



**Injured Security Guard, Fire Alarm, Key Police to Las Vegas Shooter** – Soon after the gunman, perched from a hotel room on the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Mandala Bay Resort, began raining bullets down on the densely-packed audience at a nighttime outdoor country music concert, an unarmed hotel security guard [arrived](#) on the floor, and was shot in the leg through the hotel room door as the gunman watched from cameras installed in the public hallway. Undeterred, the security guard radioed his location and stood fast. There are also [reports](#) that smoke from the guns set off the smoke/fire alarm, which also helped police find the shooter. As current figures stand, 59 were killed and 529 were injured in the attack.



**Assessment:** The guard's radio report and the fire alarm, as part of a barrage of information (and likely misinformation), allowed police to quickly narrow their search of the 3,300-room hotel and arrive on the gunman's floor within 12 minutes of the first shots. The fire chief of Clark County said during a press conference Thursday that the smoke alarm activation likely helped narrow the search parameters to a few floors (many fire alarms cover "zones"). In this week's attack, it was evident that units were responding into a mass-casualty shooting, but in less obvious circumstances, a smoke alarm activation from gunfire could have fire units arriving without knowing the true nature of the emergency, or more disturbingly, they could be drawn deliberately to the area as part of an ambush.

**Self-Reliance and Heroics Among Vegas Concert Crowd** – As the rapid gunfire echoed across the crowd, and reality of the situation set in, many, including an [off-duty firefighter](#) and a [16-year-old boy](#), instinctively laid on top of loved ones to shield them from bullets, and were struck themselves. In one instance, a [visiting firefighter](#) was shot in the chest while performing CPR on a wounded victim, and continued with compressions. Beyond the countless stories of these heroic acts, lie so many more where bystanders and victims saved lives by applying common-sense interventions, such as compression, tourniquets, and even plugging holes with fingers. One [cell-phone video](#) sums up the resourcefulness and cooperation of civilians in getting victims to help and hospitals, including the use of barricades, wheelbarrows, luggage carts, and personal vehicles to transport.

**Assessment:** The harsh reality of mass trauma incidents is the terrible race against time – for both Good Samaritans and responders. Bystanders, the true vanguard of these incidents, dramatically increase survival rates with their near-instantaneous interventions. As far as the fire and pre-hospital response, the first fire unit responded [within seconds](#), even before the first 911 call, as they were returning from another call (the officer informed dispatch of the MCI and began treatment to "dozens"). Also, 16 dual-agency Rescue Task Force (RTF) teams, in full ballistic protection, were deployed. One complication was that responding units encountered injured before they reached the venue as they provided aid and called for more resources. It was also reported that Clark County FD continued to respond to more routine emergencies with close to zero availability, but mutual aid procedures brought needed assets to the area.

**Two Young Women Killed in Marseilles Knife Attack** – Two 20-year-old cousins, out celebrating a birthday, were victims of what French President Macron called a "barbarous act" when a 29-year-old Tunisian killed them both with a knife at Marseille's Saint-Charles train station on Sunday. Witnesses say the assailant yelled "allahu akbar" prior to stabbing one young woman repeatedly in the abdomen, and then, after briefly fleeing, returned to slit the other cousin's throat. He was quickly shot dead at the scene by soldiers patrolling the station as part of Operation Sentinelle, where patrols protect key sites during France's heightened state of security.

**Assessment:** French Authorities were somewhat baffled by the elusive attacker as he has been arrested for petty crimes several times, but given seven different aliases. In fact, he had been held for shoplifting in Lyon and released the day before committing the murders. Two weeks prior, also on Sunday, at the same train station, four female Boston College students were attacked by a woman who sprayed them with acid. In that case, no terrorist connection was made. ISIS's media wing, Amaq, called the attacker one of its soldiers, though no other connection was offered. This may again be a case of an individual adhering to the call to commit lone jihad, again issued in an audio message from Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi last week.



**Ramming/Stabbing Jihad Migrates to Edmonton** – A 30-year-old Somali refugee went on a ramming spree in the city of Edmonton, in Canada's Alberta Province (about 500 miles north of Helena, Mont.) on Saturday night, leaving five injured and terrorizing the city of 800,000. The attack was initiated when the subject plowed a sedan through police barricades outside Commonwealth Stadium during a Canadian Football League game and into a police officer standing in front of his patrol car.

**Assessment:** Prior to entry into Canada, the attacker was ordered to be deported from the U.S. by a judge following his detention by U.S. Customs and Immigration officials in 2011. After failing to report to ICE as ordered, he crossed into Canada in 2012 and was later granted refugee status. While Canada is not unaccustomed to Islamist extremism, nor other forms of terrorism, Alberta has not seen such acts, pointing to the truly global nature of the ISIS/jihadist movement. It is significant that the attack was initiated outside the stadium during an event, demonstrating that proximity is good enough, such as in the Manchester Arena bombing in May.

**ISIS Claims Credit for Las Vegas (and Why that is Not Trivial)** – A surprising development in the Las Vegas shooting was the ISIS claim of responsibility from its main news agency, Amaq, within hours of the attack on the country music concert. The terror-insurgency group claimed that the shooter was a "soldier of Islamic State" and a recent convert to Islam (they even gave him an Arabic name), despite the fact that the perpetrator was a Western man in his 60's with a gambling habit. Terrorist experts note that the group is [usually accurate](#) with claims of responsibility, and that a series of false claims would [destroy the credibility](#) of Amaq and other official media arms.

**Assessment:** As ISIS loses territory, it may be changing its media strategy. In June, ISIS took credit for a robbery on a casino in Manila that left 37 dead. And a program manager at the Global Terrorism Database [said](#): "(Throughout 2016, ISIS) has been claiming terrorist attacks with no evidence that had anything to do with them tactically." As ISIS's position weakens, they may be shifting from the merits of accuracy to ["weaponizing misinformation."](#) In any case, the group is stealing headlines and showing the world that they monitor large-scale events. Also, they may be learning tactically from non-terrorist incidents.

**Hundreds Injured in Catalonia during Independence Vote** – Clashes between Spanish police and voters in the north-eastern region of Catalonia led to 761 injuries at polling stations this week as part of its unsanctioned independence referendum. The Spanish government, which declared the referendum illegal, ordered upwards of 100 polling stations closed. Catalonians suffered injuries from rubber bullets and batons, and a small number of police officers were hurt. The voters used many tactics to maintain control of polling sites, such as positioning tractors as barricades, using human shields, and removing gates so that buildings could not be locked. The prime minister has stated that the vote was unconstitutional, and that Spain is an "indissoluble unity." Political experts are [watching](#) other semi-autonomous regions in Europe.



**Assessment:** Within the limits of scene safety, firefighters and EMS personnel will be called to provide patient care to police officers, civilians, protestors, or bystanders. These events are very fluid, and it is not always easy to judge the mood of the crowd. Even though firefighters and EMS personnel do not perform constabulary duties, their uniforms could be confused with law enforcement or be seen as symbols of authority. Firefighters should also be alert the use of fire at demonstrations, and the targeting of law enforcement with Molotov cocktails or other incendiary devices, and pre-plan mitigation strategies.

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