

en route: on the way; along the way

Chap 4, Ex 3: Miami Officer Slain

You are a copy editor for the Pensacola (Fla.) Examiner. Using the AP Stylebook as a guide, edit the following news article, written by a stringer, for style, spelling, grammar, logic, syntax and factual errors. Also correct any awkward writing. Include comments about any information in the story that is incomplete or illogical.

MIAMI, ~~Fla.~~ – An undercover narcotics detective was slain Wednesday afternoon while buying cocaine when someone opened fire on the officer, police said.

He was the second officer killed in the line of duty this year. [\[where? Miami?\]](#)

The detective, Felix Mendez, 27, a father of two children, died en route to Miami General Hospital. [\[check which Miami Gen Hospt\]](#)

Police Chief John Wilson, speaking at a press conference after the ~~murder~~[shooting](#), said Mendez had met three men in an alley behind New York Deli restaurant on 22nd ~~St.~~[Street](#) between First ~~Ave.~~ and Second ~~Ave.~~[avenues](#) shortly before 3 p.m. Wilson said ~~that~~ Mendez was completing a previously arranged deal to buy 10 pounds of cocaine when he told the suspects he had to go back to his car to get the money. The detective was actually calling for ~~back-up~~[backup](#) to make the arrest, Wilson said.

When he returned to the ~~ally~~[alley](#), he was shot.

“I don’t know if they realized he was a cop or if they planned to rip him off and kill him from the start,” ~~said~~ Wilson [said](#).

~~Mendiz~~ [Mendez \[confirm spelling\]](#) wasn’t wearing a bulletproof vest because a jacket would have aroused suspicion due to the warm ~~temperatures~~[weather](#), the chief said.

“There’s always a risk,” ~~he said,~~ “[_](#)with undercover work,” [he said](#). “We never can tell when something is going to blow up on us.”

The detective was struck once in the right side of his chest. One of the nearby ~~back-up~~backup officers, who ~~was~~were at each end of the alley, immediately ran into the alley and opened fire at three men standing over Mendez; one of the men was shot in the leg.

All three ~~killers~~suspects were apprehended. Wilson said he will ask the ~~DA~~district attorney to charge them with murder and with possession of cocaine for sale ~~and for murder~~.

Joseph Marley, whose diner is on 22nd ~~St.~~Street at the north end of the ~~alley~~alley, said he heard at least five shots and then saw five men in ~~windbreakers~~nylon jackets with "POLICE" printed on the backs running into the alley with guns in their hands.

A few minutes later he said black-and-white police cars raced to the ~~seen~~scene, followed soon afterward by an ambulance. He said the ambulance soon ~~drove~~sped away, its siren screaming. Moments later police brought three handcuffed men out of the alley and put them into a squad car; one of men was limping badly.

~~Chief~~ Wilson said the Wednesday operation was part of an ~~on-going~~ongoing drug- and ~~gun~~gun-sales investigation in the city. He said ~~mendez~~Mendez had met with the ~~drug dealers~~suspects earlier in the week and had arranged to complete the buy Wednesday afternoon.

Marley said the neighborhood around the alley has a reputation for being a ~~hang-out~~hangout for ~~coke~~cocaine dealers.