

POLICE: Four of the six complaints came from within the department

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chain of command. After an incident where force is used, the supervisor on duty fills out a report, which is forwarded to a captain for review. The captain reviews the incident, which may include watching body camera footage and asking questions or raising concerns. Then the review is forwarded to Edmiston, who reads through the review and will proceed with a recommendation.

Of the 14 suspects arrested by force in the last year, 10 were white, three were Hispanic, and one was black.

“If there was ever a time where the use of force appeared to be based on some kind of bias or other inappropriate factors or criminal elements were involved, it is my policy and duty to notify the Office of the District Attorney and ask for an outside investigation to be conducted,” Edmiston said in a report to the city council regarding use of force in the department.

Though use of force doubled over the year, complaints regarding members of the department

stayed consistent with previous years at six. Of those six complaints, two were made by citizens and four were internal administrative reviews, meaning the complaint came from someone within the department.

“I believe this is a good indication we are able and willing to ‘police’ ourselves,” Edmiston said.

The complaints resulted in two verbal counseling or training sessions, three formal letters of reprimand and one formal admonishment, but no suspensions.

The department saw an increase in pursuits, from four the previous year to 12 in the last fiscal year, the highest number of pursuits the department has been involved with in at least six years. The department made 6,699 traffic stops last year, making the percentage of stops that resulted in pursuits less than a quarter of one percent.

“Scrutinizing each pursuit we are involved in to highlight positive actions on the part of the officers or areas where we could improve is, in my opinion, where the rubber meets the road,” Edmiston said.

CLINTON: Convention began with efforts to shore up Bernie supporters

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but question her character.

She acknowledged those concerns briefly, saying “I get it that some people just don’t know what to make of me.” But her primary focus was persuading Americans to not be seduced by Trump’s vague promises to restore economic security and fend off threats from abroad.

Clinton’s four-day convention began with efforts to shore up liberals who backed Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary and it ended with an outstretched hand to Republicans and independents unnerved by Trump.

A parade of military leaders, law enforcement officials and Republicans took the stage ahead of Clinton to endorse her in the general election contest with Trump.

“This is the moment, this is the opportunity for our future,” said retired Marine Gen. John R. Allen, a former commander in Afghanistan. “We must seize this moment to elect Hillary Clinton as president of the United States of America.”

American flags waved in the stands of the packed convention hall. There were persistent but scattered calls of “No more war,” but the crowd drowned them out with chants of “Hill-a-ry” and “U-S-A!”

The Democratic nomination now officially hers, Clinton has just over three months to persuade Americans that Trump is unfit for the Oval Office and overcome the visceral connection he has with some voters in a way the Democratic nominee does not.

She embraced her reputation as a studious wonk, a politician more comfortable with policy proposals than rhetorical flourishes. “I sweat the details of policy,” she said.

Clinton’s proposals are an extension of President Barack Obama’s two terms in office: tackling climate change, overhauling the nation’s fractured immigration laws, and restricting access to guns. She disputed Trump’s assertion that she wants to repeal the Second Amendment, saying “I’m not here to take away your guns. I just don’t want you to be shot by someone who shouldn’t have a gun in the first place.”

Campaigning in Iowa Thursday, Trump said there were “a lot of lies being told” at Clinton’s convention. In an earlier statement, he accused Democrats of

living in a “fantasy world,” ignoring economic and security troubles as well as Clinton’s controversial email use at the State Department.

The FBI’s investigation into Clinton’s use of a private internet server didn’t result in criminal charges, but it did appear to deepen voters’ concerns with her honesty and trustworthiness. A separate pre-convention controversy over hacked Democratic Party emails showing favoritism for Clinton in the primary threatens to deepen the perception that Clinton prefers to play by her own rules.

Through four nights of polished convention pageantry, Democratic heavyweights told a different story about Clinton. The most powerful validation came Wednesday night from President Barack Obama, her victorious primary rival in 2008. Obama declared Clinton not only can defeat Trump’s “deeply pessimistic vision” but also realize the “promise of this great nation.”

Seeking to offset possible weariness with a politician who has been in the spotlight for decades, he said of Clinton: “She’s been there for us, even if we haven’t always noticed.”

