

# Pentagon says U.S. bombed IS training camp in Libya

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*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — American F-15E fighter-bombers struck an Islamic State training camp in rural Libya near the Tunisian border Friday, killing dozens, probably including an IS operative considered responsible for deadly attacks in Tunisia last year, U.S. and local officials said. The strike did not appear to mark the beginning of a sustained U.S. campaign in Libya but a Pentagon spokesman said “it may not be the last.”

The spokesman, Peter Cook, said the U.S. is determined to stop the Islamic State from “gaining traction” in Libya. Cook said the training camp was “relatively new,” and that the U.S. has identified similar Islamic State training camps elsewhere in Libya, suggesting potential future strikes in defense of regional and U.S. national security interests.

In Libya, local officials estimated that Friday’s U.S. attack killed more than 40 people with more wounded, some critically. Up to 60 people were believed to be at the camp, said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence-related information.

Political chaos in Libya has allowed the Islamic State to expand across the northern coast of the oil-rich North African country, which is just across the Mediterranean from Italy and has also become a major conduit for African migrants heading to Europe.

IS controls the central city of Sirte and a number of oil installations.

Adding to the concern in Washington and Europe is evidence that the number of Islamic State fighters in Libya is increasing — now believed to be about 5,000 — even as the group’s numbers in Syria and Iraq are shrinking.

The Obama administration has said it would approve of international military support for counter-Islamic State efforts in Libya once the country assembles a unity government. But it also has vowed to strike key targets when opportunities arise, such as Friday’s attack near the city of Sabratha.

The Libyan parliament is close to endorsing a new unity government cabinet, which could eventually seek international military intervention against Islamic State extremists.

Cook said the U.S. airstrikes targeted extremist Nouredine Chouchane, a Tunisian national. Cook called him “an ISIL senior facilitator in Libya associated with the training camp,” using another acronym for the Islamic State.

Cook did not confirm that Chouchane had been killed but said “we feel good” about the effectiveness of the attack, which other officials said were conducted by F-15E strike aircraft based in Britain. Cook said unmanned aircraft, or drones, also were involved.

Cook said Tunisian officials in May 2015 had named Chouchane as a suspect in a March 18, 2015, attack on the Bardo Museum in Tunis in which 22 people died.



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

## Scalia laid to rest

The body of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia arrives at the Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. Thousands of mourners will pay their respects Friday for Justice Antonin Scalia as his casket rests in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court, where he spent nearly three decades as one of its most influential members.

# Clinton vs Sanders in Nevada primary: Urban vs rural

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Seeking an edge, Hillary Clinton courted voters throughout Las Vegas’ sprawling population centers on Friday while rival Bernie Sanders barnstormed across northern Nevada in search of delegates in the state’s high-stakes Democratic presidential caucuses.

The divergent scenes offered evidence of the two paths Clinton and Sanders are following as they furiously stump for every vote before Saturday’s Nevada caucuses. Clinton is hoping minorities and unions in Nevada’s population center give her the edge over

Sanders, while the Vermont democratic socialist aims to drive up turnout in the state’s more lightly-populated northern region to claim victory.

Sanders’ strategy is driven in part because Nevada Democrats allocate delegates to caucus winners based on congressional districts, giving greater weight to sparsely populated areas like Elko. Obama lost the popular vote to Clinton in the 2008 contest here but the quirky nature of the caucus enabled him to emerge with one more delegate than Clinton.

Neither candidate is

pursuing a single-track strategy. Clinton canceled a trip to Florida on Monday to campaign in Elko and Reno and her campaign has devoted significant resources building a field operation even in the most remote reaches of the states. Sanders has especially focused on wooing Las Vegas’ minority population, especially young people, both to win votes and to counter the Clinton critique that he only appeals to white voters.

Campaigning in Elko, Sanders steered clear of raising high expectations

During a round-table

event about women and family issues at the College of Southern Nevada, Clinton said the election should not be “a theoretical discussion” but a “down-to-earth” discussion about how to make child care more affordable for families.

