

# Dallas officers slain, deadliest day for police since 9/11

Three suspects in custody, fourth killed by robot-sent bomb

By TERRY WALLACE  
Associated Press

DALLAS — Five Dallas police officers were fatally shot and seven others wounded during a protest over the deaths of black men killed by police this week in Louisiana and Minnesota — the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Police Chief David Brown blamed “snipers,” but it was unclear how many shooters were involved in Thursday’s attack. Authorities initially said three suspects were in custody and a fourth dead, killed by a robot-delivered bomb in a parking garage where he had exchanged fire with officers. Hours later, officials were vague and would not discuss details.

Before dying, the police chief said, the suspect told officers he was upset about recent shootings and wanted to kill whites, “especially white officers.” The man also stated that he acted alone and was not affiliated with any groups, Brown said.

Law enforcement officials did not immediately disclose the race of the suspect or the dead officers.

## Peaceful protest

The bloodshed, which unfolded just a few blocks from where President John F. Kennedy was slain in 1963, also evoked the trauma of the nation’s tumultuous civil rights era.

The shooting began about 8:45 p.m. Thursday while hundreds of people were gathered to protest the killings in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota. Brown told reporters that snipers fired “ambush-style” on the officers. Two civilians also were wounded.

Authorities said they were not sure they had located all possible suspects, but attention on Friday quickly turned to the man killed in the parking garage.

Police resorted to the bomb after hours of negotiations failed, Brown said. The suspect said he was not affiliated with any groups and stated that he acted alone, Brown added.

A Texas law enforcement official identified the slain suspect as Micah Johnson, 25.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he said he was not authorized to release the information. There were no immediate details on the suspect’s middle name or hometown.

By midday, investigators were seen walking in and out of a home believed to be Johnson’s in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite.

None of the suspects was identified, and the police chief said he would not disclose any details about them until authorities were sure everyone involved was in custody.

Brown said it appeared the shooters “planned to injure and kill as many officers as they could.”

Video from the scene showed protesters marching along a downtown street about half a mile from City Hall when shots erupted and the crowd scattered, seeking cover. Officers crouched beside vehicles, armored SWAT team vehicles arrived and a helicopter hovered overhead.

## Across the nation

Demonstrations were held in several other U.S. cities Thursday night to protest the police killings of two more black men: A Minnesota officer on Wednesday fatally shot Philando Castile while he was in a car with a woman and a child, and the shooting’s aftermath was livestreamed in a widely shared Facebook video. A day earlier, Alton Sterling was shot in Louisiana after being pinned to the pavement by two white officers. That, too, was captured on a cellphone video.

The Dallas shootings



Mark Mulligan/Houston Chronicle

People wait to return to their cars early as police investigate the scene of Thursday’s shooting, on Friday, in Dallas. Snipers opened fire on police officers in the heart of Dallas Thursday night, during protests over two recent fatal police shootings of black men.



Mark Mulligan/Houston Chronicle

Police block streets in downtown Dallas early as law enforcement investigate the scene of Thursday’s fatal shooting, Friday.

occurred in an area of hotels, restaurants, businesses and some residential apartments only a few blocks from Dealey Plaza, the landmark made famous by the Kennedy assassination.

## Chaos

The scene was chaotic, with officers with automatic rifles on the street corners.

“Everyone just started running,” Devante Odom, 21, told The Dallas Morning News. “We lost touch with two of our friends just trying to get out of there.”

Carlos Harris, who lives downtown, told the newspaper that the shooters “were strategic. It was tap, tap, pause. Tap, tap, pause,” he said.

Brown said the suspects “triangulated” in the downtown area where the protesters were marching and had “some knowledge of the route” they would take.

Video posted on social media appeared to show a gunman at ground level exchanging fire with a police officer who was then felled.

Mayor Mike Rawlings said one of wounded officers had a bullet go through his leg as three members of his squad were fatally shot around him.

“He felt that people don’t understand the danger of dealing with a protest,” said Rawlings, who spoke to the surviving officer. “And that’s what I learned from this. We care so much about people protesting,

and I think it’s their rights. But how we handle it can do a lot of things. One of the things it can do is put our police officers in harm’s way, and we have to be very careful about doing that.”

