

# Outside



# Informer

**Newsletter of the U.S. Attorney's Office  
Eastern District of Tennessee**

**Volume 1, Issue 6  
Summer 2015**

## **NEWS FROM U.S ATTORNEY WILLIAM C. "BILL" KILLIAN**



The hazy crazy days of summer got even worse on the morning of July 16, 2015. My plans for two days of catching up on some past work was shattered, as was the hazy morning air, in Chattanooga. Suddenly all of the training and education to confront, from every angle, an active shooter situation had reached Eastern Tennessee. Our training had been valuable, because the response from our office and all others was a coordinated cooperative effort that is still ongoing.

Sadly, we cannot bring back the lives of those four marines and one navy hero. Were it not for the heroic action of the marines and the Chattanooga Police Department, the tragedies result would've been worse.

In those times of the worst challenges, communities, the state and nation look to us to provide the leadership, courage, confidence and calm, in order to assure them that things are under control. We do that verbally and by our actions.

I have nothing but praise for the personnel who worked timeless hours at the command center and beyond on the Chattanooga matter, and those who are still working on the matter. Also, the other office operations must continue, and these processes have continued without interruption, due to the efforts of the remaining staff.

Our resolve has never been stronger. We will accomplish our purpose, with the pride of service that those fallen heroes deserve. As a portion of our respective oaths of office stated..." I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic;..."

*Bill*

### **Key USAO Staff**

William C. "Bill" Killian  
U.S. Attorney

Nancy Stallard Harr  
First Assistant U.S. Attorney

Steven H-Cook  
Criminal Chief

Loretta Harber  
Civil Chief

David Jennings  
Deputy Criminal Chief  
Knoxville

Charles E. Atchley, Jr.  
Deputy Criminal Chief  
National Security Unit

Robert Reeves  
Supervisory AUSA  
Greeneville Branch Office

Scott Winne  
Supervisory AUSA  
Chattanooga Branch Office

Sharry Dedman-Beard  
Law Enforcement Coordinator  
Pubic Information Officer

# JULY 16, 2015



On July 16, 2015, Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24, of Hixon, Tenn., shot and killed five individuals and wounded two more, including a Chattanooga Police Officer, at a Military Recruitment Center and Naval and Marine Reserve Center.

Evidence collection and testing are still ongoing. The FBI, along with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, will continue to work tirelessly on this complex investigation. Approximately 250 FBI personnel are on the ground in Chattanooga, with more working across the country and around the globe, following almost 400 leads.



The FBI describes the timeline of events as follows:

- Shortly before 11:00 a.m., on July 16, 2015, the shooter, who has now been identified as Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez, drove up to the Armed Forces Recruitment Center and fired shots. He did not get out of his vehicle at this time.
- Abdulazeez then left the Lee Highway location and traveled to the other facility on Amnicola Highway, crashing into the gate at the Naval Reserve Center.
- Abdulazeez exited the vehicle, armed with an assault rifle, handgun and numerous magazines of ammunition.
- A service member fired at Abdulazeez from within the facility as he approached the building. Abdulazeez fired several rounds into building before reaching the facility.
- Abdulazeez then entered the building and shot the first service member and he then made his way through the building and continued to shoot at those he encountered.
- Abdulazeez continued to fire on exposed military personnel as he made his way outside to the gated motor pool area and killed two military service members.
- Two military service members attempted to provide cover and assist the military personnel in getting over the fence and away from Abdulazeez.
- Abdulazeez continued to fire and killed two others service members.
- Abdulazeez attempted to move inside the compound at which point he was engaged by the Chattanooga Police Department.
- One Chattanooga Police Department officer was then wounded and Chattanooga Police Department killed the shooter.
- The heroic actions of these service members saved countless lives.



## U.S. ATTORNEY EVENTS

### NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP MEETING AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING



U.S. Attorney Bill Killian attended the National Security Working Group meeting in Oklahoma City, April 17-19, 2015, which included attendance at the ceremony for the 20th Anniversary of the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

A delegation led by former President Bill Clinton gathered at the memorial on the site of the former Alfred P. Murrah Building to honor the dead and to celebrate the city's resilience.

Nineteen children, most of them in a day care center for federal employees in the Murrah Building, were among the victims of the April 19, 1995, bombing. The memorial includes 168 stylized chairs to commemorate those who were killed.

