



	International	National	Regional and Local
Events, Opportunities Go to articles	10/03 Rebels attack India military Kashmir camp 10/02 Catalonia to press ahead independence 10/02 Palestinian reconciliation push in Gaza 10/02 UK leases planes for stranded travelers 10/02 NKorea: end US-SKorea defense treaty 10/02 US: Russia war games broke rules 10/02 World's nuclear weapons capacity 10/02 Canada defends refugee vetting	10/03 Lots of guns, many more questions 10/03 Trauma surgeon Las Vegas shooting 10/03 Vegas casino scans guests before entry 10/03 AAA: US gas prices anything but normal 10/02 Puerto Rico continues to struggle 10/02 Unfolding deadliest US mass shooting 10/02 Experts: staying safe at crowded events 10/02 Exposed: new vulnerability concertgoers 10/02 Hospitals respond mass casualty events 10/02 Tex. faces housing shortage, rising costs 10/02 FBI: no terror ties in Las Vegas shooting 10/02 Las Vegas shooting 'domestic terrorism'? 10/02 DHS: no credible threats at other venues 10/02 Atlantic hurricane season 3rd worst record	10/02 Preparing for mass casualty incidents 10/02 Ex-deputy sues King County over arrest 10/02 Professionals warn 'compassion fatigue' 10/02 Harborview's 'Stop the Bleed' training 10/02 Northwest blood donations needed 10/02 JBLM conducts artillery training 10/02 New Portland police chief
Cyber Awareness Go to articles	10/03 UK to criminalize viewing terror videos 10/03 UK agency: 590 'significant' attacks 2016 10/02 Report: 75% DDoS targets hit repeatedly 10/02 Govt. requests for Google data hits high 10/02 Ransomware alive and kickin'	10/02 Report: US launched DDoS on NKorea 10/02 Facebook: 10M saw Russia-linked ads 10/02 Ransomware: epidemic or overblown? 10/02 Virtual kidnappings grab FBI attention 10/02 Equifax: US breach victims up to 145.5M 10/02 Calif. casino reveals error: PII disclosure 10/02 Court rejects internet mogul's appeal 10/02 Las Vegas shooting: hoaxes spread 10/02 Small towns face big cyber risks 10/02 Ransomware resurrected 10/01 National Cyber Security Awareness Month	10/02 'Online threats' Sultan School District 10/02 Vancouver firm protects neo-Nazi website
Terror Conditions Go to articles	10/03 Paris: 5 arrests in failed bombing attempt 10/03 ISIS claim deadly suicide attacks in Syria 10/02 Experts: multiple motivations w/lone wolf 10/02 Marseille knife attacker had 7 identities 10/02 France probes suspect's earlier release 10/02 Trial dives in France homegrown terror 10/02 Terror has gone low-tech 10/01 Israel intel step up worldwide cooperation	10/02 US drone shot down in Yemen 10/02 Major terror attacks using vehicles 10/02 Experts: vulnerability of 'soft targets' 10/02 Puzzle: ISIS claims Vegas responsibility 10/02 Pentagon: service member killed in Iraq	
Suspicious, Unusual Go to articles	10/03 Report: 'inconceivable' mystery Flight 370 10/03 SKorea calls North daily; no one answers 10/02 New probe: who betrayed Anne Frank? 10/01 Seizure NKorea ship held surprise cargo	10/02 GM going all-electric; ditching gas, diesel 10/02 Judge to Iran: pay \$63M to US Marine 10/02 Early winter storm slams Colorado	10/02 Bizarre string of events at Oregon lodge 10/02 Record dry summer thwarts Seattle record 10/02 Officials: fake opioid pills contain fentanyl
Crime, Criminals Go to articles	10/02 Charges filed in Canada car, knife attack 10/02 Guatemala arms trafficking routes	10/03 Gunman's perch inside Las Vegas casino 10/03 Las Vegas death toll rises to 59 10/02 Las Vegas shooter had 42 guns 10/02 Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock 10/02 Claim: fire alarm led to shooters room 10/02 Vegas gunman had 'bump-stock' device 10/02 Nearly 1 mass shooting per day in 2017 10/02 Similar massacre: 1966 Texas clock tower 10/02 Expert: insight into mass shootings in US 10/02 Toxic chemicals killing California wildlife 10/02 Deadly shooting in Kansas college town	10/02 Guilty plea in dismemberment slaying 10/02 Kent, Auburn PDs target street racers

[DISCLAIMER and FAIR USE Notice](#)

Event Calendar

[Top of page](#)

Date	Event	Location/Time	Other Information
9-13 Apr	LEIU/IALEIA Training	Marriott Hotel, 700 West Convention	http://www.ialeia.org/2018_conference.php

2018	Event	Way Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 750-8000
Return to Top	**indicates new event/new information added during reporting week	

Events, Opportunities

[Top of page](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Preparing for mass casualty incidents
SOURCE	http://q13fox.com/2017/10/02/how-does-western-washington-prepares-for-mass-casualty-incidents/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE – While most people in Western Washington were reeling by Monday morning over the mass shooting in Nevada, many wondered what could happen if the same thing happened here.</p> <p>How do first responders prepare to handle a mass shooting on the same scale here in the Pacific Northwest?</p> <p>The Seattle Police Department says they are constantly training officers to handle an active shooter. But, crisis experts say it’s not just first responders who should prepare – the rest of us should as well.</p> <p>“I don’t think Seattle is any more or less vulnerable,” said crisis expert Jesus Villaherмосa.</p> <p>He says what happened in Nevada could change the game plan for first responders.</p> <p>“This guy has just opened Pandora’s Box,” says Villaherмосa. “This has completely changed the way these guys think and I’m very concerned about that.”</p> <p>“There’s no question that an event like that would overwhelm almost any community,” said Dr. Eileen Bulger, a surgeon at Harborview / UW Medicine.</p> <p>Harborview is just one of the hospitals across Puget Sound that train and prepare for mass casualty incidents.</p> <p>From natural disasters to deadly shootings, hospital staff regularly plan and practice for whatever could fill their emergency rooms.</p> <p>“We are constantly preparing for such a thing, we hope it never happens,” Bulger said. “Whether any community can be totally prepared for that I don’t know but I think we’re doing our best to be prepared.”</p> <p>Part of that training means teaching people who find themselves closest to tragedy what to do to keep serious injuries from becoming fatal. That includes training the public on how use auto defibrillators and bleeding control kits.</p> <p>“We see these events recurring over and over again and it can happen in any community,” said Bulger. “So the community itself needs to be prepared. If you know CPR you should know how to control bleeding.”</p> <p>SPD says they are watching closely what happens in Las Vegas. Depending on the facts of the mass shooting, they may change some of their preparation or operational tactics depending on what they learn.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 New Portland police chief sworn in
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/outlaw-sworn-in-as-portland-police-chief/

GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Danielle Outlaw has been sworn in as chief of the Portland Police Bureau.</p> <p>Outlaw is the third woman, and first black woman, to become chief of police in Oregon’s largest city.</p> <p>Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler hired Outlaw this summer following a national search. Wheeler said he and Outlaw are both dedicated to increasing diversity and embracing equity.</p> <p>Outlaw was sworn in Monday by city auditor Mary Hull Caballero during a private ceremony at the Justice Center in downtown Portland. Outlaw was most recently a deputy chief for the Oakland Police Department.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 DHS: no credible threats other venues
SOURCE	http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/353396-homeland-security-says-it-knows-of-no-credible-threat-against-other
GIST	<p>The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said Monday that Acting Secretary Elaine Duke has been briefed on the Las Vegas shooting and the department knows of no “credible threat” to “other public venues” in the United States at this time.</p> <p>“The Department is closely monitoring the situation and working with our federal, state and local partners in responding to and investigating this tragedy,” DHS said in statement.</p> <p>“At this time, we have no information to indicate a specific credible threat involving other public venues in the country. However, increased security in and around public places and events may be experienced as officials take additional precautions.”</p> <p>At least 50 people were killed and hundreds of others injured after a gunman opened fire at a country music festival in Las Vegas.</p> <p>The suspect, who has been identified as 64-year-old Stephen Paddock, fired from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel. Paddock was found dead in his hotel room when authorities entered, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said early Monday.</p> <p>“Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by this incident as we work to support the Las Vegas community,” DHS said.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Puerto Rico continues to struggle
SOURCE	https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2017-10-02/puerto-rico-continues-to-struggle-after-hurricane-maria
GIST	<p>Almost two weeks after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm, the U.S. troops have arrived on the island and a three-star general is in command, but the situation is still dire for U.S. citizens there, with limited electricity, water, fuel, and food. Vital medications and cash are also hard to come by, and hospitals and food banks are beginning to run low on supplies.</p> <p>Hundreds of containers with badly-needed supplies, however, are sitting in the port of San Juan because there aren't enough truck drivers to deliver the goods, according to CNN. At the same time, limited fuel and debris-covered roadways would make driving to some parts of the island almost impossible, and very dangerous.</p> <p>Following the hurricane, there has been widespread criticism of President Donald Trump and his administration's slow response.</p>

	<p>"It's not nearly as fast as any of us want," John Rabin, acting regional administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said at a press conference, CNN reported. Rabin describes the damage on the island as "catastrophic."</p> <p>The president assigned Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan earlier this week to spearhead recovery efforts. There are more than 10,000 federal workers in Puerto Rico from dozens of federal departments and agencies.</p> <p>FEMA reported it reached all 78 of the island's municipalities and has delivered one million meals and two million liters of water to 11 distribution centers on the island, according to CNN.</p> <p>However, Puerto Rican officials tell a different story.</p> <p>Betito Marquez, the mayor of Toa Baja, an impoverished town near San Juan went to a FEMA distribution center Friday afternoon only to find it closed. He was unable to pick up supplies. Carlos Mendez, the mayor of Aguadilla, told CNN he drives back and forth across the island -- two hours each way -- to pick up supplies from FEMA in San Juan.</p> <p>"They're not coming here, I'm going there," Mendez said.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 JBLM conducts artillery training
SOURCE	http://www.thenewstribune.com/latest-news/article176674011.html
GIST	<p>Joint Base Lewis-McChord will conduct artillery training this week, which will result in more noise than usual coming from the base, officials said in a release Monday.</p> <p>The training, which will involve one unit firing 155 mm Howitzer field artillery, begins at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. Training will continue during daytime and nighttime hours until midnight Thursday.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 FBI: no terror ties in Las Vegas shooting
SOURCE	http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/2/las-vegas-shooting-more-20-dead-100-wounded-after-/
GIST	<p>A gunman using rapid-fire weapons from the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas hotel rained down bullets on an outdoor country music festival, killing at least 59 people and injuring more than 500 before taking his own life in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, officials said Monday.</p> <p>The sustained hail of bullets from the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino into a crowd of 22,000 people erupted late Sunday night, causing panic as the concert venue was turned into a killing ground. At least 527 people were injured, many by gunfire and others who were trampled while trying to flee as police scrambled to locate the shooter.</p> <p>Police on Monday identified the gunman as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, who lived in a retirement community in Mesquite, Nevada. Authorities believe he acted alone, and they did not know his motive.</p> <p>Federal officials said there was no evidence of a connection to extremist groups, although the Islamic State claimed credit for the attack.</p> <p>"We have no idea what his belief system was," Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said of the gunman. "I can't get into the mind of a psychopath."</p> <p>The gunman's brother, Eric Paddock, told reporters that his family could not fathom why Paddock</p>

	committed the slaughter.
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Ex-deputy sues King Co. over arrest
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/772285/ex-deputy-sues-king-county-over-arrest-after-email-threat/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — An ex-sheriff’s deputy is suing King County and two sheriff’s investigators, claiming they violated his rights by falsely arresting him and improperly searching his home last year after his wife allegedly sent an email threatening a neighbor’s dog.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reported Monday that Matthew Tighe contends in his lawsuit that the sheriff’s office conducted an unconstitutional “sting” operation on him and his family in August 2016 as an act of retaliation.</p> <p>The suit says the retaliation came from Sheriff John Urquhart, whom the suit alleges targeted Tighe because he took issue with the department’s mishandling of his return to work from military leave.</p> <p>The suit seeks unspecified damages based on employment discrimination and alleged violations of Tighe’s re-employment and civil rights. King County denied a previous claim from Tighe that sought \$1.8 million.</p> <p>In an email Urquhart denied involvement in any investigation of Tighe.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Northwest blood donations needed
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/771977/600k-raised-in-3-hours-for-las-vegas-victims-how-you-can-help/
GIST	<p>The Northwest has been called upon to send blood donations to Las Vegas in the wake of America’s worst mass shooting. The region, however, is low on supply.</p> <p>“Patients there are going to need support for many days, most likely,” said James AuBuchon, president and CEO of Bloodworks NW.</p> <p>Bloodworks NW is calling on any available donor in the region to donate blood. Donors can call 1-800-398-7888 or visit www.bloodworksnw.org to find a location and time to donate.</p> <p>At least 50 killed, 500 injured in Las Vegas massacre</p> <p>AuBuchon said that Bloodworks NW has been in contact with United Blood Services to send any available donations to Las Vegas. The Northwest has sent some “group O” blood cells already, AuBuchon said, but there’s a problem. The region’s blood supply is very low as the need in Las Vegas continues.</p> <p>“The magnitude of the disaster in Las Vegas would stretch the blood inventory of any city,” AuBuchon said. “At the moment, our inventories in Seattle are very tight and we would have to depend on the assistance of other blood centers from other parts of the country ... Our inventories have been chronically low for the last 6 months. We need the community’s support now and every day to make sure we have the blood ready when patients need it.”</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Canada defends refugee vetting system
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-attacks/canada-defends-refugee-vetting-system-after-car-and-knife-attack-idUSKCN1C72AN?il=0
GIST	EDMONTON, Alberta (Reuters) - Canada defended its immigration and refugee vetting system on

Monday after a Somali immigrant, who had drawn scrutiny for his alleged extremist views, was charged with attempted murder for a weekend car and knife attack that injured five.

Abdulahi Hasan Sharif, 30, is accused of running down a police officer with his car in Edmonton, Alberta, and then stabbing him repeatedly. He then ran down four pedestrians during an attempt to evade capture.

He faces 11 charges including five for attempted murder linked to the rampage in the western Canadian city on Saturday night.

Sharif had been investigated two years ago for promoting extremist ideology but was not deemed a threat after an “exhaustive investigation,” the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Sunday.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said it would be wrong to blame the attack on any alleged shortcomings or failures in Canada’s immigration and refugee vetting system.

“There’s absolutely no evidence of that whatsoever. The investigation is ongoing, but that conclusion is just not supported by the facts,” Goodale told reporters in Ottawa as he headed into a meeting of the Liberal government’s cabinet.

Despite the incident, Canada’s government said it was keeping the terrorist threat level at medium, where it has been since late 2014.

Canada has been dealing in recent months with a surge in illegal border crossings by people seeking refugee status as they flee from the threat of deportation in the United States.

The influx, fueled by fears stemming from U.S. President Donald Trump’s crackdown on immigrants, has renewed debate over whether Canada should tighten its borders and become less open to asylum seekers.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 World's nuclear weapons capacity
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/many-nukes-world-could-destroy-081201868.html
GIST	<p>Tensions over nuclear weapons have been raised further after North Korea claimed to have successfully tested a hydrogen bomb.</p> <p>This latest move comes amid increasing concern over North Korea's military capabilities, with the new US administration upping its rhetoric in response.</p> <p>While the Pyongyang regime increases the frequency with which it is conducting missile tests, Donald Trump's defence secretary Jim 'Mad Dog' Mattis has previously warned North Korea of an "effective and overwhelming" response if Pyongyang used nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Elsewhere, rhetoric hints at a return of the expansion of nuclear arsenals across the world. In December, Russian President Vladimir Putin told a meeting of defence chiefs that strengthening nuclear capability should be a key objective for 2017. Donald Trump then took to Twitter to respond, vowing to do the same.</p> <p>Such rhetoric has led to concerns about the world's nuclear capacity and the unpredictability of those in charge of the warheads.</p> <p>It seems the world is a long way from "coming to its senses" - with millions of kilotons already in military service around the world.</p> <p>Between them, the world's nuclear-armed states have around 15,000 warheads - the majority of which belong to the US and Russia.</p>

It is estimated that just under 10,000 of these are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement, according to the Arms Control Association.

Which countries have nuclear weapons?

There are five nuclear-weapon states in the world: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States. These are officially recognised as possessing such weapons by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

This treaty acknowledges and legitimises their arsenals, but they are not supposed to build or maintain them forever. Indeed, they have committed to eliminate them.

There are also four other countries that have nuclear weapons: Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea. These countries didn't sign the Treaty, and together possess an estimated 340 nuclear weapons.

But it's Russia and the US that have by far the most in the world - dominating all other countries by collectively sharing 88 per cent of the world's arsenal of stockpiled nukes. This figure increases to 93 per cent when we consider retired nukes.

How deadly could these nuclear weapons be?

The world's current collection of 14,900 nuclear weapons possesses enough power to kill millions of people and flatten dozens of cities.

According to Telegraph research, it is estimated that the US and Russian arsenals combined have power equating to 6,600 megatons. This is a tenth of the total solar energy received by Earth every minute.

According to the NukeMap website, the dropping of the B-83, the largest bomb in the current US arsenal, would kill 1.4m people in the first 24 hours. A further 3.7m people would be injured, as the thermal radiation radius reached 13.km.

Likewise, the "Tsar Bomba" is the largest USSR bomb tested. If this bomb was dropped on New York, it is estimated that it could kill 7.6m people and injure 4.2m more. The nuclear fallout could reach an approximate area of 7,880km on a 15mph wind, impacting millions more people.

Both America and Russia's arsenals are regulated by several treaties that place limits on the numbers and kinds of warheads and delivery systems they have.

If either country were to expand their nuclear capacity even further, as Trump and Putin have hinted at, it could shatter these agreements and plunge the world into a new Cold War.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 NKorea: end US-SKorea defense treaty
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/10/02/North-Korea-calls-for-end-to-US-South-Korea-defense-treaty/8191506950774/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts_pi&utm_medium=4
GIST	<p>Oct. 2 (UPI) -- North Korea may be responding indirectly to Rex Tillerson, following remarks from the U.S. secretary of state regarding "direct communication" with Pyongyang.</p> <p>Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun stated Monday the United States needs to abolish the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, signed Oct. 1, 1953, two months after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement.</p> <p>Describing the mutual defense treaty as a "scheme to realize the fantasy of North Korea invasion," North Korea stated the "treaty of war aggression should be abolished without delay."</p>

	<p>"The United States' reckless plan to invade at discretion is nailed into the mutual defense treaty," the Rodong statement read. "A serious situation, a tinderbox, where war may break out at any moment, is being created."</p> <p>While the statement was issued as a condemnation, North Korea's reference to a specific treaty could be the regime's public acknowledgement of Tillerson's remarks on Saturday.</p> <p>The top U.S. diplomat said in Beijing the United States has "lines of communications to Pyongyang."</p> <p>"We're not in a dark situation, a blackout," Tillerson said. "We have a couple, three channels open to Pyongyang."</p> <p>By referring to the U.S.-South Korea defense treaty, North Korea could be signaling its interest in negotiating particular policies or taking preliminary steps by expressing longstanding grudges against Washington, South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo reported Monday.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 UK leases planes for stranded travelers
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/monarch-airlines-administration-british-travelers-stranded/
GIST	<p>LONDON -- British authorities are scrambling to bring home 110,000 travelers after Monarch Airlines collapsed Monday, cancelling all flights by what had been Britain's fifth biggest carrier.</p> <p>The Civil Aviation Authority said it has leased 30 aircraft to transport Monarch customers scattered around holiday destinations ranging from Turkey to Spain and Sweden. Flights will be provided at no additional cost to passengers.</p> <p>"This is a hugely distressing situation for British holidaymakers abroad, and my first priority is to help them get back to the UK," Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said in a statement. "That is why I have immediately ordered the country's biggest ever peacetime repatriation to fly about 110,000 passengers who could otherwise have been left stranded."</p> <p>Monarch ceased operations after failing to reach a deal with regulators to extend the company's license to sell package holidays to overseas destinations. Monarch Chief Executive Andrew Swaffield said the airline's troubles stemmed from recent terror attacks in Egypt and Tunisia and the "decimation" of the tourist trade in Turkey.</p> <p>Monarch's collapse represents the biggest ever failure of a British airline.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 US: Russia war games broke rules
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-army-chief-russia-war-games-broke-observer-50229236?cid=clicksource_4380645_6_heads_posts_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>The U.S. Army's commander in Europe says Russia broke up its Zapad war games with Belarus into parts to avoid having international monitors watch the weeklong exercises last month.</p> <p>Lieutenant General Ben Hodges said Monday that the two countries deployed "way over 12,700" personnel, the limit beyond which Europe's OSCE security organization should be allowed to send observers.</p> <p>Hodges said: "My guess is that there probably were over 40,000 service members."</p>

	<p>He told reporters at NATO headquarters that Russia and Belarus "broke it up into all these little exercises" but that "these were all connected, because this was a whole of government effort."</p> <p>Russia's defense ministry said the Zapad exercises would involve 12,700 Russian and Belarusian troops, about 70 aircraft, up to 250 tanks, 200 artillery systems and 10 warships.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Professionals warn of 'compassion fatigue'
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/medical-professionals-warn-about-compassion-fatigue-after-shooting-traumatic-events
GIST	<p>SEATTLE -- The mass shooting in Las Vegas Sunday night comes after a long string of natural disasters including hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.</p> <p>The recent events have led mental health professionals to worry about people's well being. They said it's going to be a challenge not to feel 'compassion fatigue' from too many horrendous events.</p> <p>The images of traumatic events are unnerving and according to mental health experts, it's good to stay informed, but be careful of overloading yourself with too much media.</p> <p>"It's important to know when to turn that off," said Dimitry Davydow, director of behavioral health at CHI Franciscan in Tacoma. "And know when to maybe say now is a good time to go for a walk."</p> <p>Clinical psychologist Sarah Heavin said the American Psychological Association recommends against totally shutting yourself off from what's going on in the world.</p> <p>"Strike a balance between staying informed and doing the things that you do for enjoyment to make your life meaningful and to help your community be a helpful place," Heavin said.</p> <p>According to Heavin, avoidance drives a trauma response, so we don't want to avoid difficult things that happen in the world.</p> <p>"We want to face those things. We want to sit with those feelings and we want to continue doing things that benefit our community," she said.</p> <p>With the recent string of traumatic events, Davydow said it will be a challenge to stay resilient.</p> <p>" 'Compassion fatigue' is a real thing. There's only so much I think a lot of us are equipped to deal with when it comes to disasters," Davydow said.</p> <p>The mental health experts said your phone and computer can actually be comforting if you're using devices to reach out to people, whether through social media or talking on the phone. You just need to know when it is time to shut it down.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/03 AAA: gas prices anything but normal
SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Energy-News/2017/10/03/AAA-US-gas-prices-anything-but-normal-after-recent-hurricanes/3931507024683/?utm_source=fp&utm_campaign=ts&utm_medium=22
GIST	<p>Oct. 3 (UPI) -- October usually brings lower retail gasoline prices in the United States, but recent hurricanes delayed seasonal norms, motor club AAA reported.</p> <p>"When fall arrives, motorists expect gas prices to be cheaper than they were in the summer," AAA spokesperson Jeanette Casselano said in a statement. "That's just not the case this year."</p>

AAA reports a national average retail price for regular unleaded gasoline of \$2.54 per gallon, down a couple cents from last week, but 14 percent, or around 32 cents higher, than this date last year. After the Labor Day holiday in early September, gas prices usually go down because demand pressures wane. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, however, upended seasonal norms because of their impact on refineries in the southern United States.

