

Video shows drug-sting shootings

FBI tape played in court at hearing on request to revoke man's parole.

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A hidden camera captured federal agents fatally shooting a Kansas City man in a Northland motel room last month, just moments after the man tried to kill a federal informant.

The dramatic video was played in a federal courtroom Wednesday at a parole revocation hearing for Nicholas LanFranca, 27, who was in a car outside the motel room during the shooting.

The testimony and tape were the first insights into how a federal drug sting exploded in a flurry of bullets.

Most of the testimony concerned Joseph S. Riley, who apparently was intent on pulling a large-scale drug ripoff. Riley had arranged to purchase 11 pounds of cocaine

from a federal informant on Jan. 30. The FBI set up the informant with the drugs in a room at Motel 6, 8230 N.W. Prairie View Road.

Riley had met the informant about a year earlier and had asked the informant whether he knew where Riley could get some cocaine, FBI Special Agent Doug Fencil testified Wednesday.

The informant told Riley he was bringing cocaine from Chicago, and Riley agreed to pay \$76,000. The FBI rented two rooms at Motel 6, one for the informant and another next door, where agents could watch the proceedings on a video monitor.

Fencil testified the FBI watched Riley pick up Michael Albanese and tracked the two men as they drove around the city, sometimes calling the informant.

Albanese was indicted Thursday in Platte County on one count of second-degree murder. He is being held in the Platte County jail on \$500,000 bond.

Late in the afternoon, Riley and

Albanese picked up LanFranca at his home. LanFranca is on parole after serving more than two years on a federal drug sentence. Prosecutors want LanFranca's parole revoked, and they want a judge to sentence LanFranca to as many as three years in prison.

LanFranca testified in his own behalf Wednesday. He said that after Riley and Albanese arrived at his house they left in Riley's car.

At Independence Avenue and Benton Boulevard, Riley pulled into a convenience store and used a pay phone. LanFranca said he didn't know who Riley called or why. Riley called the informant, FBI tapes showed.

Riley told LanFranca and Albanese he "needed to go up north" but never specified why or who Riley was to meet, LanFranca said.

After stopping at a restaurant for some take-out food, Riley drove to Motel 6. LanFranca insisted he had no idea what Riley was doing, and he and Albanese waited in the car silently.

The videotape shows Riley, carrying a bag from the restaurant, entering the room and shaking the informant's hand. Almost immediately, Riley draws a pistol from his waistband and shoots the informant in the chest at close range.

The informant falls to the floor and begins screaming for an FBI agent in the next room. As the informant puts his feet in the air to block Riley, Riley fires again, missing the informant.

Riley, who is wearing gloves, struggles to pull the trigger again. As he starts pulling the gloves off, the door to the adjacent room opens.

"Freeze!" someone yells.

Riley is shot four times and slumps to the floor, mortally wounded.

The videotape does not show who shot Riley.

The informant was treated at a hospital and released the same day.

U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs did not rule on whether to revoke LanFranca's parole.