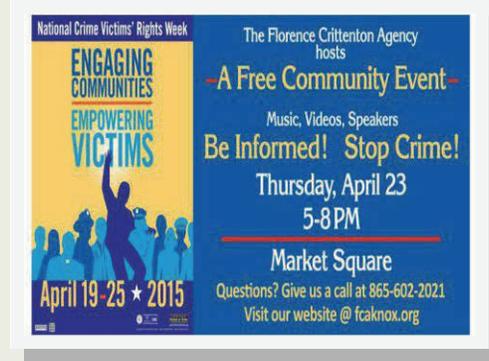
Timothy J. McVeigh carried out the bombing in retaliation for the April 19, 1993, standoff between Branch Dividians and FBI agents in Waco, Texas, which left more than 80 people dead.

McVeigh, loaded a rental truck with a bomb made of more than 4,800 pounds of nitrate fertilizer and parked it in front of the building. The resulting explosion demolished a third of the federal building and damaged hundreds of other structures in 16 surrounding blocks.

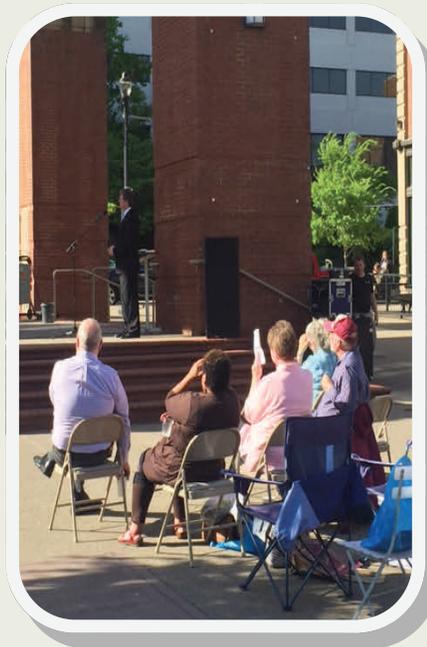
He was found guilty in 1997 and executed on June 11, 2001, at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, at the age of 33. Co-conspirator, Terry Nichols, was sentenced to life in prison, and a third conspirator, Michael Fortier, received a 12-year term and was released from prison in 2006.

It was the largest act of domestic terrorism in the nation's history and, until September 11, 2001, the largest act of any kind of terrorism in the country.

## 2015 VICTIMS RIGHT WEEK



On April 23, 2015, U.S. Attorney Killian delivered a presentation on Human Trafficking at a community event in Market Square in Knoxville. This event was in commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Participants in the program also included Mayor Madeline Rogero, Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch, Knoxville District Attorney General Charme Allen, and representatives from the Knox County Sheriff's Department, Child Help USA, and Miss Tennessee USA.



## CHATTANOOGA LAW DAY LUNCHEON

U.S. Attorney Bill Killian participated in the annual Law Day Luncheon in Chattanooga on May 1, 2015, at the Chattanooga Convention Center Marriott. The event featured remarks by former U.S. Congressman Brian N. Baird, a clinical psychologist, former president of Antioch University's Seattle campus, and a retired six-term member of Congress from Washington state. The celebration also featured the presentation of the association's Liberty Bell Award.

Law Day, USA, is set aside each year on May 1st by a joint resolution of Congress and Presidential proclamation as an occasion for honoring the place of law in our lives. Law Day is an occasion for all Americans to learn more about our law, our legal system, and our rights. It is also a day to reflect on our legal heritage, our responsibilities as citizens, and the principles of our democratic government. The theme for Law Day 2015 was, "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law" to mark the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.



L-R: Lynda Minks Hood, Paul Hatcher, Former U S Congressman Brian N. Baird, PhD., and U S Attorney Bill Killian

## 2015 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S CONFERENCE

The United States Attorney's Conference was held May 3-7, 2015, in Washington, D.C. U.S. Attorneys from across the nation, including our own U.S. Attorney Bill Killian, attended the event along with Attorney General Loretta Lynch, to learn about current Department of Justice initiatives and priorities.



U.S. Attorney Killian talking with Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates.



U.S. Attorney Killian listens intently to U.S. Attorney Kerry Harvey, KYE, and U.S. Attorney Bill Ihlenfeld, WVN.