"Back-to-back hurricanes packed a punch to Gulf Coast refineries' gasoline production and inventory levels," Casselano said. "As they play catch-up, gas prices are going to be higher than we'd like to see."

The last few refineries knocked out by Harvey came back online in late September and that led to relief at the pump for some Gulf Coast states. Florida, which saw big spikes after Irma because it doesn't have any refineries of its own, saw gas prices drop 6 cents per gallon, though the state average is still above the national par.

Because of the concentration of refineries, the Great Lakes market is usually the most volatile. Supplies in the region had to adjust to demand strains elsewhere and AAA noted federal estimates show gasoline inventories there at the lowest in nearly two years. Indiana, Michigan and Ohio two weeks ago reported big drops in gas prices, but erased the declines for last week. By AAA's metric, those were the only three states in the region to post price increases.

For the West Coast, the most expensive market in the country, AAA said gasoline inventories were on the slow road to recovery and the price at the pump was more or less stable.

On the broader market, a September rally in crude oil prices meant more drilling in the United States and total crude oil production is about 1 million barrels per day higher than last year. Higher oil prices would usually mean higher gas prices, but AAA said demand is easing as the U.S. market recovers from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

"While the market continues to be volatile, post-hurricanes, AAA expects gas prices to slowly, but steadily drop by up to ten cents in the coming month," Casselano said.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/03 Vegas casino scans guests before entry
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-03/guests-inspected-at-the-wynn-in-glimpse-of-las-vegas-s-future
GIST	<p>At entrances to the Wynn resort in Las Vegas on Monday afternoon, guards scanned visitors with metal-detector wands and inspected their bags, creating a 10-minute wait to get inside. The new security protocol, put in place after Sunday's mass shooting nearby, is likely to become the norm on the Strip and possibly beyond.</p> <p>Casinos and entertainment venues are going to have to take a more holistic approach to security, thinking about rooftops and other potential shooting perches -- considering the possibilities for an attack from all angles, said David Shepherd, a former FBI special agent in counterterrorism who later was the security director for Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Venetian resort.</p> <p>"We have to start thinking like the Secret Service -- start looking at tall buildings," said Shepherd, who co-authored a book called "Active Shooter." "How far do we have to take it?"</p> <p>The additional security measures highlight the dilemma facing companies in one of the nation's top entertainment destinations. How do businesses keep guests safe while not imposing such drastic restrictions that the casinos, clubs and shopping thoroughfares no longer feel fun?</p> <p>One executive at another casino operator, who asked not to be identified because security matters are</p>

sensitive, said the Wynn's security check at the door is probably the industry's future because there's no other way to screen for people carrying weapons.

Gambling hubs across the globe have also faced security issues. In the Philippines, where an arson attack at Resorts World Manila in June resulted in 38 deaths, casinos routinely scan vehicles before they enter the property and require visitors to open their bags for security checks.

Regulators in Macau on Tuesday contacted the territory's casino operators, reiterating that the properties need to continue enhancing their security. Casinos in the world's biggest gambling hub, which are currently near capacity during the Golden Week holiday, require visitors to go through a security door before entering.

Casinos and concert facilities need to have plans on how they can remove people quickly in the event of an active shooter and where to lead them in order to be safe, according to Alan Zajic, a security consultant specializing in hospitality, gaming, nightclubs and retail.

"In Orlando, that's how a lot of people died," he told attendees at a panel on security on Monday morning at the Global Gaming Expo, an industry conference that started Monday in Las Vegas. "There were only two doors. One in the back was locked. Having a good flowing emergency exit plan is pretty important."

The future of live events will likely include anti-sniper teams, metal detectors and better separation of audiences so they can be evacuated quickly and first responders can get in, said Ed Davis, Boston's police commissioner from 2006 to 2013 and now a security consultant. Whether the Las Vegas massacre sparks broader changes in gun laws remains to be seen, he said.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Las Vegas shooting 'domestic terrorism'?
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/02/politics/las-vegas-domestic-terrorism/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)By the time local authorities revealed Monday's mass shooting in Las Vegas had left over 50 people dead, it was almost immediately labeled as the largest massacre in modern American history -- but the heinous attack prompted others to question: Was it domestic terrorism?</p> <p>White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said it was "premature" to judge that question Monday afternoon, pointing to the ongoing investigation.</p> <p>"This is an ongoing investigation, and it would be premature to weigh in on something like that before we have any more facts and we'll leave that to local law enforcement to work with, also the federal law enforcement to make those determinations," Sanders said.</p> <p>Law enforcement authorities similarly declined to use the term "domestic terrorism."</p> <p>"We have to establish what his motivation was first," said Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo.</p> <p>Yet others, such as a former astronaut and gun-control advocate Mark Kelly, were unequivocal.</p> <p>"This was an ambush if there ever was one," said Kelly. "This was domestic terrorism."</p> <p>But here's the problem: There is no such charge under federal law.</p> <p>The confusion appears to stem, at least partly, from the fact that the US code does include a statutory definition of "domestic terrorism" -- as acts "dangerous to human life and appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population" or to influence government policy or conduct -- but it is not a standalone criminal charge.</p>

"There is not a domestic terrorism crime as such," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a Senate hearing just last week. "We in the FBI refer to domestic terrorism as a category but it's more of a way in which we allocate which agents, which squad is going to work on it."

CNN Legal Analyst Page Pate says that Congress bears some of the responsibility for the colloquial use of the term.

"The problem is that Congress defined domestic terrorism in the criminal code, but there are no criminal penalties," Pate said in an interview with CNN Monday.

The practical effect in many cases results in assailants instead being charged with other crimes, such as using a weapon of mass destruction in the case of 1995 Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

But the lack of a formal charge of domestic terrorism hasn't stopped some lawmakers, legal experts and others from questioning whether labels still matter.

Republican Sen. Ron Johnson, chairman of the Senate homeland security committee, asked Wray last week if the FBI takes the threat of ISIS-related terrorism cases "any less seriously" than those committed by white supremacists or if he's noticed any difference in charging decisions.

"No, we do not," Wray said. "There may be reasons why it's simpler, easier, quicker, less resource-intensive and you can still get a long sentence with some of the other offenses. ... And so, even though you may not see them, from your end, as a domestic terrorism charge, they are very much domestic terrorism cases that are just being brought under other criminal offenses."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/03 Lots of guns, many more questions
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/03/us/las-vegas-shooting-investigation/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)A day after the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history, authorities are learning more about Stephen Paddock who fired into a crowd of thousands during a country music festival from a Las Vegas hotel room and the weapons he kept.</p> <p>At least 59 people were killed and 527 were injured in the shooting that started late Sunday night. Police believe he killed himself, ending the massacre.</p> <p>Police searched the gunman's home in Mesquite, Nevada, where they found at least 19 firearms, explosives, several thousand rounds of ammunition and some electronic devices.</p> <p>In Paddock's 32nd-floor hotel room at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, police recovered 23 weapons, including a handgun, and multiple rifles -- some had scopes on them. Authorities also found several pounds of ammonium nitrate, a material used to make explosives, in his car.</p> <p>As police uncovered more evidence, they're still piecing together a motive.</p> <p>There was no explanation so far on why Paddock, a 64-year-old retired accountant who had never faced any notable criminal charges, unleashed a hailstorm of bullets into concertgoers.</p> <p>So far, police believe Paddock acted alone.</p> <p>"We believe Paddock is solely responsible for this heinous act," Clark County Assistant Sheriff Todd Fasulo said in a press conference late Monday.</p> <p>Latest developments -- Paddock was alive when he made first contact with officers. A team of six officers spoke with security</p>

at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, where Paddock was staying, and searched the hotel floor-by-floor Sunday night before they found Paddock's room, Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo told reporters.

- Paddock fired at the officers through the door and shot a security guard, Lombardo said. The guard was shot in the leg.
- A SWAT team broke down the door, but Paddock had already killed himself, he said.
- Several vigils were held Monday night to honor the victims of the shooting. Community members gathered in Reno, Las Vegas, the Nellis Air Force Base and at the campus of University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- Carrie Barnette, a Disney employee, is the latest victim to be identified. "A senseless, horrific, act, and a terrible loss for so many. We mourn a wonderful member of the Disney family: Carrie Barnette," tweeted Disney Chairman and CEO Robert Iger.
- Paddock bought multiple firearms in the past, but investigators believe the firearms were purchased legally, a law enforcement official said. The official said initial reports suggest at least one rifle was altered to function as an automatic weapon.
- A North Las Vegas gun store sold a shotgun and a rifle to Paddock in the spring. All state and federal requirements, including a FBI background check, were met, said David Famiglietti, president of New Frontier Armory. He said that neither of the weapons "leaving our store [are] capable of what we've seen and heard in the video without modification."

The massacre has no known link to overseas terrorism or terror groups, a US official with knowledge of the case said. Police had no prior knowledge of the gunman before the attack, Sheriff Lombardo said. "I don't know how it could have been prevented," he said.

Paddock was divorced with no known children.

The gunman's brother, Eric Paddock in Orlando, Florida, said he was stunned to learn Stephen was believed responsible: "We're still just completely befuddled. Dumbstruck."

He described his brother as having "no history of violence. No history of anything couldn't give a s*** less about politics, religion, pointy hatted people etc, etc. He just wanted to get a freaking royal flush."

He mentioned that his brother "loved to gamble. He loved -- when I say loved -- it was a job. It was fun because people were nice to him."

The last time Eric Paddock spoke to his brother was when Stephen texted him, asking how their mother was doing after losing power from Hurricane Irma.

Eric Paddock said he knew his brother owned a few handguns and maybe one long rifle, but said he didn't know of any automatic weapons.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Hospitals respond to mass casualty events
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/las-vegas-shooting-how-hospitals-respond-mass-casualty-events/
GIST	<p>On Sunday night, almost as soon as reports started coming in of gunfire at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas, local hospitals and medical personnel kicked into action.</p> <p>The gunman, perched on the 32nd floor of the Las Vegas Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino, opened fire on thousands of concert-goers on the street below, killing at least 59 people and wounding more than 520. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.</p> <p>Dr. Jay Coates, a trauma surgeon at UNLV School of Medicine, said it was a night of non-stop surgeries.</p> <p>"It was a little bit of controlled chaos. We've had mass casualties come through this trauma center but nothing of this magnitude," he told Las Vegas station KTTV.</p>

To save as many lives as possible during a tragic event like this, first responders and emergency room doctors must act quickly and make difficult decisions.

"It's an ethical and moral dilemma that all physicians and health care providers go through because we try to save everyone, but unfortunately that's not the case," Dr. Robert Glatter, an emergency room doctor at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, told CBS "This Morning."

On the scene, he explains, there is a tagging system that prioritizes wounded patients based on who needs to be seen first.

People who have life-threatening injuries and need immediate attention, such as those with a collapsed lung, are tagged red and are brought in for treatment right away.

Those with severe, but less life-threatening injuries are ranked a tier lower with a yellow tag.

Unfortunately, doctors must also decide when a patient cannot be saved.

"Say there's a person with a head injury who's barely breathing. We try to open their airways but if there's not much chance of saving them we have to move on," Glatter said.

CBS News medical contributor Dr. David Agus explains that doctors must make these decisions quickly, sometimes within seconds, in order to save as many people as possible.

"It's a horrible decision to have to make, but you need to start to say, where can I use the men and women power I have to save people," he said. "It's a very difficult thing because with some people you're going to have to say these are people who we are not going to be able to save even though if the emergency room was empty they would be able to save them."

Hospitals periodically run drills and trainings to help prepare staff for how to respond in a crisis situation.

The medical community also comes away with important lessons learned following past tragic events that they can put into action in the future.

For example, following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, first responders learned how vital tourniquets can be to saving lives.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Unfolding deadliest mass shooting in US
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/las-vegas-shooting-how-it-happened/
GIST	<p>LAS VEGAS -- A gunman in Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino opened fire Sunday evening on a concert that was 32 floors below. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.</p> <p>America was a nation in mourning Monday night for the 59 people who were killed and the 527 who were injured. Police said a heavily-armed gunman, identified as 64-year-old Stephen Paddock of Mesquite, Nevada, fired down on thousands of concertgoers in what President Trump called "an act of pure evil."</p> <p>Officials have not determined a motive, but said they have found no links to terrorism and acted alone.</p> <p>Country music star Jason Aldean was on stage when the firing began shortly after 10 p.m. local time. It took a full 20 seconds for people to realize it was not fireworks, reports CBS News' John Blackstone.</p> <p>"Oh my God. Get down get down. Stay down," one person was heard saying on video posted to social media.</p>

Then came chaos: the sound of automatic weapon fire mixed with pandemonium.

Calls flooded 911 and radios blared: "We've got shots fired. There's many people down."

The shooter paused several times, once for nearly a minute, presumably to reload. Gail Davis held onto a police officer for dear life.

"You could hear the shots going back and forth and ricocheting," Davis said. "They would stop, I thought 'OK, it's over. It's over.' Then it would start again."

Some people ran while others sought cover behind walls and gates. Still others froze in the open. One woman simply ducked. She described the mayhem to CBS News.

"There were people just like literally laying on top of each other, trying to get out of the way," she said. "The shots just kept coming!"

People desperately sought help for the wounded any way they could.

Las Vegas police dispatch audio described a panicked scenario.

"We can't worry about the victims," an officer can be heard saying. "We need to stop the shooter before we have more victims. Anybody have eyes on the shooter?"

Meanwhile, police searched for the gunman.

The police radio audio continued: "We're taking fire. It's going right over our heads. There's debris coming over our heads. So we're pinned down here with a bunch of civilians. Be advised we are taking fire from a very high floor ... every officer that comes up is going to be a target if they're driving on the Las Vegas Boulevard because it's coming up from the Mandalay Bay on the boulevard side."

The shooter was in fact firing from 400 yards away -- the equivalent of four football fields away -- through two windows, 32 stories up. SWAT officers eventually moved in on the gunman.

More police dispatch audio described what happened next.

"Zebra 20 hit on the suspect's door. I need everyone in the hallway to be aware of it and get back. We need to pop it and see if we can get any kind of response from this guy to see if he's in here or he's actually moved somewhere else."

Dispatch is then heard saying: "All units from 32nd floor need to move back for explosive breach. SWAT has an explosive breach. Everyone in the hallway needs to move back."

Then a man is heard saying, "Breach. Breach. Breach." Then a loud bang is heard in the background.

Inside, where Paddock had been a guest since last Thursday, officials found an arsenal of weapons.

Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo outlined the investigation.

"He had killed himself. We'll have to go through our body-worn camera and existing video whether we engaged him at the same approximate time or not," Lombardo said.

When it ended those who had come for a night of fun were left clinging to each other and to life.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Harborview's 'stop the bleed' training
SOURCE	http://www.king5.com/news/local/-harborviews-stop-the-bleed-training-could-save-lives-in-a-mass-shooting/480375311
GIST	<p>In the hours after the shooting in Las Vegas, hospitals there were inundated with injured people. At University Medical Center, which is Nevada's only Level One Trauma Center, a staggering 104 patients came through the doors.</p> <p>Hundreds more were treated at nearby facilities.</p> <p>KING 5 wanted to know whether hospitals here would be ready for a mass casualty incident of that magnitude. At Harborview Medical Center, we learned the push for preparedness extends far beyond hospital staff.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, we see these events recurring over and over again and they can happen in any community, so the community itself needs to be prepared," said Dr. Eileen Bulger, Harborview's chief of trauma. "So if you know CPR, now you should also know how to control bleeding.</p> <p>That's where the hospital's Stop The Bleed program comes into play.</p> <p>"The Stop The Bleed campaign is a nationwide campaign designed to teach bystanders, to teach every citizen the basics of bleeding control," said Bulger. "I think that type of training is really critical in our society today."</p> <p>That's because blood loss is the leading cause of preventable death in mass shooting situations. Bulger says rapid control of bleeding at the scene of an event can be life-saving, especially if bystanders can step in to help before emergency responders arrive.</p> <p>Doctors say the growing threat of mass casualty incidents makes that bystander training more important now than ever before.</p> <p>Harborview Medical Center is also pushing for bleeding control kits to be mounted next to AEDs in public places like schools, airports, malls, movie theaters, stadiums, and concert halls. Staff from Harborview are already having that conversation with Safeco Field and local school districts.</p> <p>"I think making the bleeding control kits mandatory for public places where lots of people gather, stadiums having them, and schools – access to those supplies is important," said Bulger. "We have a law in this state that every child needs to learn CPR before they graduate high school. They should probably know bleeding control as well."</p>
Return to Top	<i>Harborview hosts the Stop The Bleed classes on a monthly basis. They are free and open to the public. To learn more or to sign up for a class, click here.</i>

HEADLINE	10/02 Catalonia to press ahead independence
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/catalan-referendum-officials-vow-press-independence-after-violence-n806511
GIST	<p>Catalonia will press ahead with next steps in its push for independence from Spain, its government said late Sunday after clashes between riot police and voters marred a referendum rejected as illegal by Spain.</p> <p>"The Catalan institutions have the duty to respect and implement the choice citizens have made and to honor it with the commitment to collectively build a free, peaceful and democratic country with dignity," Catalan Government President Carles Puigdemont said in a statement.</p> <p>Catalonia's government planned to hold a closed-door Cabinet meeting Monday to discuss its next steps. Regional officials said preliminary poll results showed 90 percent favored independence after less than half the electorate voted.</p>

	<p>More than 890 were injured in the clashes between riot police and voters, according to the Catalonia Health Department. Catalonia's health services said four people remained in the region's hospitals, two of them in serious condition.</p> <p>In addition, 33 police officers were injured.</p> <p>The referendum debacle brought Spain and Catalonia closer to a potentially disastrous showdown as each side said Sunday's events proved them right and neither looked prepared to cede ground.</p> <p>Catalan president Carles Puigdemont will chair the Cabinet meeting, which is expected to consider asking the regional parliament to vote on an historic independence declaration later in the week.</p> <p>Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, meanwhile, will meet with ruling Popular Party leaders before seeking a parliamentary session to discuss how to confront the country's most serious crisis in decades.</p> <p>He also called an afternoon meeting with the leader of the main opposition Socialist party to discuss Spain's options.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Atlantic hurricane season 3rd worst record
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-02/-extremely-active-hurricane-season-is-third-worst-on-record
GIST	<p>This year's Atlantic hurricane season has been the third-most active on record, and there are still more than eight weeks to go.</p> <p>The basin produced more tropical cyclones at this point in the season, which ends on Nov. 30, only in 1933 and 2004, according to the National Hurricane Center. Meanwhile, September set a record for Accumulated Cyclone Energy, a measure that combines the intensity and duration of storms.</p> <p>Four tropical cyclones formed in September, all of which became hurricanes, with three growing into major hurricanes. That doesn't even include hurricane Irma and Harvey, which formed in August.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Tex. faces housing shortage, rising costs
SOURCE	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/10/02/cost-hurricane-harvey-recovery/725473001/
GIST	<p>HOUSTON — Texas is facing a critical shortage of manufactured housing and the cost of even the most basic units to temporarily house the thousands of Texans displaced by Harvey can cost as much as \$140,000, Land Commissioner George P. Bush told a legislative panel on Monday.</p> <p>“It is almost becoming as expensive to get a manufactured house as it is to build a home,” Bush told the House Urban Affairs Committee at special hearing at the University of Houston.</p> <p>The Urban Affairs panel and the House Appropriations Committee held hearings in nearby ballrooms at a hotel on campus to get an assessment on what is being done and how much it might cost to rebuild the Texas Coast after the worst natural disaster to strike the region in memory.</p> <p>Bush, a first-term Republican, was tapped by Gov. Greg Abbott to coordinate the state-federal response aimed at meeting the immediate need for housing. The land office is acting as the liaison between local officials and the Federal Emergency Management Administration to determine how best to either get people back into their homes or into alternative accommodations.</p>

The bottom line, Bush said, is that it could take from seven months to two-and-a-half years to get people permanently situated.

Bush said his agency is working with the manufactured housing industry to ramp up production to meet demand. In a brief interview presenting his testimony, Bush told the USA Today Network that companies have told him that each can only build about 10 units per month, and that the challenge is multiplied because of a shortage of both materials and labor.

“A lot of people are going to make a lot of money in manufactured housing,” he said.

State Rep. Jarvis Johnson, a Houston Democrat who serves on the Urban Affairs panel, said after the hearing that industry “is making a killing” off the housing crisis that followed in the Harvey’s wake.

“What they are building is the size of a garage,” Johnson said.

D.J. Pendleton, executive director of the Texas Manufactured Housing Association, said the costs are also driven up because FEMA sets higher standards for units that qualify under the federal program.

“The FEMA units are built to specs that go far beyond what you’d get for a typical retail unit,” said Pendleton, whose organization lobbies on behalf of the industry.

For instance, he said, the units must be accessible for people with disabilities and must be rated for extreme weather even if they are not located in areas prone to severe weather.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, a former member of the Texas House, told the Appropriations Committee that the cost of coping with Harvey’s destruction will be stratospheric.

He said 27 trillion of gallons of rain fell on Houston and surrounding communities in a matter of hours after the storm that crashed the Coastal Bend with Category 4 winds turned northeast up the Gulf Coast. The cost of hauling away the mountains of debris from thousands of flooded homes and businesses will reach \$260 million.

Fortunately, he added, the federal government will pick up 90 percent of the tab.

