



NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | June 13, 2016

Orlando: Shooter Likely a Lone Offender, Inspired but Not Directed by ISIS

In the early stages of the investigation, it appears that the gunman who shot and killed 50 people and wounded about 53 others in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, (see photo) on June 12 was a lone offender who was inspired—but not directed—by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The attack comes three weeks after an audio message from ISIS spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani encouraged supporters in the United States and Europe to conduct attacks during the holy month of Ramadan, which began in early June. During the incident, the shooter, Omar Mateen, age 29, of Fort Pierce, Florida, called 911 and declared his allegiance to the leader of ISIS, according to law enforcement officials. Mateen was shot and killed by police officers when they stormed the building and freed 30 hostages.



The FBI stated that Mateen was investigated and interviewed twice in 2013 after he allegedly made inflammatory comments to coworkers about possible terrorist ties. The evidence was inconclusive, and the investigation was closed. In 2014, Mateen was investigated for possible ties to Moner Abu-Salha, a Florida resident who became a suicide bomber for the Nusra Front, al-Qa'ida's affiliate in Syria. Investigators concluded that the contact was minimal and did not constitute a threat.

This incident is the worst mass shooting ever in the United States—eclipsing the shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007, in which 32 people were killed and 30 wounded—and the most deadly terrorist attack on US soil since September 11, 2001.

Outdoor Events: Armed Man Arrested Near Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade

On June 12, police in Santa Monica, California, arrested a heavily armed man who said he was on his way to a gay pride parade in the Los Angeles area. There is no apparent connection between this incident and the shootings at the gay nightclub in Orlando. Police responding to reports of a prowler at about 5:00 a.m. found three assault rifles, high-capacity magazines and ammunition, and chemicals that could have been used to make an explosive device in a car belonging to James Howell, age 20, of Indiana. Howell, who remains in custody, said he drove from Indiana to California to attend the gay pride event. His intentions after he arrived at the parade remain under investigation. In response to this incident and the shootings at the gay nightclub in Orlando, security was increased for numerous gay pride events nationwide this past weekend.

Sporting Events: Lessons Learned From the London Olympics in 2012

In an article published last week by the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point, Richard Walton, the former head of the Counter Terrorism Command at the London Metropolitan Police, applies the British experience with the Olympics in 2012 (see photo) to provide lessons for security at the European championship soccer tournament, currently in progress in France, and the Olympics in Brazil, which begin in August, as well as other large sporting events. A lesson from the London Olympics was that security was best achieved by gathering good intelligence, then analyzing and acting on it quickly, supplemented by both a visible and invisible police presence on the ground. Combining technical surveillance systems with covert intelligence reduces the need for an overly visible armed police presence on the ground. The result is that the public is actually less fearful but better protected.



The article is available online at: <https://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/protecting-euro-2016-and-the-rio-olympics-lessons-learned-from-london-2012>

Contact Information

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