Mass Shootings and Terrorism: CRS Products

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June 13, 2016
On Sunday, June 12, 2016, approximately 50 people were killed (including the alleged assailant), and 53 more were injured in an attack on a nightclub in Orlando, FL, that catered to the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. The alleged assailant was armed with an AR-15-type assault rifle and a pistol. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) has reported that these weapons were legally purchased in Florida. During the assault on the nightclub, the alleged assailant reportedly called 911 to pledge allegiance to ISIS. The assailant was killed by police after a standoff that lasted approximately three hours. This incident is the worst mass shooting in U.S. history to date.

CRS has several different products on issues relevant to the mass shooting incident in Florida. These issues include mass murder with firearms, firearms regulation, domestic terrorism, and hate crime. Below are key products on these issues. Please contact the authors of the individual reports for additional information on the issues.


CRS Video WVB00081, Mass Murder with Firearms, by William J. Krouse (video).

CRS Report R42336, Terrorist Watch List Screening and Background Checks for Firearms, by William J. Krouse.

CRS Insight IN10299, Sifting Domestic Terrorism from Other Illegal Activity, by Jerome P. Bjelopera.


CRS Report R41416, American Jihadist Terrorism: Combating a Complex Threat, by Jerome P. Bjelopera.


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