The cost of rebuilding the government-owned buildings in the Houston area will reach about \$175 million, Turner said. The city of Houston’s insurance tops out at \$100 million, he added.

Officials have yet to make an official estimate of the cost to widen the bayous that overflowed their banks so that future flooding might be contained, Turner said. And compounding all of that, he added, was that the city simply did not have the equipment, manpower and training even before the storm hit.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Palestinian reconciliation push in Gaza
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/palestinian-pm-arrives-gaza-key-reconciliation-effort-50225998?
GIST	<p>The Palestinian prime minister traveled Monday to the Gaza Strip to launch an ambitious reconciliation effort with the rival Hamas militant group, receiving a hero's welcome from thousands of people as the sides moved to end a bitter 10-year rift.</p> <p>Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, representing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party, was joined by dozens of top officials, aides and security men on the trip from the West Bank through Israel and into Gaza to meet with the Hamas officials. It is by far the most ambitious attempt at reconciliation since Hamas seized power of the coastal strip in 2007.</p>

	<p>The sides exchanged smiles, handshakes and pleasantries — a reflection of the changed climate that has ripened conditions for reconciliation after other failed attempts. But difficult negotiations lie ahead, and key sticking points, particularly who will control Hamas' vast weapons arsenal, could easily derail the effort.</p> <p>On Monday, at least, the two sides put aside their differences.</p> <p>Well-wishers surrounded Hamdallah's car as it entered Gaza through the Israeli-controlled Erez border crossing, and dozens of Palestinian youths gathered alongside a barbed-wire fence to glimpse the welcoming ceremony. Some waved Palestinian or yellow Fatah flags, and many chanted Hamdallah's name.</p> <p>"The only way to statehood is through unity," Hamdallah told the crowd of about 2,000. "We are coming to Gaza again to deepen the reconciliation and end the split."</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/03 Rebels attack India military Kashmir camp
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rebels-storm-indian-paramilitary-camp-kashmir-injured-50243361?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>Rebels fighting Indian rule in Kashmir stormed a paramilitary camp early Tuesday and at least two suspected militants and a border guards officer were killed and three soldiers injured in the attack, police said.</p> <p>An unspecified number of militants attacked the heavily guarded camp outside the airport in the region's main city of Srinagar, hurling grenades and spraying automatic gunfire, said top officer S.P. Vaid. He said soldiers were responding to the militants' gunfire.</p> <p>A police officer said two suspected rebels and a paramilitary officer had been killed in the fighting so far. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with department policy.</p> <p>The officer said the militants wearing military uniforms entered a building inside the camp after breaching multiple layers of high security outside and inside the camp while exchanging intense gunfire with government forces.</p> <p>He said troops encircled the building where at least one more militant was hiding.</p> <p>The camp houses a battalion of India's Border Security Force and only barbed wire separates it from the Srinagar airport, which is controlled and run by the Indian Air Force. The camp has previously been a notorious interrogation center where suspected rebels and their sympathizers would be detained, questioned and allegedly tortured.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Exposed: new vulnerability concertgoers
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/las-vegas-mass-shooting-exposed-vulnerability-concertgoers/story?id=50234340
GIST	<p>Sunday night's mass shooting in Las Vegas exposed a new vulnerability for concertgoers -- the outdoor venue.</p> <p>In what is being called the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history, at least 59 people died and 527 were injured when a gunman opened fire on the crowd at an outdoor country music concert. Officials said the gunman, whom police believe killed himself, was firing at the crowd from the 32nd floor of the nearby</p>

Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, sending more than 22,000 country music fans scrambling for their lives.

"This guy was successful at making them into a soft target by being in a sniper position," Steve Gomez, a former LAPD officer who now works as a consultant for ABC News, told ABC News about suspected gunman Stephen Paddock, 64. "Now this has to be factored in."

Gomez said in the case of recent attacks, like the May bombing at Ariana Grande's Manchester concert or last year's shooting at an Orlando nightclub, the crowd is the attraction.

"The crowd dictates where the target is and how the attacker is going to commit the attack," he said. "If it's an open area on the street, they [the attackers] get a vehicle and crash into everybody."

In the case of outdoor concerts and festivals, where attendees are screened as they go in, the question becomes: "Is there a position up high that a bad guy can take and target that crowd?" Gomez said.

In Paddock's case, he positioned himself in "a perfect setting," Gomez said, in a hotel room high above the concert venue from where he observed the crowd for several days before attacking.

Officials found multiple weapons in the hotel room with him. "He was very well prepared," Gomez said.

"The bad guys are preparing," John Matthews, executive director of the Community Safety Institute, a public safety consulting organization, told ABC News. "We've got to do a better job of preparing our citizens."

In the case of the Vegas shooting, Matthews said there were two things concertgoers had to be concerned with -- the shooter and the crowd stampeding in the chaos.

He said one of the best things for people to do in that situation is take cover from both the shooter and the crowd. "Get under a tent, get behind something," he said. "Your chances of survival go up dramatically. Get behind a fixed structure and let the crowd go around you."

Both Matthews and Gomez stress the importance of people recognizing that being in a crowd makes them more vulnerable and thinking through what they would do in the case of an emergency.

"I tell people, be prepared, don't be paranoid," Matthews said. "When I walk into an event, I know where the main entrance is and I look for other exits. I'm looking for structures I can hide behind. It's not a matter of being paranoid but putting yourself in the best position."

It also means staying alert throughout the event.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Experts: staying safe at crowded events
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/concertgoers-stay-safe-attack/story?id=47607688
GIST	<p>After 59 people were killed and more than 500 injured in a mass shooting at a music festival on the Las Vegas strip, staying safe while attending an event such as a concert, movie or ballgame has become a top concern for many.</p> <p>Events that attract large crowds are now seen as easy targets for terrorists, former FBI agent and ABC News contributor Steve Gomez told ABC News in May after a suicide bomber killed 22 people at the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England.</p> <p>"With that, they have to be prepared for a situation to occur when they go into large groups," Gomez said.</p> <p>Here are some tips for how to stay safe at crowded public events:</p>

Remain calm and mindful

Before joining a crowd, ask yourself: "Am I in a place where a vehicle can jump a curb and come driving at me?" Gomez said.

In the event of an attack, the "first thing you need to do is think," said Zach Hudson, an active threat expert and CEO of Grantham Systems, a Longwood, Florida-based security company that educates civilians on threat assessments and security vulnerability.

"If you're panicked, you can't think," Hudson told ABC News. "You can't mentally navigate what your immediate response should be."

To stay calm, Hudson recommended using a technique used by military and police officers: taking "three very deep breaths" while counting to four during the inhale, holding the breath for four seconds, and then counting to four during the exhale.

"That will reduce the heart rate [and] give you a couple of seconds to gather your thoughts and determine what you're going to do," Hudson said.

Avoid crowds if you can

It's important to avoid "the main rush of people that leave the venue right when the show ends," said John Matthews, executive director of the Community Safety Institute, a public safety consulting organization.

Matthews told "Good Morning America" that he and his family either leave an event 10 minutes early or wait until most of the crowd has dispersed.

Five to eight minutes "is all it takes to avoid being out of that crowd, and it will mitigate your chances of being a victim of terror" because the "terrorist is looking for the highest body count possible," Matthews said.

Of the dozens of people who were injured in the Manchester attack, it is unclear how many were hurt by the bomb and how many were trampled in the stampede of people rushing to exit the venue.

"Ask yourself, 'Do I really need to get the heck out of here, or can I shelter in place and await to see where the threat is really occurring and then proceed on my own in a calm manner?'" Gomez said.

Hudson suggests "getting as low as possible" on the ground and "wait and see what's happening."

"You don't want to be one of the panicked group that everybody bolts for the exit," Hudson said. "You want to get low. You want to breathe. You want to be aware of everything around you without taking action based on fear."

In the Manchester attack, everyone heard a boom, but they "didn't know where the boom was," Gomez said. "They were actually going toward where the explosion occurred."

If you become caught in the stampede, "look for cover" behind a steel beam, a post or a brick wall to avoid being trampled, Matthews said.

"Grab your family. Hold them close. Let that main body of people go by," he said. Then "it's safe to exit."

Watch for the choke points

A choke point is a tight space -- or blockage -- where a lot of people "have to funnel through," Hudson said. Avoiding these points of congestion, which are often exits, is crucial to staying safe during an attack,

he said.

"Any choke point is going to be a high-priority point for an attacker," Hudson said, adding that it's especially important to avoid choke points in the event of a follow-up attack.

"When talking about a terrorist attack, you have to be very concerned about multiple threats," he said. If you're "running to a choke point or out of the building, you could actually be running into additional attackers."

Choke points also tend to be where people get trampled on, Hudson said.

Run, hide, fight

The appropriate response a concert or moviegoer has to an active threat will be determined by his or her proximity to the actual threat, Hudson said.

Gomez advises people to remember the FBI slogan "Run. Hide. Fight."

"That is very applicable to any kind of situation, whether it is a terrorist attack, an active shooter or just some type of violence," Gomez said.

"You always want to run if you can," Gomez said.

If the threat is not immediate and you're not injured, Hudson recommends to shelter in place.

But, if there's no place to hide, "you have to defend yourself," Gomez said.

If you're close to the active shooter, then it may be prudent to attack the shooter, Hudson said. But in the event of a bomb or someone with a knife, "distance is your friend," he explained.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/03 Trauma surgeon Las Vegas shooting
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/trauma-surgeon-las-vegas-shooting-aftermath-pretty-surreal/story?id=50243406
GIST	<p>Dr. Syed Saquib said he was the lone trauma surgeon on call at University Medical Center Sunday night when the hospital was notified that there was "a mass casualty situation on the Vegas strip."</p> <p>It was a little after 10 p.m. and, very quickly, it became an all-hands-on-deck situation.</p> <p>"We were seeing all kinds of injuries. Gun shots to the head, chest, abdomen and pelvis and extremities," Saquib told ABC News' Juju Chang during an interview for "Nightline." "[We had] walking wounded, patients that were brought in by other family, friends ... people coming through ambulance, it was a pretty surreal scene.</p> <p>"This is something we deal with on a regular basis," he added. "The only difference was the higher volume."</p> <p>At least 59 people were killed and 527 injured in Las Vegas Sunday night when a gunman opened fire on a music festival crowd from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, in what is now the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history.</p> <p>A special education teacher, a Navy war veteran, a police records technician and a nurse who shielded his wife during the shooting are among those who were killed.</p>

Saquib said several surgeons volunteered to come in and they quickly went to work. According to their website, UMC Hospital is the only Level-I trauma center in Nevada.

"We had multiple ORs running at one point simultaneously, taking care of patients," Saquib said. "It was a very busy night."

As ambulances rushed to the scene, first responders plugged wounds with their bare hands and used their clothing to try to stanch each other's bleeding. At least one man described a stranger who died in his arms.

In addition to gunshot wounds, victims suffered injuries from shrapnel, from climbing fences and from being trampled, said Clark County Fire Chief Greg Cassell.

An off-duty Las Vegas police officer who was attending the concert is among the dead, police said. No on-duty emergency response personnel were injured, Cassell said.

Saquib said hospitals across the Las Vegas area worked together to take in patients and assess where the most critically wounded would go for surgery.

As it turns out, Saquib said medical personnel who had been involved in treating patients after the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting had recently given them a lecture about their experiences.

"I honestly haven't had a chance to fully process this tragedy," he said. "I've been so focused on staying in the moment and on staying focused on trying to provide the best care possible for our patients. Once I've had a few more days to reflect on this and look back I think it'll hit me at that point."

And Saquib was back on duty Monday night.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

Cyber Awareness

[Top of page](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Virtual kidnappings grab FBI attention
SOURCE	http://koin.com/2017/10/02/virtual-kidnappings-grab-the-attention-of-the-fbi/
GIST	<p>PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN) — "How much money can you pay right now by yourselves so we can let your brother go?"</p> <p>It starts with a frantic phone call from an unfamiliar voice telling you someone you love has been kidnapped and is in danger. But the FBI is re-sounding the alarm about what they call "virtual kidnapping."</p> <p>The "kidnappers" use social media to help weave their tale of untruth hoping that — in the end — you'll quickly pay up to get your loved one back.</p> <p>These calls have the FBI working overtime to make potential victims aware of this scam.</p> <p>"We do see victims all over Oregon and all over the country on a daily basis," said Beth Anne Steele with the Portland office of the FBI. "99.9% of the time if you receive that call, that text, that email saying a loved one has been kidnapped, it most likely is not true."</p> <p>The scammers tap social media to research their potential victims, learn where they live, where they go and who their friends are. They use that information to carefully craft their kidnapping con game.</p> <p>Though no one had really been kidnapped, the scammers often have someone screaming or crying in the background while they threaten to hurt them unless a ransom is paid immediately. Sometimes they claim to be members of a drug cartel and order their targets to wire money immediately.</p>

It recently happened to a Beaverton mom — but she figured it out, confirmed her daughter was safe and hung up.

But others continue to fall victim and wire thousands of dollars to that voice on the other end.

“Know what the scams are,” Steele said. “Be prepared to react to them and then don’t fall for them. Take a minute and think about it: Is this really true?”

Steele said if you get one of those calls or texts, ask to speak to the hostage and/or try to contact your loved one by another method.

Most of all, know that there’s a really, really, really good chance this is a scam.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Vancouver firm protects neo-Nazi website
-----------------	---

SOURCE	http://www.chronline.com/news/southwest-washington-firm-offers-cybersecurity-for-neo-nazi-site/article_686efa3c-a7b6-11e7-aa02-7f8781203c90.html
---------------	---

GIST	<p>A neo-Nazi website recently jettisoned from the businesses of some major internet companies has found aid from a Vancouver cybersecurity firm and its 20-year-old founder.</p> <p>In August, The Daily Stormer was given the boot by Google, GoDaddy and the cybersecurity company Cloudflare, among others, after it mocked the woman killed during protests in Charlottesville, Va. The companies said the website, featuring topics like "Jewish Problem" and "Race War," had violated their respective terms of service.</p> <p>Soon after, it struck a deal for cybersecurity with Nick Lim, a Vancouver resident and founder of BitMitigate. The company protects The Daily Stormer from things like distributed denial of service attacks that try to clog bandwidth into crashing the site.</p> <p>Though he denounced its ethos and called the site "pretty ridiculous," Lim said he offered to help because the site has the right to free speech.</p> <p>"I stand by all websites. I'm nondiscriminatory," he said, adding that he would not defend them if they did anything illegal. "The Daily Stormer is a small, small, small percentage of what we protect and it has nothing to do with them specifically. In fact, I disagree with it. I'm the target of their kinds of attacks, but I don't really care: it's free speech."</p> <p>Free speech under the U.S. Constitution isn't protected in private business dealings, such as those between advertisers and television networks; nor between websites and companies who offer servers, cybersecurity and other services.</p> <p>But large internet companies wield growing influence over public opinion, and Lim said the decisions by companies to give The Daily Stormer a lesser platform sets a dangerous precedent.</p> <p>"You don't need free speech to talk about the weather. You need free speech to share ideas that are controversial. And, a lot of times, censorship starts with scoundrels," he said. "Once it evolves from there, the next step is 'Hey, I don't like this guy's ideas, or this guy's ideas,' and then no one can talk and we're living in Nazi Germany."</p> <p>His sentiments echo those made by the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation who wrote on Aug. 17 that the situation was "deeply fraught with emotional, logistical and legal twists and turns," but that platforms stepping against online speech can have real-world impacts.</p>
-------------	---

	<p>"We would be making a mistake if we assumed that these sorts of censorship decisions would never turn against causes we love," the organization concluded.</p> <p>BitMitigate makes no money from The Daily Stormer. It offers website protection free and generates revenues by protecting video game servers for \$25 per month.</p> <p>Still, the publicity has helped Lim's business. Since adding The Daily Stormer in August, BitMitigate has doubled its share of clients and now protects more than 1,000 websites, he said.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/01 National Cyber Security Awareness Month
SOURCE	https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/national-cyber-security-awareness-month-2017
GIST	<p>As hacks, data breaches, and other cyber-enabled crime become increasingly commonplace, this year's National Cyber Security Awareness Month is an important reminder of the need to take steps to protect yourself and your family when using the Internet.</p> <p>Launched in 2004 by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, the annual campaign held every October is designed to help the public stay safe online and to increase national resiliency in the event of a cyber incident.</p> <p>"Cyber risks can seem overwhelming in today's hyper-connected world, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself and reduce your risk," said Assistant Director Scott Smith of the FBI's Cyber Division.</p> <p>"The FBI and our partners are working hard to stop these threats at the source, but everyone has to play a role. Use common sense; for example, don't click on a link from an unsolicited e-mail, and remember that if an online deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. And overall, remain vigilant to keep yourself and your family safe in the online world, just as you do in the physical world."</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Ransomware: epidemic or overblown?
SOURCE	http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/feature/Recent-ransomware-attacks-Is-it-an-epidemic-or-overblown
GIST	<p>Major news organizations stated that cybercriminals had raked in more than \$209 million in the first quarter of 2016, more than an eight-fold increase compared to the entire previous year. Citing data from the FBI, CNN predicted that 2016 would see cybercriminals collect more than \$1 billion via recent ransomware attacks by the end of the year. Both the Los Angeles Times and Reuters cited the \$209 million figure, the Times calling it profits and Reuters portraying it as damages.</p> <p>The origin of that number is a mystery, however.</p> <p>Even a few months later, in August 2016, the FBI could not confirm the number, but cited a dramatically smaller figure -- \$2.69 million -- as damages from ransomware for the first six months of the year. The agency had worked through the data and discounted large damage figures from certain companies, an FBI spokesperson said.</p> <p>In May of this year, the FBI released its "2016 Internet Crime Report," and the number had shrunk even further: 2,673 complaints identified as ransomware accounted for losses of \$2.43 million for the entire year.</p> <p>"While ransomware infection statistics are often highlighted in the media and by computer security companies, it has been challenging for the FBI to ascertain the true number of ransomware victims as many infections go unreported to law enforcement," the FBI stated in a call for victims to report incidents.</p>

Yet more details of recent ransomware attacks have underscored that a single incident can have massive repercussions -- especially if a company's operations are compromised.

Global shipping conglomerate A.P. Moller-Maersk suffered significant losses due to the fast infiltration of the NotPetya ransomware attack on June 27, 2017. Three of the conglomerate's business units were affected. Two days later, Maersk could only accept bookings from existing clients, but its ability to operate gradually recovered between July 3 and July 9, according to an interim report released by the shipping giant.

"These system shutdowns resulted in significant business interruption during the shutdown period, with limited financial impact in Q2, while the impact in Q3 is larger, due to temporary lost revenue in July," the company stated. "While the businesses were significantly affected by this cyber-attack, no data breach or data loss to third-parties has occurred."

Overall, the outage and recovery will cost the company somewhere between \$200 million and \$300 million.

So, are recent ransomware attacks overblown, or have they reached epidemic proportions?

Such incidents underscore the potential impact of ransomware -- and any attack that targets operations, such as the Sony Pictures hack. At the same time, there is a lack of reliable data on ransomware cost and the vast majority of small attacks -- which is unsurprising, given that gathering data on ransomware, like with other cybercrimes, is notoriously difficult. The FBI estimates that only 15% of cybercrimes are reported, and that number may be lower for ransomware.

Many companies do not report compromises by ransomware because -- in most cases -- they are not required to do so. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, for example, does not require reporting if protected health information is encrypted.

"There is no reporting requirement, ordinarily, for a ransomware event, and the dollars involved are small enough because they are not materially impacting the company, so they are not required to report," said David Bradford, co-founder and chief strategy officer for insurance data firm Advisen.

Unfortunately, that leaves the industry reliant on unsupported damage numbers that tend to take on a life of their own. In its "2017 Midyear Cybersecurity Report," Cisco stated that ransomware caused \$1 billion in damages in 2016. When asked about the source, the company's response sounded eerily similar to the early, but no longer supported, data from the FBI.

"Their research confirms what has been reported by other vendors, showing 200+ (million) range in the first three months of 2016 and the expected growth to 1 (billion) in overall payout and related business costs by the end of 2016," a Cisco spokesperson clarified.

Cisco is not alone. Without specifics regarding its calculations, the Cyber Threat Alliance -- a group of a dozen antivirus and security vendors -- estimated in 2015 that the third version of CryptoWall collected \$325 million in revenue for its operators. The report states that 406,000 attempted infections had been identified, but does not describe how the group calculated the profits, and in the conclusion describes the \$325 million as damages. The authors did not respond to a request for clarification on the calculations.

Ransomware payments rarely exceed tens of thousands of dollars, and most often cost \$300 to \$1,000. Yet risk experts point out that those numbers do not include the much higher ransomware cost of lost business and productivity. Before 2017, companies rarely had to halt operations to deal with ransomware -- the most notable case being Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, which paid a reported \$17,000 and had to turn away some patients.

While recent ransomware attacks are highly visible crimes in many cases -- causing operational problems

for companies with major infections -- the number of reported cases and damages is much smaller than other internet crimes. In 2016, ransomware was not even in the top 20 crimes reported to the Internet Crime Complaint Center, the FBI's portal for reporting crimes, accounting for less than 1% of the complaints and about 0.2% of losses tracked by the FBI. For comparison, business email compromise -- the top internet-related threat in terms of losses -- accounted for 4% of complaints and 27% of losses.

Even if ransomware cost did not amount to what security firms estimated in 2016, this year looks to be different. While WannaCry fizzled for the most part, the spread of NotPetya likely did more than \$1 billion in damages.

On June 27, 2017, medical and consumer goods maker Reckitt Benckiser suffered a widespread infection of the NotPetya ransomware attack, which "rendered many systems and servers ... inoperable very quickly." A week later, the company began recovering, and by July 11, 2017, most of its manufacturing was "producing close to normal capacity." The company did not expect to fully recover until the end of August, suffering delayed shipping, reduced production and lost sales.

The total loss for the British multinational could be about \$130 million, according to one estimate based on the firm's restatement of earnings.

"From an operational perspective, as expected we had a tough first half, with challenging conditions exacerbated by a sophisticated cyber-attack," CEO Rakesh Kapoor said in a statement on July 24, 2017, adding, "We still have work to do on addressing the full implications of the recent cyber-attack."

With two companies accounting for more than a third of a billion dollars, it is likely that recent ransomware attacks like NotPetya caused more than \$1 billion in damages. The event underscores what insurers like Advisen see as the danger: a ransomware -- or other data-destroying -- attack that exploits a widespread vulnerability.

