

Sources: Gunmen At Muhammed Cartoon Event Were Roommates

BY RICHARD A. SERRANO AND JONATHAN KAIMAN

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GARLAND, Texas — Officials here and in Arizona stepped up their investigation into a terrorist “wannabe” who, along with another man, opened fire with assault rifles and were shot dead by a hero police officer before they could invade a controversial Muhammad cartoon contest.

Authorities on Monday did not call the shooting a terrorist attack but were looking at any connection between the assailants and the satirical portrayals of the Prophet Muhammad. Such cartoons are anathema to many Muslims, and some radicals have staged similar assaults elsewhere, including the recent attack on the magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris.

“Obviously they were there to shoot people,” Garland police spokesman Joe Harn said of the attackers. “We will continue to investigate, but this will not be a real fast investigation.”

A source identified one of the assailants as Elton Simpson, who was prosecuted in 2010 in federal court in Phoenix for making false statements to FBI agents about going to Somalia to engage in jihad. He was found guilty, but the judge ruled that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that the crime was directly involved with “international terrorism.” Simpson was placed on three years’ probation and fined \$600.

The second gunman was identified as Nadir Soofi, Simpson’s roommate in North Phoenix, the law enforcement source said.

A security guard was wounded in the attack Sunday night outside the Muhammad Art Exhibit and Cartoon Contest, led by prominent conservatives who are critical of Islam.

Garland police said at a Monday news conference that the two men drove up to the facility in a dark-colored vehicle, jumped out with assault rifles and started firing. They were wearing some form of body armor.

But an officer who was part of the planned security shot both men with his duty pistol, Harn told reporters.

“Both men died on the street,” Harn said.

Harn did not call the shooting a terrorist attack but added that officials were



TOM FOX/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

FBI personnel document the crime scene on Monday after two gunmen armed with assault rifles and wearing body armor opened fire on an unarmed Garland ISD security guard outside the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland, Texas, Sunday night. After seeing what happened, a Garland police officer shot and killed the two suspects.

investigating evidence, including social media.

He said investigators searched the vehicle and detonated several suspicious items, but no bombs were found. Investigators did find additional ammunition and luggage. Harn said he did not know what was in the suitcases.

Harn praised the unnamed officer who shot the attackers.

“He did what he was trained to do and did a very good job. He probably saved lives.”

The attackers’ “strategy was to get into the center, but they were not able to get through our security.”

A school security officer, Bruce Joiner, who was apparently helping protect the building, was shot in the leg, city officials said, and

has been released from the hospital.

“He was shot in the leg, transported to the hospital and he’ll be fine,” Garland Mayor Douglas Athas said.

The shooting in Garland, a suburb of Dallas, was preceded by messages from two social media accounts that expressed radical Islamic viewpoints.

One tweet, sent at 6:35 p.m., used the hashtag #texasattack. The user wrote, “May Allah accept us as mujahideen.” Attendees at the contest didn’t get word about the shooting until about 6:50 p.m.

In the earlier Phoenix case involving Simpson, an FBI informant, Dabla Deng, wore a wire and recorded conversations with him, which were played in court, according to court documents.

“I’m telling you, man,” Simpson said. “We can make

it to the battlefield. It’s time to roll.” Simpson also was heard saying, “Bye bye, America!”

During meetings between Simpson and Deng, “a frequent topic was jihad and the obligation to fight jihad overseas,” according to the government’s trial memorandum in the Phoenix prosecution.

On July 31, 2007, in a recorded conversation, Simpson spoke about fighting the “kafir” (non-believers) for Allah, while “going out” from America, “because the brothers in, like, Palestine, and stuff they need help.”

Simpson noted that “just the whole thing is how you get there, though.” He also spoke of Afghanistan and Iraq and specifically criticized those people who “don’t believe that they should be over there fighting.”

The Latest Royal Has A Name

LONDON (AP) — It’s a name that immediately evokes British royal history: Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana.

Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, on Monday announced the name they picked for Britain’s newborn princess, a choice seen as a tribute to both Prince William’s parents and grandmother, the queen, as well as a link to Kate’s family.

The princess, the second child of William and Kate, will be known as Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, royal officials said.

The birth of Princess Charlotte marks a new chapter for William and Kate, widely seen as the monarchy’s most modern, popular couple. But the names they chose are firmly rooted in royal family history. Charlotte, the feminine form of Charles, appears to be a nod to the newborn’s grandfather, Prince Charles. The baby’s middle names honor Queen Elizabeth II, the infant’s 89-year-old great-grandmother, and the late Princess Diana, William’s mother and the baby’s grandmother.

Charlotte also features in Kate’s family, as the middle name of her sister, Pippa Middleton.