## U.S. ATTORNEY BILL KILLIAN HOSTS GEORGIAN DELEGATION

During June 10-20, 2015, a group of official delegates from the Republic of Georgia visited the United States to learn about the U.S. criminal justice system and enhance their efforts to modernize their justice sector/system. The visit began in Washington, DC, where the delegates met with various representatives from the State Department, Pretrial Services for the District of Columbia, Bureau of Prisons, and Department of Justice (DOJ). After their short stay in Washington, the group traveled to Chattanooga where they were hosted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

During their visit, the delegates studied how the probation/pretrial services system operates in federal court. The week included meetings in both Chattanooga and Knoxville with the U.S. Attorney; Assistant U.S. Attorneys; U.S. Probation Officers; U.S. District and Magistrate Judges; local defense attorneys; and federal, state and local law enforcement representatives. They also attended court hearings to observe typical proceedings in federal court. Additionally, to ensure they experienced the local culture, several leisure activities were planned throughout the week for the delegates including a baseball game, cookout, and concerts at the annual Chattanooga Riverbend Festival.

While on detail as OPDAT's RLA in Tbilisi, Georgia, AUSA Steve Neff worked closely with Georgian government officials as well as the Georgian legal and law enforcement community, including Justice Ministry officials, prosecutors, judges, investigators, and members of parliament, to develop and implement justice sector assistance programming aimed at modernizing Georgia's criminal justice system. This visit of these delegates to the United States is a continuation of those efforts.



## ADDITIONAL U.S. ATTORNEY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

May 28, 2015

Presenter

FBI Citizens Academy, Knoxville

June 23-24, 2015

GAC Health Care Fraud Working Group Meeting  
Washington, DC

June 25, 2015

Keynote Address

Iftar Dinner, Knoxville

July 9, 2015

Atlantic Institute

Iftar Dinner, Knoxville

August 17-19, 2015

9th Annual Forum on Transparency and Aggregate Spend  
Washington, DC

September 11, 2015

Blue Cross Blue Shield Annual Meeting  
Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia



## USAO ADDITIONS AND DEPARTURES

- AUSA **Gregg Sullivan** left the district in July 2015, for a one-year detail with EOUSA Evaluation and Review Staff (EARS) in Washington, DC.
- AUSA **Steff Neff** returned to the Chattanooga office from his detail in Tbilisi, Georgia in May 2015.
- On Thursday, July 30, 2015, the oath of service was administered to our “relatively new” civil AUSAs, **Jeremy Dykes**, **Kenny Saffles**, and **Jessica Sievert** (shown in pictures below from left to right).



- **Vickie Barding**, a longtime member of our Administrative Division staff, retired at the end of July 2015.
- AUSA **Jeff Theodore** will be leaving the U.S. Attorney’s Office to accept a position with FLETC.

## SMART ON CRIME

*Reforming the Criminal Justice System for  
the 21st Century*

### What is Smart on Crime?

The Smart on Crime Initiative promotes fundamental reforms to the criminal justice system that will improve public safety, save money, and ensure the fair enforcement of Federal laws. This initiative recognizes the impact of scarce resources and directs federal law enforcement efforts to focus on the most serious cases that implicate clear, substantial federal interests.

At the direction of the Attorney General in early 2013, the Justice Department launched a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system in order to identify reforms that would ensure federal laws are enforced more fairly and—in an era of reduced budgets—more efficiently.

Five goals were identified as a part of this review:

1. To ensure finite resources are devoted to the most important law enforcement priorities;
2. To promote fairer enforcement of the laws and alleviate disparate impacts of the criminal justice system
3. To ensure just punishments for low-level, nonviolent convictions
4. To bolster prevention and reentry efforts to deter crime and reduce recidivism
5. To strengthen protections for vulnerable populations

### ***Reform Sentencing to Eliminate Unfair Disparities and Reduce Overburdened Prisons***

- The Attorney General announced a change in Department of Justice charging policies so that certain people who have committed low-level, nonviolent drug offenses, who have no ties to large-scale organizations, gangs, or cartels will no longer be charged with offenses that impose draconian mandatory minimum sentences.
- The Attorney General also announced revised criteria for other categories of inmates seeking reduced sentences. This includes elderly inmates and certain inmates who are the only possible caregiver for their dependents. In both cases, under the revised policy, the Bureau of Prisons would generally consider inmates who did not commit violent crimes and have served significant portions of their sentences to be released early.
- The Attorney General provided guidance to federal prosecutors on recidivist enhancements. According to this directive, prosecutors should consider several factors including the use of violence and ties to large-scale criminal organizations when determining if recidivist enhancements are appropriate. When possible, prosecutors should seek to charge the defendant with a drug quantity lower than the necessary to trigger the mandatory minimum.

