video cameras rolling, the FBI yesterday staged a re-enactment of Wednesday's Broad Street shootout. Three cars pretending to be the original FBI cars tailed a fourth to the cordoned-off intersection where the shooting occurred while the streets filled with bystanders who crowded in to watch the reproduction. The Wednesday shootout at Broad Street and Hunting Park Avenue left one man dead and four wounded.

James Welch, an FBI special agent, said the re-enactment was standard bureau procedure.

Since the shootout, two eyewitnesses have disputed the FBI's version of what happened, saying federal agents belonging to a special anti-drug task force had fired first. The witnesses, one who refused to be named and another who is a friend of the family of one of the suspects, said the agents did not identify themselves properly and fired without provocation.

The agency has said that its agents did identify themselves and that the suspects in the car fired first.

Jermaine Lipscomb, 23, was killed in the shootout. Melvin Williams, 19, and Termaine Jackson, 20, were wounded. Williams has since been released from the hospital and is in police custody. The two have been charged with assaulting federal agents, weapons possession and resisting arrest. Wayne Caldwell, the fourth man in the car and the driver, was not wounded and has not been charged by the FBI. FBI agents Richard Macko and Timothy Turck were still in Temple University Hospital yesterday. Macko, who was shot in the chin, was in stable but guarded condition. Turck, who was shot in the wrist, was in good, stable condition.

In a separate development, a law enforcement source said that the shootout erupted after the FBI was tipped off that the suspects' car was on its way to rob a drug dealer in the area of Fifth Street and Wyoming Avenue.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the source also added Lipscomb had opened fire on the agents, shooting through the rear window of the black Hyundai the four youths were traveling in.

Welch said an internal review board would study the re-enactment.

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