NYPD Officer Shot In The Head, Dies

NEW YORK (AP) — A 25-year-old police officer shot in the head over the weekend while attempting to stop a man suspected of carrying a handgun died Monday from his injuries, the third New York City officer slain on duty in five months.

Brian Moore, who was in a coma after undergoing brain surgery following the Saturday evening shooting, was pronounced dead at a Queens hospital with his family at his bedside, including his police officer father, uncle and cousin.

Hundreds of uniformed officers stood at attention outside the medical center and lined up down the block to salute the ambulance carrying his body out. Afterward many could be seen crying and consoling one another.

“He proved himself to be an exceptional young officer,” Police Commissioner William Bratton said, noting Moore had made more than 150 arrests in less than five years on the job and earned meritorious service medals.

Moore and his partner were in plainclothes and in an unmarked police car when they approached Demetrius Blackwell in a quiet Queens neighborhood after they saw him adjusting his waistband, a move that made them suspicious he had a handgun, authorities said.

French Leader Suspended For Remarks

PARIS (AP) — French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was suspended Monday from the National Front party he built into a political force over four decades after a series of controversial remarks about Jews and Nazis put him on the fast track to disgrace.

The party’s executive bureau met Monday and decided to suspend Le Pen’s membership in the party he co-founded, pending a party-wide vote on abolishing the position of honorary president for life.

In a statement, the party said a majority of its leadership supports doing away with that title, held by 86-year-old Le Pen since 2010.

The move will be put to a vote of all party members within three months, the statement said.

Le Pen was censured after he had reiterated that Nazi gas chambers were a “detail” of World War II, for which he had already been convicted in court, and had praised Philippe Pétain, the head of the collaborating Vichy government.

Report: No Evidence Of Clinton Conflicts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Monday it has no evidence that any actions taken by Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton when she was secretary of state were influenced by donations to the Clinton Foundation or former President Bill Clinton’s speaking fees.

Spokesman Jeff Rathke said the department received requests to review potential conflicts primarily for proposed speech hosts or consulting deals for Bill Clinton and found no conflicts.

Rathke said, however, that the department welcomes new commitments from the Clinton Foundation to disclose its donors and to support additional efforts that ensure all of those donations are public.

The State Department’s comment comes as Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign grapples with criticism that foreign entities traded donations to the family charity for favors at the State Department. Hundreds of paid speeches given by Bill Clinton, which can command as much as \$500,000 or more per appearance, have also come under attack from Republican opponents.

Speaking during a nine-day tour of Clinton Foundation projects in Africa with his daughter, Chelsea, Clinton defended his foundation, saying there’s nothing “sinister” about getting wealthy people to help poor people in developing countries and that the organization had never done anything “knowingly inappropriate.”

Many Watched The Big Fight For Free

NEW YORK (AP) — It should have been a proud moment for TV: A much-hyped sports event drawing in millions of paying viewers and showcasing the clout still held by traditional media heavyweights.

Instead, the broadcast of Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight in Las Vegas was marred by technical snafus and got sucker punched by Internet streamers, exposing the industry’s vulnerabilities.

An estimated 3 million households were expected to buy pay-per-view access to the fight at nearly \$100 a pop Saturday night. But the heavy demand created problems for some cable and satellite TV subscribers who tried to order it at the last minute, delaying the start of the fight.

And it popped up, unauthorized, on new services like Twitter’s Periscope and Meerkat, where people used the video function on their smartphones to relay the broadcast directly to the Internet.

A First: Astronaut Brews, Sips Espresso

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The first Italian woman in space is now the world’s first orbiting barista.

Over the weekend, astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti fired up the first espresso machine in space. She posted a photo of herself on Twitter from the International Space Station on Sunday, sipping from a cup designed for use in zero-gravity.

For the special occasion, she put on her “Star Trek” uniform top.

“Coffee: the finest organic suspension ever devised,” Cristoforetti said via Twitter, quoting from the old TV series, “Star Trek: Voyager.”

“Fresh espresso in the new Zero-G cup! To boldly brew...,” she added.

Decision 2016

Fiorina, Carson Launch Their Bids

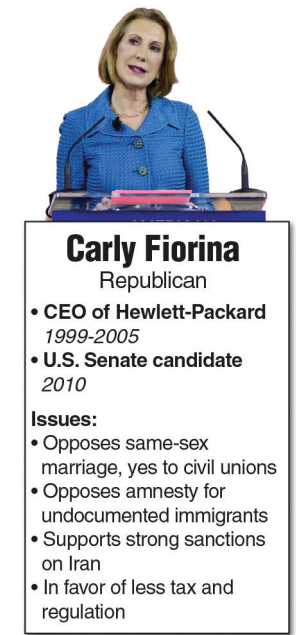
BY STEVE PEOPLES AND ED WHITE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former technology executive Carly Fiorina and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson joined the rapidly expanding 2016 Republican presidential class on Monday, casting themselves as political outsiders in underdog campaigns, eager to challenge the elite of both parties.