"The thing that really frightens insurers is not an event that affects any single company; it is the aggregation of events," Bradford said. "Even though each loss may not be catastrophic for the company, that aggregation of exposure is what's really keeping insurers up at night."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Small towns face big cyber risks
SOURCE	http://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/news/12371645/small-towns-face-big-cyber-risks
GIST	<p>On Feb. 25, 2016, a civilian employee in the Sarasota, Fla., Police Department clicked on an attachment to an email. Instead of opening a document, the worker inadvertently launched a ransomware attack that encrypted 160,000 city files and triggered an extortion that demanded up to \$33 million in the virtual currency known as bitcoin to unlock them.</p> <p>The situation was so dire that the city's IT department literally had to unplug the city's computer system and then spent the following night getting rid of the malware and restoring its systems. City IT Director Herminio Rodriguez later told city investigators, "In 25 years, that was the worst disaster I've ever encountered. It was an end-of-life event from the IT perspective."</p> <p>Sarasota, population 56,000, and its IT department weathered the attack. But smaller governments haven't been so lucky. In Cockrell Hill, Texas, a small city of 4,200, a ransomware attack back in December 2016 encrypted all the files in the police department. When the department refused to pay the \$4,000 ransom demand, the department's records, dating back to 2009, were lost.</p> <p>Ransomware is just one type of attack on local governments. Other incidents involve breaches to gather information, such as personally identifiable information and credit card numbers, which can be used to commit fraud, for example. Whether the attacks are intrusions or breaches, their number and sophistication are increasing.</p>

Nearly 40 percent of local government CIOs report experiencing more attacks during the last 12 months, according to a 2016 survey by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). And the frequency is increasing too, with 26 percent of CIOs reporting an attack, incident or breach attempt occurring hourly, while another 18 percent report a cyberattempt at least daily.

That's bad news for local governments, which have fewer resources than many larger jurisdictions to fight back. But it's especially bad for small to mid-sized cities, counties and towns, which may have only one full-time person devoted to IT -- including cybersecurity -- if they are lucky.

Local governments are attractive targets for cybercriminals for the valuable data they store, and the fact that many are connected to state systems and big networks, where the quantity and quality of data is likely to be greater. And in a few cases with small jurisdictions, local governments are attractive targets because some are willing to pay the extortion fee to regain access to their records.

Lou Romero, e-gov cyber liability and risk practice lead at Pivot Point Security, surveyed nearly 200 municipalities in New Jersey, and what he found out was both sobering and worrisome. "Take passwords. I found that 78 percent of municipalities don't have an adequate password management policy," he said. "That means the majority of the passwords never expire and they typically use six characters."

Romero ticked off other troublesome statistics: 97 percent of the municipalities he surveyed don't have a well-documented disaster recovery plan; 46 percent store their backup files and records onsite rather than offsite or in the cloud; and 90 percent of local governments don't bother to encrypt sensitive emails. These kinds of basic cyberhygiene mistakes indicate a lack of preparedness, especially among smaller local governments.

Local governments, in general, tend not to outsource cybersecurity operations -- 61.8 percent keep it in house, according to ICMA. But as local governments get smaller in size, the inclination is to outsource all IT operations, including cybersecurity, according to Romero. A 2015 survey of 200 small local governments in Washington state by the nonprofit Municipal Research and Services Center found that a majority of respondents didn't have any staff members dedicated to IT or cybersecurity. While most did use some kind of anti-virus protection and email security, only about 25 percent of the local governments surveyed reported updating their security policies on an annual basis.

The lack of good policies and practices can be traced to some fundamental problems that plague government at every level. "We just don't have the resources to do this kind of thing," said Steve Sedore, executive director of operations in Allegan County, Mich. Those missing resources include: lack of funds; insufficient cybersecurity staff; inability to pay competitive salaries for security talent; lack of training; and lack of end-user accountability and awareness.

The less rigorous a local government's cybersecurity practice is, the more challenging it becomes to reduce risk.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/03 UK agency: 590 'significant' attacks 2016
SOURCE	http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/861445/Cyber-attacks-UK-500-significant-attacks-in-the-past-year
GIST	<p>THE UK has been hit by more than 500 "significant" cyber attacks in the last year, security chiefs have revealed.</p> <p>Experts at the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) registered 1,131 incidents in the 12 months since the organisation began work in October 2016.</p> <p>Officials classed 590 of the reported incidents as significant, with more than 30 assessed serious enough to</p>

	<p>require a cross-government response.</p> <p>Organisations targeted over the year ranged from key national institutions to small and large businesses.</p> <p>The most high-profile episode was the global "ransomware" outbreak which affected dozens of NHS trusts in May while in June email accounts were targeted in an attack on parliamentary networks.</p> <p>NCSC chief executive Ciaran Martin described the cyber threat as "large, growing and diverse" - and warned further attacks are inevitable.</p> <p>He said: "Cyber security is crucial to our national security and to our prosperity.</p> <p>"We're incredibly proud of what we have achieved in our first year at the National Cyber Security Centre, bringing together some of the best cyber-security brains in the country in a single place.</p> <p>"But the threat remains very real and growing - further attacks will happen and there is much more for us to do to make the UK the safest place in the world to live and do business online."</p> <p>The NCSC, which is part of intelligence agency GCHQ, was established to spearhead efforts to counter the mounting danger from cyber-criminals and hostile states.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Facebook: 10M saw Russia-linked ads
SOURCE	http://time.com/4966438/facebook-russia-linked-ads-election/?xid=homepage
GIST	<p>Facebook said that the 3,000 Russia-linked advertisements it turned over to congressional investigators on Monday were seen on the social network by an estimated 10 million people in the United States.</p> <p>The social media company said 44% of the ads were seen before the 2016 presidential election, and 56% of the ads were seen after the election.</p> <p>Facebook turned over the ads this week in the midst of public scrutiny over its role in spreading "fake news" stories that critics say might have influenced the outcome of the election. Russia created fake accounts on Facebook and bought ads with the goal of spreading false stories. And last month, Facebook said nearly 500 accounts that originated in Russia purchased \$100,000 worth of Facebook ads during the 2016 election.</p> <p>Most of the ads focused on "divisive social and political messages across the ideological spectrum, touching on topics from LGBT matters to race issues to immigration to gun rights," Elliot Schrage, Facebook's vice president of policy and communications, said in a blog post on Monday.</p> <p>"We are continuing to refine our techniques for identifying the kinds of ads in question," he said.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Report: 75% DDoS targets hit repeatedly
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/three-four-ddos-targets-hit-multiple-times-imperva
GIST	<p>Amid an increase in frequency of repeat application layer distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks during the second quarter of the year, over 75% of targets were hit multiple times, according to statistics from Imperva.</p> <p>The company's Global DDoS Threat Landscape for Q2 2017 shows an increase in the amount of persistent application layer assaults over a one-year period. Thus, while only 43.2% of targets were subjected to multiple attacks in the second quarter of 2016, the percentage increased to 75.8% during the same three-</p>

	<p>month window this year.</p> <p>The number of application layer attacks observed each week has reached 973 in Q2 2017, down from 1,099 per week in the previous quarter. The number of mitigated network assaults decreased as well, falling from 296 per week in the prior quarter to only 196 per week.</p> <p>The largest network layer attack that Imperva mitigated during the quarter peaked at 350 Gbps (gigabit per second) and employed a new tactic called a pulse wave attack. First described in August, this method of launching DDoS attacks can be used to pin down multiple targets with alternating high-volume bursts.</p> <p>Imperva's report also reveals that United States websites were hit the most with repeat application layer attacks. While the global percentage of targets hit multiple times is of 75.8%, it reaches 80.3% when U.S. websites are considered. Furthermore, the majority of targets that suffered 50 or more attacks were hosted in the US.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Report: US launched DDoS on NKorea
SOURCE	http://www.securityweek.com/us-cyber-command-launched-ddos-attack-against-north-korea-report
GIST	<p>The United States Cyber Command has reportedly been engaged in offensive activity, namely a DDoS attack, against North Korea's military spy agency, the Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB). The attack is thought to have commenced on September 22, and continued until September 30.</p> <p>The attack occurred just five weeks after President Trump elevated U.S. Cyber Command to a Unified Combatant Command. At the time, Trump said, "The elevation of United States Cyber Command demonstrates our increased resolve against cyberspace threats and will help reassure our allies and partners and deter our adversaries. Through United States Cyber Command, we will tackle our cyberspace challenges in coordination with like-minded allies and partners as we strive to respond rapidly to evolving cyberspace security threats and opportunities globally."</p> <p>The few details currently available on this DDoS attack come from a Washington Post report published Saturday. The report says that the Reconnaissance General Bureau was targeted, "by barraging their computer servers with traffic that choked off Internet access." The effects were temporary and non-destructive. "Nonetheless, some North Korean hackers griped that lack of access to the Internet was interfering with their work, according to another [anonymous] U.S. official."</p> <p>The action seems to be partly in response to North Korean cyberattacks, and partly an aspect of a wide-ranging diplomatic offensive led by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who was in Beijing on Saturday. "What I can tell you," said a senior administration official to the Washington Post, "is that North Korea has itself been guilty of cyberattacks, and we are going to take appropriate measures to defend our networks and systems."</p> <p>That this cyber attack was non-destructive and temporary suggests it could be considered more as a warning than a punishment. It is Cyber Command telling North Korea that it has its range and is capable of much stronger action. By being non-destructive it is probably hoped that it won't provoke kinetic retaliation; although it is quite likely to provoke cyber retaliation from North Korean hacking groups.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Calif. casino reveals error: PII disclosure
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/graton-casino-and-resort-accidentally-emails-customer-pii/article/697349/
GIST	Patrons of the Graton Casino and Resort may have lost more than just their money as the business has started notifying customers that some of their personally identifiable information may have been

<p>Return to Top</p>	<p>compromised.</p> <p>The casino, located in Rohnert Park, Calif., is citing a human error for a mistake that saw a company employee mistakenly include customer information, such as, addresses and Social Security numbers in an attachment that was sent along with an undisclosed number emails between February and August 2017, The Press Democrat reported. The problem was discovered on Sept. 1.</p> <p>Casino officials told <i>The Press Democrat</i> that after it “discovered that certain personal information was inadvertently distributed in a small number of email attachments as ‘hidden’ information that could be revealed via certain manipulation by the recipients.”</p> <p>The Graton Casino would not reveal how many people are potentially affected.</p>
--------------------------------------	--

HEADLINE	10/02 Equifax: US breach victims to 145.5M
SOURCE	http://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/equifax-number-of-us-breach-victims-rises-to-1455-million/d/d-id/1330030?
GIST	<p>Equifax late Monday said forensics investigators have concluded that some 2.5 million more US consumers were affected by the data breach it revealed early last month, bringing the total number to 145.5 million.</p> <p>The latest victim headcount comes as Mandiant, which is conducting the breach investigation of Equifax, confirmed that the attack only affected the firm's databases in the US. Initial speculation by Equifax that some 100,000 Canadian citizens were affected by the breach were incorrect, according to the company. The actual number was 8,000.</p> <p>Equifax said its UK forensics investigation analysis is not yet complete.</p> <p>"I want to apologize again to all impacted consumers. As this important phase of our work is now completed, we continue to take numerous steps to review and enhance our cybersecurity practices. We also continue to work closely with our internal team and outside advisors to implement and accelerate long-term security improvements," said Equifax interim CEO Paulino do Rego Barros, Jr.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Las Vegas shooting: hoaxes spread
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/las-vegas-shooting-hoaxes-spread-on-social-media/
GIST	<p>Fifty-eight people were killed and more than 500 others sustained injuries after a gunman opened fire on a crowd of concert-goers during a country music festival on the Las Vegas Strip.</p> <p>Gunfire erupted just after 10 p.m. Sunday during the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival, which was being held across from the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.</p> <p>Authorities say the suspect — who was later identified as 64-year-old Stephen Paddock, of Mesquite, Nevada — was found dead in a hotel room and is believed to have acted alone.</p> <p>While the investigation is still going on, fake information quickly began to spread online in wake of the tragedy.</p> <p>Here are some of the hoaxes that are circulating on social media:</p> <p>Several Twitter users falsely identified a man named Samir Al-Hajeed as the gunman wanted in connection with the mass shooting. However, it appears that the man holding the gun in the photo is</p>

actually comedian Sam Hyde, who has been falsely accused in the aftermath of other attacks, including the UCLA and San Bernardino shootings. It remains unclear why social media users repeatedly circulate Hyde's photo after mass shootings.

Other users have allegedly reported false information about loved ones disappearing amid the chaos.

Twitter user "@pumaexiliado" claimed his brother was stuck inside the hotel, before other users exposed the fact that he had used the same photo to represent other people before.

Another twitter user reported his nephew was missing, and included a photo of Vine star Lil Terio. The tweet was shared nearly 400 times before it was removed.

The Twitter account holder of "@redevicer" shared an image supposedly of their missing 15-year-old son, asking for help. The tweet was shared nearly 4,000 times before the account was suspended.

And Twitter user "@winterr" shared an image of their supposedly missing 14-year-old daughter. The tweet was shared nearly 1,500 times, however, the page for the account appears to have been removed.

This isn't the first time that social media trolls have reported false information in wake of an attack. The tragedy of Manchester Arena bombing also gave rise to several hoaxes, including false reports of missing relatives and friends.

[Return to Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Court rejects internet mogul's appeal
SOURCE	http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-court-dotcom/u-s-top-court-rejects-new-zealand-based-internet-moguls-appeal-idUSKCN1C710X
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected New Zealand-based internet mogul Kim Dotcom's challenge to the U.S. government's bid to seize assets held by him and others involved in the now-defunct streaming website Megaupload.</p> <p>The justices left in place a lower court's ruling that the U.S. government could seize up to \$40 million in assets held outside the United States as part of a civil forfeiture action being pursued in parallel with criminal charges for alleged copyright violations and money laundering. Dotcom and several other defendants have contested U.S. attempts to extradite them from New Zealand.</p> <p>German-born entrepreneur Dotcom is wanted by U.S. law enforcement authorities on copyright and money-laundering allegations related to Megaupload, which was shut down in 2012 following an FBI-ordered raid on his Auckland mansion. He was indicted the same year along with fellow Megaupload executives.</p> <p>U.S. authorities say Dotcom and his colleagues cost film studios and record companies more than \$500 million and generated more than \$175 million in profits by encouraging paying users to store and share copyrighted material including movies and TV shows.</p> <p>The U.S. government sought up to \$175 million in assets but the defendants say the assets in question are worth only around \$40 million. The assets include two houses, luxury cars and bank accounts.</p> <p>A New Zealand court ruled in February that Dotcom and three other New Zealand-based defendants - Finn Batato, Mathias Ortmann and Bram van der Kolk - could be extradited to the United States to face the charges. Two other indicted Megaupload associates, Sven Echternach and Julius Bencko, who live in Germany and Slovakia respectively, have not been arrested, according to court filings.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Govt. requests Google data hits high
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/government-requests-google-data/
GIST	<p>Governments around the world, led by the US, are requesting more user data from Google than ever before, according to a new transparency report.</p> <p>Released at the end of last week, the report shows that in the first half of 2017, Google received 48,941 government requests relating to 83,345 accounts, up from 44,943 requests from 76,713 accounts during the same period in 2016.</p> <p>It acceded to around two-thirds (65%) of requests.</p> <p>Half of its requests came from the US government, while Germany the UK, France and others also featured prominently.</p> <p>The figures didn't include national security demands made under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), as they are subject to a six-month reporting delay.</p> <p>However, Google was forced to update its FISA figures for several reporting periods in the past, having underestimated many.</p> <p>For example, the number of users and accounts affected in the first half of 2016 was revised upwards from 18,500 – 18,999 to 25,000 – 25,499.</p> <p>The key part of FISA allowing the US government to demand data from service providers (Section 702) expires at the end of 2017, and Google is looking to Congress to pass reforms that will improve netizens' privacy protections.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Ransomware alive and kickin'
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/alive-and-kickin/article/696192/
GIST	<p>Do you remember where you were the day ransomware died? Me neither. Because, of course, it didn't. But right about mid-2015, many of us were donning our finest, combing our hair and shining our shoes in preparation for the funeral of one of cybersecurity's biggest menaces.</p> <p>And then 2016 blew in with a vengeance. And 2017 hasn't been any better with ransomware like WannaCry and NotPetya, the resurrection of "old," familiar ransomware with brand-new twists and the promise of an abundance of new threats and challenges that should keep ransomware alive and kicking for a long time to come.</p> <p>Sounding an early death knell was (sort of) understandable - c'mon now, wouldn't simply backing up files, something any organization or individual could easily do, solve the problem? Wasn't the problem that most routinely didn't? Wouldn't the fix just require a little best practice mojo? In tech years that age of innocence lasted about a millisecond.</p> <p>Nearly two brutal years later, though, research from the likes of Infoblox, SANs, BlackHat and ESG find ransomware among the top three threats, often at the top of the list.</p> <p>"Everyone interacting with the Internet is at risk for ransomware," says Michael Patterson, CEO of Plixer. "The continued proliferation of this type of malware re-enforces that we are losing the compromised data war."</p> <p>And battered companies hesitantly, and with trepidation, ask, what's next?</p> <p>No look into future ransomware threats is complete without at least a peek at the past, in fact it's where the</p>

future starts. Not to go into too much detail - that's another story to be told on another page (See Ransomware Resurrected, page tk) – companies will continue to see old ransomware evolve into new attacks. Take Cerber, Locky and TorrentLocker which, if they didn't exactly rise up from the dead (because they never died), re-emerged more recently to wreak havoc with new features and purposes.

In more recent months, there's been “an uptick in polymorphic malware in zero-day attacks and advanced exploits,” notes Rod Murchison, vice president of product management at CrowdStrike. “Polymorphic ransomware, distributed at scale, can take down millions of servers in a matter of minutes as we saw with WannaCry.”

The most common ransomware is still file corruption using cryptographic API, according to Imperva's blog. With good reason – it still works and is profitable for attackers. But the firm says that database corruption attacks through SQL queries are on the rise, as evidenced by the latest incidents waged against the likes of MongoDB and MySQL. Makes sense because databases house companies' most sensitive data.

“Ransomware attacks have been widespread this year and as these recent attacks against MongoDB show, there's a growing trend of ransomware attacks against big data databases in the form of database corruption attacks,” says Morgan Gerhart, vice president of product marketing at Imperva. “As the volume of data grows, the challenge of securing it is tied to the nature of the data itself.”

The enormity of data volumes associated with these NoSQL databases presents challenges to those charged with protecting it, requiring “security solutions built to handle them,” says Gerhart. “This means incredibly scalable solutions that are, at a minimum, an order of magnitude beyond that for traditional data environments. Additionally, these security solutions must be able to keep up with big data speeds.”

“The multiplicity of big data environments is what makes big data difficult to secure, not necessarily the associated infrastructure and technology,” he says. “There is no single logical point of entry or resource to guard, but many different ones, each with an independent lifecycle.”

But that sea of data makes would-be attackers salivate. “And, when you combine this large volume of business data with ransomware, attackers see dollar signs,” says Gerhart, cautioning that “while protecting the data in your databases is important, monitoring big data services like MongoDB and Hive, which are ‘databases on steroids,’ is just as important. Data corruption, like in MongoDB, is a key growth area for attackers.”

Encryption, the most common method of corruption, is not the only method. It can, and will more frequently in the future, come in the form of wiping out files, dropping database tables and mucking around with the data's integrity. That latter is particularly scary since corrupted data can have huge impact way down the road.

[Return to Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Ransomware resurrected
SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/ransomware-resurrected/article/696196/
GIST	<p>As Stephen King once put it, “Sometimes they come back.”</p> <p>Like a dormant volcano that may suddenly awaken at any moment, ransomware programs are an unpredictable lot. They may lay low for a while, or fall out of favor. But then they reemerge, often with new tricks up their sleeve.</p> <p>Indeed, ransomwares never truly die – at least, not until a decryptor renders their powers useless. But what is it about certain ransomwares that make them so viable for multiple comebacks? And why with each surprise return do they remain so difficult to protect against?</p>

“Malware, especially ransomware, seems to run in cycles,” says Derek Manky, global security strategist at Fortinet. “We’ll track a large number of triggers and exploit attempts for months. Over that time, a number of variants will be launched that either change the attack vector, improve the malware payload, refine its ability to avoid detection, or change how it communicates with its command-and-control server. They can lie dormant for a while, and re-activate in microseconds once attackers decide it is time to launch a new campaign.”

Locky is a prime example: The ransomware made waves when it debuted in early 2016 and soon after infected Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, triggering a scourge of similar attacks against the health-care industry. Then in 2017 it fell mostly quiet, until the Necurs botnet pushed it heavily in April, and then once again in August with the two newest variants (as of this printing), Diablob and Lukitus.

Cerber, a ransomware-as-a-service (RAAS) product, has also played hide-and-seek since its 2016 debut, periodically popping up with new features such as anti-detection and anti-sandboxing techniques, as well as the ability to steal cryptocurrency wallets and passwords.

“Every time it returns, it comes back stronger and smarter than ever,” says Manky. “Both Cerber and Locky now have a large number of variants that have been developed, and quite often there are several running simultaneously in the wild.”

TorrentLocker dates back even further. According to Kaspersky Lab, the ransomware has experienced at least five significant releases since 2014. “Its authors have made several major changes...and it is still spreading, although not as aggressively as Cerber and other ransomware strains,” said Ondrej Vlcek, Avast CTO and EVP and GM, consumer. Vlcek also cited Hidden Tear, a ransomware that began as an open-source project but was turned malicious by amateur developers. “We continue to see new offspring of this ransomware on a regular basis, despite the fact that it known for its poor code quality.”

There are any number of explanations for why Locky, Cerber and even older ransomware programs seem to wax and wane in activity. One key reason is that the malware authors are using their downtime to improve their weapons, evolving them with new key features for the next round of infections.

“Each campaign reveals a new trick, and is responded to with a new counter-defense,” says Sean Sullivan, security advisor at F-Secure.

Indeed, a ransomware's activity can also depend on the availability of distribution channels such as malspam botnets and exploit kits. “If one distributor uses a hot exploit on a high-traffic site, for example, [a ransomware program] is able to jump to hundreds of thousands or possibly over million victims in a short period of time,” says Manky.

