

5-29-2020

## Failed and Foiled Islamic Terrorist Plots Targeting Military Personnel in the United States Since 9/11

Jeff Gruenewald  
*University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, [jgruenew@uark.edu](mailto:jgruenew@uark.edu)*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/tercpr>



Part of the [Terrorism Studies Commons](#)

---

### Citation

Gruenewald, J. (2020). Failed and Foiled Islamic Terrorist Plots Targeting Military Personnel in the United States Since 9/11. *Research Projects*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/tercpr/22>

This Brief is brought to you for free and open access by the Terrorism Research Center at ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Projects by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact [ccmiddle@uark.edu](mailto:ccmiddle@uark.edu).



## DATA SNAPSHOT

# Failed and Foiled Islamic Terrorist Plots Targeting Military Personnel in the United States Since 9/11

**Background:** On May 21, 2020, Navy police officers interrupted a terrorism-related incident by neutralizing a 20-year old gunman who opened fire on military personnel at an entrance gate outside of the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in Texas. One sailor was injured before the gunman was killed by Naval police officers.



# 17%

of unsuccessful plots targeted military personnel



# 12%

of unsuccessful plots were attempted but failed, usually due to law enforcement intervention

## KEY DEFINITIONS

### FAILED PLOTS

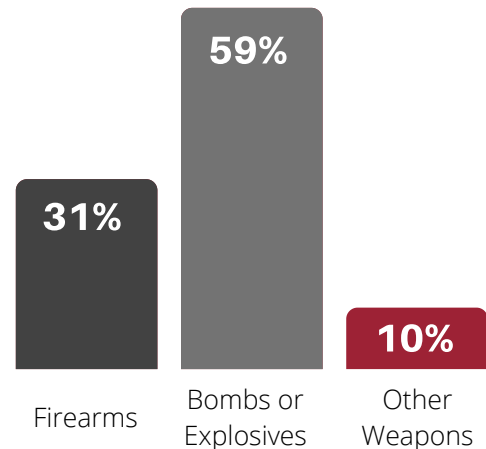
Incident set into motion and stopped either through suspect failure or law enforcement action during the final stages of the planned incident.

### FOILED PLOTS

Attack stopped before the final stages of the planned incident either through suspect desistance or law enforcement action.

## WEAPON TYPES

- Roughly one-third of unsuccessful post 9/11 plots were planned or executed using a firearm as the primary weapon.
- Plots involving bombs or other explosives accounted for the majority of unsuccessful attacks.



**Data:** Data on 333 non-fatal, violent Islamic terrorism plots occurring between 2001 and 2020 came from the **U.S. Extremist Crime Database (ECDB)** and **American Terrorism Study (ATS)**. Each terrorist plot was planned to occur in a separate time and place.

**To Cite:** Terrorism Research Center. (2020). *Unsuccessful Islamic terrorist plots targeting military personnel in the United States since 9/11*. Retrieved from <https://terrorismresearch.uark.edu/data-snapshot-failed-and-foiled-islamic-terrorist-plots-targeting-military-personnel-in-the-united-states-since-9-11/>