



# NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | August 8, 2016

## **Homegrown Violent Extremists: First Police Officer Arrested on Federal Terror Charges**

An FBI spokesman confirmed last week that Nicholas Young, age 36, of Fairfax, Virginia (see photo), is the first law enforcement officer to be charged under federal terrorism laws. Young, a patrol officer for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Police Department, was arrested on August 3 and charged with attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). In a statement, the Metro general manager said the investigation began with concerns that were reported by the Metro Transit Police Department. Young was apparently under surveillance for nearly six years, and Metro officials say there was never any danger to the general public.



According to the criminal complaint, Young was arrested after he provided codes for gift cards that he thought would be used by ISIS for communication. He sent the codes to an e-mail account that he believed was associated with an ISIS operative in Syria. Young previously had about 20 meetings in the United States with this purported ISIS operative, who was actually an FBI confidential human source. According to the criminal complaint, Young earlier had been in contact with Zachary Chesser, who was arrested in July 2010 for attempting to provide material support to al-Shabaab, and Amine El Khalifi, who was arrested in February 2012 for attempting to detonate a bomb in the US Capitol building. In interviews with the FBI, Young stated that he traveled to Libya twice in 2011 and was with rebels attempting to overthrow the Qadhafi regime.

**This item was produced jointly by NJOHSP and the NJ Transit Police Department.**

## **Orlando: Article Criticizes Police Response as Too Slow; Police Chief Defends Response**

An article published last week in the *Washington Post*, citing interviews with law enforcement officials, victims, and witnesses, is critical of the police response to the attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, saying that the decision not to follow shooter Omar Mateen into a bathroom allowed the attack to turn into a three-hour hostage standoff. Because the shooter was not stopped sooner, wounded victims remained trapped inside the bathrooms for hours, pleading for police to rescue them. During the final standoff, police initially failed to breach the wall of the club, likely alerting the shooter that they were coming into the building in force, and allowing him to shoot additional victims.



In an interview, Orlando Police Chief John Mina defended the actions of the officers inside the club and explained the reasoning for not ending the attack sooner. He said that because Mateen had stopped shooting and had hostages after he entered the bathroom, police did not follow him in. "He went from an active shooter to a barricaded gunman," said Chief Mina, noting that if Mateen had continued shooting, the officers would have gone in and engaged him.

It was only on the third attempt that officers were able to blow a hole into the wall of one of the bathrooms (see photo) and survivors began coming out. Chief Mina said 15 hostages escaped from one of the bathrooms, and three to five from the other. Mateen also came out of one of the holes and began firing at a SWAT team, which returned fire and killed him.

## **Belgium Update: ISIS Claims Responsibility for Machete Attack**

ISIS has claimed responsibility for a machete attack in Charleroi, Belgium, on August 6 that seriously wounded two female police officers. The group's Twitter message called the attack an act of reprisal by one of its "soldiers"—a term indicating that the attack may have been inspired, but not directed by ISIS. Belgian prosecutors identified the attacker, who was shot by a third police officer and later died, as "K. B.," a 33-year-old Algerian who had lived in Belgium since 2012. He was known to police for criminal offenses, but not for terrorist-related activity.

## **Contact Information**

Any agency with information or comments/questions on this or other analytical products, please contact the NJOHSP Analysis Bureau at [analysis@njohsp.gov](mailto:analysis@njohsp.gov) or 609-584-4000.

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