Ransomware developers may also temporarily close up shop – only to reopen later – because feel they are attracting too much attention, or believe the authorities are breathing down their necks.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 'Online threats' Sultan School District
SOURCE	http://www.kiro7.com/news/local/sultan-school-district-2-hours-late-tuesday-because-of-online-threats/618567983
GIST	The Sultan School District will start two hours late Tuesday after threats were posted online. The threats were not described in detail, but were forwarded to a couple of students and school district personnel, staff said. Parents were being notified Monday night.
Return to	
Top	

HEADLINE	10/03 UK to criminalize viewing terror videos
SOURCE	https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4598205/extremists-who-who-watch-streamed-terror-content-on-the-web-face-15-years-in-prison-in-fresh-crackdown-by-amber-rudd/
GIST	<p>WATCHING streamed terror content on the web will become a criminal offence under a new crackdown unveiled today.</p> <p>In the latest crackdown against IS, Home Secretary Amber Rudd will close a loophole that allows people to freely watch vile propaganda.</p> <p>Current laws only forbid downloading the material. But senior officials believe they can now identify cases where people watch without first transferring the footage to their own PC.</p> <p>The move comes after tech giants were last night urged to "face up" to their moral responsibility to boot ISIS off the internet in a furious blast from Mrs Rudd.</p> <p>She said the likes of Google had run out of excuses and said companies were even developing encrypted software that was making it HARDER for spooks to tackle the terror threat.</p> <p>The blast came as the Government's former terror chief David Anderson QC warned that Governments were in an "arms race" with terrorists online.</p>
Return to Top	

Terror Conditions

[Top of page](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Experts: multiple motivations w/lone wolf
SOURCE	http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4942382/What-makes-lone-wolf-kill.html
GIST	<p>Lone offender attacks – sometimes called 'lone wolf' attacks – make headlines fairly regularly.</p> <p>It's not just the single shooter killing dozens and injuring hundreds in Las Vegas, but also shootings in Washington and Texas shopping centers. In Nice, France; Orlando, Florida; and elsewhere, atrocities committed by individuals apparently acting alone have surprised and concerned the public and authorities alike.</p> <p>On Sunday, October 1, 2017, Stephen Paddock opened fire on the Route 91 Harvest Festival at the Mandalay Bay Hotel, killing dozens and wounding hundreds</p> <p>Attackers – including lone attackers – often communicate about their intent prior to their attacks.</p> <p>A study examining public information about lone-actor terrorists found that in nearly two-thirds of the cases the perpetrators told family or friends about their intent to attack. In more than half of the cases, people other than friends and family knew about the actor's 'research, planning and/or preparation prior to the event itself.'</p> <p>Several studies have shown that people who attack alone are 13 times more likely to have significant psychological problems than those who conduct attacks as part of a group.</p> <p>Radicalizing by developing or adopting extremist beliefs that justify violence is one possible pathway into terrorism involvement, but it is not the only one.</p> <p>Researchers at Western New Mexico University found that the frequency of these shootings has increased in proportion to mass media and social media coverage. Considering that mass shooters (not necessarily just lone actor attackers) are often seeking fame or notoriety, and may desire to emulate a prior mass</p>

shooter, a 'contagion effect' may not be terribly surprising.

Because just one person is at the center of the event, these sorts of attacks can seem more puzzling and be harder to explain than, say, bombings or shootings by organized terrorist groups.

That also makes them more difficult to detect and prevent.

As law enforcement and military efforts attempt to reduce attacks from organized groups, lone offender attacks may become a more prevalent threat.

My colleagues and I have worked to understand what we can about these attacks and the individuals who carry them out with the goal of helping to prevent them.

A long history of solo attackers

Although these recent attacks are troubling, the phenomenon of individual attackers acting largely alone is not new.

In the late 1800s, anarchists (mainly Russian and European) were calling for individuals to target government, authorities and the bourgeois as a way to bring attention to their cause.

They referred to this type of publicity-seeking violence as 'propaganda by the deed.'

Within a period of just seven years between 1894 and 1901, lone anarchist attackers had assassinated the ruling heads of state in France, Spain, Austria and Italy, and a U.S. president.

What is new is uncertainty about the attackers' motivations.

Some, like the truck driver in Nice, appear to be inspired by terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State group.

Others, like most mass shooters, don't have any obvious political or societal aim, though the attacks themselves do often sow fear. And some individuals will devise an attack and only then invoke an ideology or a 'cause' as a justification, as some have suggested of the 'last minute' 9-1-1 call by the Orlando nightclub shooter pledging his allegiance to ISIS.

Not every offender is really 'alone'

In attempting to study lone-offender attacks, it can be difficult to find scholarship and data, much less observe patterns in the events. One reason is that different researchers use different definitions. Some research has included examination of attacks beyond just those conducted solely by one person. For example, some attackers have had help from accomplices.

Some studies have researched only perpetrators who had a specific discernible motive (such as a political, social or ideological movement); others have included attackers with fuzzy blends of personal and wider motivations.

Studies also differ on whether they label someone as a 'lone attacker' if they have had contact with an extremist group.

It can be more useful to look at features of the attack, rather than just debating whether a given attacker was a 'lone' offender.

This is commonly referred to as a 'dimensional' approach because it looks at aspects, or dimensions, of an incident, each of which stretches along a range or spectrum. Specifically, it looks at what my colleagues and I call 'loneness,' 'direction' and 'motivation.'

Loneness describes the extent to which the attacker initiated, planned, prepared for and executed the attack independently, without assistance from anyone else. Elements of loneness include whether the perpetrator worked with any accomplices or contacted extremists, and to what degree anyone else was involved in any aspect of the attack.

In Nice, for example, the attacker acted alone when he drove the truck through crowds of people but had logistical support and encouragement from a number of accomplices.

Direction refers to the attacker's independence and autonomy in making decisions about the attack. It describes not only external influences but also the degree to which outsiders – or the attacker himself – made choices about whether, by whom, when, where or how to attack.

The 'Underwear Bomber' in 2012 said he was directed to deploy a bomb on a U.S. airplane, but had discretion to choose the flight and date.

Understanding motivation

Motivation is the dimension characterizing the extent to which the attack is primarily driven by a political, social or ideological grievance – or, by contrast, a personal one, such as revenge.

Trying to determine what caused an individual to act a certain way is, of course, highly subjective – and made more difficult if the attacker has not survived the incident.

Interpreting evidence on motivations can be tricky. Reasons perpetrators give for their attacks may or may not be the real reasons; at least, they may not tell the whole story.

A safe approach is to start by assuming that the cause of the attack may not be as simple as it initially appears.

It's important to consider evidence of various political, social or ideological grievances, but also to look at anything that may have recently happened in the individual's life to destabilize his or her usual ways of coping with stress.

Multiple motivations are the norm.

Investigators, scholars and the public at large should not work too hard to find a single master explanation. Rather, they should keep in mind the full range of possible contributing motives, and remain mindful that the combination of these factors – rather than any single one – may have precipitated the attack.

The role of mental illness

Historically, researchers have not found a strong connection between mental illness and terrorist behavior. Having a mental disorder doesn't necessarily prevent a person from planning and executing an attack. And several studies of attack perpetrators have shown that people who attack alone are perhaps 13 times more likely to have significant psychological problems than those who conduct attacks as part of a group.

In one study, nearly one-third of 119 lone-actor terrorists investigated appeared to have a mental disorder.

Studies of lone attackers of public figures have similarly found that severe mental health problems are common.

Among 24 attackers on European politicians between 1990 and 2004, 10 were judged to be 'psychotic.' And among 83 individuals known to have attacked, or approached to attack, a prominent public official or public figure in the United States since 1949, 43 percent were experiencing delusions at the time of the incident.

That said, it remains important to understand that, as with any other potential factor, mental illness on its own rarely provides an overarching single-cause explanation for any particular attack or behavior.

In determining a person's risk of becoming a lone offender, the presence of a mental health diagnosis may be less important than the person's ability to form coherent intentions and engage in goal-directed behavior.

What about 'radicalization' as a factor?

Many lone attackers are not spotted by extremist groups, recruited and indoctrinated into a radical ideology. Even those who espouse extremist rhetoric, or claim allegiance to a cause, may not be true ideologues. Recall that lone terror attacks typically involve a blend of personal and ideological motives.

In the wake of an attack, especially if there is any evidence the subject was interested in an extremist group or ideas, a common reaction is to ask, 'Where and how was he radicalized?'

Some were not.

Fanatically embracing an ideology is not a necessary condition for terrorism or mass killing. People become involved in terrorism and violent extremist activity in a variety of ways, at different points in time and perhaps in different contexts.

Radicalizing by developing or adopting extremist beliefs that justify violence is one possible pathway into terrorism involvement, but it is certainly not the only one.

Watching for signals

Attackers – including lone attackers – often communicate about their intent prior to their attacks, although they may not threaten the target directly.

A study examining public information about lone-actor terrorists found that in nearly two-thirds of the cases the perpetrators told family or friends about their intent to attack.

Finding ways to encourage concerned people to come forward and to facilitate reporting will be critical to long-term prevention efforts.

Media coverage matters

Media coverage alone does not cause acts of lone offender terrorism. The actors themselves are responsible. But research suggests that media coverage typically focuses much more heavily on attackers than victims, and that those media portrayals can feed a temporary 'contagion effect' for mass shootings.

Researchers at Western New Mexico University found that the frequency of these shootings has increased in proportion to mass media and social media coverage.

Considering that mass shooters (not necessarily just lone actor attackers) are often seeking fame or notoriety, and may desire to emulate a prior mass shooter, the contagion effect may not be terribly surprising.

The FBI and others (including the 'Don't Name Them' campaign) have encouraged media to be cautious about how and how much they focus their coverage on the attacker specifically.

It is not always easy to 'make sense' of lone-offender attacks.

But by understanding their origins, elements and context, we can avoid misconceptions and more

	accurately describe the problem.
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Major terror attacks using vehicles
SOURCE	http://www.weny.com/story/36505139/terrorist-attacks-by-vehicle-fast-facts
GIST	<p>Editor's note: This is a selective list which only includes attacks involving civilians.</p> <p>(CNN) -- Here is some background information on terror attacks involving vehicles used as deadly weapons by radicalized individuals or terror groups.</p> <p>Facts: Al Qaeda's Yemeni branch encouraged its Western recruits to use trucks as weapons. A 2010 webzine article, "The Ultimate Mowing Machine" called for deploying a pickup truck as a "mowing machine, not to mow grass but mow down the enemies of Allah."</p> <p>In September 2014, ISIS spokesman Abu Mohammad al-Adnani called for lone wolf attacks using improvised weaponry, "If you are not able to find an IED or a bullet, then single out the disbelieving American, Frenchman or any of their allies. Smash his head with a rock or slaughter him with a knife or run him over with your car or throw him down from a high place or choke him or poison him."</p> <p>Timeline: March 3, 2006 - Mohammed Taheri-azar, an Iranian-American, drives an SUV into an area crowded with students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Nine people sustain minor injuries during the attack, which Teheri-azar later says is retribution for the killing of Muslims overseas. He is convicted of attempted murder in 2008 and is sentenced to 33 years in prison.</p> <p>October 22, 2014 - A three-month old girl and an Ecuadorian tourist are killed when a driver swerves into a crowd at a light rail station in Jerusalem. The driver, Abdel Rahman al-Shaludi is shot and killed by police. Israeli media reported he published militant writing on Facebook and supported Hamas, a fundamentalist Islamic group that has conducted attacks in Gaza and the West Bank, but his family denied he supported Hamas or any terror organization.</p> <p>July 14, 2016 - After a Bastille Day fireworks display in Nice, France, a man drives a 20-ton rental truck into the crowd, striking and killing at least 84 people. The attacker, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, 31, a Tunisian national, drives nearly a mile on the beachfront promenade before he is shot and killed by authorities. French officials say Bouhlel seemed to become radicalized "very quickly" by ISIS propaganda before the attack. He also suffered from mental illness, according to his father.</p> <p>November 28, 2016 - At Ohio State University, 11 people are injured when a student, Abdul Razak Ali Artan, 18, carries out a car and knife attack. A campus police officer shoots and kills Artan, whom police believe inspired by ISIS and the radical cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki</p> <p>December 19, 2016 - A Tunisian man drives a tractor trailer into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people. In the wake of the attack, authorities conduct a manhunt for Anis Amri, 24, throughout Europe. He is shot and killed by police in Milan, Italy, four days after the attack. Hours after Amri dies, ISIS releases a video of him pledging allegiance to the terrorist group.</p> <p>March 22, 2017 - A man drives an SUV into a crowd on the sidewalk along the Westminster Bridge in London, killing at least four. After ramming the car into a barrier outside the House of Parliament, the driver exits the vehicle and stabs a police officer to death. The attacker is then gunned down by a police officer. The assailant, Khalid Masood, 52, of West Midlands, reportedly had a criminal record and may have had connections to violent extremism, British Prime Minister Theresa May says.</p> <p>April 7, 2017 - At least four people are killed when a truck drives into pedestrians on a busy street in the center of Stockholm, Sweden, before crashing into a department store. The attacker, Rakhmat Akilov, a 39-year-old from Uzbekistan, admitted to carrying out a "terrorist crime," his lawyer says.</p>

June 3, 2017 - Seven people are killed in two terror attacks in central London before police shoot three suspects dead, the Metropolitan police say. The violence begins when a van swerves into throngs of pedestrians on London Bridge. The suspects then jump out the van and proceed on foot to nearby Borough Market, a popular nightlife spot, where witnesses say they produce knives and slash indiscriminately at people in restaurants and bars. At least 48 people are taken to hospitals, according to the London Ambulance Service. Authorities announce 12 arrests the next day.

June 19, 2017 - Just after midnight, a van plows into a group of pedestrians who had attended late-night prayers at London's Finsbury Park Mosque, killing one man and injuring 11 people. The driver is arrested at the scene for attempted murder and further held on suspicion of terrorism offenses. The suspect is later identified as Darren Osborne, 47, a resident of Cardiff in Wales, according to multiple UK media outlets.

August 16-18, 2017 - At least 13 people are killed and about 100 are injured on August 17th after a van plows through a crowd of people in a popular tourist district in Barcelona, Spain. Two suspects are arrested, but the driver gets away, according to police. ISIS' media wing, Amaq, issues a statement claiming responsibility, saying that the attackers are "soldiers of the Islamic State." On August 18th, in Cambrils, a coastal city around 100 kilometers from Barcelona, five attackers drive an Audi A3 into several pedestrians, killing one. The attackers are shot and killed by police. A house explosion on August 16th, in Alcanar, south of Barcelona, is also believed to be connected to the attacks.

September 30-October 1, 2017 - At 8:15 pm (10:15 pm ET) on September 30 in Edmonton, Canada, a man purposely strikes a police officer with a white Chevrolet Malibu before jumping out of the vehicle, stabbing the officer several times with a knife and fleeing on foot. There is an ISIS flag in the car, which is later seized as evidence. Just before midnight that same day, a police officer stops a U-Haul truck at a checkpoint and recognizes the driver's name as similar to that of the Chevrolet's registered owner. The U-Haul truck then speeds off towards downtown Edmonton with police chasing it. During the chase into early Sunday, the truck deliberately attempts to hit pedestrians in crosswalks and alleys in two areas along busy Jasper Avenue, injuring at least four pedestrians. Police execute a deliberate tactical maneuver on the suspect's vehicle and then use a Taser on the suspect and arrest him. Abdulahi Hasan Sharif, 30, a Somali refugee, is later charged with five counts of attempted murder, dangerous driving, criminal flight causing bodily harm and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Terror has gone low-tech
SOURCE	http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/02/terror-has-gone-low-tech/
GIST	<p>After the fifth low-tech terrorist attack this year alone in the U.K. — not to mention a spate of attacks across Europe since 2014, and earlier — it is time for governments to reevaluate their approach. At the core of this self-assessment should be a simple recognition, which itself requires separating facts from appearances when it comes to terrorism.</p> <p>Terrorist attacks in Europe have occurred at such a pace in the last few months that we are in danger of treating them as the new normal. No sooner had the attack on Barcelona's La Rambla district disappeared from the headlines than the Parsons Green London tube station was targeted in an improvised explosive device attack claimed by the Islamic State. Worse, without time to pause, analyze the case facts, or think strategically, law enforcement across Europe and elsewhere run the risk of getting stuck in a reactive rather than proactive stance.</p> <p>Yet careful analysis exposes common themes across these attacks, which are useful in a strategic response to the hard-to-predict acts of low-tech terror. Although this analysis will focus on the brotherly ties that many analysts missed in the recent Barcelona terror attacks, readers will readily see elements echoed in Parsons Green, in other recent U.K. attacks (Westminster, London Bridge, and Manchester), and beyond. In many cases, the attackers' networks were held together by family ties. The suspects in Parsons Green, for instance, were foster brothers, young men with recent immigrant backgrounds, who used low-tech</p>

terror tactics in busy, unguarded public places; and they appear to have responded to calls from a parent terror organization (in the case of London, by Inspire, an al Qaeda magazine) to attack trains.

The ties that bind

In the three incidents associated with the recent August Barcelona terror attacks, nine of the 12 attackers were brothers. Only leader Abdelbaki Es Satty and two additional recruits, Mohamed Houli Chemlal and Salh El Karib, did not possess family ties in the group. The operatives were young (with the exception of Es Satty) and shared Moroccan nationality or heritage. This kinship element was often glossed over in discussions of the Catalonia attacks, as well as others in which cell members were often related in other ways (for examples, cousins, via families in marriage, etc.).

Although undertheorized, the subject of kinship in terrorism research reveals the utility of social network theory in underscoring how interpersonal relationships — the ties that bind — structure both groups and commitment levels. In low-tech terror attacks in Belgium, France, the U.K., and elsewhere, these bonds — literal or constructed — help operationalize “brothers in arms” willing to sacrifice themselves for transcendent aims. (Literal bonds involve biological, kinship relations in families, brothers and cousins, while constructed bonds involve the close friendships.)

So what role can identifying kinship ties play in government responses to repeated low-tech terrorist attacks, and can it help to deter such attacks?

Catalonia: the facts and the suspects

Any discussion of preventive and countermeasures must begin with case facts and to contemplate the details of this now familiar style of low-tech, small-cell attack in urban settings. The Aug. 17, 2017, La Rambla van attack was executed by an Islamic State cell and involved three related incidents, all linked back to a central figure, Es Satty. He was incarcerated between 2010 and 2014 for drug smuggling from North Africa, had established ties with al Qaeda jihadis from the 2004 train attack, and successfully appealed his deportation order in 2015 after his release from prison. He was also the subject of recent Belgian intelligence warnings to Catalan authorities.

The Alcanar explosion: The night before the Barcelona attack — Wednesday, Aug. 16 — in the town of Alcanar, several members of the Islamic State cell accidentally blew up their house, killing two members: Es Satty, who rented a room in the house, and 22-year-old Youssef Aallaa, born in Naour, Morocco, and affiliated with the Ripoll mosque, where Es Satty worked as an imam. A third member was injured in the attack — 21-year-old Spanish national from Melilla, Chemlal, reported to be the bomb maker, who is currently under arrest.

Like Aallaa and his two brothers, Mohamad and Said, Chemlal was recruited by Es Satty via the Moroccan immigrant community in Ripoll. Authorities discovered more than 100 gas canisters stored at the location, and supplies of triacetone triperoxide (TATP) indicated that the group was planning a spectacular bombing of the Sagrada Família basilica. Es Satty had communicated to his roommate — internet café owner el Karib who bought tickets for both Es Satty and Moroccan national Driss Oukabir — that he was soon leaving for Morocco, where he had already sent his wife and children.

Attack I — La Rambla van attack: On Thursday, Aug. 17, 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub, born in M’rirt, Morocco, drove a van (leased using his credit card) into crowds at La Rambla, a popular pedestrian mall, killing 14 people and injuring more than 140 from 34 countries. Fleeing on foot, he then hijacked a car and stabbed the driver, the 15th fatality. He was finally apprehended on August 21 in Subirats, outside Barcelona. When killed by law enforcement, he was wearing a fake suicide vest and shouting “Allahu Akbar.”

Attack II — Cambrils car attack: Nine hours later in the early morning hours of Friday, August 18, five members of the cell drove another vehicle into a crowd in Cambrils. The attackers, all Moroccans, included 19-year-old Houssaine Abouyaaqoub; brothers Omar Hichamy, 21, and Mohamed Hichamy, 22;

17-year-old Moussa Oukabir; and 19-year-old Said Aalla. Upon exiting their overturned vehicle, blocked by pedestrian barriers, they began attacking bystanders with knives and axes, killing one elderly woman and injuring six others. All attackers — again wearing fake suicide vests — were shot and killed on site by two law enforcement officers, one woman who was a former military servicemember.

Four remaining suspects who were not killed during the attacks are under supervision or arrest: Driss Oukabir (who turned himself in, saying he was innocent); 27-year-old Mohamed Aalla (the registered owner of the Audi A3 used in the Cambrils car attack); el Karib (the Internet café manager in Ripoll); and 21-year-old Chemlal.

It is worth noting by way of context that Spain has remained largely quiet in recent years, thus, containing this form of terrorist threat since its early exposure in the 2004 Atocha al Qaeda train attacks in which terrorists killed more than 190 people. Afterward, the Spanish government prioritized — often leading the pack — aggressive terrorist-related law enforcement measures, including surveillance, detentions, and arrests. Spain’s National Police and National Intelligence Center forces proactively monitor persons of interest and foil plots, including those linked to Spain’s rarely discussed North African enclave cities of Ceuta and Melilla. This forward-leaning posture is no small achievement given rising EU attacks, longstanding North African immigration into Catalonia, the high density of Salafist mosques there, and the broader migration crisis across Europe in which savvy Islamic State operators target refugee flows and traffickers (and Syrian passports) to achieve goals.

Battlefield antecedents to low-tech terrorism

In planning Barcelona, Es Satty — much like the loose Belgian-French cell responsible for coordinated, recent Brussels and Paris attacks — appears to have tapped into adaptive jihadist alliances and networks in and beyond the Islamic State . In recruiting, planning, and tactics, these incidents are designed to be “low-tech” — low-cost and high impact, with low barriers to entry for recruits.

The reference points analysts too often use are “lone wolves,” when we should be thinking about asymmetric battlefield tactics: IEDs, suiciders, small military units, attacks against soft targets for large strategic effects, commercial technology repurposed for military capabilities, and the use of geographic or human terrain as force multipliers. Such structured, small group radicalization dynamics are a strategic alternative to al Qaeda-style, large-scale attacks and “lone-wolf terrorism.”