## Fallen officers

Early Friday, dozens of officers filled the corridor of the emergency room at Baylor Medical Center, where other wounded officers were taken. The mayor and police chief were seen arriving there.

Few details about the slain officers were immediately available.

Four of the dead were with the Dallas Police Department, a spokesman said. One was a Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer. The agency said in a statement that 43-year-old officer Brent

Thompson, a newlywed whose bride also works for the police force, was the first officer killed in the line of duty since the agency formed a police department in 1989.

“Our hearts are broken,” the statement said.

Theresa Williams said one of the wounded civilians was her sister, 37-year-old Shetamia Taylor, who was shot in the right calf. She threw herself over her four sons, ages 12 to 17, when the shooting began.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to offer “whatever assistance the City of Dallas needs.”

“In times like this, we must remember — and emphasize — the importance of uniting as Americans,” Abbott said.

Other protests across the U.S. on Thursday were peaceful, including in New York, Atlanta, Chicago and Philadelphia. In Minnesota, where Castile was shot, hundreds of protesters marched in the rain from a vigil to the governor’s official residence.

President Barack Obama said America is “horrified” by the shootings, which have no possible justification. He called them “vicious, calculated and despicable.”

Speaking from Warsaw, Poland, where he was meeting with leaders of the European Union and attending a NATO summit, the president asked all Americans to pray for the fallen officers and their families.



AP Photo/Reid Blackburn

FBI agents scour the sand of a beach on the Columbia River in February 1980, searching for additional money or clues in the D.B. Cooper skyjacking case, in Vancouver, Wash. Several thousand dollars of the hijacking money was found in the area days earlier.

# ‘D.B. Cooper: Case Closed?’

The Daily Astorian

It is one of the most fascinating unsolved crimes of modern times, not to mention one of the greatest mysteries of the Pacific Northwest: Who was “D.B. Cooper”?

On Nov. 24, 1971, a man with that pseudonym skyjacked a commercial airplane heading from Portland to Seattle using a briefcase bomb, extorted \$200,000 and several parachutes after the plane landed and the passengers left, demanded the crew fly him to Mexico, then parachuted out somewhere near the Oregon-Washington border.

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Now comes “D.B. Cooper: Case Closed?,” a two-part History Channel documentary premiering next week that investigates some of the more promising “Cooper” suspects.

And one of them — a man with North Coast connections — may be the real Cooper, according to a pair



AP Photo/Eric Risberg

Part of the money that was paid to legendary hijacker D.B. Cooper in 1971 is shown during an F.B.I. news conference, Feb. 12, 1980, where it was announced that several thousand dollars was found.

of investigative journalists who spent five years secretly digging into the case.

The program takes viewers into the journalists’ 40-member “cold case” team — the first D.B. Cooper investigation enlisting former feds, a dozen of whom are FBI.

Is Cooper still alive? How could a man who did something so sensational fly beneath the radar (so to speak) for 45 years?

“D.B. Cooper: Case Closed?” claims to answer these and other tantalizing questions.

Part one airs 9 p.m. Sunday on the History Channel; Part 2 will air Monday.

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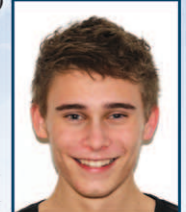
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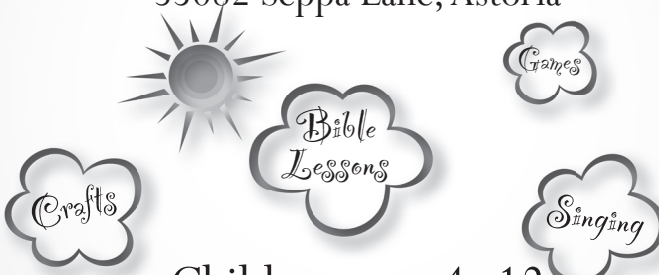
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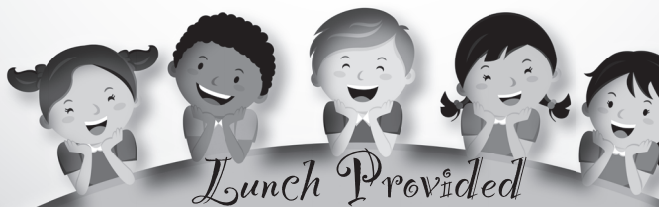
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