In Reno, former President Bill Clinton responded to Sanders’ recent assertions that the Clinton administration’s trade policies and welfare reform during the 1990s ultimately hurt minorities. “There’s been a lot of passion in this primary,” the ex-president said. “Hillary’s opponent jumped all over me last

night about how bad I’ve been for African-Americans and poor people. Let me just say this, that campaign has been remarkably fact-free. A lot of the numbers don’t add up.”

The Clinton campaign tried to keep hammering her appeal with black voters on Friday as it unveiled the endorsement of Rep. James Clyburn, the top Democrat from the next state on the early voting calendar, South Carolina. Clyburn’s endorsement underscored Clinton’s strength in South Carolina among the state’s African-American community.

## BRIEFLY

### Last of ‘Angola Three’ inmates released, thanks supporters

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La. (AP) — The last inmate of a group known as the “Angola Three” pleaded no contest Friday to manslaughter in the 1972 death of a prison guard and was released after more than four decades in prison, raising a clenched fist as he walked free.

Albert Woodfox and two other men became known as the “Angola Three” for their decades-long stays in isolation at the Louisiana Penitentiary at Angola and other prisons. Their cases drew condemnation from human rights groups and focused attention on the use of solitary confinement in American prisons.

Officials said they were kept in solitary because their Black Panther Party activism would otherwise rile up inmates at the maximum-security prison farm in Angola.

Woodfox consistently maintained his innocence in the killing of guard Brent Miller. He was being held at the West Feliciana Parish Detention Center in St. Francisville, about 30 miles north of Baton Rouge. He was awaiting a third trial in Miller’s death after earlier convictions were thrown out by federal courts for reasons including racial bias in selecting a grand jury foreman.

Woodfox, who turned 69 on the same day he was released, spoke to reporters and supporters briefly outside the jail before driving off with his brother. Speaking of his future plans, he said he wanted to visit his mother’s gravesite. She died while he was in prison, and Woodfox said he was not allowed to go to the funeral.

As to whether he would have done anything differently back in 1972, Woodfox responded: “When forces are beyond your control, there’s not a lot you can do. Angola was a very horrible place at the time and everybody was just fighting to survive from day to day.”

### Record number of astronaut wannabes apply to NASA — 18,300

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space travel never looked so good.

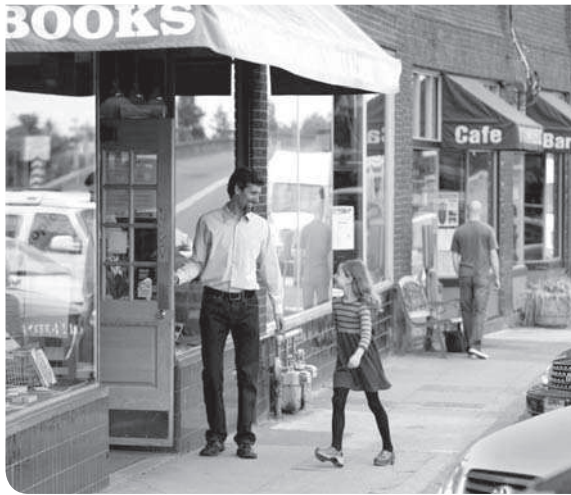
NASA announced Friday it received a record number of applicants — some 18,300 — for its next astronaut class. That’s more than double the previous record of 8,000 for the first space shuttle astronaut class in 1978. This time, NASA hit social media hard to promote the openings.

The odds of getting picked are small; only eight to 14 Americans will be chosen. NASA expects it will take 1½ years to whittle down the list. Candidates need to be U.S. citizens with a bachelor’s degree in science, math or engineering.

“It’s not at all surprising to me that so many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars,” NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, a former space shuttle commander, said in a statement.

Like the eight-member Class of 2013, the future astronauts will train to fly to the International Space Station on capsules under development by SpaceX and Boeing, as well as on NASA’s Orion spacecraft intended for deep-space exploration. NASA aims to send astronauts to Mars in the 2030s.

The two-month application period closed Thursday. The first astronaut class was the Mercury 7 chosen in 1959.



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