In Europe and beyond, the similarities of the attacks — often down to minute details — are not accidental. Explicit instructions on vehicular ramming attacks to achieve maximum carnage are evident as early as al Qaeda’s 2010 article, “The Ultimate Mowing Machine,” in the second issue of Inspire. Cars and heavy trucks have been used as weapons repeatedly in France, Israel, Germany, Sweden, Canada, the U.K., the United States, and elsewhere — with more than 100 innocents killed in the EU since 2015 alone.

While these are not the only examples of the Islamic States’s signature attacks, the group has been explicit in advocating low-tech tools and tactics, especially vehicles, knives, and more recently attacks on trains. Abu Mohammad al-Adnani’s audio message in 2014 told recruits to target “disbelievers ... with your car.” Rumiya 3 in “Just Terror Tactics 2: Vehicle Attacks” lays out specific rationales for “the just terror mujahid” stationed “behind enemy lines.” When initiating an attack, the authors write, “it is important to define the objective. One’s attack may be to harvest a large kill count. It may be aimed at disrupting the financial stability of a specific nation. It may simply be aimed at terrorizing the enemies of Allah and depriving them of a peaceful sleep,” as “the mujahid must choose a method that best suits the operation at hand.”

The Islamic State is still getting mileage — and willing recruits — out of its open advocacy for singling out “soft targets” in glossy online magazines in the West. We must recognize these tactics for what they are: irregular, military-style attacks against civilian populations who remain in too many cases unaware and unprotected from them.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Trial dives in France homegrown terror
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/terror-support-trial-gunmans-brother-open-france-50223761
GIST	<p>More than five years after a French-Algerian extremist killed three children and a teacher at a Jewish school and three soldiers in a shooting rampage, emotions still proved raw on the first day of a trial of two men accused of helping him.</p> <p>The 23-year-old gunman, Mohammed Merah, died days after the March 2012 killings in the southern Toulouse region, following a 32-hour televised standoff with France's police special forces.</p> <p>His older brother and main defendant, Abdelkader Merah, who is accused of complicity in the killings, appeared before professional magistrates Monday. The trial — the first time any charges in the attacks have reached court — is expected to last a month.</p> <p>Abdelkader Merah, also a double French and Algerian national, entered the courtroom dressed all in white, with a long black beard and a bushy ponytail. He faces up to life in prison if convicted. A verdict is expected in early November.</p> <p>The 35 year-old has been in custody since days after the Toulouse killings. He has denied helping his brother to prepare for or perpetrate the killings.</p> <p>The deadly rampage was to mark the start of an era of homegrown jihadi violence in France. The period since the 2012 attacks has seen an upsurge in deadly attacks in France, many of them carried out by young people born and radicalized in the country.</p> <p>Footage from the GoPro camera Mohammed Merah was wearing when he shot his victims over nine days showed he was the sole perpetrator. All the witnesses also mentioned a single killer driving a powerful scooter, wearing a black motorcycle jacket and a helmet with a lowered visor.</p> <p>But investigative judges said they gathered enough evidence to try Abdelkader Merah, who had been on intelligence radars since 2006 for proximity to radical cells, as his brother's accomplice.</p> <p>Merah's defense lawyer, Eric Dupond-Moretti, has said his client was sent to trial "by default" because the actual killer was dead.</p> <p>"There is no evidence in the case file to convict him. That's what I think, that's what I'll say," Dupond-Moretti told BFM TV in February. The lawyer refused to give interviews as the trial neared and started.</p> <p>The investigators have described Abdelkader as his younger brother's religious mentor on the path of radical Salafist Islam. The elder Merah has denied this, and said he condemned his killings, but also told an investigating judge he was "proud of the way he died, as a fighter, that's what the Quran teaches us," according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press.</p> <p>"Assuming that he has contaminated his brother, it does not make a complicity in murders," defense lawyer Dupond-Moretti said a few months after the March 2012 slayings. "Are we innocent or guilty of being brothers?"</p> <p>Alongside Abdelkader Merah in the defendants' dock is an acquaintance of the two brothers, Fettah Malki. He is accused of providing weapons that Mohammed Merah used. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Malki has maintained he was unaware of his friend's deadly plot.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 France probes suspect's earlier release
----------	--

SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/marseille-suspect-released-custody-day-attack-50224750
GIST	<p>A man who fatally stabbed two women outside Marseille's main train station had been detained for shoplifting and released the day before the attack, and used seven fake identities in previous encounters with police, officials said Monday.</p> <p>French authorities are studying the suspect's cellphone and working to determine his true identity and whether he had direct links to the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for Sunday's stabbing. The assailant was killed by soldiers immediately after the attack, the latest of several targeting France.</p> <p>The suspect was identified by his fingerprints, which matched those taken during seven previous incidents registered by police since 2005, Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins told reporters.</p> <p>The attacker didn't have any past convictions in France, Molins said. The man's most recent arrest occurred in the Lyon area Friday — just two days before the train station stabbing.</p> <p>The man was held overnight for shoplifting, then released Saturday and the charges dropped, Molins said. He added that local authorities had no reason to hold him further based on the ID he gave them — a Tunisian passport.</p> <p>French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, apparently not satisfied with the explanation, on Monday ordered a probe of the circumstances that led police to free the man, who attacked and killed the young women a day later. The report is due by week's end, a ministry statement said.</p> <p>While being held in Lyon, the man told police that he did odd jobs, used hard drugs and was divorced, according to Molins, the prosecutor. It's not clear if the attacker had any connection to the victims — two cousins who had met for a birthday celebration.</p> <p>Some witnesses reported hearing the assailant shout "Allahu akbar!" — Arabic for "God is great" — and Molins said that's one of the reasons prosecutors opened a terrorism investigation. But no firm evidence has surfaced linking the man to Islamic extremism.</p>
Return to	
Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Pentagon: service member killed in Iraq
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/american-service-member-killed-roadside-blast-iraq/story?id=50232223&cid=clicksource_4380645_2_hero_headlines_headlines_hed
GIST	<p>The Pentagon has confirmed that an American service member was killed in Iraq and another was injured when a roadside blast struck the vehicle they were riding in.</p> <p>“One coalition service member was killed and another was injured when an IED struck their vehicle Oct. 1 in Iraq,” said a statement issued early Monday by Combined Joint Task Force Inherent Resolve, the coalition helping the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.</p> <p>Eric Pahon, a Defense Department spokesman, later confirmed to ABC News that the service member killed in the attack was American.</p> <p>“The names and circumstances surrounding the incident are being held pending notification of next of kin, and will be released at the discretion of the pertinent national authorities,” said the coalition statement.</p> <p>More than 5,000 American troops are in Iraq and about 1,000 in Syria advising and assisting the Iraqi military and Syrian rebel forces fighting ISIS.</p> <p>The death of the American service member would be the 13th from hostile action in Iraq or Syria.</p>

	Forty-five American military service members have been killed as a part of the overall Operation Inherent Resolve, including fatalities outside Iraq and Syria from noncombat deaths, accidents and at sea.
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Israel intel steps up worldwide cooperation
SOURCE	http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20171002-israeli-intelligence-helped-foil-dozens-of-terror-attacks-worldwide
GIST	<p>Israel's intelligence agencies have stepped up cooperation with their foreign counterparts leading to the prevention of dozens of terror attacks around the world.</p> <p>Following the coordinated terror attacks in Paris that killed 130 people in November 2015, the intelligence branch of Israel's General Staff made a decision to concentrate more on collecting information from foreign terrorists who had ties to Middle Eastern terror organizations, Haaretz reported Wednesday.</p> <p>Since the intelligence branch shifted the focus of priorities, it has improved its cooperation with European spy agencies particularly in targeting Sunni terror groups such as al Qaeda and ISIS.</p> <p>It is believed that Israeli intelligence was behind preventing an ISIS attack against a soccer match between Israel and Albania last year.</p> <p>Israeli security officials believe that the United States-led campaign against ISIS in northeastern Syria will soon defeat the terrorist group in Raqqa, the capital of its so-called caliphate. The possible defeat of ISIS in Raqqa, however does raise concerns in Israel's intelligence community that lacking their capital, some number of ISIS fighters will relocate to the Sinai and join Wilayat Sinai, the ISIS affiliate located there, raising the risk of greater violence against Israel.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/03 ISIS claim deadly suicide attacks Syria
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/9db7312cde034b2293780caf13d1055d/IS-claims-deadly-suicide-attack-in-Syrian-capital
GIST	<p>BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a pair of suicide bombings in the Syrian capital that killed 17 civilians and policemen the previous day.</p> <p>In Monday's bombings, two men attacked a police station in the al-Midan neighborhood with several bombs, before one of them blew himself up, according to Syria's interior minister, Lt. Gen. Mohammad al-Shaar. He said the other bomber made it inside the compound, where police killed him, causing his bomb to explode.</p> <p>The blasts damaged the lower floors of the building, and shattered the windows along one side. Blood stained the floors.</p> <p>The Islamic State's Amaq news agency said the militant group carried out the al-Midan attack. The statement carried by the agency gave no other details.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Marseille knife attacker had 7 identities
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/02/europe/marseille-knife-attack/index.html
GIST	Paris (CNN)A man who stabbed two women to death at a train station in the French city of Marseille on Sunday had several registered identities.

	<p>Paris prosecutor Francois Molins told journalists Monday that the man had been linked to seven names through digital fingerprints.</p> <p>The man was shot dead by military police after carrying out the stabbings at the Saint-Charles train station, in what authorities are treating as a terror attack.</p> <p>The last identity listed for the attacker was Ahmed H., a Tunisian national, Molins said. The attacker used the different identities in the years 2005 to 2017. He had been picked up by authorities in Lyon, France, on September 29 for shoplifting.</p> <p>Molins described how the attacker stabbed one woman several times with a 20-centimeter knife. He ran away and then returned to attack the second woman.</p> <p>He said a passer-by tried to intervene before the attacker moved towards police, who shot him dead.</p> <p>Another small kitchen knife and a mobile phone were found on the attacker, Molins said, adding that he was known to have consumed hard drugs.</p> <p>Amaq, ISIS' media wing, issued a statement on social media late Sunday calling the attacker a "soldier of the Islamic State." ISIS did not name the attacker or provide evidence that he was linked to the terror group.</p> <p>While the incident is being treated as a terror attack, authorities are now investigating whether the suspect had links to established terror organizations.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 US drone shot down in Yemen
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/02/politics/us-drone-shot-down-yemen/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)A US military MQ-9 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle was shot down in western Yemen Sunday, Pentagon spokesman Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway told CNN Monday.</p> <p>"This incident is under investigation," he added.</p> <p>Yemen is currently beset by a civil war between the Houthi rebels, who control vast swaths of the country's north, including the capital, and the internationally recognized government which is backed by a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>On Sunday the Houthi-controlled Defense Ministry announced that it had downed an American made surveillance drone in the outskirts of Yemen's capital Sanaa.</p> <p>The US military is conducting two primary missions in Yemen, non-combat support to the Saudi-led coalition and a counterterrorism mission that targets al Qaeda in Yemen.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Puzzle: ISIS claims responsibility
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Headline/terrorism-mass-killing-twitter-terrorist-attack/2017/10/02/id/817211/
GIST	<p>ISIS's quick claim of responsibility for the worst mass killing in U.S. history has experts puzzled.</p> <p>The group took credit for the horrific attack in Las Vegas on its semi-official news agency, Amaq.</p> <p>The group claimed Paddock, whom they identified as "Abu Abd Abdulbar al-Ameriki," was a "soldier of</p>

	<p>the Caliphate." Later, ISIS claimed he had converted to Islam months ago.</p> <p>"This is, to say the least, very strange," tweeted Amarnath Amarasingam, a research fellow at George Washington University's extremism program.</p> <p>Rita Katz, director of SITE Intelligence Group, which closely tracks the group, agreed.</p> <p>Experts who track the group closely say when it comes to attacks in the West, if ISIS is claiming responsibility, there is usually some kind of connection between the perpetrator and the group, The Hill reported.</p> <p>Still, ISIS often claims responsibility for attacks that might have only been inspired by the radical Islamist ideology — not directed or funded by ISIS leadership.</p> <p>But until recently, claims of responsibility put out through official channels were seen as reliable — but that might be changing, The Hill reported.</p> <p>In June, ISIS took credit for a deadly attack on a casino in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, claiming the shooter converted to Islam months before. But the attack later appeared to be a botched robbery by a gambling addict.</p> <p>Last month, the group claimed it had placed bombs at Charles de Gaulle Airport, sparking an evacuation. But there were no bombs and the evacuation was unrelated to terrorism, The Hill reported.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/03 Paris: 5 arrests in failed bombing attempt
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/arrests-explosives-found-chic-paris-district-50246005
GIST	<p>Five people are in custody after an apparent failed bombing attempt in a chic Paris neighborhood.</p> <p>Paris police say a neighbor alerted authorities to suspicious activity early Saturday in the building in the 16th arrondissement, or district. A judicial official said an explosive device was found and deactivated.</p> <p>The five suspects remain in custody Tuesday and counterterrorism prosecutors opened an investigation, according to the judicial official. He was not authorized to be publicly named discussing an ongoing case.</p> <p>The incident came the same weekend as a deadly stabbing in Marseille by a man who used multiple aliases. His motives are unclear, though it was claimed by the Islamic State group.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Experts: vulnerability of 'soft targets'
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/concerts-soft-targets-remain-vulnerable-attack-experts/story?id=47582876
GIST	<p>Sunday's mass shooting in Las Vegas, which is now the deadliest in U.S. history, showcases once again the vulnerability of certain events.</p> <p>In this case, a shooter opened fire from an elevated hotel room and targeted the crowd at an outdoor concert, killing at least 58 people and injuring 515.</p> <p>"What [the shooter] did was he identified a gap in security and he exploited it," said former LAPD Officer Steve Gomez, who now works as a consultant for ABC News.</p>

"It now shows the vulnerability that's out there," Gomez said on "Good Morning America."

The Las Vegas shooting comes over four months after another instance in which a concert was chosen as a target for a deadly attack. In May, there was a deadly blast outside the security barriers of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England. The bombing killed 22 people and injured 250 others.

Experts told ABC News then that so-called soft targets offer terrorists practical and symbolic value.

John Cohen, a former counterterrorism coordinator for the Department of Homeland Security, listed concert venues, transportation hubs, hotels, shopping malls and sports venues as examples of soft targets.

"They are places that are difficult to harden because that would undermine the very reason they exist," said Cohen, who is now an ABC News consultant.

Officials said today they have found no connection between the Las Vegas shooting and any international terrorist group. Officials added that the suspect, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock, was not known to law enforcement.

Karen Greenberg, the director of the Center on National Security at Fordham University School of Law, told ABC News in May that an attack at a concert carries deep cultural significance.

"The symbolism of attacking Westerners who are enjoying themselves is what makes it an attractive target," said Greenberg, the author of "Rogue Justice: The Making of the Security State." "Terrorism is making civilians feel unsafe in their space."

Security precautions have been ramped up throughout much of the U.S. and Europe in recent years in light of other attacks, though Greenberg said that in focusing on more obvious, high-profile targets, law enforcement may have merely diverted the possibility of attack into other areas.

"We've made it so secure in places that are known targets that they've pushed attacks into more marginalized places," she said. "That's an interesting part of what's happened. Law enforcement has to secure not just the central places but recognize what that means in terms of where it pushes an attack."

Cohen noted that the evolving nature of how terrorist groups operate have placed soft targets in the sights of would-be terrorists who have not undergone military training.

"The tactics of groups like AQAP [al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula] and ISIS have changed, where they have sought to inspire [followers] primarily through the internet and social media," Cohen said. "Attacking a soft target doesn't require a high degree of planning and support. You can essentially get your weapon, go to a public place and kill or injure as many people as you can."

Eliminating the public's vulnerability at soft targets isn't necessarily possible, and Cohen notes how politicians and other officials regularly encourage people to continue to live their lives normally after an attack.

That kind of encouragement is a way of combating the second impact of a terrorist attack, which is the fear that terrorism instills in people in an effort to change their ways.

Greenberg said that attacks on soft targets have "succeeded in a lot of ways" in that they replace the public's sense of safety with one of fear.

"Since 9/11 in this country, since 7/7 in Britain, there's a heightened sense of fear about going about daily life," she said, referring to attacks in 2001 and 2005, respectively. "If one of the things they are attacking is peace of mind in our daily life, they can succeed in doing that. That's the goal."

Cohen said that people should "be aware but not afraid" of going to soft target areas, noting that they

	<p>should be observant, should alert law enforcement if they spot anything suspicious and, because there may be increased security at large events like concerts, should plan accordingly.</p> <p>Greenberg urges people to adapt and evolve with the changing times.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

Suspicious, Unusual

[Top of page](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Officials: fake opioid pills contain fentanyl
SOURCE	http://komonews.com/news/local/health-officials-lethal-fentanyl-found-locally-in-counterfeit-kill-pills
GIST	<p>SEATTLE - Local health officials are warning the public about the discovery of fake oxycodone pills circulating in the area that actually contain potentially lethal amounts of the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl.</p> <p>Public Health Seattle & King County describes the fake drugs as counterfeit "kill pills."</p> <p>The fake pills were discovered by the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory late last week when it analyzed what looked like a bag of oxycodone pills that came back positive for fentanyl.</p> <p>The large amount of fake pills were found on a deceased person in King County. While the cause of death of the individual is pending at this time, health officials suspect the individual took these drugs and died of an overdose.</p> <p>Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid drug, is about 100 times more powerful than other opioids. Fentanyl can be in pills, powder and heroin, King County health officials said.</p> <p>Public health officials are now concerned about the potential for an increase in fentanyl in our region because it has caused dramatic increases in overdose deaths in other parts of the country.</p> <p>"The risk of overdose from fentanyl and this latest batch of fake pills reinforces the need for users to be aware that fentanyl is circulating in our community and may be hidden in pills and other illicit drugs," Public Health Seattle & King County said in a statement.</p> <p>"To prevent accidental overdose, illicit drug users should not use (them) alone and should carry naloxone, the medication that can reverse an overdose. And, the best way to protect your health is to be treated for addiction."</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/01 Seizure NKorea ship held surprise cargo
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/a-north-korean-ship-was-seized-off-egypt-with-a-huge-cache-of-weapons-destined-for-a-surprising-buyer/2017/10/01/d9a4e06e-a46d-11e7-b14f-f41773cd5a14_story.html?utm_term=.c861f00073c0
GIST	<p>Last August, a secret message was passed from Washington to Cairo warning about a mysterious vessel steaming toward the Suez Canal. The bulk freighter named Jie Shun was flying Cambodian colors but had sailed from North Korea, the warning said, with a North Korean crew and an unknown cargo shrouded by heavy tarps.</p> <p>Armed with this tip, customs agents were waiting when the ship entered Egyptian waters. They swarmed the vessel and discovered, concealed under bins of iron ore, a cache of more than 30,000 rocket-propelled grenades. It was, as a United Nations report later concluded, the "largest seizure of ammunition in the</p>

history of sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.”

But who were the rockets for? The Jie Shun’s final secret would take months to resolve and would yield perhaps the biggest surprise of all: The buyers were the Egyptians themselves.

A U.N. investigation uncovered a complex arrangement in which Egyptian business executives ordered millions of dollars worth of North Korean rockets for the country’s military while also taking pains to keep the transaction hidden, according to U.S. officials and Western diplomats familiar with the findings. The incident, many details of which were never publicly revealed, prompted the latest in a series of intense, if private, U.S. complaints over Egyptian efforts to obtain banned military hardware from Pyongyang, the officials said.

It also shed light on a little-understood global arms trade that has become an increasingly vital financial lifeline for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the wake of unprecedented economic sanctions.

A statement from the Egyptian Embassy in Washington pointed to Egypt’s “transparency” and cooperation with U.N. officials in finding and destroying the contraband.

“Egypt will continue to abide by all Security Council resolutions and will always be in conformity with these resolutions as they restrain military purchases from North Korea,” the statement said.

But U.S. officials confirmed that delivery of the rockets was foiled only when U.S. intelligence agencies spotted the vessel and alerted Egyptian authorities through diplomatic channels — essentially forcing them to take action — said current and former U.S. officials and diplomats briefed on the events. The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss U.S. and U.N. findings, said the Jie Shun episode was one of a series of clandestine deals that led the Trump administration to freeze or delay nearly \$300 million in military aid to Egypt over the summer.

Whether North Korea was ever paid for the estimated \$23 million rocket shipment is unclear. But the episode illustrates one of the key challenges faced by world leaders in seeking to change North Korea’s behavior through economic pressure. Even as the United States and its allies pile on the sanctions, Kim continues to quietly reap profits from selling cheap conventional weapons and military hardware to a list of customers and beneficiaries that has at times included Iran, Burma, Cuba, Syria, Eritrea and at least two terrorist groups, as well as key U.S. allies such as Egypt, analysts said.

Some customers have long-standing military ties with Pyongyang, while others have sought to take advantage of the unique market niche created by North Korea: a kind of global eBay for vintage and refurbished Cold War-era weapons, often at prices far lower than the prevailing rates.

Over time, the small-arms trade has emerged as a reliable source of cash for a regime with considerable expertise in the tactics of running contraband, including the use of “false flag” shipping and the clever concealment of illegal cargo in bulk shipments of legitimate goods such as sugar or — as in the case of the Jie Shun — a giant mound of loose iron ore.

“These cover materials not only act to obfuscate shipments, but really highlights the way that licit North Korean businesses are being used to facilitate North Korean illicit activity,” said David Thompson, a senior analyst and investigator of North Korean financial schemes for the Center for Advanced Defense Studies, a nonprofit research organization based in Washington. “It is this nesting which makes this illicit activity so hard to identify.”