Clinton was introduced by her daughter, Chelsea, who spoke warmly of her mother as a woman “driven by compassion, by faith, by kindness, a fierce sense of justice, and a heart full of love.”

A parade of speakers — gay and straight, young and old, white, black and Hispanic — cast Trump as out-of-touch with a diverse and fast-changing nation.

Khizr Khan, an American Muslim whose son was killed in military service, emotionally implored voters to stop Trump, who has called for a temporary ban on Muslim immigration.

“Donald Trump, you are asking Americans to trust you with their future,” Khan said. “Let me ask you, have you even read the United States Constitution? I will gladly lend you my copy.”

The program paid tribute to law enforcement officers killed on duty, including five who died in Dallas earlier this month in retaliation for officer-involved shootings in Minnesota and Louisiana.

“Violence is not the answer,” Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez said. “Yelling, screaming and calling each other names is not going to do it.”

Experts confront explanations for surge of mass killings

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — The relentless series of mass killings across the globe poses a challenge for experts trying to analyze them without lapsing into faulty generalizations. Terms like contagion and copycat killing apply in some cases, not in others, they say, and in certain instances perpetrators’ terrorist ideology intersects with psychological instability.

Some of the attacks, such as the coordinated assault on multiple targets in Paris last November, were elaborately planned operations by Islamic State adherents. However, they may have contributed to some of the other attacks by troubled individuals with no established ties to the militant group.

J. Reid Meloy, a San Diego-based forensic psychologist who has served as a consultant to the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Program, said some of the attackers appear to have identified with Islamic State as an outlet for their own seething emotions.

“In virtually every one of these cases, there was a deeply held personal grievance — loss, anger, humiliation,” Meloy said. “When they come across an Islamic State material, they’re stimulated by that. They can take their personal grievance worldwide.”

Meloy said two different syndromes could be surfacing in the series of attacks — contagion, in which one attack rapidly inspires imitation attacks, and copycat incidents, in which an individual seeks to emulate a previous perpetrator.

In Germany, for example, the deadliest of four recent attacks was carried out by an 18-year-old German-Iranian who killed nine people in Munich. Police said the young man had researched previous mass attacks, including the rampage in Norway by Anders Behring Breivik that killed 77 people exactly five years before the Munich attack.

A 2015 study by researchers at Arizona State University found significant evidence of a contagion effect in the United States. According to the study, the likelihood of new attacks rose significantly over a two-week period after any widely publicized mass killing or school shooting.

The study’s lead author, professor Sherry Towers, said



In this July 17 file photo, a French flag stands tall amongst a floral tribute for the victims killed during a deadly attack, on the famed Boulevard des Anglais in Nice, southern France.

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— J. Reid Meloy, Forensic psychologist, consultant to FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Program

contagion likely played a role in the recent spate of killings in Europe, particularly those carried out by individuals.

“Planned, coordinated terrorist attacks are in a different class compared to lone wolf killings, since logistical matters likely play more of a role in the timing,” Towers said in an email.

“Lone wolf attacks by people who might have extremist leanings, but no solid connections to terrorist cells, and also might have other mental issues, are the types of events that would likely show more of a contagion effect.”

The attacker who killed 84 people in Nice, France, on July 14th by driving through a holiday crowd was described as a psychologically troubled and violent man, not linked directly to Islamic State. But what had been a history of domestic violence and petty crime took on darker implications with his decision to use a truck as a killing machine, as called for in Islamic State and al-Qaida propaganda.

“We’ve got this situation where it seems like almost any public act of violence can be attributed to the Islamic State regardless of how nebulous a connection there is to the group,” said Daniel Schoenfeld, an analyst with the Soufan Group, a security consulting firm.

Max Abrahms, a terrorism analyst who teaches political

science at Northeastern University, has been using the term “loon wolf” to depict individuals whose attacks are as much the product of mental instability as of any form of radical ideology.

“They’re seeing others do this and replicating their behaviors,” said Abrahms, who suggested the phenomenon will be troublesome for counterterrorism investigators.

“Historically, governments were looking for people who seemed to be undergoing radicalization,” he said. “Now, we’re looking at people committing similar acts, but in some cases with no evidence they were being radicalized and maybe were being driven by mental instability.”