### ***Pursue Alternatives to Incarceration for Low-Level, Non-Violent Crimes***

- The Department of Justice has also recommended the use of specialty courts and programs to deal with unique populations of offenders as recognition that incarceration is not the answer in every criminal case. Examples of these programs include diversion programs provide alternatives to incarceration for candidates with minimal criminal history or substance abuse issues.

### ***Improve Reentry to Curb Repeat Offenses and Re-Victimization***

- The Attorney General issued guidance to department components to avoid the imposition of unnecessary collateral consequences upon the conviction of criminal offenses. Components considering new regulations must also consider whether or not those regulations can be more narrowly tailored to prevent collateral consequences that would prevent reentry for offenders.
- The Attorney General called on U.S. Attorneys to designate a prevention and reentry coordinator within each of their offices to focus on those efforts. As part of this directive, Assistant U.S. Attorneys will be newly encouraged to devote time to reentry issues in addition to casework.

### ***Surge Resources to Violence Prevention and Protecting Most Vulnerable Populations***

- The Attorney General directed law enforcement partners to work with department components included the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) and the Office of Violence Against Women to share information regarding best strategies to prevent violence against vulnerable populations.

For more information on Smart on Crime visit <http://www.justice.gov/ag/attorney-generals-smart-crime-initiative>.

**Save the Dates:**  
***May 10- 12, 2016\****  
**Gatlinburg Convention Center**  
**Gatlinburg, Tennessee**



Sponsored by the LECC's and the United States Attorney's Offices from:  
Northern District of Alabama  
Northern District of Georgia  
Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky  
Western District of North Carolina  
District of South Carolina  
Eastern and Middle Districts of Tennessee  
Western District of Virginia  
Northern and Southern District of West Virginia  
Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy

***Mark your calendars and make plans to attend!!***

***\*Pending DOJ Approval***

## RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

### CHATTANOOGA DOCTOR AND NURSE PRACTITIONER SENTENCED IN "PILL MILL" CASE

In April 2015, Dr. Jerome Sherard, 60, of Chattanooga, was sentenced to serve 60 months in federal prison and Charles Larmore 67, of Chattanooga, was sentenced to serve 156 months in federal prison for conspiring to distribute drugs outside the scope of professional practice and not for legitimate medical purpose. Each is subject to three years of supervised release upon his release from prison. Sherard was also ordered to forfeit \$192,956.31 to the United States. Larmore was fined \$20,000 and ordered to forfeit \$375,829.20 to the United States. Additionally, as a result of their convictions, Sherard and Larmore no longer have the ability to write prescriptions for controlled substances.

The conspiracies involved Superior One Medical Center (Superior Medical), Primary Care and Pain Clinic (Primary Care), and the Sherard Clinic. All three clinics were located in Chattanooga. Both sentences reflected significant reductions based upon their cooperation and assistance in the prosecution of others involved in the clinics. Two others in the case, Faith Blake and Barbara Lang, are awaiting sentencing.

Law enforcement agencies participating in this joint investigation included the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Trustee's office, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Chattanooga Police Department, Roane County Sheriff's Department, and Rockwood Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregg L. Sullivan and Michael D. Porter represented the United States at trial. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy Stone prosecuted other individuals involved in the drug conspiracies.

### CONVICTED FELON FOUND GUILTY OF POSSESSING FIREARM IN FACEBOOK PHOTOS

Following a two-day trial in U.S. District Court in Knoxville, Malik First Born Allah Farrad, a.k.a. Marvin Maurice Buckles, 41, of Johnson City, Tennessee was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In the fall of 2013, officers with the Johnson City Police Department began an investigation into suspected illicit conduct by Farrad. In so doing, law enforcement examined his use of social media, specifically, Facebook. Investigators found that in October 2013, Farrad uploaded a photograph of three handguns placed atop the toilet seat in his bathroom. Having previously sustained numerous felony convictions for drug, gun, and violent offense, it was illegal for him to be in possession of such weapons.

Subsequently, investigators, working in conjunction with the FBI, obtained a search warrant for the entirety of Farrad's Facebook account. Once executed, law enforcement discovered a variety of photographs showing him holding, posing with, and displaying a Springfield, Model XD, .45 caliber, semiautomatic pistol. The pictures were taken from inside Farrad's bathroom, and were uploaded in quick succession in October 2013.

