

Press Conference Photographs

Finding Brittany: How Training and Experience Influenced the Search for an Abducted Child



Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Two press conferences are held that day. At noon, Roanoke Co. Police Chief Ray Lavinder talked about the importance of finding Brittany and Jeff Easley. At a later press briefing, Easley's mother, Sallie Martin, made a tearful plea for her son to release Brittany and turn himself in.

That evening a candlelight vigil is organized at Brittany's school.

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Three press conferences are organized that day to provide the media with updates. An abduction warrant has now been obtained for Easley and Chief Lavinder expresses his thank to Brittany's family for their cooperation. All messages are carefully worded to avoid angering Easley for fear he would retaliate against Brittany. At the final press conference, members of Brittany's father's family expressed how much they loved Brittany and wanted her home in time for Christmas.

Thursday, December 9, 2010

With limited information to release, only one press conference is held that day. Chief Lavinder admits to reporters that police are growing more concerned for the young girl's safety. During the briefing, the media also hear from Tina Smith's family who appeal to Easley to let Brittany come home in time to bury her mother.

Friday, December 10, 2010

At an afternoon briefing, Chief Lavinder and a representative from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children appear before the cameras. Electronic billboards are running in multiple states. At 6:30 p.m., Roanoke Co. announced via email and social media that Brittany was found safe. At an 8:00 p.m. press conference, Chief Lavinder expressed his appreciation to the woman in California who recognized Brittany from a CNN news story and alerted authorities.