Brian Jenkins, a senior adviser with the RAND Corporation and author of numerous books and articles on terrorism and security, said the emerging trends are the subject of ongoing research by experts, and may prove frustrating for members of the public.

“There’s a certain degree of comfort with categorization — if we can put this guy in the terrorism bin or the mentally disturbed bin,” he said. “The problem is, people are really complicated.”

He said researchers are trying to determine why certain unstable people might be attracted by Islamic State

ideology.

Islamic State “advertises atrocities,” he said. “Normal people would look and say, ‘Oh my God.’ We’re talking about those who are attracted to those images. Those images become, in a sense, an invitation to action.”

Jenkins says there’s a strong possibility that Islamic State-inspired violence in Europe could worsen before it eases, given the likelihood that military setbacks in Syria and Iraq will prompt many foreign fighters to return to their home countries.

“They will have difficulty becoming assimilated,” he said. “Some are going to be frustrated and angry and will carry out acts of violence.”

Suggested countermeasures vary — ranging from tougher policing and detention policies to more robust social-support programs. This week, some leading French media outlets pledged to stop publishing the names and images of attackers linked to the Islamic State group to prevent individuals from being inadvertently glorified.

However, Scott Atran, an anthropologist and terrorism researcher who has taught in France, Britain and the United States, worries that a contagion of mass killings in democratic nations is spreading beyond any organized political or ideological agenda, including that of the Islamic State.

“The big concern has to be that savage violence is adopted by other groups, leading to a quasi-anarchy like we haven’t seen before, at least not in our lifetimes,” he said in an email.

BRIEFLY



Police and protesters credited with restraint at convention

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bernie Sanders’ devoted followers were careful to pick up after themselves and wore hats embroidered with a dove to remind everyone to remain peaceful. And the police, instead of hauling demonstrators off to jail, issued them \$50 tickets for disorderly conduct and released them with a complimentary bottle of water.

As the Democratic National Convention drew toward a close Thursday afternoon, Philadelphia police reported making a four-day total of only 11 arrests, and officers and protesters alike were credited with showing restraint and courtesy.

The rallies and marches that some feared would result in violence and mass disruptions instead brought a festival-like atmosphere at times to City Hall and Broad Street.

Mary Catherine Roper, deputy legal director of Pennsylvania’s American

Civil Liberties Union, said the department’s hands-off approach helped keep things calm.

“This is what it looks like when you just let people get their message out: lots of expression and very little conflict,” she said.

As of Thursday afternoon, in addition to the 11 people arrested, about 100 protesters had been ticketed and fined. The ticketed demonstrators were briefly detained, their hands zip-tied behind their backs, but not technically arrested.

Less than two months before the convention, the city passed legislation allowing police to write the equivalent of traffic tickets instead of making criminal arrests for many nuisance crimes, such as disorderly conduct, blocking a street and failure to disperse.

Testing confirms new, rarely seen whale in Pacific

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Genetic tests confirm that a mysterious, unnamed species of beaked whale only rarely seen

alive by Japanese fishermen roams the northern Pacific Ocean, according to research published this week.

The testing shows the black whales, with bulbous heads and beaks like porpoises, are not dwarf varieties of more common Baird’s beaked whales, a slate-gray animal.

Japanese researchers sampled three black beaked whales that washed up on the north coast of Hokkaido, the country’s most northern island, and wrote about them in a 2013 paper. The challenge to confirm the existence of the new animal was finding enough specimens from a wider area for testing and matching genetic samples, said Phillip Morin, a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric

Administration research molecular biologist.

He and his team uncovered five other whales, all found in Alaska, that matched the species found in Japan.

“Clearly this species is very rare and reminds us how much we have to learn about the ocean and even some of its largest inhabitants,” he said in an announcement.

The largest beaked whale varieties can reach 40 feet and spend up to 90 minutes underwater hunting for squid in deep water. They are hard to research because they may spend only a few minutes at the surface, Morin said by phone Thursday. They rarely breach, travel in small numbers and blend into their surroundings.

Japanese fishermen reported occasionally seeing a smaller, black beaked whale that they called “karasu,” the Japanese word for raven, or “kuru tsuchi,” black Baird’s beaked whale.

Veronica Zapata





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