### MICHAEL RAY MANGUM SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS ON A-PVP CHARGES

Michael Ray Mangum, 43, of Kingsport, was sentenced in July 2015 to serve 120 months in prison for his role in an extensive a-PVP (alpha-pyrrolidinopentiophenone) distribution conspiracy centered in and around the Sullivan County area. A-PVP is a synthetic drug which is commonly referred to on the street as "gravel" or "flakka." His federal prison sentence was ordered to run consecutively to a number of sentences in Sullivan and Greene County General Sessions Court and Washington County Criminal Court.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the investigation which led to the indictment and subsequent conviction of Michael Ray Mangum and his co-defendants include the Drug Enforcement Administration; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Homeland Security Investigations; Sullivan County Sheriff's Office; Kingsport Police Department; Hawkins County Sheriff's Department; Johnson City Police Department; Greeneville Police Department; Hendersonville, North Carolina Police Department; and, Scott County, Virginia Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne Taylor represented the United States.

**TENNESSEE STATE REPRESENTATIVE INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD THE UNITED STATES, TAX EVASION, AND FILING A FALSE TAX RETURN**

In June 2015, a federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment against Tennessee State Representative Joe Armstrong charging him with conspiracy to defraud the United States, tax evasion and filing a false federal income tax return.

The indictment on file with the U.S. District Court, alleges that Armstrong utilized his position as a legislator to profit from the sale of Tennessee cigarette tax stamps and avoid the payment of federal income taxes.

Agencies involved in this investigation include the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Atchley, Jr., represented the United States.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY RESPONSE TO THE DEADLY SHOOTINGS AT A MILITARY RECRUITMENT CENTER AND A NAVAL AND MARINE RESERVE CENTER IN CHATTANOOGA**

On July 16, 2015, Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24, of Hixon, Tennessee, shot and killed five individuals and wounded two more, including a Chattanooga Police Officer, at a Military Recruitment Center and Naval and Marine Reserve Center.

Evidence collection and testing are still ongoing. The FBI, along with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, will continue to work tirelessly on this complex investigation. Approximately 250 FBI personnel are on the ground in Chattanooga, with more working across the country and around the globe, following almost 400 leads.

**JONATHAN EUGENE LOPER SENTENCED TO 324 MONTHS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

Jonathan Eugene Loper, 29, of Dayton, Tennessee, was sentenced to serve 324 months in prison for distributing child pornography. Following his release from prison, he will be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for a term of 25 years and will be required to register with the sex offender registry in any state in which he resides, works, or attends school.

Loper pleaded guilty in February 2015 to a federal grand jury indictment based upon his trading child pornography with an individual residing in Canada in 2012 and his posting of child pornography on Internet websites for downloading in 2013. Loper's sentence was enhanced due to a prior conviction for attempted aggravated sexual battery of a minor.

This investigation was conducted by the Knoxville Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Morris represents the United States.

Complete text of press releases for all of these cases and others can be found at [www.justice.gov/usao/tne](http://www.justice.gov/usao/tne)

## CONTACT US

### Knoxville Headquarters

800 Market Street, Suite 211  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902  
Phone: 865-545-4167  
Fax: 865-545-4176

### Chattanooga Branch

1110 Market Street, Suite 301  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
Phone: 423-752-5140  
Fax: 423-752-5150

### Greeneville Branch

220 West Depot St, Suite 423  
Greeneville, TN 37743  
Phone: 423-639-6759  
Fax: 423-639-6451

[www.justice.gov/usao/tne](http://www.justice.gov/usao/tne)

## CALENDAR

### September 2015

2	USAO Training Day	Knoxville
7	Labor Day Holiday	
8	SOL Working Group Meeting	Knoxville

### October 2015

1	Federal Chiefs Meeting	Knoxville
1	ATAC Meeting	Knoxville
12	Columbus Day Holiday	
13	SOL Working Group Meeting	Knoxville

### November 2015

9	SOL Working Group Meeting	Knoxville
11	Veteran's Day Holiday	
26	Thanksgiving Holiday	

UPCOMING: Regional Intelligence Analysis and Sharing Meetings

## The Eastern District of Tennessee

41 of 95 Counties  
2.5 Million Population  
Land area: 16,977 sq. miles  
15 of 31 State Judicial Districts  
5 Interstate Highways