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE 10/02 Record dry summer thwarts Seattle record

SOURCE <http://komonews.com/weather/scotts-weather-blog/record-dry-summer-thwarts-seattle-record-that-was-thought-to-be-a-shoo-in>

GIST	<p>All Seattle had to do was have some semblance of a normal summer in the rainfall department and we'd have a shiny new record to boast this past weekend.</p> <p>Instead, we not only came up short, but fell out of the Top 3.</p> <p>Seattle ended their "water year" annual rainfall -- measured from October 1 through Sept. 30, at 49.41 inches. The record was 51.82 inches set in 1997. Seattle would have EASILY made that mark had this not been the driest summer on record and was well ahead of the record pace until our rainfall flat-lined in late June...</p> <p>Seattle was at 48.84" on June 30 with three months left. Instead, this year ended up in 5th place.</p> <p>The "water year" is measured from the start of the official rainy season in Seattle (October 1) as an additional weather statistic to better capture the entire typically-rainy fall and winter into one tally instead of resetting it in the middle in January.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Bizarre string of events at Oregon lodge
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/suspect-in-attack-at-oregon-lodge-run-down-on-freeway/
GIST	<p>ASHLAND, Ore. (AP) — A man shot and killed a cook at an Oregon lodge in an apparent random attack that ended with the suspect firing shots at traffic on Interstate 5 before a pickup hit and killed him.</p> <p>An early Saturday morning homicide and apparent robbery at Callahan's lodge in Ashland sparked simultaneous crime scenes after the man believed to have killed cook Ryan Bagley reportedly opened fire on traffic driving on southbound I-5 near the California border.</p> <p>The chaos ended when a motorist whose pickup was apparently struck by bullets ran over the shooter, according to Oregon State Police and Jackson County Sheriff's Office reports.</p> <p>Deputies and Oregon State Police officers found the man dead on the highway with a gun on the ground nearby, sheriff's officials said.</p> <p>The suspect parked his car diagonally along the freeway, exited and shot at oncoming cars, sheriff's officials said. The man was run over by a car he shot at shortly before 7 a.m. The driver called 911 and reported he had hit a man who was firing at his car, officials said.</p> <p>Motorists called 911 at 7:30 a.m. Saturday to report a man firing shots at vehicles.</p> <p>There's no sign that Bagley, the victim, knew the shooter, according to a release from Sheriff's Sgt. Julie Denney.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Early winter storm slams Colorado
SOURCE	http://www.coloradoan.com/story/weather/2017/10/02/fall-storm-brings-up-18-inches-snow-colorado-peaks/723996001/
GIST	<p>DENVER (AP) — The National Weather Service says an early autumn storm is dropping heavy snow in the northern Colorado mountains.</p> <p>The resort town of Steamboat Springs reported 18 inches (46 centimeters) Monday. Red Cliff, south of Vail, reported 14 inches (36 centimeters).</p>

	<p>Winter Park reported nearly 10 inches (25 centimeters).</p> <p>The storm prompted highway officials to close U.S. 6 over Vail Pass, the east-west route normally taken by trucks carrying hazardous materials to avoid the Eisenhower Tunnel in the mountains on Interstate 70.</p> <p>More: Is your vehicle ready for the snow?</p> <p>The tunnel is 1.7 miles (3 kilometers) long.</p> <p>Highway officials say I-70 is rainy but open.</p> <p>The Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for the northern mountains and much of northwestern Colorado through midnight.</p> <p>Snow was also falling in the mountains and foothills just west of Denver.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 GM going all-electric; ditching gas, diesel
SOURCE	https://www.nbcnews.com/business/autos/gm-going-all-electric-will-ditch-gas-diesel-powered-cars-n806806
GIST	<p>General Motors plans to go 100 percent electric, the Detroit automaker announced Monday.</p> <p>GM currently offers one extended-range electric vehicle, the Chevrolet Bolt EV, but will add two others within 18 months, said Executive Vice President Mark Reuss, with “at least 20” to be in the line-up by 2023. In addition, the company is developing a new truck platform powered by hydrogen fuel cells, dubbed Surus, short for Silent Utility Rover Universal Superstructure.</p> <p>“General Motors believes in an all-electric future,” Reuss said. “Although that future won't happen overnight, GM is committed to driving increased usage and acceptance of electric vehicles through no-compromise solutions that meet our customers' needs.”</p> <p>In recent months, a number of manufacturers have announced plans to “electrify” their product lines. All Volvo models launched from 2018 and beyond, for example, will use either hybrid, plug-in or pure battery-electric drivetrains. Last month, Volkswagen AG said it will invest \$20 billion to develop electrified products. Every model sold by its various brands — including VW, Audi, Bentley and Lamborghini — will be offered with at least one battery-based drivetrain option.</p> <p>But GM said it will go a step further.</p> <p>GM's goal is to abandon the internal combustion engine entirely. At some yet-unspecified point, all of its products will draw power either from batteries or hydrogen. Fuel cells are sometimes referred to as “refillable batteries.” They rely on devices called stacks to combine hydrogen and oxygen from the air to produce water vapor and electric current. That power is used to drive the same sort of motors used in battery-cars.</p> <p>GM was a pioneer in both battery and hydrogen technology. It launched its first fuel-cell prototype four decades ago. Its EV1 was one of the first electric vehicles produced by a mainstream manufacturer, but the line was scrapped when California abandoned its initial zero-emissions vehicle mandates in the 1990s.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/03 SKorea calls North daily; no one answers
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-03/north-korea-tension-sidelines-south-s-

	unification-ministry
GIST	<p>Seoul, South Korea (AP) -- Every day, South Korea's Unification Ministry sends officials to the border village of Panmunjom to call North Korea at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more than 18 months, the North hasn't picked up.</p> <p>As North Korea steps up its nuclear weapons tests and threats, the Unification Ministry, dedicated to improving relations with the North and eventual peaceful reunification, faces an almost existential crisis.</p> <p>Not too long ago the ministry was one of Seoul's most powerful departments. It had central roles in engineering two historic summits between the leaders of the two Koreas and launching joint economic projects in the 2000s. That is mostly gone after nearly a decade of hard-line conservative rule in the South, and a rapid expansion of missile and nuclear weapons development in the North.</p> <p>The nuclear problem has become much larger than just a Korean Peninsula issue. North Korea has launched midrange missiles over Japan and flight-tested intercontinental ballistic missiles, confirming fears that it's close to its goal of building a military arsenal that can target the United States and its Asian allies.</p> <p>"You need both hands to clap and North Korea isn't responding at all," said Baik Tae-hyun, the ministry's spokesman. "But it won't be like this forever. There were times in the past when it took a long time, a year or two, for relations to thaw after periods of animosity."</p> <p>The election of a liberal president in May, ending nine years of conservative government, briefly raised hopes. But Pyongyang has so far ignored a Unification Ministry proposal in July to hold inter-Korean military and Red Cross talks. In changed circumstances, it is less clear what the Unification Ministry should, or can do.</p> <p>It's still critical that the Unification Ministry keeps knocking on the North's door, said Jeong Se-hyun, who served as unification minister under liberals Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun</p> <p>"The ministry has to keep pestering Pyongyang over the military and Red Cross talks," he said. "It has to keep placing calls on the Panmunjom telephone. The situation can quickly change and North Korea could feel the need for dialogue. When they do return, they will likely want to deal with the United States first, but let them try to accomplish anything in talks with Washington without the involvement of Seoul — it won't work."</p>
	<p>Return to</p> <p>Top</p>

HEADLINE	10/02 Judge to Iran: pay \$63M to US Marine
SOURCE	http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/judge-orders-iran-pay/2017/10/02/id/817219/
GIST	<p>Iran must pay \$63.5 million to a former U.S. Marine who was jailed in that country for more than four years, according to a ruling by a U.S. judge announced Monday.</p> <p>Judge Ellen Huvelle of the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., on Friday granted Amir Hekmati's motion for a default judgment after Iran failed to respond to the complaint. Hekmati, who was released in January 2016 as part of a prisoner exchange, alleged he was falsely imprisoned and tortured.</p> <p>It's unclear if Hekmati will get any of the money, which consists of economic and punitive damages as well as those for "pain and suffering" during and after imprisonment.</p> <p>An email sent Monday by The Associated Press seeking comment from Hekmati's family was not returned. Hekmati's attorney Scott Gilbert said in a statement they are pleased with the decision, and "will do everything in our power to ensure that Amir's claim is paid in full."</p> <p>Hekmati, who has said he went to Iran to visit family and spend time with his ailing grandmother, was</p>

detained in August 2011 on espionage charges. A death sentence was later overturned by Iran's supreme court and he was instead given a 10-year sentence before his release.

Hekmati was born in Arizona and raised in Michigan. His family has lived in the Flint area.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE 10/02 New probe: who betrayed Anne Frank?

SOURCE <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/oct/02/ex-fbi-agent-opens-cold-case-review-into-who-betrayed-anne-frank>

GIST A retired FBI agent has launched a cold case review into identifying those who may have betrayed the hiding place of Anne Frank and her family to the Gestapo in 1944.

Investigative techniques developed in the past decade, including the crunching of big data to uncover leads, are to be used by a team of 19 forensic experts led by Vince Pankoke.

The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam has made available its archives and welcomed the initiative, which is being filmed and chronicled online, as the investigators, including historians, psychological profilers and former police detectives, work through the evidence.

The cold case review team has supervised a reconstruction, using actors, of the day of the Frank family's arrest. One of the founding fathers of the FBI's behavioural science unit, Roger Depue, is analysing contemporary witness statements and interviews.

Last December, the Anne Frank House museum published its own study suggesting that the Franks may have been uncovered by chance instead of being betrayed, though the researchers ultimately judged there to be no conclusive evidence.

Pankoke claims, however, to have discovered in his preparatory work fresh insights from recently declassified documents shipped back to the US after the war.

The German security services, known as the Sicherheitsdienst, kept meticulous records of arrests but it had been believed that all the documents pertaining to the Franks' case were destroyed in a British bombing raid in 1944.

"But I've spent a lot of time of the United States National Archives and found documents there from Amsterdam that I was told didn't exist," Pankoke, 59, said. "Some of them are water damaged or fire damaged, and they are in technical military German, so it's going to take a while. But we have found lists of names of Jews arrested having being betrayed, lists of informants and names of Gestapo agents who lived in Amsterdam. All that can go into the data store, and we can find connections."

Pankoke, who has worked in recent years tackling Colombian drug cartels through undercover investigations, said: "We are not trying to point fingers or prosecute. I am just trying to solve the last case of my career. There is no statute of limitation on the truth."

Pankoke was recruited for the crowdfunded project by the film-maker Thijs Bayens, and the Dutch journalist Pieter Van Twisk through contacts in the Dutch police.

Ronald Leopold, the executive director of the Anne Frank House, said: "Despite decades of research, betrayal as a point of departure has delivered nothing conclusive. We are interested to see the results [of the review]."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/03 Report: 'inconceivable' mystery Flight 370
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-mystery-flight-370-inconceivable-50245868?cid=clicksource_76_4_article%20roll_articleroll_hed
GIST	<p>A report into the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 says the continuing mystery over the fate of the plane and the 239 people on board is "almost inconceivable."</p> <p>But the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's report on the search, abandoned in January, concedes that authorities are no closer to knowing the reasons for the plane's disappearance, or its exact location. This is despite last year's narrowing of the plane's most likely resting place to a 25,000-square-kilometer (9,653-square-mile) patch of the southern Indian Ocean.</p> <p>The ATSB expressed its "deepest sympathies" to families of the passengers and crew, saying it was "almost inconceivable and ... societally unacceptable" for the world to not know what became of the plane.</p> <p>MH370 disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing on March 8, 2014.</p>
Return to Top	

Crime, Criminals

[Top of page](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Guatemala arms trafficking routes
SOURCE	http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/guatemala-arms-trafficking-routes-mirrors-drug-trafficking-hot-spots
GIST	<p>A new report has provided additional information on arms trafficking routes in Guatemala, showing that they appear to mirror the drug trafficking hot spots utilized by the country's criminal groups.</p> <p>Between July and September, Guatemala's National Police (Policia Nacional Civil - PNC) carried out a series of operations to identify organized crime groups and arms trafficking routes, elPeriódico reported. The three-month operation saw authorities seize explosive materials and several high-powered rifles, among other contraband.</p> <p>According to authorities in charge of the operations, the two departments that saw the largest number of firearms seized were Guatemala's northernmost Petén department and southern Escuintla department along the country's Pacific coast.</p> <p>The concentration of seizures in these two areas is due to their strategic location and ability to connect to the rest of the country, according to Guatemala's Weapons and Explosives Investigation and Deactivation Division (División de Investigación y Desactivación de Armas y Explosivos - DIDAE).</p> <p>Many of the trafficking routes identified by authorities funneled into Guatemala City, the capital and largest metropolitan area. National police official Stu Velasco told elPeriódico that the areas of Zona 18 to the north of the capital and Villa Nueva to the south were two of the most impacted by the operations.</p> <p>Somewhat unsurprisingly, the new data suggests that the guns in Guatemala tend to go mostly to where the country's criminal groups operate.</p> <p>Pacific routes have grown in importance lately as Atlantic trafficking routes originating in Colombia are becoming increasingly targeted by authorities. Escuintla is an ideal place for trafficking, and criminal groups have long battled for control over the coastal province due to its proximity to the capital and it being home to the country's largest Pacific port, Puerto Quetzal.</p> <p>And Petén, on the border with Mexico, is an important overland trafficking hub as much of the cocaine destined for the United States passes through this region.</p>

	<p>Indeed, the arms trafficking routes identified by authorities correspond with areas some of Guatemala's most notorious criminal families formerly concentrated their criminal operations. For example, the Mendozas, who smuggled contraband before becoming one of Central America's major drug trafficking organizations, had their base of operations in Petén before losing much of their territory to Mexico's Zetas.</p> <p>The link between arms trafficking and the drug trade may seem obvious, but it is important for authorities to understand and address, as guns remain a driving force behind violence in Latin America. As InSight Crime reported in an April investigation, most of the murders in Guatemala between 2014 and 2015 were committed with firearms.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Kent, Auburn PDs target street racers
SOURCE	http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/crime/article176692691.html
GIST	<p>There might be a lot more young people riding the bus this week.</p> <p>Kent and Auburn Police departments put a dent in an illegal street racing operation Saturday night at a warehouse complex in the north end of Kent.</p> <p>The cops made 30 arrests and impounded 25 cars, they said. They also handed out 20 citations to racers and attendees.</p> <p>The police towed what they called, “a large number” of other cars that had been abandoned at the property at the property owner’s request.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Guilty plea in dismemberment slaying
SOURCE	http://mynorthwest.com/772048/man-pleads-guilty-to-seattle-area-dismemberment-slaying/
GIST	<p>SEATTLE (AP) — A man has admitted to killing a woman in her suburban home last year and then dumping her remains in a Seattle recycling bin.</p> <p>The Seattle Times reports that John Robert Charlton pleaded guilty to first-degree murder Monday in King County Superior Court. He was charged with killing Ingrid Lyne, a 40-year-old registered nurse.</p> <p>Authorities say Charlton dismembered the woman he had just started dating before driving her remains to Seattle. Police say her body parts were found in garbage bags by a homeowner.</p> <p>Lyne was reported missing on April 9, 2016. Charlton had told police the two went to a baseball game then back to Lyne’s home and that he spent the night on a street in Seattle. He said he was too intoxicated to remember how he got back to Seattle.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Claim: fire alarm led to shooter’s room
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/10/02/a-fire-alarm-from-gun-smoke-led-police-to-the-las-vegas-shooters-room-retired-officer-says/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-smoke-alarm-1110am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.4dcd2f977b84
GIST	<p>It wasn't the hundreds of muzzle flashes that exploded from the shooter's rifles that gave away his position.</p> <p>Nor was it the panicked 911 calls from people reporting the rhythmic thundering of gunfire.</p> <p>It was the smoke.</p>

As the gunman, identified as Stephen Paddock, fired round after round, gun smoke filled his room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, said Randy Sutton, a retired lieutenant with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, citing police sources.

The SWAT team used the alarm triggered by the smoke to zero in on Paddock's position in about 20 minutes — not nearly enough time for a floor-by-floor search of the hotel, which has 3,309 rooms and a 135,000-square-foot casino.

After they located his room, the SWAT team members used explosives to get inside, the sheriff's office said. Paddock, 64, killed himself before the officers entered, according to Las Vegas Sheriff Joe Lombardo.

Paddock had already killed 50 people and injured more than 400 at the Route 91 Harvest festival, where 22,000 country music lovers had gathered.

It has been deemed the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Paddock's room had a bird's-eye view of the concert grounds.

"He rained down hell on those people," Sutton told The Washington Post. "Hundreds of rounds. The sheriff said that there were several firearms found in the room. He was extremely well armed. He must have brought plenty more ammunition, already loaded into magazines."

Police think Paddock had been staying at the Mandalay Bay hotel since Thursday, concealing a cache of weapons.

It does not take long for the smoke from a fired round to fill a room, especially a small one without any ventilation.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/10/02/las-vegas-gunman-liked-to-gamble-listened-to-country-music-lived-quiet-retired-life-before-massacre/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_paddock-1050am-winner%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.0f174cc25c0c
GIST	<p>Before he opened fire late Sunday, killing at least 58 people at a country music festival on the Las Vegas Strip, the gunman Stephen Paddock was living out his retirement as a high-stakes professional gambler in a quiet town outside Las Vegas.</p> <p>Paddock, 64, would disappear for days at a time, frequenting casinos with his longtime girlfriend, neighbors said. Relatives also said Paddock had been living out his retirement years, visiting Las Vegas to gamble and take in concerts.</p> <p>Eric Paddock said his brother often gambled in tens of thousands of dollars. "My brother is not like you and me. He plays high stakes video poker," he said. "He sends me a text that says he won \$250,000 at the casino."</p> <p>Eric Paddock said he showed the FBI three years of text messages from his brother and said he had no information whether Stephen Paddock had gambling debts or was financially troubled. "I have absolutely no information he lost a bunch of money. The casino would know that," he said.</p> <p>Eric Paddock said his brother previously worked as an accountant but also had real estate investments, including houses and apartments around Orlando. He said Stephen Paddock had no kids and plenty of money to play with.</p>

Eric Paddock said he did not know of any mental illness, alcohol or drug problems in his brother's life.

Their father was once on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. He was a fugitive bank robber and rarely around for either son. "I was born on the run," said Eric Paddock.

He knew his brother owned a couple of handguns but was shocked at the rapid-fire weapon apparently used by Stephen Paddock in Las Vegas. He said his brother didn't hunt, barely shot his guns, and once took Eric Paddock's children on a skeet shooting trip paid for by the casinos.

Eric Paddock spoke in his driveway as he was getting in his car to go with FBI agents to interview his mother, who is in her 90s and who appears to have been the last family member to communicate with Stephen Paddock about two weeks ago. Eric Paddock said his brother last texted him five days after Hurricane Irma hit Orlando to check if anyone in the family had been affected. "He texted and said, 'how's Mom?'," Eric Paddock said.

He said their mother was bewildered, like he was, why Stephen Paddock had shot and killed so many on Sunday.

"We know nothing. If you told me an asteroid fell it would mean the same to me. There's absolutely no sense, no reason he did this," he said, earlier. "He's just a guy who played video poker and took cruises and ate burritos at Taco Bell. There's no political affiliation that we know of. There's no religious affiliation that we know of."

For several years, the gunman lived with his girlfriend, Marilou Danley, in a retirement community in Reno, Nev., neighbors said. They said they interacted with Danley but not with Paddock, whom they described as extremely standoffish. Danley told residents there that Paddock was a professional gambler, explaining their long absences from the neighborhood.

Called Del Webb, the neighborhood is a relatively new active-adult community of single-family homes with desert views, and a clubhouse with a gym and pool.

Harold Allred, who lives up the street from the couple, said his wife often ran into Danley in exercise classes or social gatherings. Allred said he and his wife found Danley unremarkable, though perhaps a little odd, and didn't know Paddock. "He was reclusive," said Allred, 66. "We never met him."

Paddock lived in a number of retirement communities. In addition to the Reno, Nev., home, Paddock and Danley had another home in Mesquite, Nev., said neighbors. In recent years, he had moved to Nevada from Melbourne, Fla. And he had previously lived in Texas and California, where he had married once and later divorced.

In Reno, Diane McKay lived next door to Paddock and Danley until July, when McKay moved to a different community, but said she only ran into Danley occasionally when both women happened to be pulling weeds from their front yards. Danley wasn't forthcoming about her life, and Paddock was aggressively unfriendly, McKay recalled. She only saw him in the mornings, when he went to the clubhouse to work out. Occasionally, he would open the garage door, revealing a large safe the size of a refrigerator. Other than that, the couple kept their blinds closed.

"He was weird. Kept to himself," said McKay, 79, who described Paddock as small but in pretty good shape. "It was like living next to nothing . . . You can at least be grumpy, something. He was just nothing, quiet. He never went out in the back and enjoyed the backyard, nature. They had a little backyard, 17 feet to the fence and hill. But the blinds were always closed."

McKay said the couple was gone for six months last year, which she thought was for a gambling trip.

Paddock's family said there was nothing in his past that would suggest violence. Family members said that

Paddock spent much of his retirement in recent years frequenting hotels in Las Vegas. They said he listened to country music and went to concerts at Vegas hotels, similar to the one Sunday night where he opened fire on a crowd of concertgoers.

Public records show Paddock was a licensed pilot who owned two planes. And he had a hunting license from Alaska.

Las Vegas police said authorities searched Paddock's home in Mesquite, Nev., on Monday morning. Quinn Averett, a spokesman for the Mesquite Police Department said Paddock was unknown to local authorities in the city 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Mesquite police have no recorded interactions with Paddock. Las Vegas police said the same.

Neighbors at his home in Mesquite, Nev., said Paddock did not seem agitated or disturbed in recent days. "I saw Paddock on the golf course about two months ago," said Luis Rodriguez, a groundskeeper at Conestoga Golf Course, which runs right through the retirement community where Paddock lived. "There was nothing strange about him. He seemed friendly and happy at the time."

Rodriguez and other groundskeepers were shocked when they woke up to the news and realized they had seen Paddock. They say he played alone, maybe two or three times, and that he would stop and say hello to them on the course.

At a 55-and-over community in Florida, where Paddock had lived for many years, neighbors recalled strange details about his lifestyle.

Don Judy, his next-door neighbor until two years ago, recalled that shortly after Paddock turned 60, Judy saw the inside of his home and was shocked by its appearance. He said it "looked like a college freshman lived there."

There was no art on the walls, not even a car in the driveway, Judy said, just a dining chair, a bed and two recliners. "It looked like he'd be ready to move at a moment's notice," Judy said.

Paddock, however, always seemed on the move, carrying a suitcase and driving a rental car on monthly trips from Vegas to the master-planned community near Cocoa Beach.

"One of the first times we met him, he told me he lived there, in Vegas," said Judy. "He explained that he was a gambler, and a prospector. He said he was buying this house to check it out for his mother . . . and that if she liked it, he planned to buy another next door with a floor plan like ours."

Paddock's brother, mother and other family members lived about an hour away in Orlando and would frequently visit, Judy said.

During the two years that Judy lived next door, Paddock never seemed to want for money. A new ShopVac, tools and a never-used ladder appeared in the garage. Paddock and Danley would wave as they left for dinner along the beach.