In announcements separated by both geography and style, the two also highlighted the possibility that they can help the GOP expand its appeal among an increasingly diverse electorate. Fiorina is likely to be the only prominent woman to seek the GOP nomination, with Carson the only African-American.

“I’m probably never going to be politically correct because I’m not a politician,” Carson declared at an announcement speech in his native Detroit, where he was raised by a single mother in what he called dire poverty. To be sure, he’s a politician now. But not, he said, like



Source: HP, OnTheIssues.org

the others.

“It’s time for people to rise up and take the government back,” said Carson, a favorite of the GOP’s tea party wing. “The political class won’t like me saying things like that. The political class comes from both parties.”

Fiorina, former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard Co., chose social media and a nationally broadcast morning TV network show to launch her campaign. She is already laser-focused on Hillary Rodham Clinton. As the only woman in the GOP field, she sees herself as uniquely positioned to go after the dominant Democrat in the 2016 race.

“She is the personification of the professional political class,” Fiorina said after releasing an announcement video that begins with an image of Clinton. Earlier, on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” Fiorina lashed out at Clinton for what she called a lack of transparency, including the use of a private email server while Clinton was secretary of state and foreign donations to her family’s charitable foundation.

“I have a lot of admiration for Hillary Clinton, but she clearly is not trustworthy,” Fiorina said.

Fiorina and Carson both begin the race as longshots in a campaign expected to feature several seasoned politicians, among them for-

mer Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

On Tuesday, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is expected to announce an underdog campaign of his own, fueled by support from the GOP’s religious conservative wing. Like Fiorina, Huckabee is expected to be a Clinton scold. He is announcing his candidacy in Hope, Arkansas, his hometown as well as former President Bill Clinton’s.

In a field that could ultimately feature more than a dozen notable candidates, the Republican contest is considered wide open. It’s also more diverse than it was four years ago.

Republicans acknowledge a pressing need to broaden the party’s appeal beyond its traditional base of older, white men. President Barack Obama won re-election in 2012 with the strong support of women and the ethnic minorities who are becoming a larger portion of the electorate.

taken to Central Booking, she said.

Live television coverage and photos tweeted from the scene showed medics putting a man in an ambulance and a large police presence, with officers lining up to apparently block one street.

The arrest happened in the same area where police first spotted Freddie Gray on April 12. He was arrested and fatally injured in police custody. Six officers were charged Friday in Gray’s death.

A few dozen police officers wearing helmets and carrying shields formed a line across North Avenue as crowds gathered across the street, occasionally shouting “Control the police!” at the officers. Minutes after police briefed reporters, the line

of officers left the street and police began to allow traffic through the intersection.

Meanwhile, about a dozen protesters briefly blocked traffic while chanting, “Kill the killer cop!” and “Black community, control the police!”

Chimurenga Waller, an activist from St. Petersburg, Florida, with the Black is Black Coalition for Social Justice, Peace and Reparations, said that even if nobody was shot, the police overreacted to the situation.

“I think black people are always going to be skeptical about stories by the police, just like we were skeptical about the story about Freddie Gray,” he said.

Pugh, who was nearby and arrived at the scene shortly after the

incident, said she was trying to sort through conflicting narratives of what happened. She said witnesses insisted that police had shot someone, which police denied.

She said police did a good job defusing tensions after the incident by quickly breaking down a barricade and scaling back the number of officers on the scene. But she said police should consider using different enforcement tactics while tensions are still high.

“I think we need to keep police presence down at this time, especially in this area,” said Pugh, a Democrat who represents west Baltimore. “I think we ought to just dial it back a little. Let’s give the community a chance to heal.”

Baltimore Police: Man Arrested Near Scene Of Recent Riots

BY BEN NUCKOLS AND DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Days after riots crippled Baltimore, tensions again escalated Monday after police said they arrested a man who appeared to be armed. The arrest drew a crowd of protesters who chanted, “Black community, control the police!”

Lt. Col. Melvin Russell said police pursued a man who was spotted on surveillance cameras and appeared to be armed with a handgun. Police said the man was taken into custody after a brief chase, during which a gunshot was heard.

Russell said that police never fired their weapons and that no one was

shot. Police recovered a handgun loaded with three rounds, one of which was spent. The suspect was not injured and did not want to go to a hospital, but was taken in an ambulance anyway, he said.

Sen. Catherine Pugh, a Democrat whose district includes the area where the situation occurred, said she went to a hospital to check on the man. She said she asked him if he was OK, and he told her he was.

“There were no visible injuries,” Pugh said, though she didn’t know what happened to him. The man was visibly upset, but he was able to see his mother before he was released to police, who arrested him, Pugh said. The man was able to walk to a police van, where he was strapped in and