NBC hurries first movie account of doomed cult

By Dan Rice

NBC sitts through the dust of disaster in the final week of the May sweeps with three docudramas drawn from top news stories. Of the three — In the Line of Duty:
Ambush in Waco, Hurricane Andrew and Terror in the Towers — the first, airing Sunday, May 23, may be the most controversial in that production began weeks before David Koresh and his Branch

Davidians met their flery end.
Executive producer Kenneth
Kaufman says the movie a story line
"will not go very far into the
standoff. The single thread in all the
In the Line of Duty movies has
been the story of the law
enforcement officers killed in the
line of duty, Our movie will cover
events surrounding the assault and
the four agents who tragically lost
their lives."

Timothy Daly, known to TV

audiences as happy-go-lucky pilot Joe Hackett in the NBC sitcom Wings, takes on a much darker role as cult leader David Koresh. Daly, who was still shooting scenes for the movie in Tulsa, Okla, at the time of the cult's demise in a puzzling inferno, says the news was disheariening.

"It's made me very, very sad, about the whole situation, really," Daly says. "I think it's really tragic that it had this kind of end. Hindsight is always 20/20, and I guess a lot of people thought that it might end this way, but I was one of the people who held out hope that it could be resolved in a peaceful way and that these people would come out allve."

Dan Lauria (The Wonder Years) plays a federal agent in the film, which was produced and directed by Dick Lowry (In the Line of Duty: Street War). Daly, whose other credits include the feature film Diner and the miniseries Queen, found the role of Koresh multi-dimensional.

Koresh multi-dimensional.

"This guy's a fascinating character," Daly says. "I was reading about all the horrendous things this guy did, on and on and on about these terrible things, but on the other hand I would see these (cult members) on television and they seemed so normal to me. They seemed intelligent and well-spoken and they didn't seem like glazed-eyed automatons or anything, and I started thinking, 'How did these people get involved with this to begin with?' And I kept seeing this word 'charismatic,' everyone kept calling him 'charismatic,' and I thought, 'What does that mean?' So my exploration of the character really has been to try to find out

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