A little while after living there, Paddock left Judy a key and asked him to keep an eye on the rarely used house — and to borrow any tools he might want. "I thought, wow, this guy's a good neighbor," Judy said, who noted no drugs or parties, nothing unusual except for Paddock's gambling. "They did seem to always stay up till midnight and sleep in till noon. They always seemed to stay on Vegas time."

Computers also began appearing on the breakfast bar, and Paddock once boasted to Don and his wife that he'd won \$20,000 during a visit playing card games over the Internet.

Then, as quickly as he had appeared, Paddock put up a for-sale sign, Judy said. "He never said much about it, just said they were moving back to Vegas," Judy said.

	<p>Sheriff Joseph Lombardo of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said, "We have no investigative information or background associated with this individual that is derogatory . . . The only thing we can tell is he received a citation several years ago, that citation was handled as a matter of normal practice in the court system."</p> <p>Authorities said no connection has been found between the gunman and any international terrorist group.</p> <p>After the shooting, Paddock was found dead by officers on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, Lombardo said during a news briefing.</p> <p>Police believe Paddock was a "lone wolf" attacker. Lombardo did not give further details, however, on Paddock's background or possible motivation.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Similar massacre: 1966 Texas clock tower
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/10/02/las-vegas-massacre-recalls-similar-slaughter-texas-clock-tower-shooting.html
GIST	<p>The horrific Las Vegas sniper rampage Sunday that killed at least 50 people and wounded more than 400 has revived memories of a similar shooting a half-century ago.</p> <p>Marine-trained sniper Charles Whitman climbed to the top of the 27-story clock tower at the University of Texas on Aug. 1, 1966, armed with rifles, pistols and a sawed-off shotgun.</p> <p>With deadly accuracy, Whitman, 25, an engineering student at the university, spent more than an hour firing on people, hitting people as far as 500 yards away.</p> <p>The shooting killed 14 people and wounded 31 others. A person who had been shot and wounded died in 2001. Authorities attributed that death to Whitman. He had killed his wife and mother the night before he went to the tower.</p> <p>It was the deadliest shooting by a single gunman until 2007, when a student at Virginia Tech shot and killed 32 people and wounded 17 more.</p> <p>The shooting spree ended when Austin police officers Houston McCoy and Ramiro Martinez made their way to the tower's observation deck and killed Whitman. McCoy discharged two rounds from his shotgun. Martinez emptied his revolver.</p> <p>Whitman's motive has remained a mystery. Some suggested he was mentally ill.</p>
<p>Return to Top</p>	

HEADLINE	10/02 Toxic chemicals killing Calif. wildlife
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lassen-national-forest-toxic-chemicals-killing-wildlife-illegal-marijuana-grows/
GIST	<p>LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. -- It's a massive crime scene, deep in Lassen National Forest.</p> <p>Through dense ground cover and brutal terrain, federal agents are making their way to what might well qualify as an industrial-scale farm operation, CBS San Francisco reported. There are living quarters, kitchens, bathrooms and trash dumps — all for the purpose of growing a lot of marijuana.</p> <p>"This one was in excess of 15,000 plants," said Stephen Frick, a special agent with the U.S. Forest Service.</p> <p>A plant count that high requires multiple plots, across several miles, fed by an endless network of pipes, all</p>

drawing right from natural waterways. Scattered over all of this, there are the chemicals. In every single direction there are fertilizers, poisons, and insecticides.

"The malathion, the pesticides a lot of the over the counter stuff, those are pretty common," says Frick. "The uncommon ones are the restricted use pesticides like the carbofuran."

Carbofuran, an extremely toxic pesticide that's effectively banned in the United States, is fast becoming a favorite tool among Mexican drug cartels, which operate in California's public lands. Once a rare find, it's now turning up at 60 to 70 percent of illegal grow sites, often mixed in bottles that have no warning label.

"A mountain biker, a hiker, a child, could be hiking out here, find this and think it's a full bottle of vitamin water," explained Dr. Mourad Gabriel, field agent for the Integral Ecology Research Center. "An eighth of a teaspoon would kill a 300 pound black bear."

That is exactly what is happening.

Illegal growers aren't just using carbofuran as an insecticide, they're using it to kill anything that wanders into their grow sites.

"If you want to kill wildlife, then let's just go ahead and place poison in food and have wildlife come," Gabriel said.

Bears that were photographed walking into camps contaminated with carbofuran were subsequently found dead, and agents are now routinely finding dead wildlife near grows, with testing often proving carbofuran to be the killer.

The situation has become so toxic that hazardous materials experts are now involved. They're trying to figure out just how long carbofuran hangs around in our soil and water.

The forest service is now approaching 400 illegal grow sites this year in California. There is no specific designated budget for mitigating the sites, which are increasingly complicated and expensive to resolve with the presence of carbofuran.

The grows are an old problem, but the illegal, pink poison is just a new, lethal twist. The toll it's taking on our public lands is just starting to surface.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Deadly shooting in Kansas college town
SOURCE	http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/10/02/three-dead-two-injured-after-shooting-in-crowded-kansas-college-town.html
GIST	<p>Gunfire erupted early Sunday in a popular downtown area of a Kansas college town, leaving three people dead and two wounded, police said.</p> <p>The shooting happened around 1:45 a.m. not far from police headquarters in Lawrence, in an area crowded with people from concerts, bars and events at the nearby University of Kansas, which was celebrating the start of college basketball season.</p> <p>Officers heard more than 20 gunshots, Interim Police Chief Anthony Brixius said. Brixius said responding officers found several people wounded in a large crowd.</p> <p>Interim Police Chief Anthony Brixius said that responding officers found several wounded people in a large crowd.</p> <p>The victims who died were identified as 22-year-old Leah Elizabeth Brown of Shawnee, and Topeka</p>

residents Colwin Lynn Henderson, 20, and Dupree Dean, 24. None was a student at the school, according to university spokeswoman Erinn Barcomb-Peterson.

Police didn't say what led to the shooting, and no arrests had been made as of Sunday afternoon.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE 10/02 Expert: insight into mass shootings in US

SOURCE <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20171002-six-things-to-know-about-mass-shootings-in-america>

GIST America has experienced yet another mass shooting, this time at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino on the strip in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is reportedly the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

As a criminologist, I have reviewed recent research in hopes of debunking some of the common misconceptions I hear creeping into discussions that spring up whenever a mass shooting occurs.

#1: More guns don't make you safer
A study I conducted on mass shootings indicated that this phenomenon is not limited to the United States.

Mass shootings also took place in 25 other wealthy nations between 1983 and 2013, but the number of mass shootings in the United States far surpasses that of any other country included in the study during the same period of time.

The U.S. had 78 mass shootings during that 30-year period.

The highest number of mass shootings experienced outside the United States was in Germany – where seven shootings occurred.

In the other 24 industrialized countries taken together, 41 mass shootings took place.

In other words, the U.S. had nearly double the number of mass shootings than all other 24 countries combined in the same 30-year period.

Another significant finding is that mass shootings and gun ownership rates are highly correlated. The higher the gun ownership rate, the more a country is susceptible to experiencing mass shooting incidents. This association remains high even when the number of incidents from the United States is withdrawn from the analysis.

Similar results have been found by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, which states that countries with higher levels of firearm ownership also have higher firearm homicide rates.

My study also shows a strong correlation between mass shooting casualties and overall death by firearms rates. However, in this last analysis, the relation seems to be mainly driven by the very high number of deaths by firearms in the United States. The relation disappears when the United States is withdrawn from the analysis.

#2: Shootings are more frequent
A recent study published by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center shows that the frequency of mass shooting is increasing over time. The researchers measured the increase by calculating the time between the occurrence of mass shootings. According to the research, the days separating mass shooting occurrence went from on average 200 days during the period of 1983 to 2011 to 64 days since 2011.

What is most alarming with mass shootings is the fact that this increasing trend is moving in the opposite direction of overall intentional homicide rates in the U.S., which decreased by almost 50 percent since 1993 and in Europe where intentional homicides decreased by 40 percent between 2003 and 2013.

#3: Restricting sales works

Due to the Second Amendment, the United States has permissive gun licensing laws. This is in contrast to most developed countries, which have restrictive laws.

According to a seminal work by criminologists George Newton and Franklin Zimring, permissive gun licensing laws refer to a system in which all but specially prohibited groups of persons can purchase a firearm. In such a system, an individual does not have to justify purchasing a weapon; rather, the licensing authority has the burden of proof to deny gun acquisition.

By contrast, restrictive gun licensing laws refer to a system in which individuals who want to purchase firearms must demonstrate to a licensing authority that they have valid reasons to get a gun – like using it on a shooting range or going hunting – and that they demonstrate “good character.”

The type of gun law adopted has important impacts. Countries with more restrictive gun licensing laws show fewer deaths by firearms and a lower gun ownership rate.

#4: Background checks work

In most restrictive background checks performed in developed countries, citizens are required to train for gun handling, obtain a license for hunting or provide proof of membership to a shooting range.

Individuals must prove that they do not belong to any “prohibited group,” such as the mentally ill, criminals, children or those at high risk of committing violent crime, such as individuals with a police record of threatening the life of another.

Here’s the bottom line. With these provisions, most U.S. active shooters would have been denied the purchase of a firearm.

#5: Not all mass shootings are terrorism

Journalists sometimes describe mass shooting as a form of domestic terrorism. This connection may be misleading.

There is no doubt that mass shootings are “terrifying” and “terrorize” the community where they have happened. However, not all active shooters involved in mass shooting have a political message or cause.

For example, the church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina in June 2015 was a hate crime but was not judged by the federal government to be a terrorist act.

The majority of active shooters are linked to mental health issues, bullying and disgruntled employees. Active shooters may be motivated by a variety of personal or political motivations, usually not aimed at weakening government legitimacy. Frequent motivations are revenge or a quest for power.

#6: Historical comparisons may be flawed

Beginning in 2008, the FBI used a narrow definition of mass shootings. They limited mass shootings to incidents where an individual – or in rare circumstances, more than one – “kills four or more people in a single incident (not including the shooter), typically in a single location.”

In 2013, the FBI changed its definition, moving away from “mass shootings” toward identifying an “active shooter” as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.” This change means the agency now includes incidents in which fewer than four people die, but in which several are injured, like this 2014 shooting in New Orleans.

This change in definition impacted directly the number of cases included in studies and affected the comparability of studies conducted before and after 2013.

Some researchers on mass shooting, like Northeastern University criminologist James Alan Fox, have

even incorporated in their studies several types of multiple homicides that cannot be defined as mass shooting: for instance, familicide (a form of domestic violence) and gang murders.

In the case of familicide, victims are exclusively family members and not random bystanders.

Gang murders are usually crime for profit or a punishment for rival gangs or a member of the gang who is an informer. Such homicides don't belong in the analysis of mass shootings.

[Return to Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/03 Gunman's perch inside Las Vegas casino
SOURCE	http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/03/us/mandalay-bay-hotel-room-what-we-know/index.html
GIST	<p>(CNN)When retiree Stephen Paddock checked into his 32nd-floor hotel room at the Mandalay Bay last Thursday, nothing appeared unusual.</p> <p>Housekeepers said they "saw no signs of anything" suspicious, Nevada Rep. Dina Titus told CNN. Paddock had a number of weapons, as well as hammers, in the room, Titus said, but the arsenal "was pretty well hidden."</p> <p>Authorities believe Paddock brought the weapons into the hotel by himself but did not provide specifics.</p> <p>By Sunday, as the Route 91 Harvest Festival, taking place in an open-air, ground level venue just hundreds of yards away from his room, was drawing to a close, Paddock had smashed two windows the hotel room - - one in the front and one on the corner -- and proceeded to fire, ultimately killing 59 people and injuring hundreds of others.</p> <p>The attack was the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.</p> <p>His victims -- concertgoers who had gathered at the music festival -- were listening to the headliner, country music singer Jason Aldean.</p> <p>As the first shots rang out, first responders soon realized that the gunfire was raining down on the crowd from a higher-up vantage point. "It's coming out a window," a first responder shouts on audio obtained by CNN.</p> <p>Attention soon focused on the Mandalay Bay Hotel, several floors up and several hundred feet away. Police entered the hotel, working their way to the shooter's sniper nest.</p> <p>High up on the hotel's residential floors, a first responder radioed in: "I'm inside the Mandalay Bay on the 31st floor, I can hear automatic fire coming from one floor ahead... one floor above us."</p> <p>As officers approached Stephen Paddock's hotel room, he opened fire, shooting a security guard in the leg, Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo told reporters Monday. The first responders retreated and waited for SWAT to take the shooter out.</p> <p>Clark County Assistant Sheriff Todd Fasulo said authorities recovered 23 guns from the hotel suite and another 19 firearms from Paddock's home in Mesquite, Nevada.</p> <p>The room</p> <p>Paddock had booked what was described by Clark Country Sheriff Joseph Lombardo as one large suite with uninterrupted views of the Las Vegas strip.</p> <p>Police channels identified the room as 32135. Paddock would've had a clear view of the parking lot where the concert was being held, across the strip, around 400 yards away.</p>

He had brought "in excess of 10" suitcases to his room over several days, Lombardo said.

CNN law enforcement analyst Art Roddick said he was struck by the planning that went into the attack.

"Firing from an elevated position is always what you want to do so I would not be surprised if we have some video of him actually standing in that venue looking up at Mandalay Bay and trying to figure out which room is going to give him the best advantage.

"You can see those windows are knocked out, one in the front and one in the corner, which gave him two different angles to shoot from and that's all part of this planning."

The presence of other civilians staying in the hotel meant that police couldn't return fire from the ground, Roddick said.

"It's a large hotel and that's probably why it took them an hour and 12 minutes before they were able to figure out exactly which room he was shooting from and then to get to that location and figure out how they're going to do the entry."

The raid

"A team of six officers that approached security, they went up the elevators after discussing the situation with the security and obtaining intelligence," Lombardo said.

"And they checked each floor by floor until they located where they believe to be the room. Subsequently they approached the room, received gunfire, they backed off and SWAT responded."

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Undersheriff Kevin McMahill said once the first responders had "isolated this individual to the two rooms, our SWAT team used the explosive breaching to go in and confront the individual."

A SWAT officer is heard on police radio: "We need to pop this (door) and see if we get any type of response from this guy. See if he's in here or if he's actually moved somewhere else."

Inside the police found the shooter dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Lombardo said the police believe Paddock had "killed himself prior to our entry."

It was a threat the police could not have prepared for, McMahill said.

"These folks were attacked by a man from 32 stories up with automatic rifle fire and so I don't really know how you plan for that. We just didn't see it coming."

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Nearly 1 mass shooting per day in 2017
SOURCE	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/report-u-s-averages-nearly-one-mass-shooting-per-day-so-far-in-2017/
GIST	<p>As thousands of concertgoers in Las Vegas fled a barrage of bullets fired from hundreds of feet away, and 32 floors up, Sunday night, the hundreds who were hurt or killed became the victims of the 273rd mass shooting in the U.S. this year.</p> <p>Sunday was the 274th day of the year.</p> <p>Those shootings have left more than 1,500 people injured, and more than 300 dead, according to the non-profit Gun Violence Archive, which tracks and catalogs incidents in which at least four people, not counting the shooter, are injured or killed in a shooting. These numbers include the Las Vegas attack, for which the total number of dead and injured is still being assessed.</p>

The incidents, as they do every year, spanned the country, occurring in cities, rural communities and suburbs in nearly every state.

"This doesn't stop, I have not had a vacation since 2013," said Mark Bryant, who runs the Gun Violence Archive along with about 20 paid researchers and staffers, most of whom he says have master's or higher-level degrees in library science and other research fields.

In addition to being the 273rd mass shooting this year, the Las Vegas attack was the 18th mass murder — incidents in which at least four people, other than the shooter, were killed — cataloged by the Gun Violence Archive this year. The other deadly attacks left 83 dead and 13 wounded.

In a phone call with CBS News Tuesday, Bryant noted that on Oct. 2 last year, there had already been 292 mass shootings in the U.S., but that the attack in Vegas will push the injury totals for this year far past those of last year.

Bryant said the organization began keeping track of gun violence in 2013, seeking to produce more accurate reporting than was publicly available.

"We weren't happy with crowd sourcing and automated bots, and we've been refining our methods ever since," Bryant said.

On a near hourly basis, the Archive updates with new information about gun-related incidents, typically with up to 140 data points, often even street-level information about the shootings.

The Gun Violence Archive does not track motives for attacks, but does track unintentional, defensive, and home invasion-related attacks, as well as ones in which children or teens are injured or killed, and incidents in which deaths or injuries to police or the shooters themselves occur. The organization does keep data on the types of guns used in mass shootings, but that information was not immediately available.

[Return to](#)

[Top](#)

HEADLINE	10/02 Vegas gunman had 'bump-stock' device
SOURCE	https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-03/las-vegas-gunman-used-bump-stock-device-to-speed-fire
GIST	<p>(AP) -- The gunman who unleashed hundreds of rounds of gunfire on a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas had two "bump-stocks" that could have converted semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic ones, officials said.</p> <p>The devices have attracted scrutiny in recent years from authorities.</p> <p>California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has long railed against them. Several years ago, she told The Associated Press she was concerned about the emergence of new technologies that could retrofit firearms to make them fully automatic.</p> <p>"This replacement shoulder stock turns a semi-automatic rifle into a weapon that can fire at a rate of 400 to 800 rounds per minute," she said.</p> <p>A semi-automatic weapon requires one trigger pull for each round fired. With a fully automatic firearm, one trigger pull can unleash continuous rounds until the magazine is empty.</p> <p>The purchasing of fully automatic weapons has been significantly restricted in the U.S. since the 1930s.</p> <p>In 1986, the federal National Firearms Act was amended further to prohibit the transfer or possession of machine guns by civilians, with an exception for those previously manufactured and registered.</p>

	<p>Numerous attempts to design retrofits failed until recent years when bump stocks came on the market.</p> <p>The device basically replaces the gun's shoulder rest, with a "support step" that covers the trigger opening. By holding the pistol grip with one hand and pushing forward on the barrel with the other, the shooter's finger comes in contact with the trigger. The recoil causes the gun to buck back and forth, "bumping" the trigger.</p> <p>Technically, that means the finger is pulling the trigger for each round fired, keeping the weapon a legal semi-automatic.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Charges filed in Canada car, knife attack
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attempted-murder-charges-filed-canada-car-knife-attack-50234616
GIST	<p>Prosecutors on Monday filed charges including attempted murder against a man suspected of ramming his car into a policeman, stabbing him and then injuring four people while leading officers on a high-speed chase.</p> <p>Abdulahi Hasan Sharif faces five counts of attempted murder, five counts of dangerous driving and one weapons charge in connection with the incident late Saturday in the western city of Edmonton.</p> <p>The 30-year-old suspect is a Somali refugee who was previously investigated for allegedly espousing extremism. An Islamic State group flag was found in the car, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called it a terror attack.</p> <p>Police have said terrorism charges are expected but are holding off on that for now. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Supt. Stacey Talbot, of Alberta's Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, said the investigation is still "in its infancy."</p> <p>"As the investigation unfolds and further information is garnered, and if additional charges are supported, they will be pursued at that time," Talbot said.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/02 Las Vegas shooter had 42 guns
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/guns-loaded-high-capacity-magazines-found-vegas-shooters/story?id=50228093
GIST	<p>A total of 42 guns were found in the suspected Las Vegas shooter's hotel room and house, police said Monday night.</p> <p>Las Vegas Police Department Assistant Sheriff Todd R. Fasulo said that 23 guns were found in the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino room where suspected shooter Stephen Paddock fired into a crowd, and 19 were discovered out of his Mesquite, Nevada home.</p> <p>Multiple loaded high-capacity magazines were found in the hotel room, law enforcement sources said earlier on Monday.</p> <p>Among the guns and ammunition police found the in the room being used by Paddock were some high-powered rifles considered capable of penetrating police armor. There were also some handguns in the room.</p> <p>The additional ammunition indicates that the shooting, which left 59 people dead and injured over 500,</p>

	<p>could have been worse, had police not intervened when they did. Police believe that Paddock took his own life.</p> <p>A modified bump stock rifle was also found, which allows a gun to simulate rapid automatic gunfire. Law enforcement officials are still in the process of examining firearms to determine if they were capable of firing automatically.</p> <p>One official said Paddock had a camera mounted in the room, apparently to record himself.</p> <p>In a separate location searched by authorities, tannerite, an explosive used in target practice, was found, sources said.</p>
Return to Top	

HEADLINE	10/03 Las Vegas death toll rises to 59
SOURCE	http://abcnews.go.com/US/las-vegas-shooting-death-toll-rises-59-apparent/story?id=50223240&cid=clicksource_81_2_hero_headlines_bsq_hed
GIST	<p>At least 59 people were killed and 527 injured in Las Vegas Sunday night when a gunman opened fire on a music festival crowd from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, in what is now the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history.</p> <p>The death toll from the incident could possibly go up, said Clark County Coroner John Fudenberg in a press conference Monday afternoon.</p> <p>Jason Aldean was the headliner of Sunday night's concert; video showed him rushing off the stage amid the gunfire. Other performers from this weekend included country stars Jake Owen, Big & Rich, Luke Combs and Dylan Scott.</p>
Return to Top	

Information From Online Communities and Unclassified Sources/InFOCUS is a situational awareness report published daily by the Washington State Fusion Center.

If you no longer wish to receive this report, please submit an email to intake@wsfc.wa.gov and enter UNSUBSCRIBE InFOCUS in the Subject line.

DISCLAIMER - the articles highlighted within InFOCUS is for informational purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Washington State Fusion Center, the City of Seattle, the Seattle Police Department or the Washington State Patrol and have been included only for ease of reference and academic purposes.

FAIR USE Notice - All rights to these copyrighted items are reserved. Articles and graphics have been placed within for educational and discussion purposes only, in compliance with 'Fair Use' criteria established in Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976. The principle of 'Fair Use' was established as law by Section 107 of The Copyright Act of 1976. 'Fair Use' legally eliminates the need to obtain permission or pay royalties for the use of previously copyrighted materials if the purposes of display include 'criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research.' Section 107 establishes four criteria for determining whether the use of a work in any particular case qualifies as a 'fair use'. A work used does not necessarily have to satisfy all four criteria to qualify as an instance of 'fair use'. Rather, 'fair use' is determined by the overall extent to which the cited work does or does not substantially satisfy

the criteria in their totality. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use,' you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

For more information go to: <<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>>

THIS DOCUMENT MAY CONTAIN COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL. COPYING AND DISSEMINATION IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS.

Source: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>

[Return to Top](#)